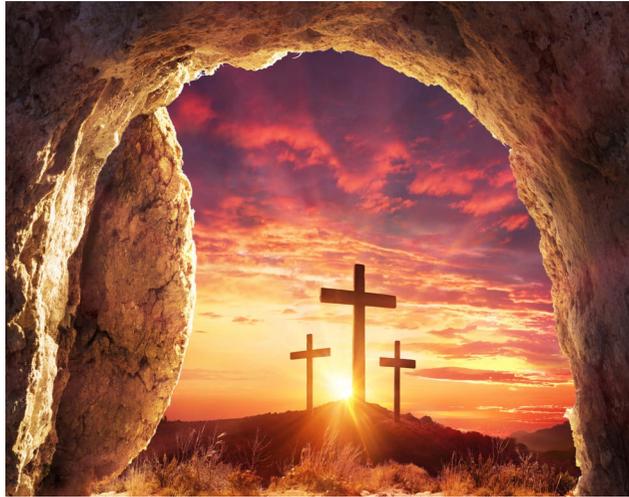


# INFORM



**URC  
VAN ROAD  
CAERPHILLY  
April 2026**

## **Valleys Pastorate Minister**

Rev. Clare Nutbrown-Hughes

Tel: 07543 687512

E-mail: [valleysministerurc@gmail.com](mailto:valleysministerurc@gmail.com)

### **Church Secretary**

Mrs Margaret Craig

Tel: 02920 867487

E-mail: [Margaret\\_craig@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Margaret_craig@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Church Treasurer**

Mr Rob Moverley

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### **Pulpit Secretary**

Ms Lynda Jones

Tel: 02920 884022

E-mail: [lynda.jones0058@gmail.com](mailto:lynda.jones0058@gmail.com)

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

Annwyl ffrindiau, Dear friends,

When I first started going to church in my mid-twenties I wasn't a Christian and I didn't believe in God. In fact, I started going because while I knew that I rejected religion, I wasn't entirely sure *why*, so I attended church to gather evidence to shore up my position. No doubt with some insensitivity, I explained this to the vicar and to most people who would listen to me in the Anglican church in the village where I lived. I was pleasantly surprised, and probably a bit wrong-footed, when they didn't seem at all put off and welcomed me with open arms nonetheless.

What I found as I sat in that 13<sup>th</sup> Century church with medieval wall paintings still partly intact, was a sense of something way beyond me. There was an awareness of a much bigger story, there was wonder, there was something precious in being part of a community of people who prayed for the common good as people had done for centuries in that place, in being with people who recognised their common identity as they gathered around this someone or something called God. What I quickly realised was that I looked forward to going. I looked forward to switching off from just looking out for me and being part of a movement that saw things differently and believed in goodness and was less cynical and I enjoyed, to my surprise, being welcomed and known. I began to be invited to lunches and tea and cake and no-one minded one bit that I didn't believe. I was at least twenty years younger than the nearest person in age to me and I wasn't even a Christian,

I may have started going to church to find out answers and develop my reasoning about Christianity, but what I got instead was an introduction into the unknowingness of faith and before long I was surprised by a deep sense of belonging to a God who had known me all along even though I hadn't known God. I thought I needed reason and I was blessed with mystery.

In the latest edition of the URC's magazine, Reform, author and broadcaster Justin Brierley notes: "It's hard to find community in a world of screens." As we approach Easter may we recognise what is precious about our church community – it was novelty enough as a young person in the mid 1990's to find a range of people from different backgrounds committed to their church family, so I can only imagine how much more so it would be now. Let us not underestimate the powerful witness of simply being church, of welcome, of caring for one another and those who are brave enough to walk through our doors.

And in this season, above all, may we give ourselves space to wonder, to ensure that the little of what we understand about the Easter story does not eclipse our opportunity to experience it and be open to it. Theologians over the centuries have wrestled with interpreting Easter and have come to very different conclusions about what happened on the cross and why. But beneath the various understandings is God's profound, costly love extended to us and a desire to be with us. May we allow ourselves to receive that and feel that this Easter.

