INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
SEPTEMBER 2026

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Reflection by Rev Malcolm Shapland, from his book, 'Prattle and Prayer.'

Just in Case

Lots of cars have some sort of device that can be connected to a thing which in turn blows air our and re-inflate a punctured tyre. Wonderful to know it's there if you need it. It is instead of a spare wheel.

The problem I always find is that it is only after you have a flat tyre you realise you don't know how the thing works. It's there and gives some security, but for it to work you need to know.

The story in the Bible of Daniel, who was thrown into a den of lions and survived, he was also flung into a furnace and survived all because he refused to deny his God. God came to his rescue.

God was taken very seriously in those days!

Daniel didn't know in advance that God would protect him from lions or fire, but he refused to worship another God other than Jehovah, whatever the consequences. Faith in doing what was right.

Imagine if you will, a sermon, preached with great emotion, which has at its theme, 'Faith like a Spare Wheel.' Only there when you are in trouble, and then you don't know how to connect!

(Fellow preachers, no copyright as far as I know.)

But it is not a deed of love to point out you should have read the instructions before the emergency. What you need is someone to be there who knows how it works and stays with you until it's fixed.

Heartbreak and loneliness, fear and anxiety, not knowing what to do, or where to turn. In those situations, we don't need someone telling us what we should have done, or how our Faith should be kept alive by thinking of God. We need someone who says,' Lean on Me' It maybe God who is present in the offer of support by another and God believes in us even when we can't see Him.

Three things in a crisis, The Puncture, whatever form that may take. The Spare, or substitute, The Helper who stays until it is fixed.

Whichever side of the crisis you are, lost and needing help, or found and being helped, you can depend on someone to come to help you. If you are the someone who comes to help, don't tell them what they should have done, take them under your care and do it with them.

God operated by sending jesus to the rescue, not to tell humanity what they should have done, but by invitation, 'Come to me all who are weak and carrying a great load, and I will give you rest.'

Pray today for any who are in a crisis and don't know what to do.

Pray too, that we may listen for the Voice of God, which may be telling us, or asking us, to go to a place where there is need.





We Remember!

Rev Malcolm Shapland was a wonderful minister and friend to us all, so it was with heavy hearts when we learned of his death. He had served as a minister in many places for over 60 years. There will be a very large Malcolm Shapland hole in our lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.



It was also with great sadness that we heard of the death of Phyllis Frayling ,who had been poorly for a while. She was a wonderful lady, loved by all, full of humour and she cared for everyone, serving as a faithful member and Elder. She will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

Funeral arrangements will be announced in due course.



An Elder writes ….

In the group I go to most Mondays in Penrhys, we not only discuss the Bible and our faith but are often introduced to interesting subjects that stimulate discussion. Recently, Peter pointed us in the direction of a website that told us about five 'Monumental Welsh Women:

https://monumentalwelshwomen.com/our-hidden-heroines.

The website explains: "We are Monumental Welsh Women, the team behind the first ever statues of real welsh women in Wales. Our mission is inspired by the fact that before we started our campaign, there was not one single public statue commemorating the achievements of real Welsh Women. Welsh girls couldn't see what they could be. We aimed to change this by commissioning 5 statues of 5 real Welsh women. We have so far successfully delivered the iconic Betty Campbell Monument in Cardiff, the beautiful statue of Elaine Morgan in Mountain Ash, the uplifting statue of Cranogwen in Llangrannog and the striking statue of Lady Rhondda in Newport. On 25th June 2026 the project completed with the unveiling of the statue of Elizabeth Andrews at Rhondda Heritage Park.

I knew about the Betty Campbell statue in Cardiff - the BBC had a competition to get it commissioned to stand outside the new building by Cardiff Central Station. At school in the early 1960's, she studied alongside mostly white, middle-class girls. Always near the top of the class, Betty told her head-teacher she would like to teach but the response was: "Oh my dear, the problems would be insurmountable." But she overcame such setbacks to pursue her goal and became the 1st Black Headteacher in Wales and helped establish Black History Month.

