

INFORM



**URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
May 2024**

CHURCH OFFICERS

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An Elder Writes

When GOD made the world he said it was good so why are we doing so much to destroy it?

Asking myself this question I realised that there was not much I could do about the bombings , killings, and destruction in the world, so best if I concentrate on the area I live in.

I don't know why my mind should wander back to my grandmother but it did, remembering a plaque she had; some of the words said, 'You are nearer God's heart in the garden than anywhere else on earth.'

Knowing that I have not been able to do much in mine for the last two years and it was looking quite sad; the weather we had been having didn't help, so much rain and wind, what chance did the plants have?

My mind wandered again to a quote that Peter Noble uses often...

'They can cut all the flowers, but they can't stop the coming of spring.'

Then before I knew it the clocks went forward and the days were longer and lighter. I looked at my garden and saw little purple and yellow flowers in the long grass, wild violets and primrose along with bright yellow dandelion that a little bee was happy to be sitting on.

Yes my garden is not as dead as I thought it was, still a mess, but alive.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Phyllis



From the editor



I was reminded of a story that I told in more than one school assembly. Briefly it was about a very rich man who had 3 sons. He wondered which of his sons to declare head of his family when he died. He wanted to see how wise they were.

He gave each of the sons a penny and sent them out to market to purchase enough to fill a store room.

The first son brought straw but it did not fill the space. The second son had spent his penny on sand, but this didn't fill the room. The third son returned after dark carrying a small parcel. He said that when he had filled the space he would bring his father to look. He lit a large candle in the room which obviously impressed his father and brothers. He had filled the space with light.

The disciples, after Jesus' death were in the dark. The light started to shine when Christ revealed himself to them. The light glowed even brighter when they experienced the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Candles are often an integral part of worship helping us to focus on Jesus, the Light of the World. He is the head of our church family and we ask for His spirit to dwell in us so that we can try and be a light to others.

Diane



YOU CAN DO IT!

I would be very grateful if members of the congregation could send me items to include in Inform. They do not have to be original. You may want to share a favourite poem, reflection or prayer. You might want to tell of an experience that has moved you or pleased you in some way. They can be short or long.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PRETTY PLEASE!

THANK YOU!

JOYFUL NOISE CAERPHELLY

Caerphilly and Aber Valley Ministry Area

Sunday 2nd June, 6pm. St Martin's Church

Churches to select their favourite hymns for the event.

Everyone welcome to a BBQ to follow the singing.

Worship



May

5th, 10.30am

**Mr Robert Moverley
Communion**

12th, 10.30 am

**No morning service
Caerffili 10k run**

6 pm

**Christian Aid Week Service
Mari Mc Neil,
Head of Christian Aid in Wales
Van Road**

19th, 10.30 am

**Ms Sophie Lemon from
The Leprosy mission followed
by a lunch in aid of The Leprosy
Mission.**

26th, 10.30 am

Ms Lynda Jones



It Happened in May

- 1611, 2nd The Authorised version of the Bible was published (King James version)
- 1926, 4th The General Strike began during which 3 million workers down tools for 10 days.
- 1954, 6th Roger Bannister runs a mile in 3 minutes, 59.4 seconds.
- 1945, 7th In Reims, German colonel general Alfred Jodl signs the terms of unconditional surrender, to take effect the following day , ending the 2nd World War.
- 1543, 24th Nicholas Copernicus He was a canon, he practised medicine and was an astronomer . He upset the Medieval world by declaring that the earth moved around the sun and not the other way around.
- 1564, 27th Preacher John Calvin dies in Geneva.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 12th – 19th

Please pray for the work of Christian Aid and give generously if you can and encourage friends, neighbours and family to do so as well.

CHRISTIAN AID JOINT SERVICE MAY 12th, 6pm , Van Road URC

Come along and listen to Mari Mc Neil (Head of Christian Aid in Wales) give an update on the wonderful work of Christian Aid and how Christian Aid, with the support of people like us, change lives for the better.

Friday 17th May, 7pm, £7, Children free.

Concert at Mount Carmel for Christian Aid.

Included in the programme -

Caerphilly Ladies Choir

Cwrt Rawlin School Choir

Josef Gray, baritone

(Tickets from choir members and Cwrt Rawlin School)

Young Wives

Mondays 7.30pm

All ladies, any age, welcome



May

6th No Meeting –Bank Holiday

**13th Miss Lynda Jones
A night of board games**

**20th Mrs Chris Harling
The 5 Second Rule**

27th No Meeting –Bank Holiday

From A Rocha—Possible Easy Eco Tips for May

Say ‘No’ to the mow in May. Mowing the lawn less and letting plants grow longer saves time and helps give nature a home. If you leave an area until August there will be a bigger impact / support for wildlife.

