

JULY AUGUST 2015
The Magazine
of
UNITING CHURCH SKETTY



Dillwyn Road, Sketty, Swansea SA2 9AE
www.unitingchurchsketty.org.uk

Minister: Reverend Leslie Jane Noon

Senior Elder: Pat D

Senior Steward: Gwen D

Weekly Notices by Friday morning to Lynne W

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.

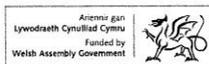
This Magazine is available on tape for the vision impaired and some of our services are recorded on tape for anyone unable to attend whether regularly or on a particular Sunday - please contact Jean K

The Magazine for September will be issued on 30th August 2015.

Items for inclusion should be with Jan T by 17th August 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.



Funded by

The **Methodist** Church 

Dear friends,

What a time we're having of it! What joy and thanksgiving was there at our celebration weekend when, after months of anticipation, we finally became Uniting Church Sketty. What a wonderful weekend – the beautiful flower displays, the conversations over tea, coffee and yummy cakes as we welcomed so many visitors and the joyful, uplifting services. I could not, even in my wildest dreams, have prepared myself for such an occasion. It was commented on by so many visitors – the love and the atmosphere of the whole occasion. My very grateful thanks to all of you who made the weekend possible and who worked so hard.

What a time we're having of it! What distress and anguish we feel as the Wesley building is closed down to fix the problem of dry rot. After hoping against hope that it might be confined to a small area, our worst fears have been realised as the extent of the problem begins to emerge. The 'Fungus Group' continues to work hard, but it is a burden of responsibility they bear, as we try to deal with insurance companies, loss adjusters and builders. My very grateful thanks to them for the all they are doing.

What a time we're having of it! And does not the high of our celebration weekend and the low of the dry rot problem reflect in so many ways what life is all about? Joy and anguish Light and dark. Happiness and sadness.

For all of us, there are times when we feel on top of the world – and there are times when we feel at the bottom of the pit. I'm reminded how much the Psalms reflect this breadth of human experience and human emotion. They are a good place to go at times of joy and at times of suffering, for they address both states of being and often speak deep into our hearts.

Perhaps one of the most well-known Psalms is Psalm 23. These ancient words convey such wisdom and show us how to recognise the presence of God in times of joy and in times of anguish. And the closing words remind us, that wherever we are, 'we shall dwell in the house of the Lord'.

Thanks be to God.

With love, Leslie

Faith & Fellowship

After the summer break, our next series of Faith and Fellowship sessions will begin. More details to follow, but below are the dates. All being well they will take place in the Wesley Room. Each session will be repeated on a Tuesday and a Thursday, so you can attend the one which most suits your diary. Please think about coming along!

Tuesdays at 10am

8 September, 22 September, 6 October, 20 October, 27 October

Thursdays at 7.30pm

10 September, 24 September, 8 October, 22 October, 5 November

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP:

Many of you will have noticed a recent change to the introduction to our Sunday morning worship and that a Steward or Elder now invites the congregation to be quiet for a few minutes before the beginning of the service. This change arose from a lengthy discussion by the Leadership Team around the need to meet the needs of the whole congregation and recognising that there are those who like to chat and those who prefer to be quiet in preparation for worship.

An important part of our preparation for worship is the contribution made by the Organist. At Uniting Church Sketty we are grateful for the contribution of a team of talented organists who give their time and talent on a regular basis; we know that they spend a considerable amount of time preparing the music they play before and after our worship, in addition to the music for the hymns we

sing. It is important to respect the contribution they make and to value the music in our own preparation for worship and also at the end of our service.

In our lovely warm and friendly church, which is always so busy, there is always the temptation to chat to a friend, show our concern for someone we know may be feeling low, or discuss plans for an event, but may we ask you all to please consider there are those who need to be quiet before worship.

The Leadership Team

VISIT OF MODERATOR OF ASSEMBLY

We are looking forward to the visit of John Ellis, Moderator of the General Assembly of the URC, to lead worship on the morning of Sunday, 26th July. There will also be an opportunity to meet John informally at 2.30 on the Saturday afternoon (25th July) at a tea to which members of other local URC churches have been invited. All are welcome.

John has an interesting Methodist and URC background as well as a wealth of experience as an economist. He grew up in Devon Congregationalism and was a teenage Church Treasurer. He was awarded a Senior Scholarship by King's College, Cambridge, and received a First Class Honours degree in Economics. He worked for the Bank of England for twenty years: his diverse posts there included research on international debt issues and co-ordinating the Bank's network of regional Agents.

