

**SEPTEMBER 2015**  
**The Magazine**  
**of**  
**UNITING CHURCH SKETTY**



**Dillwyn Road, Sketty, Swansea SA2 9AE**  
**[www.unitingchurchsketty.org.uk](http://www.unitingchurchsketty.org.uk)**

Minister: Reverend Leslie Jane Noon

Senior Elder: Pat D

Senior Steward: Gwen D

Weekly Notices by Friday morning to Lynne  
UCSweekly@aol.com

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

Refreshments 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 October will be issued on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

Items for inclusion should be with Jan T by Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 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*



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

The **Methodist** Church 

## From the Manse

Dear Friends,

We are approaching the season and festival of harvest – that time of year when we give thanks for all that has grown. Except this year in Uniting Church Sketty, we are certainly **NOT** thankful for all that has grown.

It is hard to be thankful for the dry rot, which clearly has been growing and spreading over many months unbeknown to us. Whilst we are glad it is being dealt with, it seems as if it is taking much longer than we had ever thought, and we must gird ourselves with patience and tolerance until we are able to worship and use the Wesley building once again. In the meantime, we plan to be using our Bethel building until at least Christmas.

But all this means I know far more about dry rot than I ever did (or indeed wanted to). So here are just some personal musings on... the theology of dry rot. The quotes (*in italics*) are taken from the report that was given to us after the dry rot expert visited the church.

*“Dry rot spores are omnipresent in the environment and will therefore be present in all properties.”* Omnipresent is one of the words often used to describe God (as well as dry rot spores). God, present in all places and in all times – or in other words, there is nowhere we can go where God is not. This is an awesome, humbling, comforting understanding of God’s presence (echoed in the words of Psalm 139 - *Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence*). It suggests that God is beyond time and space, beyond any dimension we can fully understand. In other words, God is beyond our comprehension whilst at the same time being nearer to us than our next breath.

*“For an infection to be initiated there needs to be a spore and suitable conditions (oxygen, a susceptible food source and water).”*

What are the conditions needed in order for our faith in Christ Jesus to be initiated? If we assume that there is a divine spark in us all (*God has made us in his image* – Genesis 1:27), then what do we need in order for that spark to turn into a flame? I would suggest we need the opportunity to explore what the word of God is saying to us today (oxygen); the fellowship of other Christians (food source), and a prayer life so that we may tune ourselves into God (water). You may need different conditions for your faith to grow – it would be good to have a conversation about it. But whatever conditions you identify, the fact remains – faith does need certain requirements in which to grow and flourish.

*The first evidence of the existence of an outbreak of dry rot is often the sudden appearance of a fruiting body.* And this is true. We realised that we had a problem when a mushroom like thing was discovered near the organ. But what evidence is there to others that we are Christians? What are the fruits by which we are known? (*You will know them by their fruits* - Matthew 7:16). This is a challenging question for us all and I cannot answer it for you. But I invite you to think about it. Would someone – would anyone, know that you are a Christian by the way you live or speak or act? And what are the fruits of Uniting Church Sketty? These are things that we must continually bear in mind if we are to fulfil our mission.

So there you have it. The very beginnings of a theology of dry rot. Not sure it's been done before – but it just goes to show that God can be found in all things!

With love, *Leslie*

# Faith & Fellowship

## Autumn Series

All are welcome to our next series of discussion groups, in which we 'do' theology – which means we talk about life and faith and God. It is NOT intimidating and no experience (apart from life experience) is required. Come either to a Tuesday morning session or Thursday evening session. We will be meeting in the Elders Room in the Bethel Building. We would love to see you there.

### **Tuesdays 10 – 11.30am**

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

### **Thursdays at 7.30 – 9pm**

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

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## **HARVEST BARN DANCE**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015

at 7:30 pm

at

Sketty Park Sports and Social Club, Aneurin Way, Sketty

Tickets £5, children under 12 free

available on Sunday mornings from

Heather, Rosemary and/or as announced.

Please bring one plate of food to contribute to the buffet.

