

# **INFORM**



**URC**

**VAN ROAD**

**CAERPHILLY**

**December 2024 | January 2025**

## **CHURCH OFFICERS**

**Church Secretary**

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### **An Elder Writes ....**

We have reached Advent once again, how quickly it seems to come around and we start thinking about what it means to us as Christians, the coming of a baby, our lord and saviour but to many they don't think like that, they only see the parties, bright lights and having a good time.

I think we should all be thinking of those who are living in war torn countries or in famine throughout the world; we must try and help those people. If you haven't done your Christmas shopping yet perhaps you could think of buying Fairtrade goods, there are a lot of lovely things to buy if you look around in different shops who sell Fairtrade goods; it maybe a made up hamper, there's coffee, tea, chocolate to name but a few, lovely jewellery, so when you are going Christmas shopping give a thought to those who need us to care.

We must also think of the environment ,so when shopping, think about Eco friendly because there are plenty of things to buy, soaps, hand gel, hand cream, they all make nice gifts. So if you haven't started Christmas shopping yet just give a thought to these things I have mentioned.

I don't want you to think of Advent as doom and gloom but it will be for a lot of people, so we must remember to keep them in our thoughts and prayers when we are enjoying the nicer things in life which we are able to

experience- freedom to walk where we like and take in God's wonderful world, freedom to worship the God we love, all the things we take for granted in our lives.

We will look forward in Advent to a happy time as we will spend time with family and friends on Christmas Day and then we will turn our thoughts to the coming of the new year and my hopes and prayers will be for a more peaceful year ahead.

Wishing everyone a happy and joyful Christmas and I pray for a happy and peaceful new year.

“Lord, thank you for the love we share,

It grows with every day  
and like a beacon in the dark  
Will light our future way  
now, as the year draws to a close  
Lord, be our guard and guide  
And in the year which lies ahead  
Be always by our side”



God Bless,!

Margaret Baldwin

### **Editor's Note:**

If you want a huge range of Fairtrade, ethical and environmentally friendly goods from household items to Christmas cards and gifts, go on line to -

[ethicalsuperstore.com](http://ethicalsuperstore.com)

From the editor .....

A song was heard at Christmas  
To wake the midnight sky,

A Saviour's birth, and peace on earth,  
And praise to God on high.

The angels sing at Christmas  
With all the hosts above,  
And still we sing the new born King,

His glory and His love.

(Timothy Dudley-Smith)

Hoping you have a wonderful Advent, Christmas  
and Epiphany.

Every blessing,

Diane.

**THANKYOU!**

**Rob and Diane wish to thank you all for your  
kind words, comments, cards and prayers on  
the death of Rob's mum, Veronica. Veronica  
loved visiting Van Road and always appreciated  
the church's welcome.**

## Reflection on the Life of Veronica Moverley Aged 102

Veronica loved socialising, speaking to strangers on a bus or to new people or friends in church.

She enjoyed crafts, particularly crocheting - many were privileged to be given one of her crochet lavender bags.

She enjoyed baking - cakes, tarts, delicious Christmas puddings, Simmel cake and sherry trifle.

Veronica loved poetry and could quote many a line from a wide range of verse. Over the years she wrote down her reflections on life - many of her articles were included in her church magazine.

Veronica grasped any opportunity to dress up. You should have seen her as a chimney sweep, for example and she made a very unusual Father Christmas.

Veronica had an amazing memory - remembering people, places and incidents vividly.

She had many words of wisdom. For example,

- 'Procrastination is the thief of time,'

'You've got to have a sense of humour to get by,'

but, 'Live for Today!' was her mantra.

Veronica had a great faith and regularly attended Christchurch and in the past took the opportunity to join ecumenical Bible study groups. She was at the foundation of Christchurch.

She was generous in every way. She gave to numerous charities and often gave pocket money to her grateful grandchildren and great grandchildren with advice-

'Save a little, Spend a little, Put a little by!'

\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* During the war years, Veronica was a telephonist, vital work  
 \* in challenging times.  
 \* Veronica was very proud of her family. She declared that  
 \* what got her through sad or challenging times was,  
 \* 'Family, Friendship and Faith.'  
 \* Most of all ,Veronica was love. Love for John, her husband  
 \* and for all her family and friends.  
 \* She had a long and fruitful and meaningful life.  
 \* She is a legend!  
 \* She will be greatly missed.



