

# INFORM



**URC**  
**VAN ROAD**  
**CAERPHILLY**  
**March 2025**

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### **Church Secretary**

Mrs Margaret Craig

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### **Church Treasurer**

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### **Pulpit Secretary**

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

Back in October 2024 I wrote an article in INFORM about the discussions taking place between the Church and the Vanguard Centre, to see whether the Church could become more active in its outreach through Vanguard. Since then, a couple meetings have taken place to discuss how we operate going forward and things are beginning to take shape to help widen the group that are involved in organising / supporting the activities that are arranged through Vanguard.

As part of this, several 'roles' have been identified. We are looking for people who can:

- liaise with users of the building (including concert performers) to ensure their needs are understood and everything is in place during their time in the building.
- meet and greet
- provide coffee / tea during concerts if requested
- willing to move furniture when needed
- willing to tidy up after a concert has finished

We are not expecting your involvement on every occasion but are looking for a pool of people we can call on. (As my mother used to say, "the more the merrier".) If you think you can or know of someone who can offer support in one or more of the above, do contact John Wade, Rob Moverley, Margaret Baldwin, Phyllis Frayling or Margaret Craig.

**Many thanks,**

Rob

From the Editor ...

## **What do we know about Dewi Sant?**

### **1) His birthday is a mystery**

An angel foretold his birth to St Patrick, 30 years before it happened - although the exact date is believed to be some time between 462 and 515 AD.

Some say he lived more than 100 years and died on 1 March 589 - hence St David's Day.

### **2) He was born in a storm**

Whenever it was, legend says his mother Non gave birth on a cliff-top in Pembrokeshire - during a fierce storm.

At that exact moment, a bolt of lightning from heaven is said to have struck the rock, splitting it in two.

A nearby holy well is said to have healing powers.

### **3) He had royal heritage**

His family was aristocratic. The official biography claims his father was Sant, the Prince of Powys, and his grandfather King Ceredig founded Ceredigion.

Non was a nun and later canonised herself.

### **4) He's not David**

That was the name he was baptised with.

But Non named her son Dewidd, or Dewi to the locals.

### **5) He took centre stage at Glasto**

Educated at a monastery, he became a missionary, spreading Christianity. Dewi was a renowned preacher, founding monastic settlements and churches in Wales, Brittany and south-west England. He visited Glastonbury to rededicate the abbey and donated a travelling altar that included a great sapphire - pinched 1,000 years later.

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**6) He left his mark**  
 Like any seaside tourist, David reputedly brought back a rock - though not the pink boiled sugar kind - from his pilgrimage to Jerusalem. That stone now sits in an altar at St David's Cathedral, built on the site of his original monastery.

**7) He was a teetotal vegetarian**  
 Strict dieters today have nothing on St David. He and his monks led a very simple and austere life living off only leeks and water. They even refused to use oxen to plough their fields, preferring to do it by hand.

**8) Miraculous stories**  
 He is said to have cured his tutor of blindness with the sign of the cross and brought a dead boy back to life by splashing the child's face with tears. It is also said that the ground beneath his feet rose up to form a hill so people at the back of a large crowd in Llanddewi Brefi could hear him speak before a white dove, sent by God, settled on his shoulder.

**9) A celebrity of the Middle Ages**  
 He has been the patron saint of Wales since the 12th Century, at a time when there were more than 60 churches in Wales dedicated to him. His shrine was so important that Pope Callistus II said two pilgrimages to St David's were worth one to the Vatican. Vikings regularly raided the cathedral while the shrine was stripped of its jewels during the reformation in the 16th Century.

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**10) His legacy lives on**  
 His last words to his followers came from a sermon he gave on the previous Sunday: 'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.'  
 The phrase 'Gwnewch y pethau bychain' - 'Do the little things' - is still well-known in Wales.

*(Information from the BBC website.)*

From a young age , like many others, I have grown up celebrating Saint David's Day in school. In primary school we would have an eisteddfod and better still, have the afternoon off.

When I came back to teach in Wales, schools had continued and still continue, to celebrate Dydd Gwyl Dewi; sadly, no longer half a day's holiday. In my last school in Cardiff ,we had an Eisteddfod and even a Charing of the Bard.

We might not be up to surviving on water and leeks but we can take inspiration and , 'Do the little things' that can make others' and our own lives worthwhile.

