

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
March 2024

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An Elder Writes

All Change

We have recently celebrated Transfiguration Sunday, remembering the time that Jesus met with Moses and Elijah. The Bible tells us that his robe became a shimmering white, He was transfigured.

The Oxford Dictionary defines transfiguration as, 'a complete transformation into a more beautiful or spiritual state.' It defines transformation or reformation as, 'a marked change in nature or appearance.'

Recently, like everyone else in Caerphilly County Borough, the Council newsletter was posted through the letterbox. The headlines proclaimed

"Transforming Your Service"

An explanation for this bold statement was given. A five year plan was in place stating their objectives, which will improve our well-being. It is to be achieved by improved education, enabling residents and communities to thrive, an improved economy, and a greener environment. If all this is achieved, our world will be a better place. Details of this plan were given, some a 'tad' controversial. In all fairness, residents can express their views by returning a survey. Over time we have learned that transformation or reformation can be good for some and not others.

Over many years lives have been transformed and reformed eg Martin Luther and his beliefs made way for the Protestant Church.

Lister and Fleming improved health care with antiseptics and antibiotics.

Florence Nightingale and Betsi Cadwallader improved nursing standards. More recently surgeons can replace hearts, lungs and joints. Sadly, advances in agriculture and industry were not all welcomed, leading to unemployment and poverty. This situation we see to this day.

We do not need to look far to learn of the greatest transformer of all time. It is of course our Lord Jesus. While on earth he preached, he taught and he healed. He had a captive audience, telling them of the love of God. When healing, he tended to Jews and Gentiles alike. We can read with awe of the healing of the lepers, the paralysed able to walk, the blind to see. Those with mental illness, not always the most popular of people, he made whole again. He truly transformed their lives.

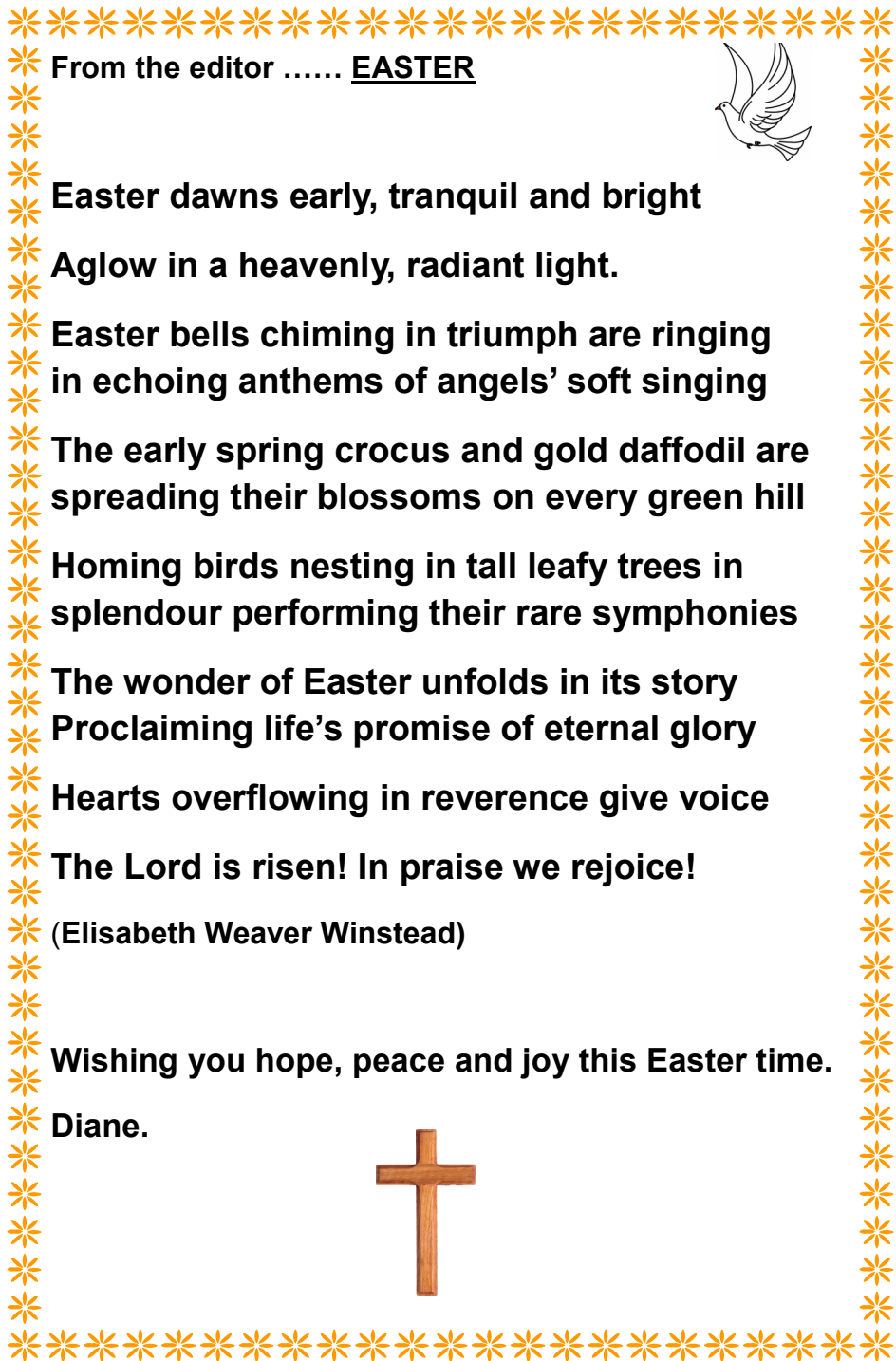
His chosen disciples loved him. After ascending to Heaven, his legacy to them was the gift of teaching and healing, and the ability to bring others into the fold. This was part of his gift to us. We have the gift of the Gospels and the Lord's Prayer. We have the knowledge of his presence, TRANSFORMING our lives. He gave us the Great Commandment-