What of the others:

Elaine Morgan was a woman of many talents who changed the world from her desk in Mountain

Ash. Excelling in both the arts and science, she became a top TV writer, a feminist icon and a ground-breaking evolutionary theorist.

Elizabeth Andrews was one of the most influential Welsh female political activists of the early 20th century. She was an internationalist, a suffragist and a socialist. One of 11 children born into a poor mining family, Elizabeth dreamed of being a teacher but was forced to leave school at 13 to help her parents make ends meet. This Welsh-speaking dressmaker brought the needs of working-class women into the political arena because she shared their lives and voiced their hopes and fears.

Cranogwen, (Sarah Jane Rees) was a pioneer in many fields – from poetry to journalism. In her teens she gained her master mariner's certificate , she became a head-teacher at 21, In 1865 she became the first woman to win a poetry prize at the National Eisteddfod. She also became the first woman to edit a Welsh-language women's magazine and 1901 she founded the South Wales Women's Temperance Union. One of her most progressive ideas was a refuge for young women.

Lady Rhondda (Margaret Haig Thomas) was a woman of privilege but she used that privilege in the best way possible - to fight for the rights of all women. She brought Emmeline Pankhurst to Wales and spearheaded the suffrage campaign among the women of Newport.

These are just snippets about 5 amazing Welsh women. If you can, do look up the website and read more. There is much to celebrate in Wales that often goes overlooked. And if you get a chance, do go looking for the statues that commemorate them.

Rob

From the Editor …Like everyone else, I have been sweltering through heatwave after heatwave. I revel in sunny days but perhaps this was just too much of a good thing.

We have been able to spend quite a lot of time in West Wales, where it was considerably cooler, with family and friends. We were really blessed to spend a few days on Caldey Island in the monks' guest house. We went with friends / associates of Penrhys.

It is a truly lovely island, a real natural haven; we even saw red squirrels. It was a privilege to be able to wander all over the island and to attend Compline with the monks each evening.

We had relaxed group sessions reading and discussing favourite hymns and poems. The one that really struck home with me was the Christian Aid hymn, 'The Song of Kingdom Come.' It is very moving and it is worth going on line if you haven't heard it. The Abbot , Father Yan, came to talk to us and he was asked what monastic life could teach us. He said …

- Having a **Structure** to your life.
- Allowing time for **Silence.**
- **The rule of Benedict**-You do not need to strive for perfection.
- Finding **a Community** to be part of.

AMEN! **Diane**

COMMUNING IN CREATION

(adapted from a reflection created by Kate Bonne. A Rocha)

Put aside distractions, if possible, go outside and find something from creation to hold - a leaf, a stone, a flower. If you are indoors, simply look out of the window or hold an item given to you.

As you look, notice what you see:

- Through the lens of science-the systems, structure patterns
- Through the lens of art– the colour, beauty, form.
- Through the lens of theology– what the Bible says about God the creator.

Let curiosity lead you to wonder,

-Let wonder lead you to greeting.

-Whisper a quiet, 'Hello' to what you see

- shifting from observation to encounter.

Reflect:

- All life is crafted, loved and sustained by God. Simply being present in creation can be prayer. Breathe in and out and join with all creatures in communion with God.
- Creation reveals the Creator. What do you sense about God in what you see or hold? What might it teach you how to live well?
- Reflect on Mary Oliver's words in her poem, Thirst.'Love for the earth and love for you are having such a long conversation in my heart.' How might this be true for you?

Stay with these thought for a few minutes and when ready, offer your own prayer of gratitude.