**From A Rocha—Possible Easy Eco Tips for  
 December**

Celebrate a Greener Christmas.  
 Find ways to make your Christmas activities both a  
 joyous celebration of Christ's coming and  
 environmentally conscious. Explore A Rocha UK's  
 twelve tips for a greener Christmas at -  
  
[arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas](http://arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas)



**Van-Guard**  
**Caerphilly Community Chorus**  
**Christmas Concert**

**Saturday 14th December**

**2pm**

**£5 at the door, Children Free**

**Wind and Strings Christmas Concert**

**Saturday 21st December**

**3pm**



**Young Wives**

*Mondays 7.30pm*

*All ladies, any age, welcome*



- December 2nd      Lynda Jones — Christmas Traditions
- 9th              Carol Jones — Carol Service
- 16th / 23rd      No meetings
- No meetings in January



**Mount Carmel**

**Cambrensis Choir at Christmas**

**Followed by Refreshments and mince pies**

**Tuesday 10th December, 7pm**

**Tickets £8**

**St Helen's R.C. Church**

**A Night of Musical Entertainment**

**Thursday 5th December, 7pm**

**Admittance: £7.50**

**Featuring**

**The Rock Choir  
Clare Davies and Sarah Wratten**

**Supporting Blood Cancer UK**

**Tel: Johanna 07989271761  
Abby 07535699140**

**Worship**



**December**

**1st, 10.30 am      Advent Rev Robin Cook**

**8th, 10.30am      Mr Lewis Lewis -Head  
Communion**

**15th, 10.30 am      Carols and Readings**

**22nd, 10.30am      Dr Peter Speakman**

**25th , 10 am      Rev Malcolm Shapland**

**29th, 10.30 am      Lynda and Margaret**

**Mid Week Communion  
Wednesday 11th December**

**10.30am**

**Rev Malcolm Shapland**



**Worship**



**January**

**5th, 10.30 am Epiphany  
Rev Malcolm Shapland**

**12th, 10.30 am Mr Lewis Lewis-Head**

**19th, 10.30 am Mr Rob Moverley**

**26th, 10.30am Mrs June Maxwell**

**Mid Week Communion  
Wednesday 8th January  
10.30am  
Rev Malcolm Shapland**

**ADVENT SERVICES**

**3rd Dec, 7.30pm Ecumenical Service at Wesley**

**6th Dec, 6pm Favourite Carols at St Martin's**

**A Poem found by Margaret Baldwin**

Sing a song of Christmas,  
A baby in the hay.  
Sing a song for Jesus,  
Born on Christmas Day.  
Sing a song of shepherds,  
Angels said to them,  
'Go and see the Saviour  
Who is born in Bethlehem.

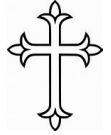
Sing a song of wise men  
Following a star,  
Bringing gifts to Jesus,  
Travelling so far.  
Sing a song for Jesus,  
Lying in the hay,  
Born to make us happy,  
Born for us on Christmas Day.



## Christmas Cringes

- Why did Santa go to the podiatrist?  
- He had mistletoes.
- What do you call a snowman who works out?  
- An ab-dominal snowman.
- Why don't Santa's elves like to share?  
- They're elfish.
- What kind of bug hates Christmas?  
- A bah humbug.
- When is a boat just like snow?  
- When it's adrift.
- How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus' weight when he was born?  
- They had a weigh in a manger.
- What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party?  
-Foreeze a jolly good fellow.
- What did the stamp say to the Christmas card?  
- Stick with me and we'll go places.
- What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?  
- Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

## Lectionary Readings



### December

- 1st**      **Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10;  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36**
- 8th**      **Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;  
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6**
- 15th**     **Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6;  
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18**
- 22nd**     **Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80: 1-7;  
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55**
- 25th**     **Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96: Titus 2:11-14;  
Luke 2:1-20**
- 29th**     **1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148;  
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52**



## Lectionary Readings

January



1st **New Year's Day**  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8;  
Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46

5th **Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20;**  
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18

6th **Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;**  
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

12th **Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17;**  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

19th **Isiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10;**  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

26th **Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19;**  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21



*HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND A PEACEFUL  
NEW YEAR!*

## 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.



**Coffee Morning**

**Wednesday 4th December**

**10.30am**

**ALL WELCOME!**





**'Tis the Season**

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

NATIVITY    BETHLEHEM    ADVENT EPIPHANY  
 ANGEL    SHEPHERDS    MARY    JOSEPH    JESUS  
 WISE MEN    STAR    CHRISTMAS    SAVIOUR    PEACE  
 LOVE    JOY    REDEEMER    HOPE    GLORY  
 HOLY    ADORE    LORD    GUIDE    BLESSED

**We hold in our prayers -**



Rev Malcolm Shapland

The family of Veronica Moverley      Hazel Reid

Carol Booth      Cathy Vernalls

Hilary and Steve Akerman      Phyllis Frayling

Frank Frayling      Wendy & Roy Angove

Barbara Stewart      Diana Hibbert

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.

All those without a home or warm shelter this Christmas.

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.



## 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](mailto:dianemoverley60@gmail.com)



**We have seen His star in the east and have come  
to worship Him.**