

INFORM



**URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
July/August 2024**

CHURCH OFFICERS

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An Elder Writes

Many years ago when I was a teenager at my Methodist church in Gateshead I spoke to the Minister after Sunday service. He had given a good sermon in my opinion and I told him I'd enjoyed it. His reply? 'One shouldn't enjoy a sermon. One should appreciate it'.

'How pompous', I thought. How better to wipe out the effect of a good sermon than to show such insensitivity to a young Christian. Surely it is hoped that we can both enjoy and appreciate worship services. I don't believe worship services should set out to entertain by introducing gags and quirky reminiscences from the pulpit but worship which provides new insights well expressed, should be enjoyable.

My main contribution to worship lies in church music, an area which historically has been viewed with suspicion in the western world. Monastery music provided by monks began with plainsong where all voices chanted the same succession of notes in unison to liturgical texts. When composers of church music began to introduce polyphony (different lines of music in harmony) the Catholic Church disapproved because the new music, more enjoyable to perform and listen to, was said to obscure the text. One line might be singing the word 'sanctus' while others were singing 'benedictus' simultaneously.. Eventually, polyphony was accepted and music with four part harmony (sometimes even 8 parts) was written for church use.

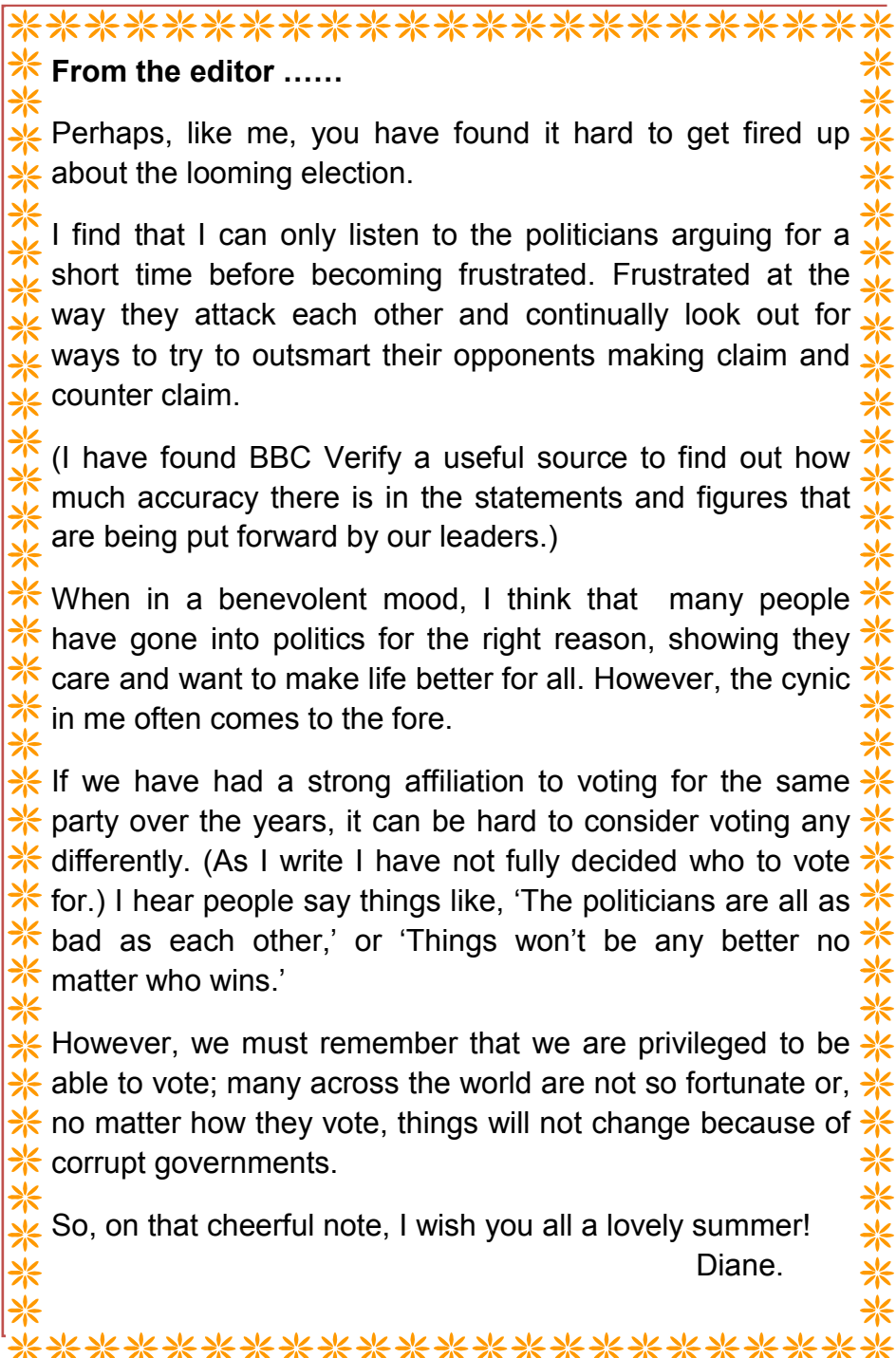
From about early 18th century there emerged a large number of congregational hymns with 4 part harmony which were very suited to organ accompaniment and which, for the most part, had the four lines singing unison text. Sadly, with the decline in church choirs these hymns are now largely sung without harmony as everyone clings to the