Pob bendith,

Clare

I look forward to spending more time with you all from the middle of April until Pentecost May 24<sup>th</sup> which will be my opportunity to get to know Van Road and Caerphilly more and build on the connections already made since I started in September. If there are people you feel I ought to meet, places I ought to see, ideas you would like me to explore, do let me or an elder know.

See you soon!

Clare



**Memorial Concert, Sunday 22nd March**

This was a memorable and moving afternoon with performances by David Forte and Angharad Morgan, Matthew Tilley, Nigel Jones, Caerphilly Community Chorus, Lee Bowen culminating in the premier performance of a beautiful piano piece by Dan Phelps, commissioned by John Wade in memory of his and Mair's life together.

Members of John's family attended but John was poorly so couldn't be there so the performances were recorded for him.

**£337 was raised for Cancer Research.**

It was a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

An Elder writes ...

Let Us Praise God

From time immemorial the faithful have wished to praise our Lord God. We wish to show our love, our thanks for all his blessings. We may all have different ideas as how we do this. To help us we have the written word, a time of prayer, those who can guide us. Quite recently I have looked at the lives of saints over the centuries, favourite hymns which bring us together in worship, and give us the blessing of fellowship.

Most people have a favourite hymn, or perhaps favourite hymns for different occasions. We can think of the Book of Psalms, some attributed to David. David became a warrior, a ruler, a musician and psalmist, forever praising and calling out to God.

Over the centuries Christian worship has been inspired by music. God wisely dispersed talent to many men and women who could put words of praise and music together. There are many songs of worship written many years ago which are still used in worship today. There are also popular hymns written in recent times.

Let us look at the lives of a few of those who have given us wonderful words and music which have helped to inspire our worship.

**Charles Wesley 1707-1788**

Charles Wesley was an English Methodist leader and prolific hymn writer. It is thought that he wrote over six thousand hymns. Of those many remain popular to this day. To name but a few he wrote, 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing', 'Love Divine, All loves Excelling', And with Easter approaching, 'Christ the Lord is Risen Today.'

We give thanks for the life of Charles Wesley.

**Bishop Timothy Dudley Smith 1926-2024**

Bishop Timothy was the Suffragan Bishop of Thetford from 1981-1991. He was a prolific hymn writer. Among the most popular of his hymns is Tell Out My Soul( based on the reading from Luke ch.1) and Lord for the Years. I remember watching a service from The Albert Hall when Lord for the Years was sung. Aled Jones informed the audience that Bishop Timothy was present. He was given a great round of applause.

We give thanks for the life of Bishop Timothy.

**John Lamberton Bell Born1949**

John Bell is a Church of Scotland minister, a hymn writer, a broadcaster and a member of the Iona Community. He lectures in theological colleges all over the world. Among his most popular hymns are: - 'Will you come and follow me' 'We cannot measure how you heal' and

'Be still and know that I am God.'

John is now seventy six still working , still hymn writing.

We give thanks for the contributions John has made to Christian worship .

Let us give thanks to all who encourage our Christin Journey.

Margaret Craig



**From the editor ...**

**'I will give you rest, come.'**

The service for **The World Day of Prayer** was very moving and so poignant as it was put together by a group of Christian women in Nigeria, During the service we heard personal stories of the challenges that women have had to face and overcome,

Nigeria emerged from British colonial rule in October 1960. The first national anthem was produced at that time

... 'to set down fundamental values of unity and diversity,' expressing hope for the future.' The lyrics are quite inspiring.

There have been many changes in the country over the years, both culturally and economically, ethnic tensions and corruption.

**Information From the service sheet:**

'Today Nigeria stands in a cycle of continuous renewal and hope. The country faces ongoing challenges such as climate change, economic diversification and social inequality. However, it also boasts a young dynamic population driving innovation in technology, arts and business.'

Let us pray for them and for us that we might have such faith.

Sending Easter Blessings



Diane.

