

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHELLY
May 2025

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An Elder WritesOn 8th May, the 80th anniversary of VE day will be commemorated. The following is a just small part of the speech given by King George to mark the end of war in Europe.

“Today we give thanks to Almighty God for a great deliverance. Let us remember those who will not come back, their constancy and courage in battle, their sacrifice and endurance in the face of a merciless enemy: let us remember the men in all the Services and the women in all the Services who have laid down their lives. We have come to the end of our tribulation, and they are not with us at the moment of our rejoicing. Then let us salute in proud gratitude the great host of the living who have brought us to victory. I cannot praise them to the measure of each one’s service, for in a total war the efforts of all rise to the same noble height and all are devoted to the common purpose. Armed or unarmed, men and women, you have fought, striven, and endured to your utmost. No one knows that better than I do; and as your King I thank with a full heart those who bore arms so valiantly on land and sea, or in the air; and all civilians who, shouldering their many burdens, have carried them unflinchingly without complaint.”

More recently when King Charles and Queen Camilla visited Italy, King Charles used the following words in his speech to the Italian Parliament:-

“Peace, never to be taken for granted.”

“Today, sadly, the echoes of those times, which we had fervently hoped had been consigned to history-reverberate across our continent. Our younger generation can now see on their smartphones and tablets that peace is never to be taken for granted.”

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus lists the blessings, referred to as the Beatitudes, that await those who live their lives in a certain way. Jesus addresses the peacemakers in particular saying, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.” (Matthew, chapter 5 verse 9). When Jesus said this, He was highlighting the importance of fostering peace in our lives and communities. Peace-making goes beyond simply avoiding conflict. It’s about actively working to bring harmony and reconciliation where there is strife. This can be within our families, friendships, workplaces, or even broader societal contexts. Peacemakers, therefore, are those who actively seek to restore relationships and create environments of mutual respect and love. Being a peacemaker reflects God’s nature. God is the ultimate peacemaker, reconciling us to Himself through Jesus Christ. When we make peace, we mirror this divine action and show that we are true children of God.

Ultimately, regardless of the results of a peacemaker’s efforts, Jesus promises that the peacemaker will be blessed by specifically being called a child of God. Peacemakers will be blessed for their work by being explicitly identified in Heaven as children of “the God of peace”.

Whilst we can rejoice on the 80th anniversary of VE day, let us remember the words of King George and remember all those who are no longer with us.

Lynda



From the Editor ...

GREAT NEWS!

It was with great joy that all four churches in the pastorate overwhelmingly agreed to ask Clare Nutbrown-Hughes to become our minister, even better when she wholeheartedly said , 'YES!'

Clare finishes her studies in the summer and it is hoped that her ordination and induction will take place in September.

Now the hard work starts with discussions with Clare as to the way forward for the start of her ministry.

It is an exciting time for Clare and for us. We remember Clare and her family in our prayers. We are looking forward to her ministry and contemplating how we can play our part in it.

Diane.

Pope Francis

In memory of a man who loved, cared and inspired. We give prayers and thanks for his life of service.



Dying crops means food stops

Uncertainty looms over Indigenous farming communities in the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala, Central America.

In this forested area of mountains and rivers, the livelihoods, traditions and very survival of farmers and their families are threatened by deadly droughts, savage storms and monster monoculture plantations.

That includes Amelia, a resourceful and determined 24-year-old farmer who lives with her husband and their two children, 8-year-old Lázaro and 4-year-old Yakelin, on ancient and beautiful land that's been in Amelia's family for generations. **'I have always been fascinated by planting and have loved it since I was very young,'** she says.

Amelia's farm, first and foremost, feeds her young children. She tries to grow a range of crops and root vegetables that will provide them with a balanced diet, such as bananas, peppers and cassava. This way, Amelia can protect them from malnutrition.