Diane.

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## Young Wives

*Mondays 7.30pm*  
*All ladies, any age, welcome*

### March



- 3rd Business and Biscuits
- 10th Pictionary Mrs Chris Harling
- 17th A Favourite Photograph
- 24th An evening of board games  
Ms Lynda Jones
- 31st Quiz Mr Martin Holdsworth

### Lenten Lunches for Christian Aid.

Every Friday from March 7th to 4th April  
At Wesley Methodist Church  
12 noon-1pm



## Worship



### March

- 2nd, 10.30am Rev Malcolm Shapland  
(Communion)
- 9th, 10.30am Mr Lewis Lewis-Head
- 16th, 10.30 am Sarah and Richard Edwards
- 23rd, 10.45 am Mrs Clare Nutbrown-Hughes  
at St David's Uniting Church
- 30th, 10.30am Ms Lynda Jones  
Mothering Sunday Service  
(followed by church meeting to  
discuss and decide on Clare's  
Call)

### Mid Week Communion

Wednesday 12th March  
10.30am  
Rev Malcolm Shapland





**Van-guard**

**Saturday 15th March**

**Giordano Piano Recital performing with Christopher Horner on Violin**

Featuring music by Schubert, Franck and Tchaikovsky.

7pm (TBC)

**Saturday 22nd March**

**A programme of opera arias, songs, duets and ensembles**

**With Lee David Bowen and friends**

7pm £10

**Exciting News From 'Only Boys Allowed'**

Only Boys Aloud started 2025 with a bang after being invited on the 9th January to perform for Ed Sheeran during his visit to Cardiff.

Ed was visiting Fitzalan High school to launch his music foundation which is designed to break down barriers and encourage creativity amongst young people. The boys had a full rehearsal at Vanguard a few days before to prepare for the performance.

Most recently, Only Boys Aloud have returned to Vanguard to rehearse ahead of a TV recording for S4C, where the boys will be performing alongside Treorchy Male Voice Choir, and former Only Boys Aloud member and BAFTA award winning actor; Callum Scott Howells.

**Lectionary Readings**



**March**

**2nd** Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

**5th** Ash Wednesday  
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**9th** First Sunday in Lent  
Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;  
Romans 10:6b-13; Luke 4:1-13

**16th** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;  
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

**23rd** Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

**30th** Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2  
Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



## Exciting Pastorate News

### **Weekend of March 22nd-23rd**

Clare completes her ministerial training in the summer. She is studying a BA in Theology, Ministry and Mission accredited to Durham University, studying at Northern College, Manchester. She lives with her husband, David, in Bristol and has 4 children.

On Saturday, 22nd March, 10.30am, Clare will meet with us for a coffee morning at Van Road.

On Sunday 23rd March, 10.45am, we will meet with our pastorate friends for a service in St David's Church in Treforest where Clare will 'Preach with a View.' We will endeavour to offer transport to all who need it.

On 30th March, after the Mothering Sunday service there will be a church meeting to discuss the Call and to make a decision on that call. Please note, the only votes counted are those that are present at this meeting. Obviously, the final outcome will also depend on the decisions of our friends in the other churches



## Calendar of Regular Events in the Church

- Coffee Morning, 10.30am First Wednesday each month
- 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 Thursdays fortnightly, 2pm
- '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 5th March**

**10.30am**

**ALL WELCOME!**



## NEW TESTAMENT

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

THESSALONIANS HEBREWS PHILIPPIANS PETER  
 REVELATION CORINTHIANS PHILEMON  
 GALATIANS TIMOTHY TITUS ROMANS JAMES  
 MATTHEW MARK LUKE JOHN ACTS  
 EPHESIANS JUDE

## We hold in our prayers -



Rev Malcolm Shapland

Enfys Hawthorn

Carol Booth

Cathy Vernalls

Hilary and Steve Akerman

Phyllis Frayling

Frank Frayling

Wendy Angove and family

Barbara Stewart

Diana Hibbert

Dave and Carolyn Jenkins

Those suffering in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank.  
 Hostages and refugees.

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.

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.

World leaders that they make sound, fair and just  
 decisions particularly in the USA new administration.

## 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)



**Think of me and remember the little things you  
have seen and heard me do.**

**Saint David.**