melody line. Low voices struggle with the higher notes and the overall result can be somewhat underwhelming. It is no surprise, therefore, that from about the early 1970s hymns and songs appeared which had no harmony and often centred around just a few mid to low range notes. Syncopation and dance rhythms were introduced and the element of extreme chorus repetition seem to be present in the latest crop, presumably to help the learning of new, unfamiliar worship songs. The newcomers are often led by vocalists at the microphone with guitar chords providing the main instrumental backing. This type of music has a bounce to it which cannot be achieved with a church organ and some churches never use one.

I was led to thinking of the advantages and disadvantages of the organ when, 'How great thou art', was chosen recently. This is an old favourite which begins each verse with three repeated F naturals as quavers and then moves to repeated G naturals. This sounds fine played on a (percussive) piano because a slight staccato can be used to introduce a brief daylight between repeated notes. Try this on the organ (absolutely no sound retention when notes no longer registered) and the result is awful. Jerky with awkward gaps. My solution (if it is that) is to retain the melody note whilst thumbing in some lower note to give a repetition effect.

I think I should hold back the rest of these music reflections and continue next time I am called to provide the elder's column. There was once a film called 'The loneliness of the long distance runner'. My future ramblings could be titled 'The Isolation of the Church Organist'. Best wishes to everyone. May we have good weather during July/August and joyful worship each and every week

Peter.



From the editor

Perhaps, like me, you have found it hard to get fired up about the looming election.

I find that I can only listen to the politicians arguing for a short time before becoming frustrated. Frustrated at the way they attack each other and continually look out for ways to try to outsmart their opponents making claim and counter claim.

(I have found BBC Verify a useful source to find out how much accuracy there is in the statements and figures that are being put forward by our leaders.)

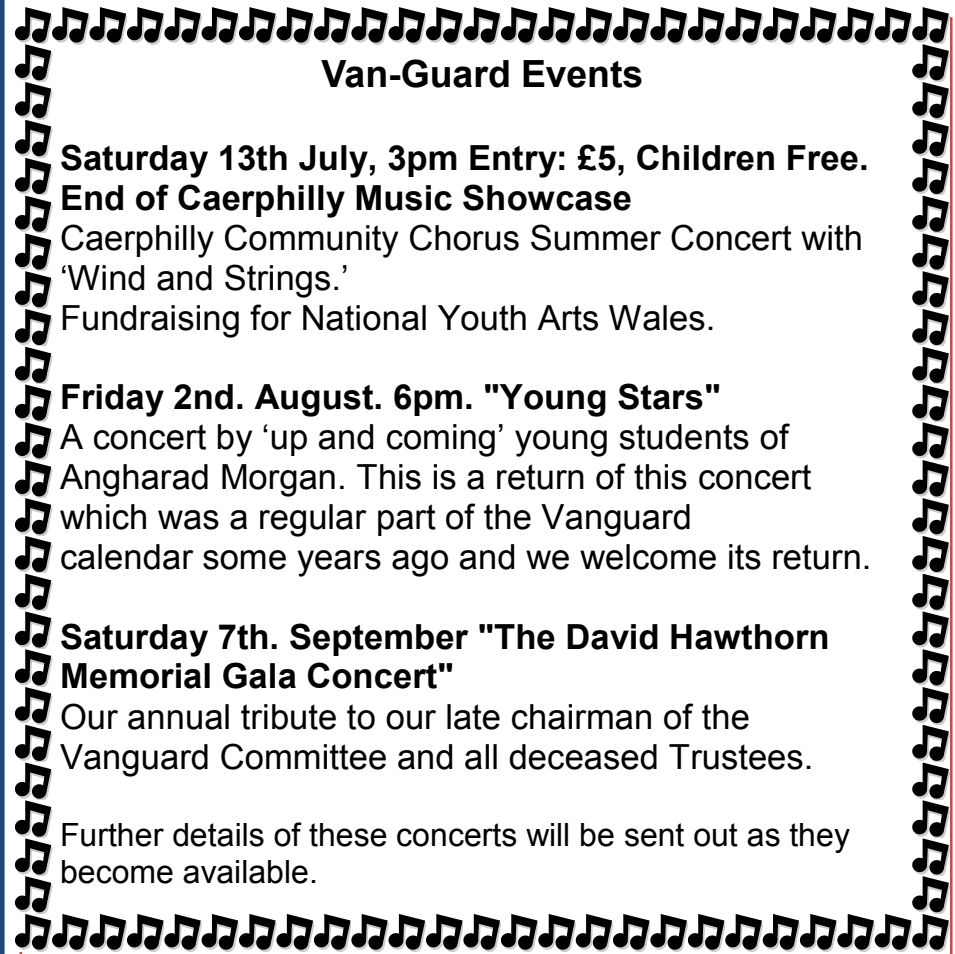
When in a benevolent mood, I think that many people have gone into politics for the right reason, showing they care and want to make life better for all. However, the cynic in me often comes to the fore.