But the climate crisis is ravaging farms like Amelia's, causing both the dry and rainy seasons that would once arrive with predictability to intensify and shift erratically. Recent harvests have failed, and fruit and vegetables have become unobtainable locally. The family's diet now largely consists of rice and tortillas.

'My first priority is to feed my family,' says Amelia.

'I worry about what my children will eat.'

Water is life

The river is central to Amelia's life and Mayan culture. When Amelia was a child, the river that runs through her farm was bigger and deeper than it is now. There were crabs, shrimp, big fish, and enough water for her to learn to swim.

Now, as Amelia's own children splash around in the cool waters to escape the blistering temperatures that relentless heatwaves bring, the water is at ankle height.

'The river is getting lower and most of the water sources are just dust,' Amelia explains. It's a heart-breaking injustice, when no more than a mile away, industrial plantations are taking the last of the region's natural resources to feed the world's richest countries.

Guatemala is a hunger hotspot. At 46.5%, the country has one of the highest global rates of stunting in children. In some areas, this rises to 90%. Stunting permanently affects both physical and mental development.

Meanwhile, more than half of people in Guatemala work in agriculture. In the Alta Verapaz region, dependency on agriculture is the highest in the country. Heartbreakingly, malnutrition in children under five is also at the highest here.

Guatemala is among the 10 countries in the world rated most vulnerable to disasters and climate emergencies. The cruel truth is that Indigenous communities like Amelia's have done the least to cause the climate crisis, yet they endure its impact the most.

As their farms are devastated, the search for solutions becomes critical. **With high heat, there is little we can do but adapt,'** says Amelia.

The unstoppable power of hope

Despite all this, Amelia's hopeful that she can combat extreme weather by changing the way she farms – with the support of specialist training from Christian Aid's partner, Congcoop.

Christian Aid has been working in Guatemala with Congcoop since 2011. In 2020, when hurricanes Eta and Iota hit the Alta Verapaz region, forcing more than 198,000 people out of their homes and into shelters, Congcoop offered vital humanitarian aid.

Today, Congcoop are supporting communities to return to Indigenous farming practices and adopt agroecological approaches that conserve their land, culture and livelihood.

Agroecology, put simply, is farming in a sustainable way that works with, not against, nature. An agroecological approach adapts to suit the specific environmental conditions of an area.

Agroecology is well aligned with traditional Mayan belief systems. It encourages the protection of the forest and wider environment, as well as the use of native seeds such as corn, cacao, maize, beans and medicinal herbs.

(Edited from the Christian aid website.)



**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
11th-17th May**

Christian Aid, now in its 80th year, and its supporters are joining together once again during **Christian Aid Week (11-17 May)** to fundraise in all kinds of ways.

With **7 days to make a difference**, every gift, act and prayer counts.

Will you demonstrate the unstoppable power of hope and help fund vital tools and training, so farmers like Amelia can push back against the climate crisis and beat hunger?

£6 could pay for the seed trays that kick-start a plant nursery at someone's home.

£10 could pay for the pruning scissors that mean a farmer can care for their cacao trees.

£20 could buy two pounds of climate resilient seeds that diversify a family's crop.

THANK YOU!

News From The Vanguard Centre

Spring Concerts

We have been treated to an excellent set of concerts during February, March and April this year. The season started at the beginning of February with The Siglo Section and Katt Rees. We were treated to an afternoon of uplifting jazz music, including pieces of Welsh jazz music, songs that Katt had developed over the last couple of years, possibly the first jazz songs written in Welsh.

We were then entertained by Giordano (piano) and Christopher Horner on Violin at the beginning of March followed by Lee Bowen and friends with a collection of arias, songs, duets and ensembles at the end of the month.

In April Rechoir returned to Vanguard supported by the BTM brass band and performed to a packed house, and this was followed by a concert by the Community Chorus in memory of one of their members, Brian Perry, who died tragically at the end of 2024. We look forward to the season ending with a concert by Matthew Tilley on 29th April.