For more tips visit -

Arocha.org.uk/wild-christian

PENTECOST

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

**PENTECOST HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER
TONGUES WONDER REJOICE AWE
EMBOLDENING POWER PRAISE
THANKS DOVE WIND FLAME BREATH-
LOVE HOPE JOY DISCIPLES PEACE**

Our New Moderator

On 6th April Reverend David Salsbury was inducted as the Moderator for Wales URC at Beulah URC in Cardiff. David has been a welcome preacher to Van Road on a number of occasions. He lives in Newport and his previous roles included, URC Training Officer and leader for 'Stepwise.'

The service was a joyous occasion. We send him every good wish and prayers as he undertakes his new role.



FOODBANK

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

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, soup and tea for example.

CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

WEDNESDAY

8th May

10.30am

ALL WELCOME!



The Parish Chest c 1600

While visiting the parish church in Chesterfield I discovered how we came about the term, 'Scot Free.'

The chest was often referred to as, 'the poor man's box.' It held parish records, investments, church silver etc. Monetary gifts were placed in the chest and given to the poor at Christmas. There was a tradition of placing pennies or 'Scot's coins' in the box after funerals. Those leaving without giving a gift were said to have left, 'Scot Free.'

Lectionary Readings



May

5th **Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1John 5:1-6;
John 15:9-17**

12th **Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13;
John 17:6-19**

19th **Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15**

26th **Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17;
John 3:1-17**



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

May 12th-18th

Life in Burundi

Driven by hope, faith and the love of her children, Aline was able to fight against the inhumanity of poverty and build herself a new life.



In Burundi, malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, making survival a daily struggle. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water.

For Aline, life was a constant struggle. She was married young and gave birth to her eldest son, Fisto, when she was just 14 years old. Aline experienced constant abuse at the hands of her violent husband.

A few years later, Aline faced even more devastation. Her husband married another woman, forcing Aline to flee. He prevented her from taking their children with her, and in a further act of cruelty, told the local community that Aline was mentally ill and unable to care for her children.

‘ I wandered the streets, asking anyone for a place to sleep. Those who showed me kindness would let me stay for two or three days, but it was difficult. People would insult me and treat me with contempt. They forgot I was a human being. It filled me with sorrow.

How Christian Aid stepped in

Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards her new life. She started by participating in a transformative three-day community workshop, funded by Christian Aid.

'I came out with amazing knowledge and skills. The trainer restored a sense of hope and energy in me,' says Aline.

She was taught how to form a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and establish a steady income. VSLAs mean people can save for their future and borrow money to kickstart small rural businesses. With all she had learned, Aline's dream of getting her children back finally felt possible.

With a small start-up loan, Aline started trading avocados and peanuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle so she could transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield. Eventually, her hard work had finally paid off, and she had earned the money she needed to rent a house.

Once Aline secured a home for herself, her three eldest sons were able to escape their father and join her. They told Aline that their father had abused them and sent their three young siblings to live with different members of his family.

Aline still hopes that she'll be reunited with her youngest children in time.

(For the full story go to the Christian Aid website.)

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)

'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.

Note this month coffee morning on 2nd Wednesday as there is no communion



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

Suggested Prayer for those visiting the Parish Church in Chesterfield.

We might find it useful too.

Lord, thank you

For your presence here, for the opportunity to pray, for the promise of peace, for the beauty of the world, the kindness of people

-for all those whom I love...and who love me...

-for your love towards me (and especially for)

-for the cross of Christ and the power of the spirit.

Help me to show gratitude in deeds as well as words.

Lord I am Sorry ...

-for the times when I have been hasty or unkind (especially to

- thought or acted selfishly, failed to forgive or ask for forgiveness,

- forgotten your presence, taken your love for granted.

I thank you for your promise to forgive all those who turn back to you in penitence.



We hold in our prayers -



John Wade Rev Malcolm Shapland

**Diana Hibbert Carolyn and Dave Jenkins and family
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 Pakistan and Libya. The earthquake in Japan. The volcanic eruption in Iceland. The uprising in Haiti.

CHURCH ELDERS

Ms Lynda Jones 02920 884022

Mr Robert Moverley 02920 866336

Dr Peter Speakman 02920 883968

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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**And now faith, hope and love remain
and the greatest of these is love.**

1 Corinthians 13:13