

May 2015
The Magazine
of Sketty Methodist and
Bethel United Reformed Church



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skettymethodists@gmail.com
www.skettymethodistchurch.org.uk

Methodist Minister: Reverend Leslie Jane Noon

Bethel Church Secretary: Pat D

Methodist Senior Church Steward: Gwen

Weekly Notices by Friday morning to Lynne

Sunday Services: 10.30am including regular All-age Worship.

Refreshments in the Wesley Room following morning worship.

Evening at 6.30pm

Adventurers: 10.30am Departments 3-15 years

Creche available on request – please speak to a Church Steward

Baptisms on Sunday mornings by arrangement with the Minister.

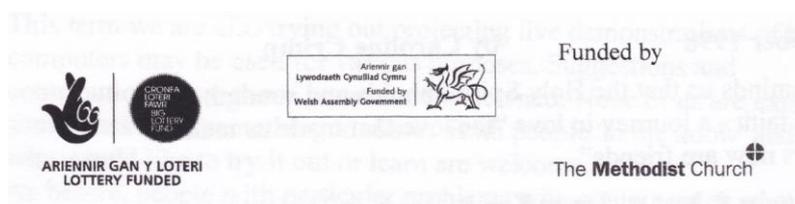
This Magazine is available on tape for the vision impaired and some of our services are recorded on tape for anyone unable to attend whether regularly or on a particular Sunday- please contact Jean K

The Magazine for June will be issued on 29th May 2015.

Items for inclusion should be with Jan T by 15th May 2015.

Redevelopment Fund-raising

Some of the funding we have been granted to assist with the building project, in order to improve facilities for community use, require that we should show the sponsors' logos on certain documents including magazines.



Dear friends,

It's only a few weeks away. After so much time looking forward, after so much planning, prayer and preparation, it's nearly here. What do I mean? Well the launch of Uniting Church Sketty of course.

So this is the last magazine entitled 'The Magazine of Sketty Methodist and Bethel United Reformed Churches'. The next one will be the magazine of Uniting Church Sketty!

But as well as being the last of an era, this magazine is also a first of an era. It's the first time it's been edited by Jan T. She is a worthy successor to Jean, with her excellent communication skills, and we thank her for taking this task on at this very special time in our church life. We also congratulate her on her 'surprise' marriage to Anthony which took place on Holy Saturday. Of course, it wasn't a surprise to them, but it was to everyone else at the coffee morning, who were invited to come and witness this very joyful occasion, and to say prayers for Heather and Jeff as they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

Do you like surprises? I must admit, that as a bit of a control-freak, although I like the *sound* of surprises, I'm not sure how I would cope with the reality! And the season of Easter-tide is full of surprises, as each week we see how the risen Christ surprises his followers in ways which they least expect.

As the life of our new Uniting Church Sketty unfolds, there will undoubtedly be surprises in store – good and bad. But we trust that God will lead us, as he has led us in the past.

I hope you will be able to attend the first Annual Congregational Meeting of the Uniting Church Sketty which will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 29th April. This meeting is the last key meeting in which we will put things into place so that we are ready to go! Please make every effort to come along.

With love,

Leslie

Note from the Treasurer

It is a couple of months since I reported on our fundraising activities, so I hope that this will bring everyone up to date.

Our communion collections in January were for the Night Shelter (see below). In February the collections were for Cystic Fibrosis and raised £230.70, while the March collection for the Shuktara Trust raised £341.97; in both cases these amounts include Gift Aid on donations which were specified for these organisations.

The fundraising for the Night Shelter was very generous and, as you will be aware, the Shelter, which was operated between 7 churches across Swansea, closed at the end of February, one month earlier than had originally been anticipated. As a result of these two things, there is a significant surplus in the funds that were raised for the Night Shelter. We will be proposing to the Trustees meeting that this surplus be dispersed in three ways; part, mainly reflecting the donations received from around the Circuit, will be passed to the Circuit who are holding a balance for the work of the Night Shelter and the remainder will be split between Oguf Adullum (which is based at Brunswick Methodist Church) and other charities working with the homeless in Swansea - the latter will probably include a donation for the work done by the Cyrenians. If you have any comments on these proposals, or if you have any suggestions as to other places to whom we could donate this money, please let me know so that I can prepare the exact proposal for Church Council to consider. The coffee morning for All We Can, hosted by Jeff and Heather in celebration of their 40th Wedding Anniversary - what a wonderfully eventful morning that was!! - on 4th April raised (if I have my calculations correct!) £531.00, including gift aid that either we or All We Can will be able to claim. We will report on the Easter Offering collection separately once this has been finalised as money is still coming in. Following the Circuit Service which featured the performance of "An Impossible God" by Mark Topping, the collection amounted to £480.79 –once the expenses of holding the event are deducted, the balance will go towards the Methodist Circuit Project for the Amelia Farm Trust. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to any or all of these collections over the past few months, to all those who have helped in counting these collections and as always, to Jeff for his weekly trips to the bank to pay it all in.