The concerts don't just happen on their own, and thanks must go to John, Phyllis and Margaret for the work they put in. In response to the appeal last month there have been a number of additional helpers who are beginning to get engaged with the organisation of these events.

The Art Exhibition

We look forward to another art exhibition featuring local artists in May. Details can be found elsewhere in INFORM. Do take the opportunity to support this event if you can.

The Vanguard Charity

During April, the trustees of Vanguard met and agreed to close the charity during 2025 with the assets being transferred to the Church. The Vanguard 'brand' will not disappear, and hopefully the activities and events that are organised by Vanguard will continue, but be managed by a group from within the Church and existing supporters.

Rob

Spring by A.C.Benson (1862-1925)

- 1) The spring again is here,
Life wakes from winter's gloom,
In field and forest far and near,
sweet opening flowers bloom.

- 2) O mystery strange and sweet,
That life so dumbly bound,
Should rise our thankful gaze to greet,
And break from underground. PTO

Worship



- ★ **May**
- ★ **4th** Mr Rob Moverley
Communion
- ★ **11th** No morning worship. Roads closed due
to Bryn Meadow 10K run.
- ★ **6pm** Christian Aid and
Street Pastors Commissioning Service
Windsor Road Church
- ★ **18th** Ms Lynda Jones (Readings, hymns, prayers)
- ★ **25th** Spring Bank Holiday
Ms Lynda Jones (Readings, hymns, prayers)

Young Wives

Mondays 7.30pm
All ladies, any age, welcome



- ★ **May**
- ★ **5th** May Day No Meeting
- ★ **13th** AGM
- ★ **20th** Cruising with Mrs Phyllis Frayling
- ★ **27th** Bank Holiday No meeting

Van-guard in May

Local Artists Exhibition

Tuesday 13th May - Saturday 17th May

10:30am-4pm

Free entry but a collection box for Christian Aid will be available.

Volunteers needed to help steward the event please. Let Diane know if you can help.

THANK YOU!

...cont..

- 3) The morn is fresh and bright,
The slow dark hours depart,
Let days unstained and pure delight,
Bring sunshine to the heart.
- 4) Lord, touch our careless eyes;
New life, new ardour bring,
That we may read thy mysteries,
The wonder of Thy spring.

Lectionary Readings



May

4th

**Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14;
John 21:1-19**

11th

**Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17;
John 10: 22-30**

18th

**Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6;
John 13:31-35**

25th

**Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;
Revelation 21:10, 22-25:5; John 14:23-29**



VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY

THURSDAY 8TH MAY

80th ANNIVERSARY

'LEST WE FORGET'



ART EXHIBITION

VANGUARD AT VAN ROAD URC

TUESDAY 13TH MAY-SATURDAY 17TH MAY
10.30 am-4pm

Submissions must be able to be hung and can be brought to the church rooms on Friday 9th May from 1.30pm-5.30pm

Up to 3 submissions per person at a donation of £2 per submission (going to Christian Aid)

Commission will not be taken but it is hoped that any artists selling a work will make a donation to Vanguard

Further information from-
Diane at

dianemoverley60@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Please support this. There is no entry fee but there will be a donation box for Christian Aid.

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 7th May

10.30am

ALL WELCOME!



BIBLE PEOPLE

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

DAVID DANIEL TIMOTHY JOSHUA NOAH
 SOLOMON ISAIAH ANDREW PETER JESUS
 JONAH TITUS RUTH ESTHER MARY MARTHA
 JAMES JOHN LUKE REBECCA LYDIA

We hold in our prayers -



Rev Malcolm Shapland

Enfys Hawthorn

Carol Booth Cathy Vernalls Margaret Craig

Hilary and Steve Akerman Phyllis Frayling

Frank Frayling Wendy Angove

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



**Pour down thy spirit from above,
And bid all strife and discord cease,
Join heart to heart in mutual love, O
reign among us, Prince of Peace.**

William Romanis 1824-99