From 2000 until he was called to be Moderator, he was employed by the Methodist Church. Initially he worked on the Church's relationship with the worlds of business and economics and supported a network of over 100 workplace chaplains. He was then asked to set up and lead a Policy Unit to help Methodism think creatively about the longer term. After a major reorganisation in 2008, he was appointed as one of four Strategic Leaders in a role which involved leading the whole Methodist staff team.

John was ordained an Elder when a URC member in Gravesend,

where he was also a regular organist. While there he became an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher.

With a three year term as Moderator, John hopes to be able to help the Church address some of the larger challenges it faces. These include how the Church's Ministers of Word and Sacrament are best deployed and how to ensure that those church buildings which the URC still needs feel like attractive assets not burdensome liabilities. Behind such issues is the more fundamental question of what patterns of church life will sustain and deepen the discipleship of existing members while also drawing new people towards vibrant Christian faith.

As an economist and the URC's Treasurer since 2007, John has a particular interest in how we view and use money. He has extensive experience of ethical investment campaigning, including representing the Churches in meetings with multinational companies. He has also worked on business ethics more generally, not least as Adviser to the Governor of the Bank of England.

John is also keenly interested in how the URC expresses its ecumenical commitment. In Kent he has led for the URC in a rural Local Ecumenical Partnership and helped plant an ecumenical church in a new housing development. Complementing his URC commitments, he has held positions of responsibility in Baptist, Methodist and Anglican contexts.

John's dream day off would include following a large fried breakfast with a trip up to London behind a steam locomotive to see England thrash Australia at Lord's, and then celebrating in the evening with a concert of Mozart's music played by an African youth orchestra.

So remember tea at 2.30 on July 25th (offers of help with tea will be appreciated; see Pat D) and morning worship on Sunday, July 26th, both with John Ellis!

Pat D

CORRECTION TO THE PREACHING PLAN FOR JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

On the front cover of the new plan under Supernumerary ministers please replace the name John Ellis with Ivor Rees. All of Ivor's other contact details are correct.

John Ellis is the visiting URC Moderator.

Gwen D

AND STILL IT KEEPS ON COMING !!

A number of later envelopes have resulted in me paying in a further £235, all of which were gifted aided. This means that our total for 2015 now stands at a wonderful **£2646. 43**. This is almost a **£1000** increase on last year, not counting the gift aid.

Thank you all so much.

Jan C

OPEN DAY AT HOME OF REV GILL

What a lovely day we all had at the home of Rev Gill in Rhosilli on 20th June. We raised just over £3,400 for Crossroads For Human Development. Gill said,

"I am so grateful to all the helpers, those who cooked, grew plants, and came to support, without whom of course it couldn't have happened. The money will go a long way in India."

CRHD is an ecumenical Christian NGO, having charitable status in the UK and India. Its projects do not exclude anyone on grounds of caste or creed, and is fully committed to reducing extreme poverty in the area of Raichur, Karnataka State, in supporting educational development programmes.

Jean K

TRAI DCRAFT

There will be a Traidcraft Stall on 19th July. The August Stall date has yet to be arranged.

Pat T

NEWS FROM TONG-LEN, DHARAMSALA, INDIA.

Sketty Methodist members may recollect raising money for Tong-Len, a charity providing educational opportunities for children from slum camps near Dharamsala, India, in memory of the late Michael Blakey, and the stained-glass window made by Mary H for their hostel. Jeff C has now received the latest newsletter and is happy to forward it to anyone interested. Tong-Len news is available online at

<http://www.tong-len.org/news/news.php>

Three of the older hostel children have made a short video about Tong-Len and the impact it has had on their young lives. To watch it, please click on the link in the newsletter

Jeff C

SWARM APPEAL FOR TEACHING & ICT EQUIPMENT

The Unity in Diversity group supports asylum seekers and refugees in the Swansea area. Due to a local charity, Cyrenians Cymru, going into administration the UiD group is now being run independently by volunteers on a very limited budget.

We are looking for unused whiteboards for our training sessions, as well as any other teaching or ICT equipment such as unwanted laptops; desktop computers, tablets and smartphones, etc. Any help with this would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Mary or SWARM (Swansea Area Refugee Matters) their email address is SWARM@jiscmail.ac.uk .