"Love the Lord Your God with all your heart and your neighbour as yourself."

If we obey this Commandment we will transform our own lives and perhaps the lives of others. It may take small footsteps rather than large strides with no set five year plan, but we can trust always in our transforming Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our "objective" being to Walk in His Way every day of our lives.

Margaret C





From the editor **EASTER**



Easter dawns early, tranquil and bright

Aglow in a heavenly, radiant light.

**Easter bells chiming in triumph are ringing
in echoing anthems of angels' soft singing**

**The early spring crocus and gold daffodil are
spreading their blossoms on every green hill**

**Homing birds nesting in tall leafy trees in
splendour performing their rare symphonies**

**The wonder of Easter unfolds in its story
Proclaiming life's promise of eternal glory**

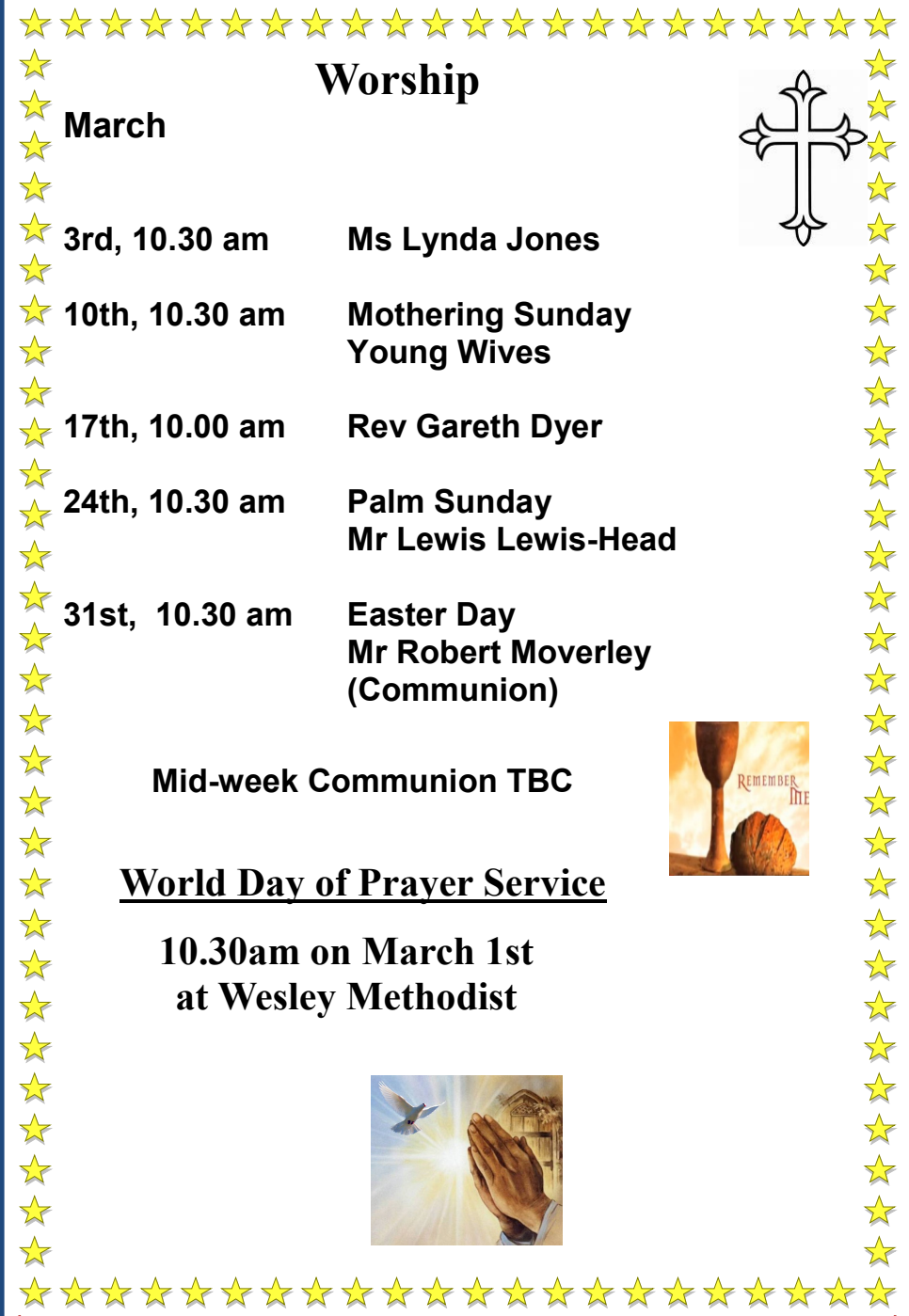
Hearts overflowing in reverence give voice