Geoff - Treasurer

**Uniting Church Sketty
Launch and Celebration Weekend
Friday 29th to Sunday 31st May**

A Journey with God – Celebration with flowers

On Friday 29th, Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st May, the church will be open to visitors to come and see our church decorated with flowers and displays illustrating the story of God throughout the Bible as well as sharing in refreshments.

Official Launch – Saturday 30th May at 2pm

Specially invited guests and dignitaries, friends from our Methodist Circuit and URC region, other churches in Sketty as well as our own church family are invited to come to the formal launch of Uniting Church Sketty which will take the form of a service, followed by refreshments.

Sunday 31st May – celebratory services

As a church family we will continue our celebrations with a special all age service on Sunday morning followed by a Songs of Praise service in the evening.

See you there!

Thank you to some key people

Thank you... but not goodbye. On behalf of our whole church family, I would like to thank those who have served faithfully as Bethel Elders and Methodist Stewards and who are now stepping down for a much needed rest. These are key positions in the church, which could not exist without them. I know you are as grateful to them as I am – so thank you to: Sonia B and Denis E (Bethel Elders) and Sandra C and Chris H (Methodist Stewards). You have done a first class job. Have a rest – you deserve it!

Leslie

Displays for Celebration Weekend

For our Celebration Weekend there will be displays throughout the church, the foyer and passageway all depicting Bible stories from Creation to Resurrection. There are 13 displays in total and we would like to invite church friends to sponsor one of the displays. You may choose the display you would like to sponsor. The amount you would like to give is entirely up to you as all donations will be gratefully received. The name of the sponsor (but not the amount) will be shown on the display.

If you are interested or would like to know the displays we are doing please contact Rosemary
Rosemary B

Christian Aid is 70 years old this year!

Born out of the ashes of World War Two, in 1945 the British Council of Churches, as a response to the needs of the homeless, hungry and destitute, established Christian Aid. It is built on the simple and solid foundations of compassion and love and its many achievements have been truly amazing.

A few of these are listed below:

- 1940s - Raised over £3million to help war destitute.
- 1950s - Began Christian Aid Week.
- 1960s - Started the Disaster Emergency Committee.
- 1970s - Helped 500,000 slum dwellers gain clean water and an education.
- 1980s - Led the emergency work in Ethiopia.
- 1990s - Established the Fairtrade Foundation.
- 2000s - Reached half a million people devastated by the Indian tsunami.
- 2010s - Helped 935,000 Africans adopt preventative healthcare practices.

Now, 70 years on, it is as vital and necessary as it has always been.

May 10th - 17th is Christian Aid Week. Once again, each one of us has it in our power to **help in these seven days, to change the world.** Thank you in advance for your support.

Jan C.

Tradecraft News

The Tradecraft Stall in May will be after the morning service on Sunday, 17th May. I would like to say "Thank You" for all the contributions to Tradecraft's Fair Necessities Appeal. I was able to send off £35.65.

Pat T

The Communion Offertories for 3rd and 17th May will be for the Swansea & Gower Talking Magazine, which records monthly for vision impaired people. This is sent out free via the postal concession to those with a degree of vision N12 or less. It comprises articles of interest from the Evening Post, a short story, local information relevant to the listeners such as events and useful contact numbers, and an epilogue. Recording and copying take place at our rented unit in the Phoenix Centre, Townhill, which is also our distribution and storage centre. This church also records some services on tape, and these are copied by the S>M .