**Nigeria's First National Anthem, 1960-1978,**

**reinstated in 2024**

**Nigeria , we hail thee,  
Our own dear native land,  
Though tribe and tongue may differ,  
in brotherhood we stand,  
Nigerians all, and proud to serve  
our sovereign motherland.**

**Our flag shall be a symbol  
that truth and justice reign,  
In peace or battle honoured,  
And this we count as gain,  
To hand on to our children  
A banner without stain.**

**O God of all creation,  
Grant this our one request,  
Help us to build a nation  
Where no one is oppressed,  
And so with peace and plenty  
Nigeria will be blessed.**

**Amen to that!**



**Written by Rev. Malcolm Shapland  
during Covid**

**1.4.21**

**Spare a Prayer for the Servant King**

Maundy Thursday, the day when Jesus instituted The Last Supper, Holy Communion. A sacrament that has become central in the worship of most churches.

The Symbolism of sacrifice.

After the Last Supper, Jesus washed the disciples feet.  
The task given to the most low ranking household servant.

The Symbolism of service.

Spare a prayer for the church as a Sacrificial Body.  
For the church as a Servant.

Two things are vital to the true church. One is worship.  
The other is service.

In Worship God in Christ is Central.

From the silence of The Quakers to the magnificence of High Mass, God is central.

From the lowly chapel to the highest cathedral, God is central.

Spare a prayer and a thought today about the worship, including Communion, which has been on and off, in its usual ways over the past year, and how much work has gone in to keeping worship alive through on line worship,

Thanks to those who have enabled this.

The church too is Servant. Looking at the need that surrounds the Church and looking at the church as a towel and bowl, foot washer, it is amazing how much money and time church people give in the service of other people. I think it was Archbishop Temple who said that the Church is the only organisation that exists to serve those who do not belong to it.

Spare a prayer for the Foot Washing ministry of the church, in all its different places, God works through His people; our service is His service.

The Worshipping Church, The Servant Church centres on the Servant King. Jesus Himself says, He came not to be ministered to but to Minister. Born in a stable, died on a Cross, fitting only for a Servant King. The Teacher of Worship, and the Example of lowly service, may we remember our high calling to be servants of the Servant King.

*From, Prayers in a Pandemic 2 (by permission)*



## Bible Study

Every week for 5 weeks

Beginning Wednesday 21st April 10.30am –12.

Led by our minister,  
Clare Nutbrown-Hughes

## Asylum Seeker Awareness Event

Monday 19th April Time to be confirmed

Clare, Rob and I recently attended a very informative Zoom meeting with Yulia, a Ukrainian refugee who works with asylum seekers and refugees, to raise awareness and learn the facts to dispel the myths around the subject. Julia is willing to come to Van Road and repeat her presentation.

All are welcome to attend this important event.

How many Easter eggs can you fit in an empty basket?

1, because after that it is not empty any more!

Knock, Knock, who's there? Hop,

Hop who?

Hop to it, Easter is here!

## Lectionary Readings

April

2nd Maundy Thursday  
Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

3rd Good Friday  
Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22;  
Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

5th Easter Day  
Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;  
Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18  
or Matthew 28:1-10

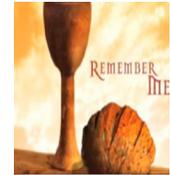
12th Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9;  
John 20:19-31

19th Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;  
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

26th Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25;  
John 10:1-10



## Pulpit Supply



April

5th, 10.45am Easter Day  
Rev Clare Nutbrown–Hughes

This service will be streamed to Van Road from St David's Uniting Church, Treforest. The service will include communion.

12th, 10.30am Dr. David Jenkins

\*19th, 10.30am Rev Clare Nutbrown–Hughes

26th, 10.30am Rev Clare Nutbrown–Hughes

\*Cathy's friends and family will join us on Sunday April 19th 2026 when we'll have the opportunity to remember her life during the morning service.

## Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, Van Road, 2nd April 6pm  
Rev Clare Nutbrown-Hughes

Good Friday 3rd April 10.30am at Windsor Road

## Easter Day

Son Rise service on Caerphilly Mountain

7.30am

Van-guard

Classically Caerphilly

Another opportunity to hear talented singers  
from the Royal Welsh Music and Drama.