The Lord is risen! In praise we rejoice!

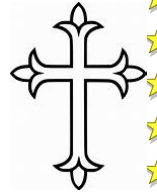
(Elisabeth Weaver Winstead)

Wishing you hope, peace and joy this Easter time.

Diane.



Worship



March

- 3rd, 10.30 am **Ms Lynda Jones**
- 10th, 10.30 am **Mothering Sunday
Young Wives**
- 17th, 10.00 am **Rev Gareth Dyer**
- 24th, 10.30 am **Palm Sunday
Mr Lewis Lewis-Head**
- 31st, 10.30 am **Easter Day
Mr Robert Moverley
(Communion)**

Mid-week Communion TBC



World Day of Prayer Service

**10.30am on March 1st
at Wesley Methodist**



It Happened In March

1st, c 589	Belief that this was the day St David died.
4th, 1461	Edward of York grabs the English throne.
6th, 1204	French cunning capture Richard the Lionheart's impregnable Chateau Gaillard;
10th, 1876	Alexander Graham Bell makes the first telephone call.
12th, 1938	Hitler's troops march into Austria.
17th, c.AD389	St Patrick (original name Maewyn Succat) is born.
18th, 1745	Robert Walpole, first Prime Minister of Great Britain dies.
21st, 1556	Archbishop Thomas Cranmer is burnt at the stake for heresy and treason.

- Where does Easter Bunny live? No bunny knows.
- Why did the chick go on holiday? He was feeling cooped up.
- What kind of stories does the Easter Bunny like? Ones with hoppy endings.
- Did you hear about the Easter Bunny who skipped school? He was egg-spelled.

Van -Guard Concerts

A Thanksgiving Tribute Concert in Memory of Mair Wade

Fri 1st March

7:30 p.m. Admission-£5, Children-Free. Refreshments at Interval

Including - **Caerphilly Community Chorus,
Matthew Tilley-Bass Baritone**

Nigel Jones-Clarinet

Dan Phelps-Piano

Lee David Bowen - Tenor

Volante Opera

Sat 2nd March at 7:00 p.m.

Serenata Singers Spring Concert

Admission £10 on the door.

