

# INFORM



**URC**  
**VAN ROAD**  
**CAERPHILLY**  
**October 2025**

## Valleys Pastorate Minister

Rev. Clare Nutbrown-Hughes

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## **A Message from our Pastorate Minister, Clare Nutbrown-Hughes**

Dear friends,

As I write it is one of those beautiful sunny, crisp and clear autumn mornings. I can see berries and the start of leaves changing colour outside my window and our weekly veg box has just arrived containing some funny-looking squashes which I'll have to work out what to do with – the day couldn't be more archetypically autumnal if it tried.

On days like these it isn't hard to be moved to give thanks for the season as we soon will be doing in worship and at our harvest tea. Some might argue that in a society where much of our food arrives pristine and packaged via the shelves of our supermarkets, marking the season is little more than a cultural tradition, now devoid of meaning. And it certainly has changed from times when many more people were employed in agriculture and the relief was real when the harvest was safely in. But I take the view that harvest is in fact a deeply important festival because it is an act of recognising our connection; our connection with the earth, with one another as people bound to it and with our Creator.

In a similar way to standing next to a great ocean we are reminded of our frailty and humility and yet of a sense of joy and wonder at God's provision. I heard a talk when we were at Greenbelt Festival this summer entitled 'Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul' given by John Philip Newell (who has just released a new book with the same title) who referred to churches as 'side chapels of the great cathedral of creation' I loved how this reminds us that church is wonderful because it points to God in this world but that there is so

much more out there which shouts of God in different and glorious ways if we might open our eyes and minds to it.

The bright light today has also reminded me to keep looking for God in our environment and world, even on the days that are gloomy and overcast, because it has drawn my eye to the brilliant cobwebs on our garden gate - cobwebs which presumably had been there all along but their beauty, and the skill of the spider, had been hidden from my sight. Not all autumn days are filled with warmth and colour.

October promises to be eventful in Caerphilly with the by-election for the Senedd and all the interest and tension which surrounds it ahead of next May's elections. There may be much that troubles us, there may be much that encourages us, but through it let's keep looking for God and when we fail to notice anything, trust in the fact that God's handiwork, like the magnificent silvery threads of the cobweb, is there, working for the good, weaving beauty and nourishment into our world.

Every blessing this season,  
Clare



From the editor,,,  
Caerphilly Food Bank

The Foodbank relies on food and monetary donations to support many people in various circumstances living in and around Caerphilly. We are very grateful to all those that donate particularly on a regular basis.

Here is a list of essential items needed:

Tea      coffee      UHT milk      tinned fruit  
Squash      soup      tinned spaghetti  
Biscuits      tinned meat and fish  
tinned tomatoes      tinned vegetables  
Curry and Pasta sauces      tinned rice pudding

We include extras in parcels when we have them including:

Toothbrushes      toothpaste, soap      shampoo  
Shower gel      sanitary ware      toilet rolls  
Household cleaning products and dog and cat food

Please support, particularly at this harvest time.

THANK you!

Diane

## Lord of the Harvest

*Lord of the harvest, Lord of the field,  
Give thanks now to God in nature revealed.*

Give thanks for the sun, the wind and the rain  
And thanks for the crops that feed us again.  
The corn safely cut and gathered inside  
We thank you, oh Lord, that you can provide.

*Lord of the harvest, Lord of the field,  
Give thanks now to God in nature revealed*

The trees ripe with fruit stand proud in the  
sun,  
We gather them now that summer is gone.  
For Yours is the wonder, Yours is the power,  
Yours is the glory of fruit and of flower.

*Lord of the harvest, Lord of the field,  
Give thanks now to God in nature revealed.*

So in all our plenty, help us to see,  
The needs all around whatever they be,  
With food for the body, strength for the soul,  
'Its healing and caring, making them whole.

*Lord of the harvest, Lord of the field,  
Give thanks now to God in nature revealed.*

Jancis Harvey

Coming-up at Van-guard

Saturday 4th October 7:00 p.m.

The Melody Makers Choir

Thursday 16th October  
1:00 p.m.

Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama Recital  
Showcasing the talents of emerging student  
musicians :

Rhys Archer - Tenor  
Kirsty McRobbie - Soprano  
Emma Evans - Mezzo  
With Nicola Rose - Piano

Sunday 19th October 3:00 p.m. (TBC)

Affinity Choir Concert

Saturday 1st November  
7p.m. (TBC)

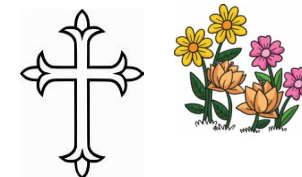
Serenata Choir Concert



A Message of Thanks

Dave Jenkins and family would like to thank all the members at Van Road URC for the many messages of support and kind wishes following the loss of our beloved Carolyn. We would particularly like to thank all who prepared the church for the funeral service and for the welcome given to all our friends and family who attended. It really made a sad day very special to us, a day that will always remain in our hearts.

With love and blessings



Dave

Bible Study

Bible Study will resume on 2nd and  
16th October. 10.30 -12.

We are currently studying the  
1st letter of John.

All are welcome.

Lynda

## THANKYOU FROM VELINDRE

### Extract from their letter to Margaret Baldwin

We wanted to say a heartfelt thank you for your generous donation of £1100. With your help we are making a real difference to those affected by cancer.

With your valuable support, we are funding:  
Ground breaking research and clinical trials that put Velindre at the forefront of cancer care in Wales and offer hope to patients and their loved ones, now and in the future.

Cutting edge equipment, new technologies and environments that provide patients with earlier access to new treatments as well as comfortable treatment rooms and family spaces at the centre.

Patient and family supportive care and well-being initiatives that provide a lifeline to those facing the emotional, physical and practical impact of cancer diagnosis, along with wellbeing support for Velindre staff,

New staff roles, career development and study opportunities, so we can empower the Velindre workforce to advance their expertise to deliver exceptional patient care.

With 1 in 2 of us developing cancer in our lifetime, we need supporters like you more than ever.

All that's left to say is thank you so much for being part of Team Velindre. Our work wouldn't be possible without you and we hope you'll join us again as we continue our journey.

Sincerely,  
Emma Price.                      Velindre Cancer Charity

## Pulpit Supply

**October**

**5th                      Lynda and Margaret  
Harvest**

**12th                    Mrs June Maxwell**

**19th                   Rob Moverley**

**26th                   Dr. Peter Speakman**



## Young Wives

*Mondays 7.30pm*

*All ladies, any age, welcome*

**October  
6th**

**Articulate (Vicky)**

**13th**

**SOCKS (Carol)**

**20th**

**Creative Art Evening**

**27th**

**Half Term**



## Lectionary Readings

### October

**5th** Lamentations 1:1-6 and 3:19-26; Psalm 137;  
Habakkuk 1:1-4,; 2:1-4; 2 Timothy:1:1-14;  
Luke 17:5-10

**12th** Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12;  
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; 2 Timothy 2:8-15;  
Luke 17:11-19

**19th** Jeremiah 3 1:27-34; Psalm 121:  
Genesis 32:22-31; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5;  
Luke 18:1-8

**26th** Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65;  
Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22;  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14



### HARVEST TEA

Saturday 11th October 4pm-6pm

In aid of EMBRACE and H.H.I.

## 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 1st October

10.30am

## LORD OF THE HARVEST

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| N | Y | C | O | R | N | O | L | R | O | L | L |
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| H | L | S | O | U | L | E | E | I | L | E | D |
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| S | T | E | L | P | S | S | R | A | I | N |   |
| T | R | V | G | K | G | N | I | L | A | E | H |

REVEALED    HARVEST    GATHERED    PROVIDE    SUN  
 WONDER    CARING    FOOD    NEEDS    STRENGTH    CORN  
 THANKS    POWER            FLOWER            GLORY    HELP  
 CROPS    WIND    RAIN            HEALING    BODY    SOUL

## We hold in our prayers -



**Rev Malcolm Shapland**

**Enfys Hawthorn**

**Carol Booth            Cathy Vernalls**

**Hilary and Steve Akerman**

**Frank Frayling        Wendy Angove**

**Barbara Stewart    Diana Hibbert**

**Dave Jenkins and all the family**

**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)



**All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above,  
Then thank the Lord,  
Oh, thank the Lord  
For all his love.**