If we have had a strong affiliation to voting for the same party over the years, it can be hard to consider voting any differently. (As I write I have not fully decided who to vote for.) I hear people say things like, 'The politicians are all as bad as each other,' or 'Things won't be any better no matter who wins.'

However, we must remember that we are privileged to be able to vote; many across the world are not so fortunate or, no matter how they vote, things will not change because of corrupt governments.

So, on that cheerful note, I wish you all a lovely summer!

Diane.



Van-Guard Events

Saturday 13th July, 3pm Entry: £5, Children Free.

End of Caerphilly Music Showcase

Caerphilly Community Chorus Summer Concert with 'Wind and Strings.'
Fundraising for National Youth Arts Wales.

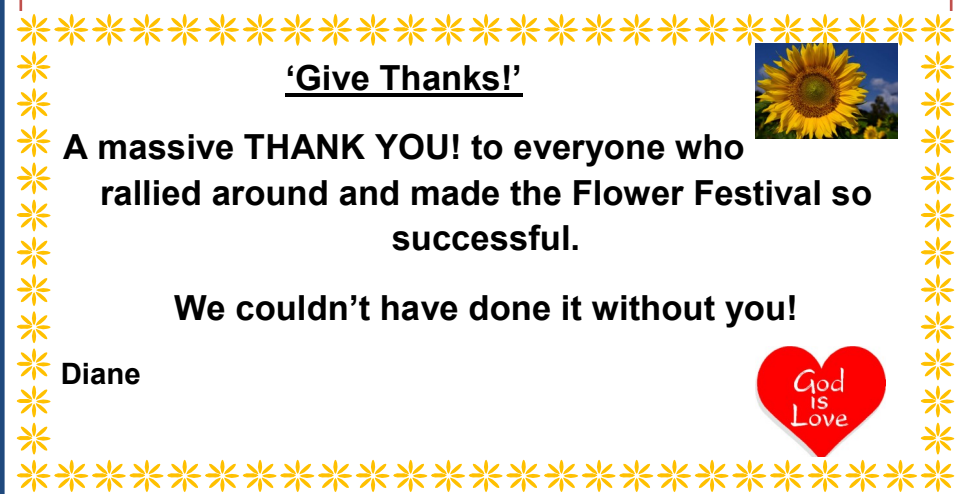
Friday 2nd. August. 6pm. "Young Stars"

A concert by 'up and coming' young students of Angharad Morgan. This is a return of this concert which was a regular part of the Vanguard calendar some years ago and we welcome its return.

Saturday 7th. September "The David Hawthorn Memorial Gala Concert"

Our annual tribute to our late chairman of the Vanguard Committee and all deceased Trustees.

Further details of these concerts will be sent out as they become available.



'Give Thanks!'



A massive THANK YOU! to everyone who rallied around and made the Flower Festival so successful.

We couldn't have done it without you!

Diane





CHRISTIAN AID

Many thanks if you have collected and / or
donated to CA.

It is not too late to do so. Either give your
donation to Rob or go on line.
Total raised at Van Road-£420
Overall in Caerphilly- £2056

www.christianaid.org.uk/donate



**From A Rocha—Possible Easy Eco Tip for July/
August**

Try and incorporate locally grown food in your diet. It is
harvested at its peak ripeness and has not had to
travel thousands of miles. Give thanks for your local
food producers.

Assist wildlife. For hedgehogs finding it difficult to find
food, provide special hedgehog feed or crumbled dog
biscuits. Ensure a safe exit for them from your garden.
Put out water and a variety of food for the garden birds.