We have approximately 250 listeners on CD or tape. We have also recorded about 270, mostly Local History books on tape which are sent to those who ask for them. We have a band of volunteers who are responsible for recording, copying, dispatching and receiving the tapes and CDs; also contacting new listeners, and liaising with Social Services and others about new referrals. We are a registered charity (No.508242) and are entirely reliant upon donations. We are currently actively considering making the move to recoding digitally onto memory sticks. This will incur additional set up costs but will be a more reliable and longer-term solution for our service. For more information please contact Jean K)

Jean K

Quiz Winners in April

The quiz winners for April were – Rosemary B and Ryan B.

The May quiz is now available in the walkway. Please return your completed sheets by May 10th.

The amount raised for the circuit project from the quizzes so far is £27.00. Many thanks for your support.

Another way of supporting the Amelia Farm is to adopt an animal for a year. The animals are categorised by size. Small animals, such as rabbits, guinea pigs and ducks can be adopted for £10; medium sized animals (sheep, goats, pigs, geese) for £20 and large animals (cattle, donkeys) for £30. For the fee you will receive information about the animal and an adoption certificate. Please see Janet Neilson for more details.

Deacon Lorraine Brown has left the farm and is now the Peak Park Co-ordinator in Derbyshire. We wish Lorraine well in her new job.

Please pray for the work of the farm as the new director, Karen Turnbull, begins work this month.

Karen will bring a range of business management and fund-raising skills from her previous work with the University of South Wales. Karen is the first lay Director of the Amelia Farm. The appointment of a part-time chaplain will be announced in the near future.

Janet N

Thursday Circle

The May meeting of the Thursday Circle will now take place on Thursday 14th May @ 2.30pm due to Bethel Hall being used as a Polling Station on the 7th May 2015.

Programme to be arranged. All welcome to join us.

Pat B D

Property Matters

As some of you may be aware we have had a problem with a water leak under the floor in the passageway of the informal area. We have been able to isolate the leak repairs and as soon as we have any other news we will let you know.

The repairs will undoubtedly cause an inconvenience. As May is a particularly busy month in the church calendar this year, we are hoping to be able to manage the situation at present and start and have been in discussion with the builders and insurance company to resolve the problem.

Unfortunately this leak appears to have caused other problems near the new door and in the organ area and also the ramp going down to the toilets.

We are in discussion with our insurance company regarding the work in June. This will depend however, on the information we receive from the insurance company.

Alan J Property Steward

Reel to Real

Due to copyright issues we are unable to display any information regarding Reel to Real in this online version of the church magazine. For details of past and future films please see posters in the church or the paper copy of the church magazine.

Cover to Cover.

This month we are reading *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan. Sandra will lead our discussion on Thursday, May 14th at 10:30 in the Bethel Room at Church.

Our book for June is *The Thoughts & Happenings of Wilfred Price, Purveyor of Funerals* by Wendy Jones. Judith is leading our discussion on Thursday, 11th June at the same time and place.

If you like a good read, followed by a morning of lively discussion over coffee and biscuits, do come along and join us. You will be made very welcome. We are then having a break until 10th September. We will decide on the book at the June meeting.

Mike W

Friday Night @ the Movies

Due to copyright issues we are unable to display any information regarding Friday Night @ the Movies in this online version of the church magazine. For details of past and future films please see posters in the church or the paper copy of the church magazine.

Lolfa Press Ltd. is pleased to announce.

The publication shortly of two books by retired minister Ivor Thomas Rees. **The Sledgehammer Pastor**, will be launched at Bethel Welsh Church, Carnglas Road, Sketty, on Friday May 8, at 3.00 p.m.; light refreshments from 2.30. Baptist minister Daniel Hughes (1875-1972) served churches in Wales, England and the United States until his retirement at the age of 96. He gradually moved from supporting the Liberal Party to becoming a socialist pioneer. In 1907 he went to prison as a Passive Resister, rather than pay his education rate which could be used to support denomination schools. In 1912 he filled Crane Street Chapel for the only time in its history and refused to be dismissed by the deacons. When locked out he used the sledgehammer to break a padlock. He lost his case in the High Court, being forced to leave Crane Street and was declared bankrupt. He then set up his own church at Pontypool and won Crane Street Church Secretary's County Council seat. From 1915-21 he was a Sergeant in the Royal Army Medical Corps. In 1921 he became minister of Siloam, Machen, a County and District Councillor and was twice a parliamentary candidate. In 1940-54 he was a Minister of the Welsh Presbyterian Church, Detroit, where he compiled bi-lingual hymn book. 1 Then in 1954 he returned to Machen and resumed ministry at Siloam. He retired in 1971 and died in 1972.

