

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
July/August 2025

CHURCH OFFICERS

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An Elder Writes ...

Praise the Lord

Congregations praise the Lord with prayer, said by our worship leader, or we might join in, especially, we will say the Lord's Prayer together.

We enjoy praising Him with music and song. We have our favourite Bible passages and our favourite hymns. We can glean our favourite hymns from various hymn books but some we know by heart, back from our childhood.

Songs of Praise on the BBC almost yearly present us with a list of our favourite worship songs, otherwise known as hymns and psalms. I thought that I would look at a few of our favourites.

A popular hymn for weddings in Van Road is, ' All Things Bright and Beautiful.' The happy couple inevitably tell me that they remember it from school.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

It has always been a popular hymn for children. It was written by Mrs Cecil Francis Alexander and first published in 1848 in 'Hymns for Little Children.' Mrs Alexander was an Irish lady, married to an Anglican clergyman. She was a philanthropist and a great lover of nature. She really did appreciate "All Creatures Great and Small" and other wonders of nature that she was in awe of. The hymn praises God for all the creations bestowed on us, which we should never forget (Now only to be found in Congregational Praise.)

Another all round favourite is, 'How Great Thou Art.' Poles tell us it is in fact the most popular hymn in The United States. It is sometimes called the Russian Hymn, but was in fact based on an original Swedish hymn, entitled, 'O Store Gud,' written by Carl Boberg in 1885. The 1949 translation by Stuart K Hine has become well known.

O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

The hymn is soundly based on Psalm 8.

V1 O Lord, our Lord , your greatness is seen in all the world,
Your praises reach up to the Heavens.

V3. When I look at the sky which you have made
At the moon and the stars which you set in their places.

This has become a great worship hymn, suited to all types of services.

Psalm 23 is the all time favourite hymn for any service. It was sung at our wedding and I think, at the weddings of all our friends. It also makes a wonderful reading. As our dear friend, Spencer once said, "A psalm suitable for all occasions."

The Hebrew title is "A Psalm by David"

V1 The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need.

In Samuel 1 we are told a little about David. He was the youngest

son of Jesse, trusted to look after his father's sheep, protecting them by fighting off lions and bears. He was young, fit and handsome. He became a brave warrior in Saul's army. He also experienced life's ups and downs. His talent as a writer and musician brought him comfort. This psalm shows his utmost trust in the Lord. It has been suggested that this is a psalm for troubled times, but not necessarily so, it displays trust and assurance and faith.

V6 I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life

And your house will be my home as long as I live.

This is a psalm of both comfort and encouragement for everyone. David's words are those of encouragement which we all need from time to time.

We will continue to worship with prayer and praise, thankful for music and song, aiming to grow closer to our God and thanking Him always for the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Margaret Craig



From the editor William Walsham How, 1823-97 wrote ...

'Summer suns are glowing over land and sea
Happy light is flowing, bountiful and free
Everything rejoices in the mellow rays
All earth's thousand voices
Swell the psalm of praise.'

I have always had a 'soft spot' for this hymn, it is so positive and uplifting, and the tune isn't bad either.

Yet, as I write, there is not a lot of rejoicing in many parts of the world and so many people would find it hard to find 'psalms of praise' in these horrendous war- torn times and unstable world order.

Refugees, the homeless and those displaced for whatever reason, are also not part of that world that is 'rejoicing.'

We ask, Who and where are the peace makers?' We ask, 'Why is there, often on the face of it, an intolerance and lack of empathy, love and enough support for those in hardship and distress?'

'Lord, upon our blindness thy pure radiance pour
For thy loving kindness make us love thee more
And when clouds are drifting dark across our sky.
Then the veil uplifting
Father be thou nigh.'

The 'dark clouds' are forever 'drifting' and we can find it hard to imagine it will not always be so. Yet the hymn reminds us of God's 'eternal love', (see verse 2.)

'We will never doubt thee though thou veil thy light,
Life is dark without thee, death with thee is bright.
Light of light shine o'er us on our pilgrim way,
Go thou still before us to the endless day.'

We can choose to wallow in the state of the world around us or we can try and do whatever we can to show God's light and hope in these dark times.

'Make me a Channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love,
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.'

'We continue to pray and look to the light that Jesus brings. '



Sending love and blessings for the summer.

Diane.

CAERFFILI FLOWER FESTIVAL

SONGS OF PRAISE

Many thanks for all the support and hard work for the Flower Festival, the church looked wonderful! We had over 100 visitors. They came from near and far. The furthest we know of coming from St. Philbert de Grand Lieu in France.

