

# INFORM



**URC**  
**VAN ROAD**  
**CAERPHILLY**  
**July/August 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

Tel: 02920 866336

E-mail: [robmoverley60@gmail.com](mailto:robmoverley60@gmail.com)

## **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,

After being on the horizon for so long as the month in which we move to Wales, July 2026 is finally upon us.

I'm discovering that moving house does strange things to time – the past, the present and the future are blurring into one. As we sift through the numerous 'sentimental boxes' in the loft filled with the children's birthday cards and first shoes and endless pieces of artwork and certificates and decide what stays and what goes, we are confronted with what was and is no more (and are also learning about who is more sentimental than others!). Then in the present, everyday life still goes on with the addition of farewells to the places and people who have shaped our lives over the past years and preparing our house for future tenants. And then there's the future – life in a new country! There's so much that's unknown from how many children will be moving with us and what bit of furniture will go where, to the big one, what will this new life look like?

Moving house is a drastic example of how the past, present and future can collide. A more commonly experienced example is that of taking Communion, when we remember Jesus' life and ministry, when we celebrate Jesus among us now and with that our membership of his one body, and when we look ahead

to a future when God's reconciling work of renewal will be completed. Confronted with God's presence and promise in Communion we are invited to place ourselves into the span of that life-giving story.

The incoming General Assembly Moderator of the URC, Neil Thorogood, who will come and spend time with us and the whole pastorate at Van Road over the weekend of Palm Sunday 2027, has picked up this imagery of churches spanning between what was and what will be. As he takes up his role this July and prepares to travel across our nations meeting with churches, he has reflected on the importance of us building bridges that bring our past - our history, our story, our traditions - into conversation with our present so that we might move into the future. We are invited to locate our story within God's story and move forwards. Going through boxes whether literally or metaphorically can be hard work, but it enables us to treasure what is valuable from our past and releases us to move forward in the present trusting that God will guide us.

In some ways we are all moving into a new country together, let us keep talking and praying as we discern God's leading – and thankfully we can do it without all of us having to move house!

Pob bendith,

Clare





From the Editor ...

If you had to describe God in words and pictures I wonder what you might come up with or perhaps just give up and abandon the task.

I was at a meeting last month when one of the group said to me, 'I have got something of yours that I have had for a very long time. 'It must be over 20 years since, at a URC get together in Aberystwyth, I gave her examples of what children in my school had written and drawn to describe God. I had forgotten all about it.

I had suggested the task in school after watching a TED lecture which described how parents and teachers can crush children's ideas and creativity.

The example he gave went something like this-

A teacher is wandering around the class observing the children drawing. She came to one little girl and asked what she was drawing.

The girl replied, 'God!'