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## **HARVEST SUNDAY ON 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

We are once again asking that Harvest gifts are suitable for donation to the Food Bank. Please bring contributions to church on the previous **Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> September OR at 2.00 pm on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September**, to enable the team of people who will decorate the church to incorporate some of the items in their display.

As a guide, here is a list of items suitable for donation to the Food Bank:

Milk (UHT or powdered)

Sugar

Fruit juice

Soup

Pasta sauces

Sponge pudding (tinned)

Tea bags

Instant coffee

Tinned tomatoes

Cereals

Rice

Pasta

Tinned meat/vegetables

Tinned fruit

Jam

Biscuits/snack bar

We are very grateful for all your contributions. Also, for the help of Rosemary and a talented group of people, who we know will be creative and incorporate all gifts into a wonderful display.

Thank you.



Our next Breakout Church will be on  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September - our Harvest Festival.**  
Come to church as usual – but there will be an opportunity for you  
to decide the way in which you would like to worship:

**Words and Music Space** (in the Sanctuary)

Sing harvest hymns and reflect on the meaning of harvest through words and images.

**Creative Space** (in the hall)

An opportunity to be creative and to think about the harvest of the land, the sea and the sky. Work with others to make a collective display.

**Discussion space** (in the Elders Room)

Explore the notion of harvest through discussion and Bible Study.

**Prayer space**

Using the sheet provided, you are invited to explore God's wonderful creation outside.

## **COMMUNION OFFERTORIES IN SEPTEMBER**

The communion collections for September will be for Action for Children. This charity was begun by a Methodist minister in 1869 to help homeless children and has developed into a national organisation which cares for children in many ways. For example it supports many with disabilities, children in care or those whose parents need support. A report from Action for Children recently contributed to a change in the law in Wales so that young people in care can stay with foster carers until they are ready to leave and are not left completely unsupported at 18.

**Susan G**

## **COFFEE MORNING FOR MARIE CURIE. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!**

The September coffee morning in support of Marie Curie, will be held on **FRIDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> September, from 10.00 - 12.00**. Please note change of day. All donations of cakes and biscuits will be very welcome. If you are unable to bring them, I will happily collect them from you. Any offers of help will be very welcome. Hope you will be able to come to support such a worthy cause.

**Kath D**

## **ALL ARE WELCOME**

Are you ever free on a Monday evening? Do you enjoy listening to good speakers, sharing laughter and friendship? Would you like to be part of a caring group?

Then join us at **WESLEY CLUB, every Monday** (or whenever you can). Come and give us a try. You can be sure of a welcome. We would also be delighted to see your friends and neighbours as our invitation is not limited to church family members. We restart our meetings on **Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> Sept** and I look forward to catching up with our usual friends and hearing all their summer news; also to maybe welcoming some new faces. Until then take care.

**Jan C**

## **TRADCRAFT NEWS**

Following my decision to step down after twenty-five years of being involved with Traidcraft, I would like to say a massive 'Thank You' to Gary and Jackie, without whose help I should not have been able to continue the campaign for Fair Trade. This was something that my late husband John, was so passionate about and it was as a result of John's work and beliefs that Swansea & Gower Methodist Circuit got its Fairtrade Status in April 2004. Gary and Jackie, with help, will continue the monthly stalls and I am confident that Uniting Church Sketty will continue to give them support and encouragement. Lots of people think that the Fairtrade battle is won, with many more products carrying the Fairtrade Mark stacked high on Supermarket shelves. Traidcraft and its supporters can be proud to have brought this about, but there is still much to do.

Unfortunately, injustice in trade and its resultant poverty is as much of a scandal now as it was 35 years ago, when Traidcraft's mission started. There is a misconception that Traidcraft and Fairtrade are the same. They are not. Traidcraft is an independent trading company, with a linked development charity. It does not benefit from the sales of Fairtrade products in the supermarkets. Traidcraft trades with and supports the most vulnerable farmers and artisans, who could not cope with the demands or scale required by big business or the supermarkets, as well as running projects developing people's potential to trade their way out of poverty in their own countries.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. The new Traidcraft catalogue is now available. Please ask Gary or Jackie for a copy.