Thursday 30th April

1pm

Admission free, Retiring collection.

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Saturday 25th April

7.30pm

Piano Recital by Giodarno

More information to follow.



What do you call a rabbit with fleas?  
Bugs Bunny.

What do you call a line of Easter rabbits hopping  
backwards?  
A receding hare line.

How do you make Easter easier?  
Put an i where the t is.

**April Eco Suggestions from A Rocha**

Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something. April is the perfect time to grow something edible, or if you are a seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags.

For indoor space, try micro greens (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open)

For greenhouses, try sowing salad leaf mixes.

For outdoors, beetroot, onions, lettuce and pea plants are frost resistant so can be planted out in April.

As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.



**Young Wives**

*Meetings will generally be on the first Monday each  
month  
However, April Meeting Monday 13th - A Quiz Night*

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

PLEASE ADVERTISE THIS FORTHCOMING EVENT TO ANY LOCAL ARTISTS AND CRAFTS PEOPLE THAT MAY BE INTERESTED IN EXHIBING AND/OR SELLING THEIR WORK

## ART EXHIBITION

VAN-GUARD AT VAN ROAD URC

TUESDAY 12TH MAY-SATURDAY 16TH MAY  
10am-4pm

Submissions must be able to be hung and can be brought to the church rooms on Friday 8th May from 1.30pm-5.30pm

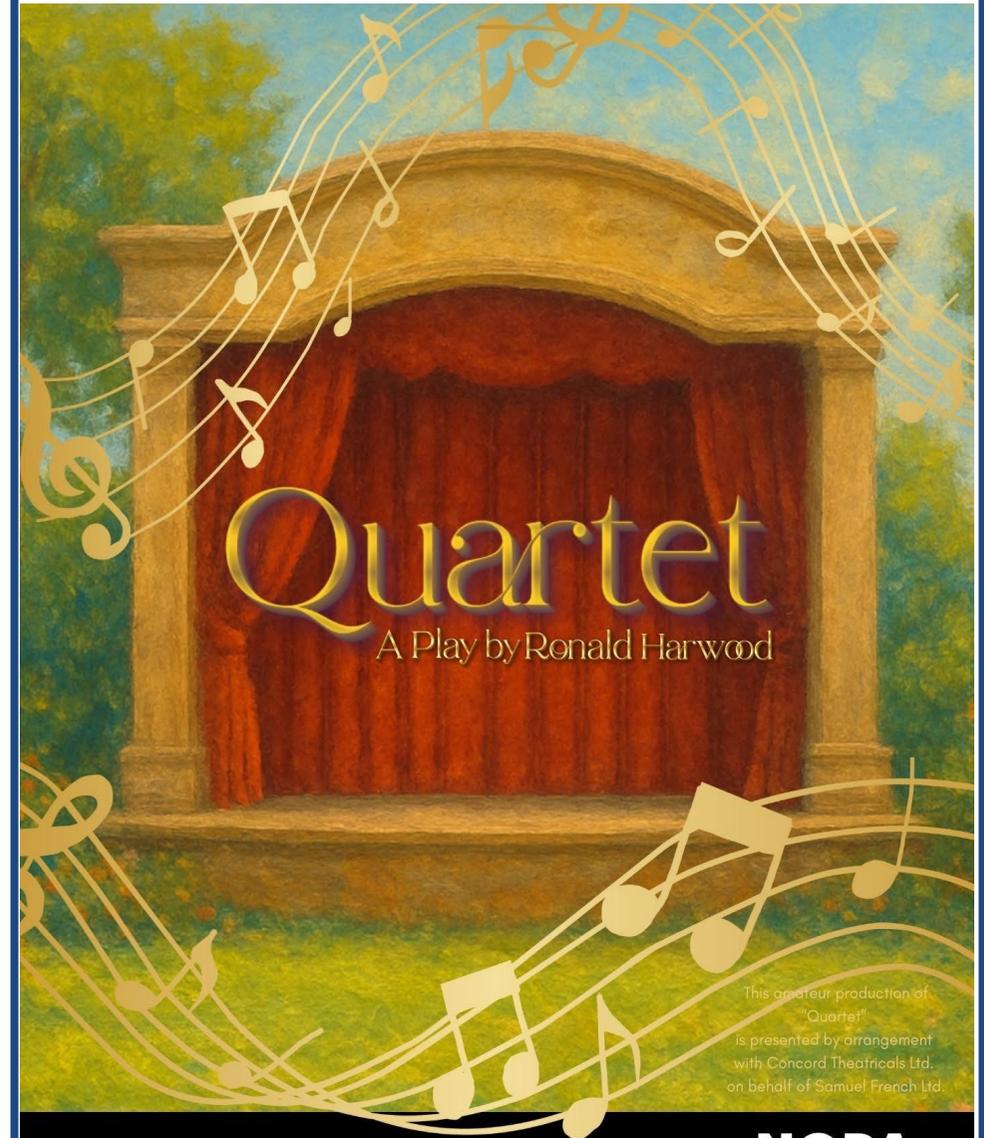
Up to 3 submissions per person in the first instance at a donation of £2 per submission (going to Christian Aid)