Mary H

MEMORIES OF OUR CELEBRATION WEEKEND

It seems a while now since that lovely weekend of flowers and services but it is a weekend that stays with me for all sorts of reasons. I remember seeing our new banner for the first time and finding it breathtaking. It had been so thoughtfully designed and so lovingly crafted. I enjoyed being with the team of people creating the displays as we worked alongside each other, helping, learning, It was a joyful Sunday service as we heard of love and relationships with God and with others and its particular resonance for us at this time. And finally an amazing outpouring of goodwill as we swapped bracelets and committed to pray for one another. I was up in the balcony and felt compelled to get up and mingle downstairs. As I got to my feet it seemed like most of the balcony had had the same idea and were dashing downstairs. At the same time people were bursting up onto the balcony from downstairs, beaming, ready to swap, wanting to include us. When I got downstairs many people were on their feet and in the aisle and just couldn't wait to swap their bracelets. It felt like a big party where we were delighted to see each other. It was a great way to finish the weekend.

Ann

MORE MEMORIES OF OUR CELEBRATION WEEKEND

Family, friends, neighbours and new friends, all came through our doors and shared the joy of Uniting Church Sketty. Papers were signed and covenants made for the coming together of people who share a joint mission in life. Smiling faces, joyful singing, jolly jumping in the aisles; we have the Happy Video to prove it! We thought we had everything covered, we thought we knew where we were going with carefully thought out plans.

However, following our time of decorating, dancing, embracing and rejoicing, we suddenly found ourselves, dismantling. After every good celebration there is a time of tidying up, but this was more. Monday morning found us all undoing flower garlands, gently packing up Bibles, Hymn Books and all our essentials; we were

moving house! Fortunately for us all, we had a second home to take refuge in.

There for me was the true beauty of our love and commitment. So many people, who for weeks had been working up to the celebration weekend, now turned up to help move home. There were gentle words of encouragement and direction, faces of concern and devotion. All that industry, but the church was somehow quiet. Major surgery was about to be performed, even an organ transplant. But there was the heart of our church, Uniting Church Sketty, pulling together at a time of adversity, where all were strong and resolute. At our Bethel building, out came Henry Hoover and Milly Mop, just to be sure that all was spick and span, in readiness for our worship the following weekend. We all worked together because of our love for our church, our hope for the future and faith in God. Together, we can do anything with faith, hope and love; “Uniting together, Caring for all, Seeking God”.

Jan T

If you have any special moments, cherished memories, about our Celebration Weekend that you would like to share, please send them to Jan for the next edition of our magazine.

THE COMMUNION OFFERTORIES IN MAY

The Communion Offertories in May were for the Swansea & Gower Talking Magazine and we are most grateful for £251.74. We are having to move on to memory sticks in place of tapes and CDs and this will help us bring items from the Evening Post and other information to vision impaired people.

Jean K

JULY COMMUNION OFFERINGS - HEALTH HELP INTERNATIONAL

Wearing my Mission and Outreach committee hat, I thought you might like to learn a little about the Charity we are going to support with July's Communion offerings.

I first came across this charity when I attended one of the URC's Provincial Days held in the Royal Welsh Show Ground in Builth Wells, where I was asked if I would like to have a collecting box, in the shape of an ambulance, to help the charity raise vital funds for various overseas health projects. I still have the collecting box today, some twelve years or more later; the aim being to place all my loose copper in it and then sending the savings to them when the ambulance box is full.

The charity is based in Newport, South Wales but they now have other support centres based in North Wales, Lancashire, and Scotland. The purpose of the charity is to help improve the health of the less fortunate in various parts of the world where both poverty and local conditions adversely affect them. By helping out in these areas in this way, the charity hopes to carry out the Lord's commands to love thy neighbour, help heal the sick, and care for the weak.

There are two main areas in the world where the charity operates, they are:

1. India. H.H.I. normally concentrates its work in Southern India. Their aim is to provide health support for individuals as well as assisting various communities and co-operatives to improve their living standards and general facilities.

2. Zambia. H.H.I. is based in Monza, in the Southern Province. They mainly supply health related items to various clinics and hospitals in the area and also set up self help projects for local communities.

With grateful thanks

Paul H E

Due to popular demand, this humble prayer has been submitted to us by Rev. John J. We are extremely grateful to him for finding it and also to the nun for writing it.