Clapham

Dissenters May 2015. Tells the story of the Congregational /United Reformed Church in Clapham, London, from the early 1640s to its merger with St. Andrew's URC in 2004. It describes the ministers and many of the prominent people associated with it in the 18th and 19th centuries when the church had "the highest social standing in the denomination." (Professor David Bebbington). With the departure of the middle classes from Clapham in the inter-war years the church declined. The 1852 "cathedral" was destroyed by a V2 rocket and a new building was opened in 1958. These post-war years were the time of a valiant witness by the church. Its launch will be at Clapham on 4 June.

Ivor Rees

University Theology free public lectures

At Swansea University there will be a Theology Public Lecture entitled, "Battlefield Ethics in the 21st Century". This will be presented by The Reverend Canon Dr. Giles Fraser (Priest in the Church of England; Columnist for the Guardian Newspaper; former Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral). The lecture will take place at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 12th May, 2015 in the Faraday Lecture Theatre 'A'.

Easter Offering and MWiB

Thanks to everyone who supported our annual Easter Offering collection for World Mission. The total collected by this church and by our circuit is not yet available, but as soon as it is it will be announced.

There will be a MWiB Quiet Day at New Street Church in Llanelli on Saturday May 9th from 10 – 4pm. The speaker will be Linda Crossley (Connexional President MWiB). She will be speaking about the Dalit people of India. The cost is £5. Please bring a packed lunch. If you wish to attend please contact Janet Neilson to arrange transport.

Another Quiet Day has been planned for Friday 24th July at Tondy. The leader will be Rev Catherine Reynolds (Cardiff).

Booking forms are now available, from Janet Neilson, for the Quiet Day at Nicholaston House on Tuesday 6th October.

Janet N

Gower Society's Next Concert

Gower Chorale is performing Elgar's Dream of Gerontius at the Brangwyn Hall on Saturday, 20th June at 7.30. Several members of our church are in this choir. As choir members we are able to reserve & sell tickets before they go on general release at the box office. If you, or any of your friends, would like tickets, please let me know asap, by email, annwwhv@aol.com to reserve seats. The ticket price is £15.00. Please come and support us if you can, as Dream of Gerontius is one of Elgar's best works and is unlikely to be performed again in Swansea or Cardiff for many more years!

Anne W

Church Family News

Celebrating love

We send our best wishes to:

Bob and Andy for their Service of Thanksgiving on 9th May.

Nicola and Ian for the blessing of their 30 years of marriage on 16th May.

Ruth and Brad on the occasion of their wedding on 23rd May at 12 noon.

Congratulations and best wishes to you all!

“Amor vincit omnia.”

Gareth H Stars in Westside Story

We were privileged to attend a performance of Westside Story, at the Gwyn Hall in Neath, performed by the Neath Amateur Operatic Society. Among the cast was our own Gareth H, who played the role of Doc, a shop-keeper and barman. The whole cast were very good, but we were particularly impressed with Gareth's performance, which was clearly delivered and well acted. Well done Gareth, you were brilliant!

Bob & Andy

With Grateful Thanks

On behalf of Mum and myself, may we take this opportunity of thanking both Leslie and our many other friends from church, who have kindly made enquiries, offered lifts, or sent flowers or cards during our recent spell of incapacity. Mum is making very good progress following her bout of pneumonia and pleurisy, though she is still not quite 100%. Meanwhile, my left hand seems to be healing up very well and I am now back at work and driving again. May we also say a very big thank you for the lovely warm welcome back we had from our many friends in church when we returned on Easter Sunday. It was lovely to be back with you all, and your kindness has been very much appreciated by both of us. With love and all good wishes,

Jean and Paul.

Bride In The Bus Lane.

The newly married couple walked down Sketty Lane and onto the beach hand in hand. The panoramic view of Swansea Bay opened up before them and the sun beamed down as if smiling at them. They strolled along the beach in silence, save for the fresh scrunching of bleached white sea shells beneath their feet. They were heading for Mumbles and both had one thing on their minds, a Joe's ice cream; just to put the icing on the cake of their special day. The queue at Joe's stretched right back to the Mumbles Methodist Church steps. But those single cones of ice cream are always worth the wait; the best things in life always are! Following a stroll up to the Big Apple, they decided to hop on the bus home. As they sat together, they talked about the beautiful wedding service that they had shared with church family. No invitations, no lists, no hats or veils; just presence. The wonderful words came back to them, Corinthians chapter 13, verses 1- 13, " faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is love". A perfect day.