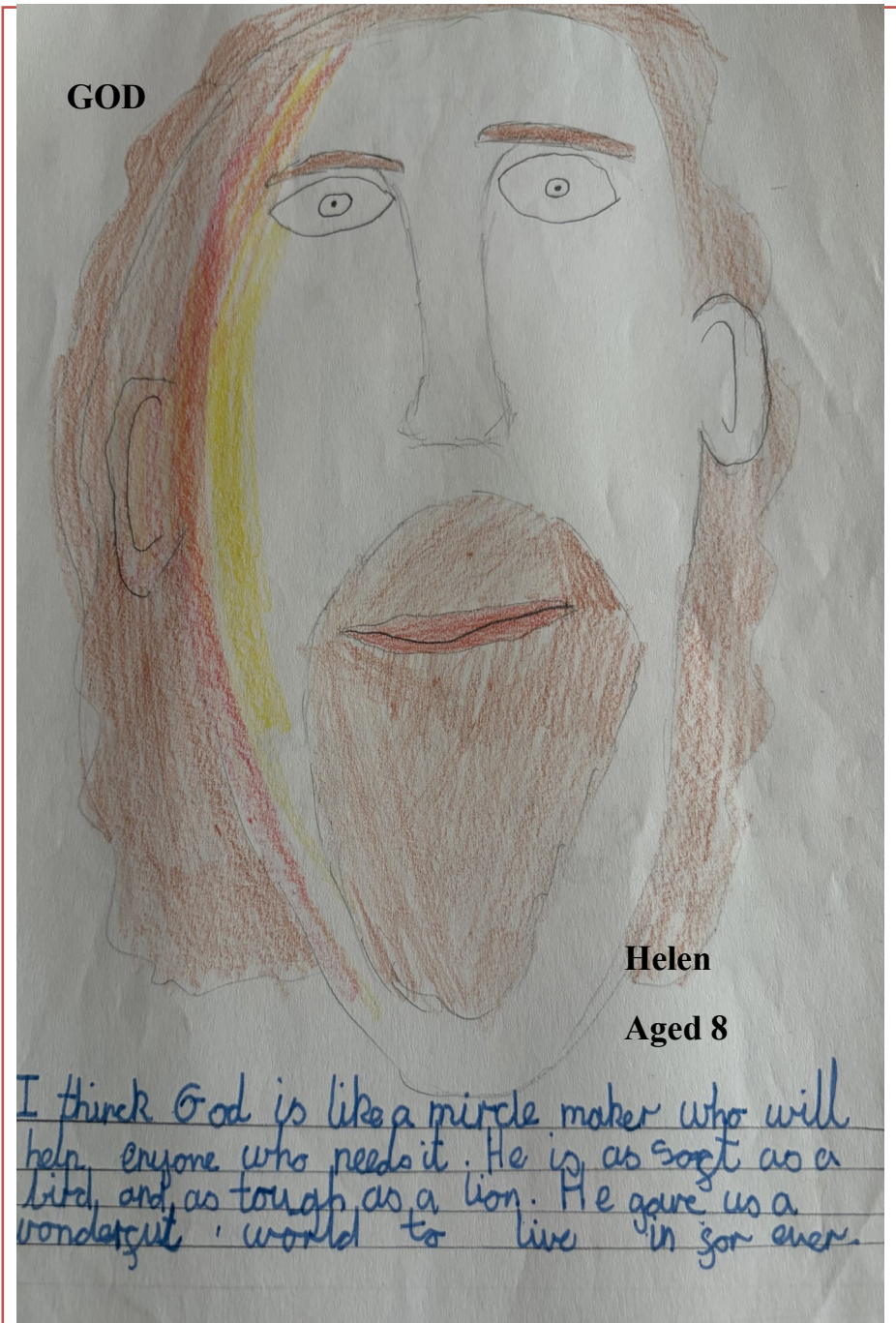
'But no one knows what God looks like,' replied the teacher.

'Well they will in a minute' was the reply.

I am happy to share with you some of the children's views of God

Hope you have a lovely summer. Diane

**GOD**



**Helen**

**Aged 8**

I think God is like a miracle maker who will help anyone who needs it. He is as soft as a lamb, and as tough as a lion. He gave us a wonderful world to live in for ever.

**A Great Big Thankyou -**

**To all who supported the Flower Festival in any way at all.**

**The displays were blooming lovely.**

**Diane**



**New Home.**



**Best wishes to Clare and David and their family as they move into their new home, the Manse in Pontypridd in July.**



**We pray the move will go smoothly and that they will have many happy years there and in our Pastorate.**



**Lectionary Readings**

**July 5th**

**Genesis 24:34-67; Psalm 145:8-14; Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Romans 7:15-24a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

**12th**

**Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

**19th**

**Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19; Romans 8:12-15; Matthew 13:24-30**

**26th**

**Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 28; 1 Kings 3:5-12; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

**August 2nd**

**Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 55:1-5; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21**

**9th**

**Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33**

**16th**

**Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15: 10-28**

**23rd**

**Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Isaiah 51:1-6; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20**

**30th**

**Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 15:15-21; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28**

**Pulpit Supply**



**July**

**5th, 10.30am Rev Andrew J. Davies**

**12th, 10.30am Mr Lewis Lewis-head  
Communion**

**19th, 10.30am Rev Malcolm Shapland**

**26th, 10.30am TBA**

**August**

**2nd, 10.30am TBA**

**9th, 10.30am Rev Robin Wood**

**16th, 10.30am Rev Malcolm Shapland  
Communion**

**23rd Pastorate Picnic**

**30th, Summer Bank Holiday TBA**



**July/August Eco Suggestions from A Rocha**

**Plastic Free July**

This is a great opportunity to review where you might be able to reduce single-use plastics in your life. Being part of plastic free July will help you find great alternatives that can become habits forever.