More tips Go to -

arocha.org.uk/looking-after-wildifein-the-heat



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COMING SOON



**Singing, Dancing, Music and Craft
from Madagascar**

**Wednesday 10th July 7:00 p.m.
Van Rd Church Caerphilly CF83 1JZ**

FREE ENTRY—Retiring Collection



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT



MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER - SUNDAY 22ND

A reminder that we are a Fairtrade Church

Caerphilly and Cardiff are a Fairtrade town/city

Wales was the first Fairtrade country

**Please consider purchasing fair trade products
when possible**

**Fairtrade is an international movement and is in
partnership with 2 million farmers and workers.
'Fairtrade has a vision of a world in which all
producers enjoy secure and sustainable
livelihoods, fulfil their potential and decide on their
future.'**

Margaret Webb

**It is so sad to hear the news of Margaret's death.
She was such a lovely lady, a wonderful friend to
all. She and Doug served the church with such
commitment and love over so many years. Her
warmth, sense of humour and sensible advice
endeared her to all. She will be greatly missed.**

Our prayers are with her family.

Worship



July

7th, 10.30 am

Lynda Jones and
Margaret Craig

14th, 10.30 am

Dr. Peter Speakman

21st, 10.30 am

Sarah and Richard Edwards

28th, 10.30 am

Lynda and Margaret

August

4th, 10.30 am

TBA

11th, 10.30 am

Rev Andrew Davies

18th, 10.30 am

Rev Robin Wood

25th. 10.30 am

TBA (Summer Bank Holiday.)

Mid Week Communion

Wednesday 10th July and 14th August

10.30am

Rev Malcolm Shapland



It Happened in July

- 1st, 1916** 'Slaughter on the Somme.' By nightfall 20,000 dead, 40,000 injured.
- 4th, 1190** Richard the Lionheart and French King Philip Augustus set out together on the 3rd Crusade.
- 1776** Declaration of Independence signed in America.
- 6th, 1189** Henry II dies. He had ruled Britain for nearly 35 years and virtually the whole of western France.
- 1535** Sir Thomas More is beheaded for treason.
- 10th, 1509** John Calvin, founder of Calvinism is born.
- 12th, 100BC** Julius Caesar is born in Rome.
- 18th, 1869** Pope Pius IX proclaims the doctrine of papal infallibility.
- 23rd, 1865** British Revivalist preacher, William Booth, founds The Salvation Army.
- 25th, AD44** St James's body arrives in Santiago Compostela in north west Spain after his beheading in Jerusalem (according to Spanish tradition.)
- 27th, 1694** The British Parliament founds the Bank of England.

It Happened in August

- 2nd, 1498** Christopher Columbus discovers South America.
- 6th, 1945** US drops an atomic bomb on Hiroshima killing 70000 people.
- 7th, 1485** Henry Tudor lands at Milford Haven to challenge Richard III for the throne of England.
- 9th, 1945** US drops an atomic bomb Nagasaki forcing the Japanese to surrender.
- 11th, 1239** Christ's Crown of Thorns is said to be brought to France, inspiring Louis XI to build Sainte-Chapelle in Paris.
- 15th, 1534** A middle aged Spanish soldier named Ignacio de Loyola, with a small band of volunteers, founds the Jesuits.
- 22nd, 1642** The English Civil War begins when Charles I raises his standard in Nottingham.
- 1485** Henry Tudor defeats and kills Richard III at Bosworth Field to become Henry VII.
- 26th, 55BC** Julius Caesar lands in Britain.
- 31st, 1688** English preacher and writer John Bunyan dies in London.

CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS

WEDNESDAYS

3rd July and 7th August

10.30am

ALL WELCOME!



Young Wives

Mondays 7.30pm

All ladies, any age, welcome

Next meeting on

**9th September—
Business and Biscuits**



Lectionary Readings

July

7th

**2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10; Psalm 48; Ezekiel 2:1-5;
2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Psalm 123;
Mark 6:1-13**

14th

**Sea Sunday.
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24;
Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 7:7-15;
Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29**

21st

**2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37;
Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23;
Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

28th

**2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; 2 Kings 4:42-44;
Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21;
John 6:1-21**



Lectionary Readings

August

- 4th** **2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35**
- 11th** **2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; 1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51**
- 18th** **1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58**
- 25th** **1 Kings 8:1,6,10-11, 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69**



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.



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

Summer Holidays

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

HOLIDAY	HOTEL	CARAVAN	COAST	SUN
SEASIDE	CRUISE	POOL	COUNTRYSIDE	TREK
APARTMENT	TOURS	SIGHTSEEING		FLYING
ADVENTURE	RELAXING	SANDCASTLE		SAND
LANDSCAPE	WARMTH			

We hold in our prayers -



John Wade **Rev Malcolm Shapland**
Diana Hibbert **Carolyn and Dave Jenkins and family**
Carol Booth **Cathy Vernalls**
Hilary and Steve Akerman **Judy and Rod Jarman**
Frank Frayling **Wendy & Roy Angove**
Family and friends of Margaret Webb
Becky and Chris' family **The next government**
Those in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank.
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 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

dianemoverley60@gmail.com



Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10