Jan T

A huge big thank you to all those who shared in our special day.

Jan & Anthony T

Coming Events

Services: 10.30am & 6.30pm

Adventurers: 10.30am

On Sundays a Steward will introduce the preacher and ask the congregation to stand as the Bible is brought in.

Please stay and have refreshments with us after the morning service, There is an induction loop for those with hearing aids.

There are large print versions of hymns and notices at the door.

At evening services the plate is placed for your offerings as you enter.

Weekly in term-time:

Monday	2pm Folk-dancing 7pm Wesley Club
Tuesday	2-4 Craft Group 4.30-5.30 Beavers, 5.45-7 Cubs, 7.15-8.30 Scouts
Wednesday	10-11.30 Sunbeams Play Group 2-4 Computer Club 6.15-7.30 Brownies 7.30 Sketty Madcaps
Thursday	7.30-9.30 Explorers

By Friday morning, weekly notices to Lynne

Property Stewards: Alan J

Keith M

Booking enquiries and heating requirements to Kath & Bill

May Diary

2	Sat	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning in aid of Christian Aid
3	Sun	10.30	Rev John Dews :Communion 6.30 Rev Pam Cram
4	Mon		May Day. No meeting.
5	Tues	7.30	Killay/Dunvant House Group
7	Thurs		No Thursday Circle (Bethel Hall used as Polling Station)
8	Fri	7.30	Friday Night at the Movies, Ladies In Lavender
9	Sat		Andy and Bob's Special Day
10	Sun	10.30	Rev Leslie Noon

- 6.30 Rev Andrew Walker
- 11 Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Georgina Scannel, Keep the Home Fires Burning
- 14 Thurs 10.30 Cover to Cover at Bethel Hall
2.30 Thursday Circle at Bethel Hall
- 16 Sat Nicola and Ian's 30 Year Marriage Blessing
- 17 Sun 10.30 Rev John Jones
6.30 Rev Leslie Noon: Communion
- 18 Mon 7.00 Wesley Club: Member's Evening, Chris G & Jane E
- 19 Tues 7.30 Reel to Real, The Man Who Sued God
- 23 Sat 12.00 Wedding of Ruth M and Bradley L
10.30 - noon Morryston Methodist Church Spring Plant Sale
- 24 Sun 10.30 Pentecost Rev Noel Davies
4.30 Parkway Home Service
6.30 Alan Cram
- 25 Mon Spring Bank Holiday. No meeting.
- 26 Tues 7.30 Reel to Real discussion in Wesley Room
- 29 Fri All day Our Uniting Church Sketty Celebrations begin!
- 30 Sat 2.00 Our Official Launch of Uniting Church Sketty
- 31 Sun 10.30 Rev Leslie Noon: All-age worship & Communion
6.30 Rev Leslie Noon: Songs of Praise

Rotas: If you are unable to fulfil your place on a rota, please make other arrangements or contact the organiser.

Welcome Teams: Myrddin P

May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Harry	Joyce W	Ian & Susan	Enid P	Ian & Judith M
Graham	Allan & Jo A	Gwyn B	David K	Sonia B
David P	Caroline C	Shirley J	Jacqueline B	Alan & Liz R
	Tina L		Jan T	

Evening

Paul S	Keith M	Ann V	Myrddin P	Pat D
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Sound Recording

Robin H	Myrddin P	Bill D	Gary C	Simon H
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Flowers: Rosemary B

Caroline C	Una G	Blessing	Wedding	Celebration
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Arranger:

Lynne	Una	Blessing	Rosemary	Weekend
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Sunday Morning Coffee: Anja H

Anja H,	Claire Kirk	Kath & Bill	Julie G	Sandra, Jon
Una G	Pat D	Ann B	Myrna	& Gareth
Anne W			Liz	

Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Margaret W	Sonia B	Gaynor B	Shirley J	Maggie C
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Quotes' Corner

Just a little something to make us think.

(Found in a 1973 Clapham URC Magazine)

"It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark."

"There's more power in the open hand than in the clenched fist."