A NUN'S PRAYER

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older, and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody: helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou lowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details: give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet: I do not want to be a saint, some of them are so hard to live with, but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Anon

Quoted by Rev. De Gordon Rupp in his book, *Sixty Plus and Other Sermons*.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A few years ago, Network (the umbrella name for all women's groups in the Methodist Church in the UK), changed its name to Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB). Many women in the South Wales area felt that this was a "backward" step, because there are many united and uniting churches in this area, particularly in Pembrokeshire, Porthcawl and Bridgend.

Network was an all-encompassing name, but the "powers that be" decided that we needed to be identified as women in the METHODIST Church! I suppose you could compare it with the Mothers' Union in the Anglican church, which, in its title is prejudiced in favour of mothers, not ALL women, but that's changing too.

So, what's in a name? Please don't be put off by the title MWiB. All women are welcome to support and participate in MWiB events. On Friday 24th July there is a Quiet Day at Tondu Methodist Church, led by Rev Catherine Jenkins (Cardiff). The cost is £5. Bring your own lunch. If you wish to go, I have spare seats in my car.

On Tuesday 6th October we have a Quiet Day at Nicholaston House from 10am – 4 pm. The theme is "Welcome to the Feast". The cost is £20, which includes all refreshments and lunch.

Further details are available from Janet N or the stewards.

Janet N

METHODIST PRAYER HANDBOOK

I shall again be ordering this very useful daily resource book which begins in September. The cost will be approximately £3.50 per copy. If you have had one in the past, I will order one for you UNLESS you tell me otherwise by 26th July. If you've not had one before and would like one, please let me know by 26th July.

Pat Thomas

AMELIA TRUST FARM – CIRCUIT PROJECT

Quiz sheets are now available for July and August. You can find them in a plastic folder at the back of the church or in the porch. If you can't find them please ask the stewards. They are 50p per sheet. Please put completed quizzes in the box provided. Closing dates are 12th July and 9th August. To date we have raised £40! Thanks to everyone who has taken part in the quizzes.

Janet Neilson

STRAWBERRY TEA ON 18th JULY

Summer wouldn't be summer without a Strawberry Tea! Please come and join us from 3pm to 5pm at Gaynor's Garden. If wet at Bethel URC, Sketty Park Road. Please see Gaynor for tickets which are £5.00 each. All proceeds for Church Funds.

Heather C

REEL TO REAL

The Hundred-Foot Journey proved to be a good film and all the delightful food at the bring and share buffet was truly enjoyed. We will take a break now until September, when we will again enjoy the delights of India.

Jan T & Judith M

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

The Pettifor Trust is a local animal care organisation and for which we held a Coffee Morning in March. It has charity shops in Sketty and Killay which are urgently looking for additional help, and for office and administrative volunteers. For further information, please contact Jon at jon@pettifortrust.co.uk. Web Site www.pettifortrust.co

Jon D

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

HONOURED GUEST AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY

As most of you will know, I have worked for Save the Children for over 40 years and have been chair of the Swansea branch since 1984. Imagine my surprise when I received a phone call from the Cardiff office, asking me to attend the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, to represent Save the Children in Wales!

It conveniently coincided with me staying with my cousin in Kent that week. So on Thursday 28th May, my cousin, her daughter in law and her grandson travelled with me by train to Charing Cross. We all walked down the Mall together and when I went to the Palace, they went to St. James' Park.

I had a moment of unease at the gate, as the policeman pointed out that my pass was in the name of Tina L and my passport was for Christine L! But he smiled and let me in! It was so lovely to walk through the palace rooms, onto the terrace and then down the steps and into the garden.

After a walk around, I had my tea of iced coffee, sandwiches and delicious cakes. The Queen, Prince Philip, Princess Anne, Prince Michael and Princess Michael of Kent were present, spending about 40 minutes in the Royal Tea Tent. Eventually, I was able to stand at the front and had a good view of the Royals leaving.

It was a lovely day and I felt honoured to be chosen by Save the Children to represent the charity at the event.

Christine L

DELILAH JOY HAS ARRIVED!

Katie, Paul, and Scarlett R (and Kim and Angie F too!) would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and prayers, their cards and gifts, on the birth of Delilah Joy on June 2nd. God is good. God is very good.

Kim F

BAPTISM ON 5th JULY

We rejoice with Sheela-Jane and Peter M as they bring their son Oliver for baptism on 5th July, grandson of Hilary A.

"We love because God first loved us".