**Pat T**

## **TRADCRAFT**

Our next Traidcraft stall will be on **Sunday, 20th September.**  
**Gary & Jackie**

## **HOW IT ALL BEGAN**

In the early days only a few items of Traidcraft were for sale on Sunday mornings. Thanks to the devoted efforts of John and Pat T, sales began to grow. Every month John and Pat travelled down to Cardiff to collect the goods on a sale or return basis. Demand for Traidcraft flourished and quite soon John and Pat found themselves running a central store based at Morrision Methodist Church. From there they operated a sale or return system for other local churches and individuals who wanted Traidcraft items. The Sketty stall has now progressed from selling a few items, to an annual sales last year of over £2000.

The good work must continue, so many thanks to those of you who have volunteered to help out with Traidcraft, your help is much appreciated.

**Jackie**

## **CRAFT GROUP**

From **Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September**, The Craft Group will be meeting at Kath's home, from 2pm to 4pm. We will be discussing making a banner for Brunswick and one for Siperire.

All are welcome, no experience necessary. For further details, please contact Kath.

**Kath D**

## **COVER TO COVER**

On **Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am**, we will be meeting at Mike's home. We will be discussing The Lie, by Helen Dunmore. All are welcome to join us for a stimulating discussion, a cup of coffee and biscuits.

**Mike W**

## **THURSDAY CIRCLE**

**Thurs, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2.30pm**, Bethel Hall, please come and join us.  
**Pat "B" D**

## **WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

ALL WE CAN.....what does that phrase mean to you? Little or nothing I would imagine. ALL WE CAN is the new name for what was previously known, in the Methodist Church, as the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF). Why the change? What is the significance of the new name? Your guess is as good as mine, as to why the name needed to be changed. Perhaps it was thought that the image and name needed modernising. But why? MRDF “does what it says on the tin” – it raises funds to provide relief in times of emergency need and also provides on-going funds, equipment etc., so that people can develop new ways to earn money for them and their families.

One has to probe a little deeper to understand the significance of the words ALL WE CAN. John Wesley said, “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can”. So that is where the new name comes from.

ALL WE CAN has chosen the title for its Harvest Appeal, this year, “CREATE A BUZZ”, to support people in Ethiopia. Raising awareness of the importance of bees is strangely fortuitous as we learn, in this country, about the scarcity of bees, and, chemicals which are going to be introduced to aid crops, but not bees. Why are bees so important? Here are a few facts – ONE bee colony can pollinate 300 million flowers every day. Bees pollinate about 90% of the world’s nutrition supply. Bees pollinate fruits, nuts and vegetables..... .

You can probably think of other facts.

If you want to know more about ALL WE CAN’S Harvest Appeal, you can read about it on the website – [www.allwecan.org.uk](http://www.allwecan.org.uk)

**Janet N**

### **LAST OF THE SUMMER ORGAN RECITALS**

On **Tuesday, 15th September** from 1.10 to 2pm, Alan S will be giving the last of the free summer lunchtime organ recitals at St Mary's, in the city centre.

**Jean K**

### **CIRCUIT PROJECT – AMELIA TRUST FARM**

A great big thank you to all those who have entered the quizzes to support our circuit project. £52 has been raised. The winner in July was Rosemary B. The winners in August were Rosemary and Ryan B. Please see Janet N to claim your prizes.

**Janet N**

### **A VISIT TO THE THEATRE**

I have made a block booking on behalf of the Wesley Club, to see the afternoon performance of the Abbey Players' musical comedy 'Sister Act' at the Grand Theatre on **Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> November**. If you have not already given me your name and you would like to join us for what promises to be an enjoyable afternoon, please add your name to the notice in the Church foyer, you can email me Alternatively, if you would like tickets for any evening performance (Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>) please let me know as soon as possible.

**Liz R**

### **REEL TO REAL**

September finds us struggling to find a suitable time and place, due to the current challenging situation. We have therefore decided to revert to the original plan of Reel to Real and hold monthly meetings at a variety of welcoming homes. If anyone feels able to host a Reel to Real evening, please let us know. We will place full details in our UCS Weekly notices a.s.a.p. To cover the cost of new films, the £1.00 contribution per meeting will be re-introduced.