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!



This amateur production of "Quartet" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.

7:30pm - 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Vanguard Centre Caerphilly  
United Reform Church, Van Road

Tickets £14 (£12 Concessions)



**NODA**  
For every stage



For more info, visit [www.caerphillyplayers.co.uk](http://www.caerphillyplayers.co.uk)  
Find us on Facebook, Instagram & TicketSource

CAERPHILLY  
PLAYERS

**FLOWER FESTIVAL**

**June 19th-21st**

**Theme: 'These we Admire'**

**Volunteers needed to do a window display  
please.**

**Help can be Given!**

**Van-guard—not to be missed.**

**Saturday 11th April**

**2.30pm      £12**

**Songs of Love and Travel**

**Featuring Schumann's 'Dichterliebe' and  
Vaughn Williams', 'Songs of Travel'**

**Caleb Mock, Tenor, John Liddington, Baritone,  
Joshua McDade, piano**

**Caleb and John have just graduated from the RWCMD  
having started with 'Only Boys Aloud' when in school.**

**Come and support these talented young men at the start  
of their careers.**

**We hold in our prayers -**



**Rev Malcolm Shapland**

**Enfys Hawthorn      Margaret Baldwin**

**Carol Booth              Family and friends of Cathy Vernalls**

**Hilary and Steve Akerman**

**Phyllis and family      Marian Bevan and family**

**Barbara Stewart      Diana Hibbert**

**Dave Jenkins and all the family**

**The people of Gaza, Israel and Palestine and those  
involved whether willingly or not, in the Iran war.**

**All those without a home or warm shelter.**

**Those countries facing hardships, particularly in  
Madagascar, 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.**

**Permanent peace in Gaza and a just peace in Ukraine.**

### Calendar of Regular Events in the Church

- Communion service            2nd Wednesday each month, 10.30am
- ‘Only Boys Aloud’ rehearse            Every Monday, 6.30,
- Caerphilly Chorus rehearse            Every Friday, 7pm,
- University of the Third Age (U3A)    First Friday each month  
1.30pm (usually)
- U3A singing group                    Thursdays fortnightly, 2pm
- ‘Young Wives’ (All ladies welcome) Monthly 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 Mornings

The Wednesday Coffee mornings will not go ahead until September.



Coming soon - a Coffee Morning on a Saturday!

### His Passion

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

EASTER            PALM SUNDAY            GOOD FRIDAY  
 CRUCIFIXION            CHRIST PEACE            DISCIPLE TOMB  
 GARDEN            HOSANNA            MARY            MARTHA CROSS  
 RISEN            HALELLULIA JOY            PRAYER            TRIAL  
 LOVE            MAUNDY

## CHURCH ELDERS

Ms Lynda Jones            02920 884022

Mr Robert Moverley      02920 866336

Dr Peter Speakman        02920 883968

Mrs Phyllis Frayling      07870 752306

Mrs Margaret Baldwin    02920 867027

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)



**He is Risen!**