Rev. Leslie

25 YEARS, A SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO CELEBRATE!

There were approximately 375,000 marriages in the UK in 1990. The RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show started in July 1990. Our Rev Leslie and Geoff Noon were married in July 1990! Congratulations, Leslie and Geoff on your Silver Wedding Anniversary!

Love and best wishes from your church family.

Gwen D

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN JULY & AUGUST TO:

Emma on 5th July

Ingrid and Hugo on 9th July

George on 14th July

Carys on 16th July Toby

Toby on 17th July

Harrison on 23rd July

Samuel on 15th August

Alex on 16th August

Lily on 18th August

William on 23rd August

Oliver on 27th August

Rhian on 28th August

IN MEMORY OF COLIN S

Colin was born in Cardiff in 1937. He attended Cardiff High School and then went to St Bartholomew's Hospital, London to train as a doctor. It was as students in London that he and his wife Joyce met. He did various placements and worked at a hospital in Devon, then in the University Health Services first in Leeds and then in Swansea. They moved to Swansea in 1975. Their daughters Gabrielle and Nansi grew up in Sketty Methodist Church. Colin retired through ill-health and ongoing health problems meant he was unable to attend worship for many years. Joyce attended both Sketty and Bethel churches. We now extend our condolences to Joyce, Gabrielle, Nansi and the family. **Jeff C**

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

Uniting Church Sketty weekly newssheet. Please send by Friday morning to Lynne W

Property Stewards:

Alan J

Keith M

Gwyn B

Booking enquiries and heating requirements to Kath & Bill D

Bethel booking and heating requirements to Sonia

JULY DIARY

- 5 Sun 10.30 Rev Leslie Noon: Communion
6.30 Ken A
- 6 Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Visit to Verdi's
- 12 Sun 10.30 Jeff C
6.30 Rev Siperire
- 14 Tues 7.30 Killay/Dunvant House Group
- 18 Sat 3.00-5pm Strawberry Tea at Gaynor's garden (in Bethel Church Hall if wet)
- 19 Sun 10.30 Rev Leslie Noon
6.00pm at Reynoldston
- 26 Sun 10.30 Rev Leslie Noon & John Ellis
4.30 Rev Leslie Noon at Parkway
6.30 Rev Leslie Noon: Communion

AUGUST DIARY

- 1 Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning venue to be confirmed
- 2 Aug 10.30 Rev. John J
6.30 Ann Beynon
- 9 Aug 10.30 Rev Leslie Noon: Communion
6.30 Rev Leslie Noon
- 16 Aug 10.30 Rev Leslie Noon
6.30 Rev Siperire
- 23 Aug 10.30 Rev Noel D
4.30 Rev Leslie Noon at Parkway
6.30 Rev Leslie Noon: Communion
- 30 Aug 10.30 Rev John A
6.30 Own Arrangement for Songs of Praise
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Quotes' Corner: Just a little something to make us think.
"Happiness is not a destination, it's a way of life."
Anon.

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin P

JULY 5

Ian & Judith

JULY 12

Harry O

JULY 19

Joyce W

JULY 26

Ian & Susan

Evening

Myrddin

Pat D

Jeff C

Paul S

Sound Recording

Simon

Gary

Harry

Bill

Flowers: Rosemary

Giver:

Rosemary

Jan

Gladys

Ann

Arranger:

Rosemary

Enid

Chris

Una

Sunday Morning Coffee: Anja

Linda

Clare

Julie

Jackie

Alan

Pat

Liz

Gary

Una

Myrna

Distribution of the Flowers: Anne

Jan T

Pat B D

Maggie

Margaret

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin

AUGUST 2	AUGUST 9	AUGUST 16	AUGUST 23	AUGUST 30
Enid	Ian & Judith	Harry	Joyce	Ian & Susan
David	Sonia	Graham	Allan & Joe	Gwyn

Evening

Keith	Ann	Myrddin	Pat	Jeff
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Sound Recording

Elizabeth	Gary	Myrddin	Pat	Simon
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Flowers: Rosemary

Giver:

Joyce & Ann	Sue	Pat B.	Eleanor	Jean
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Arranger:

Enid	Pam	Pat	Lynne	Pam
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Sunday Morning Coffee: Anja

Pauline	Jane	Kath	Susan	Clare
Elizabeth	Laurie	Bill	Ian	Jackie
Pat B	Margaret	Anja	Mary	Una

Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Sonia	Janet	Gaynor	Shirley	Gwen
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