Sun 3rd March at 2:00 p.m. Free entry, retiring collection

Voice and Piano Recital

Sian Cameron-Mezzo Soprano

Giordano Ferla -Piano



Young Wives
Mondays 7.30pm
All ladies, any age, welcome



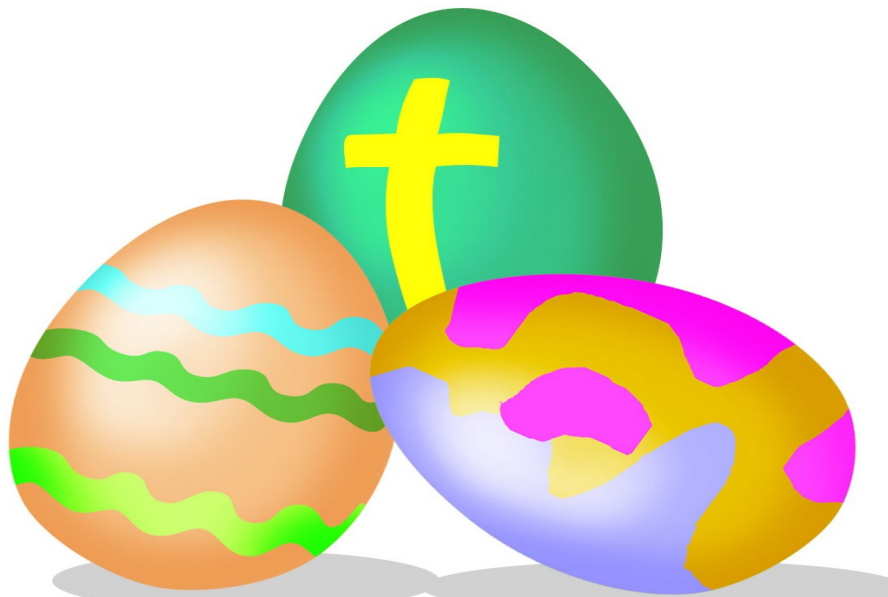
March

4th Business and Biscuits

11th Guess Who?

18th Articulate

25th No Meeting



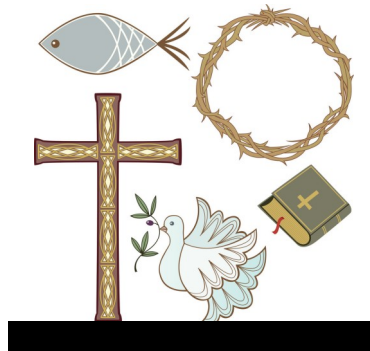
HOLY WEEK / EASTER

T	G	S	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D
P	E	A	S	T	E	R	X	A	E	G	N
A	A	M	P	R	L	M	D	V	T	G	O
S	H	L	P	Y	E	U	O	S	A	N	I
S	O	A	M	L	J	T	N	N	L	N	T
O	P	S	F	S	E	N	E	P	I	E	X
V	E	T	I	X	U	D	B	P	P	S	I
E	A	S	T	E	R	N	B	D	M	I	F
R	J	U	G	A	N	M	D	U	A	R	I
J	O	P	G	N	O	I	F	A	R	S	C
U	Y	P	U	T	N	X	W	Y	Y	I	U
D	A	E	R	B	E	V	O	L	S	E	R
J	Y	R	J	A	N	N	A	S	O	H	C

PASSOVER PALM SUNDAY LAST SUPPER
HOSANNA TEMPLE GARDEN HE IS RISEN
TOMB MARYS DISCIPLES PETER JUDAS
PILATE HOPE LOVE EASTER JOY

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday	Wesley	6:00 pm
Good Friday	Van Road	10.30am
Son Rise –Easter Sunday		
Caerphilly Mountain		7.30am



FOODBANK

Many thanks if you have been able to support Caerphilly Foodbank over the year.

Please remember that there is a box for donations at the back of the church. Monetary donations are also welcome. (See Diane.) We regularly have to buy UHT milk, tinned rice pudding, tinned fruit and tea for example.

CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

WEDNESDAY

6th March

10.30am

In aid of Cancer Research

ALL WELCOME!

Last month's morning made £75 for Caerphilly Foodbank.

Thanks to all who helped / attended.



LENTEN LUNCHES

Every Friday (except Good Friday) at

Wesley Methodist Church

12-1pm

All Welcome

Proceeds to Christian Aid

Lectionary Readings



March

3rd **Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22**

10th **Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21**

17th **Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12;
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33**

24th **Holy Week
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; John 12:12-16;
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14: 1-15:47**

25th **Easter Day
Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-8;
Mark 16:1-8**



ARocha Eco Suggestions for Lent

Week One - Bring nature into your home or garden. What could you grow inside your home, in the garden or even at church? Plant a herb or flower as a reminder of our responsibility to steward God's earth. As you tend to this plant, prayerfully ask God how you might nurture nature better at home over the Lent period and beyond.

Week Two - Connect with creation in a new way. Time spent enjoying God's creation will help set your mind and seek the things that are above. Bring your sketch or note book, your Bible, or whatever helps you connect with our heavenly Father. Or perhaps God is inviting you to just bring yourself (with some extra layers!). Note all the signs of the season. Use this time to reflect on the changing season and what we can be thankful for.