Lectionary Readings

September

6th	**Exodus 12:1-14; Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20**
13th	**Exodus 14:19-31; Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35**
20th	**Exodus 16:2-15; Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16**
27th	**Exodus 17:1-7; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32**



Pulpit Supply



August 29th — **No Service**

September

6th, 10.30am — **Rev Clare Nutbrown-Hughes**
Communion

13th, 10.30am — **Mr Edmund Plummer**

20th, 10.30am — **Joint Harvest service at Bethany**
Rev Clare Nurbrown-Hughes

27th, 10.30am — **Ms Lynda Jones**



September Eco Information from A Rocha

Theme: Living Water

The **Season of Creation** (1st September—4th October) is dedicated to God as the creator and sustainer of all life. During this period many churches celebrate Harvest, thanking God for His provision through the land and the food it produces.

Did you know that the Bible contains 482 references to water? Humans are called to immerse ourselves in God's 'living water' and to safeguard water in the natural wold.

The theme of the 2026 Season of Creation is, 'Living Water', based on Ezekiel 47: 1-12. This passage offers a vision of hope and ecological healing. Set amid exile and loss, the image of living water flowing from God's sanctuary reveals divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity and human responsibility towards the whole creation.

The call is for transformation – that Christians would be immersed in the living water flowing from the throne of God-stepping in deeper and deeper, inspired by the Spirit of God, working together for the renewal of Creation.

Explore more information and resources at A Rocha.



We hold in our prayers -



Phylis Frayling's family and friends.

Rev Malcolm Shapland's family, David Jenkins

Enfys Hawthorn, Dorothy Lewis, Carol Booth

Hilary and Steve Akerman

Barbara Stewart Diana Hibbert

Those affected by the earthquakes in Venezuela and Indonesia.

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.

A fair and just solution to the war with Iran.

Coffee Morning

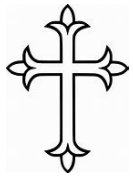
In church

Saturday 12th September
10.30 am
In aid of RNLI

Bric a Brac stall

(any unsold items to be taken away by those that brought them please.)

BIBLE STUDY DATES



Thursdays

10th

24th

10.30am

Reflecting on the pastoral letters of Paul.

Timothy 1 and 2.

All welcome!

Lynda

Van-guard

Classically Caerphilly

Classically Caerphilly Lunchtime Concerts

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

Recitals will start again in October after the students have returned to college.



August family Concert by Classically Caerphilly

This proved to be a special and very entertaining event, really enjoyed by all involved and attending.

Hopefully more like this in the future.

This summer has really brought home to us the importance of water and how precious it is.

A Prayer.

God of rain and river,
of stream and storm,
of sea and silent pools,
of waterfall and waterhole,
of wells and waves,
of aquifer and aqueducts,

Hear us as we pray
for water fresh and pure for all.
And guide us to use your water
wisely and well,
ensuring that all your creation
can share in your bounty.

Used with permission of – Ruth Williams

FOOD BANK

FOOD AND/OR MONEY GREATLY APPRECIATED

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 , Usually 1st and 3rd Thursdays in the month

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

YOUNG WIVES

All ladies welcome

Next meeting

Monday 14th September

7.30pm

For the Fruits of All Creation

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

SOWING CREATION GROWTH SAFE KEEPING

REWARD HARVEST WONDERS SHARING

CARING TRUTHS ASTOUND NEIGHBOUR FRUITS

SPIRIT THANK GOOD LOVE EARTH GIFTS NEED GOD GIVE

CHURCH ELDERS

Ms Lynda Jones	02920 884022
Mr Robert Moverley	02920 866336
Dr David Jenkins	02920 882463
Mrs Margaret Baldwin	02920 867027
Mr Lewis Lewis-Head	07769 340245

Any items for the next edition should be submitted by the 19th of the month

to

Mrs Diane Moverley

dianemoverley60@gmail.com





There are those who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge; that is curiosity. There are those who seek knowledge to be known by others; that is vanity. There are those who seek knowledge in order to serve; that is love.

St Bernard of Clairvaux

Front and back photos from St David's Church, Caldey Island