Paying attention to what we consume and its effect on God's earth, can lead us not into guilt, but into action and prayerful determination to see change where it's possible. Read about the effects of plastic at

[Arocha.org.uk/plastic-summer](http://Arocha.org.uk/plastic-summer)

**August**

Private gardens, church grounds and churchyards and other outdoor spaces can make a significant contribution to nature. Caring for the earth was God's first instruction to humans. Perhaps try to learn 1 new thing this month that you can do for a garden space. Read more about nature-friendly gardening at

[Www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2024/04/environmentally-friendly-gardening-10-top-tips](http://Www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2024/04/environmentally-friendly-gardening-10-top-tips)



We hold in our prayers -



**Enfys Hawthorn Dorothy Lewis**

**Carol Booth**

**Hilary and Steve Akerman**

**Phyllis and family**

**Barbara Stewart Diana Hibbert**

**Those affected by the earthquakes in Venezuela**

**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.**

**Classically Caerphilly  
A Moving Letter**

As part of the Classically Caerphilly program of recitals we asked for feedback from both audience and students to help us apply for grant funding for next year. This is one such piece, received from a Ukrainian student, Veronika.

In December, I had the wonderful opportunity to be part of the exceptionally warm and inspiring Classically Caerphilly concert. Although it was my very first concert in Wales, it was also the first time that I didn't feel like an immigrant trying to fit in. Instead, I felt as though I was back home again - surrounded by close friends and extended family, all gathered together to share the joy of making music and the excitement of the festive season.

The attentive, though intimate, audience warmly welcomed our musical stories in Welsh, English, German, Italian, and Ukrainian. It was a beautiful reminder of how music can bring people together across languages and cultures.

In truth, it is impossible to fully describe what this concert meant to me. It was one of those rare moments when you pause, put aside all the urgent things demanding your attention, and simply enjoy the music that unexpectedly fills an hour of your life.

It was a moment when we stopped chasing peace and emotional fulfilment and instead created it ourselves. These small, precious moments may seem fleeting, but they are often the very things that make us feel truly happy.

Van-guard

Classically Caerphilly

A Special Concert For Families

A great opportunity to hear talented singers from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama performing Songs for all ages.

Admission free with Retiring collection.

Thursday July 23rd, 11am

Classically Caerphilly Lunchtime Concerts

These have been enjoyed and really appreciated by both college performers and audiences.

There should be more concerts to come.

Look out for details.



GOD

James

Aged 10



I see god as half man half woman. The man side has ~~to~~ short hair and a beard and the woman side has long hair and fluffy eyelashes. I see god with a long flowing robe and every colour he made on it. I also see god with a pale glow ~~around~~ around him.

### Calendar of Regular Events in the Church

Communion service      2nd Wednesday each month, 10.30am  
(TBC each month)

'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)

Young Wives' (All ladies welcome) Monthly Monday 7.30pm  
(next meeting September)

Bible Study , See note from Lynda on page 6

NB Some activities stop during school holidays. Please check for any changes to this list.



### YOUNG WIVES

No meeting until September



### FOOD BANK

FOOD AND/OR MONEY GREATLY APPRECIATED

### SUMMER TIME

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

STORMS	SUNSCREEN	HOLIDAY	CRUISE	
HOTEL	CARAVAN	BEACH	SWIMMING	TOUR
SIGHTSEEING	SAILING	SCENARY	RELAXING	
HOLIDAY	LAKES	SUN SEA	AEROPLANE	
RAIN	SMILES	SAND	POOL	

## 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)



There can be no greater gift than that of  
giving one's time and energy to help  
others without expecting anything in  
return.

Nelson Mandela