Week Three - Discover the great outdoors with company. Meet up with a friend or several for an extended or brisk wintery walk together. You could visit an outstanding area of beauty in the UK or keep it local and soak up the seasonal sights on your doorstep in your nearest green space. Bring along a notepad and pens to write about or draw something that inspires you in nature and share your ideas and reflections.

Week Four - Plan a Wild Time! Plan something completely wild in nature for later this year. Experience kayaking, wild camping, forest school, forest church... Make sure to take the opportunity to really enjoy what nature has to offer beyond Lent. Break out of your normal routine and join a

volunteer work party or take to the water for wild swimming. Whatever you do – do something. different and have fun!

Week Five - Join us to protect and restore nature together. How can we make small changes in our everyday lives that can make a big difference to others

and for your world? Contribute to positive change as part of an A Rocha UK community, as a church (Eco Church) and as an individual or family (Wild Christian).

Week Six - Be still in nature. During Holy Week, find a quiet spot outdoors and reflect on what Holy Week means to you. Surrounded by the beauty and creativity of nature, the shortcomings of humanity and our need for repentance are often clearer, but so also is the power and timelessness of God. Bring before him your own concerns and the needs of the natural world. Continue to pray with us via our weekly prayer diary at:

arocha.org.uk/get-involved/pray

Easter Sunday - The Easter hope of reconciliation is good news for all. May we celebrate anew Christ's commitment in relating to his creation; that the Godman Jesus would enter into the deepest pains and realities of the flesh in order to restore the relationship between Creator and creature. By this restorative work all creation is reconciled to its intended delight, finding peace and mutual flourishing.

There is so much in this account that we can't do, but there is a lot that we can, Go for it!

Calendar of Regular Events in the Church

Coffee Morning, 10.30am First Wednesday each month

Prayer Time, 5pm Every Tuesday

Communion service 2nd Wednesday each month, 10.30am

'Only Boys Aloud' rehearse Every Monday, 6.30,

Caerphilly Chorus rehearse Every Friday, 7.30pm,

University of the Third Age (U3A) First Friday each month 1.30pm (usually)

'U3A' singing group every other Tuesday 14:00 - 16:00

'Young Wives' (All ladies welcome) Every Monday 7.30pm

Bible Study , 1st and 3rd Thursdays in the month, 10.30am

NB Some activities stop during school holidays. Please check for any changes to this list.



Caerphilly Street Pastor Café
Every month from 10.30am
12.30pm
The Twyn Community Centre,
Caerphilly



20th January	17th February
16th March	20th April
18th May	15th June
13th July	24th August
14th September	19th October
23rd November	14th December

EASTER HYMN

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness; God has brought His people now into joy from sadness;

Tis the spring of souls today; Christ has burst His prison, And from three days sleep in death, As a sun has risen.

Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendour, With the royal feast of feasts, Comes its joy to render;

Comes to gladden Christians all, who with true affection Welcome in unwearied strains Jesu's resurrection.

Alleluia now to you, Christ our king immortal! Who triumphant burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal;

Alleluia, with the son of God the Father praising; Alleluia, yet again To the spirit raising.

John of Damascus, fl. 750.

Tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66



We hold in our prayers -



John Wade Rev Malcolm Shapland

Diana Hibbert Carol Booth

Hilary and Steve Akerman Judy and Rod Jarman

Frank Frayling Wendy & Roy Angove

Those in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank.

All those working in the NHS and in Social Care.

Those who have lost their employment and those fearful for their jobs and struggling with the rising cost of living.

Those countries facing hardships, particularly in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iran, Sudan and Yemen and all those desperate for their safety and future, particularly the people of Ukraine.

Those people helping to welcome and settle refugees.

Charities such as Christian Aid as they set about helping those in need.

Those affected by wild fires and particularly Tahiti and the island of Maui. Flooding in UK and in Pakistan and Libya. The earthquake in Japan. The volcanic eruption in Iceland.

The leaders and people of Gaza and Israel.

CHURCH ELDERS

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Mr Robert Moverley 02920 866336

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Mrs Phyllis Frayling 02920 862285

Mrs Margaret Baldwin 02920 867027

Mrs Cathy Vernalls 07527 598127

Any items for the next edition should be
submitted by the 19th of the month

to



Mrs Diane Moverley

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HE IS RISEN!

ALLELUIA!