**Jan T & Judith M**

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO HEATHER AND JEFF C**

Our congratulations to Andrew and Judith C, now living in Southampton, on the birth of Megan on 14th August, Eve's sister and to Heather and Jeff on the arrival of their new granddaughter.

**Jean K**

### **NEWS FROM MAGGIE AND NEIL H**

The family is well remembered although they moved away some time ago. Maggie and Neil were blessed with a grandchild Emily Anne on 31st May, born to David and Celia. However, Maggie's mother, Maidie S, is quite poorly.

**Jean K**

### **WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN SEPTEMBER TO:**

Tomas on the 7<sup>th</sup>

Charlie on the 15<sup>th</sup>

Dylan on the 19<sup>th</sup>

Oliver on the 21<sup>st</sup>

Daniel on the 27<sup>th</sup>

Matthew on the 27<sup>th</sup>

Jayke on the 28<sup>th</sup>

## 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
	6.15-7.30 Brownies
	7.30 Sketty Madcaps
Thursday	7.30-9.30 Explorers

Uniting Church Sketty weekly newsheet. Please send by Friday morning to Lynne, UCSweekly@aol.com

### **Property Stewards:**

Alan J

Keith M

Gwyn B (Bethel property)

Booking enquiries and heating requirements to Kath & Bill D

Bethel booking and heating requirements to Sonia B

## SEPTEMBER DIARY

- 1 Tues 7.30pm Killay/Dunvant House Group at Janet Ns
- 2 Wed 10am Events Team Meeting in Bethel Elders' Room
- 3 Thurs 2.30pm Thursday Circle, Bethel Hall
- 4 Fri 10 – 12noon Marie Curie Coffee Morning, Bethel Church Hall
- 6 Sun 10.30 Rev Leslie Noon: Communion  
6.30 A Cram
- 7 Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Social Evening
- 8 Tues 10-11.30 Faith & Fellowship
- 8 Tues 2-4pm Craft Group
- 10 Thurs 7.30-9pm Faith & Fellowship
- 13 Sun 10.30 Rev Kim Fabricus  
6.30 Rev Leslie Noon
- 14 Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Gary Gregor, Three Gower Shipwrecks
- 17 Thurs 7.30pm Methodist Circuit Trustees Meeting at Clydach
- 18 Fri 7.30pm Barn Dance at Sketty Park Sports and Social Club
- 19 Sat Welsh Methodist Synod, Newtown
- 20 Sun 10.30 Rev Leslie Noon  
6.30pm Rev John Jones
- 21 Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Shirley Davies, Greenfields Charity and  
Testimony
- 22 Tues 10am-11.30 Faith & Fellowship
- 22 Tues 7.30pm Church Meeting followed by Trustees Meeting
- 24 Thurs 7.30 -9pm Faith & Fellowship
- 25 Fri 10 - 12noon Macmillan Coffee morning, Bethel Church Hall
- 27 Sun 10.30 Rev John Jones  
4.30 Rev Leslie Noon at Parkway Home  
6.30 Rev Leslie Noon: Communion
- 28 Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Martin Price, A True Story and Mystery

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

**Welcome Teams: Myrddin**

<b>SEPT 6</b>	<b>SEPT 13</b>	<b>SEPT 20</b>	<b>SEPT 27</b>
Enid	Ian & Judith	Harry	Joyce W
David K	Sonia	Graham	Allan & Joe
Jacqueline	Alan & Liz	David P	Caroline
Jan T			Tina

**Evening**

Paul	Keith	Ann V	Myrddin
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**Sound Recording**

Harry O	Bill D	Elizabeth	Myrddin
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**Flowers: Rosemary**

**Giver:**

Pam E	Joan & Eric	Carol H	Myrna
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**Arranger:**

Enid	Chris	Harvest	Rosemary
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**Sunday Morning Coffee: Anja**

Jon, Sandra, Gareth	Julie, Liz, Myrna	Anja, Elizabeth, Margaret	Pauline, Pam, Pat B.
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**Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W**

Anne W	Mary J	Jan T	Pat B D
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**Quotes' Corner: Just a little something to make us think.**

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

**Edmund Burke**