Some Comments from visitors:

'A perfect display, very uplifting.'

'Excellent displays, flowers and songs were a great choice.'

'Absolutely wonderful!'

'Lovely and peaceful place.'

'Beautiful displays and a warm welcome'

'Such a joy! Thank you!'



It is with great joy and anticipation on
August 30th, 2pm
At

HOPE AND MARKET SQUARE, MERTHYR

ORDINATION AND INDUCTION OF -

CLAIRE-NUTBROWN HUGHES

TO THE VALLEYS PASTORATE

Transport will be arranged. Please let Margaret
Craig know, A minibus might be ordered if
enough people want a lift.

Service followed by refreshments.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
11th-17th May

The Christian Aid Service raised £165

The Art Exhibition raised £328.90

Van Road's contribution
£472.56

Final Total for Caerffili
£1637.93

Thank you for all who have donated either in
church or online. It is not too late to donate.

Van guard Update

Please note: the piano recital by
Giordano has had to be postponed from
Saturday 28th June, to
Saturday 26th July, 2pm



BE OUR GUEST

A relaxed afternoon of music for the young and young at heart, featuring songs from much-loved family films



Sunday 6th July 2025 at 2pm
The Vanguard Centre, Caerphilly



Tickets £12

Scan the QR Code to buy now

Pulpit Supply

July

6th

Robert Moverley
Communion

13th

Mr Lewis Lewis-Head

20th

Margaret and Lynda

27th

Mr Michael Hardie
Leprosy Mission



August

3rd

Rev. Peter Noble
Communion

10th

Rev. Robin Wood

17th

TBA

24th

TBA

31st

TBA

Young Wives

Mondays 7.30pm

All ladies, any age, welcome



No Meetings in July and August.

Next meeting Monday 8th September

Valleys Pastorate News

The 'call group' met with Clare during June to start planning her ministry in the pastorate. For her first year, Clare and her family will continue to live in Bristol. They plan to move to the manse in Pontypridd in the summer of 2026. She will use Shelagh's house as a base when she needs to stay over in South Wales.

Clare has offered a pattern of ministry that will involve spending October and November in Merthyr, January and February in Ystrad Mynach, April and May in Caerphilly and June and July in Treforest. She plans, as a norm, to take Thursday's off. She will share herself around the pastorate in September to help us get to know her a little better and she is booked to preach at Van Rd on 14th September.

Her remaining time (Advent and Lent) will also give her opportunity to work across the pastorate, possibly offering programmes of learning relevant to these seasons.

Everyone felt this was a creative use of Clare's time and look forward to working with her over the coming years.

15th August (80th Commemoration of VJ Day)



Lectionary Readings

July

6th

**2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Isaiah 66:10-14;
Galatians 6:1-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20**

13th

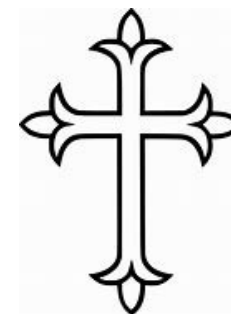
**Amos 7:7-17; Deuteronomy 30:9-14;
Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14;
Luke 10:25-37**

20th

**Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Psalm 15;
Genesis 18:1-10a; Colossians 1:15-28;
Luke 10:38-42**

27th

**Hosea 2:1-10; Psalm 85; Genesis 18:20-32;
Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13**



Lectionary Readings

August

- 3rd** Hosea 11:1-11; Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
- 10th** Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
- 17th** Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
- 24th** Jeremiah 1:4-10; Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
- 31st** Jeremiah 2:4-13; Proverbs 25:6-7; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14



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.

Please be aware that between 9th June and 20th June the building will be used extensively by the Cardiff and Cotswald Opera Company for rehearsal practice.



Coffee Morning

Wednesday 2nd July

10.30am

ALL WELCOME!



Holiday Time

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

SEASIDE	BEACH	COUNTRYSIDE	CARAVAN
CRUISE	HOTEL	LODGE	TENT WALKING
SWIMMING	SUNBATHING	CULTURE	RAIN
SUNSHINE	RELAXING	ADVENTURE	HIKING
ROWING	SUN	CREAM	

We hold in our prayers -



Rev Malcolm Shapland

Enfys Hawthorn

Carol Booth Cathy Vernalls Margaret Craig

Hilary and Steve Akerman

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

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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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**For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.
Father unto thee we raise this our
sacrifice of praise.**