

**OCTOBER 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 Lynn W UCSweekly@aol.com

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

Refreshments in Bethel Hall 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.

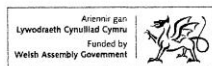
This Magazine is available on tape for the vision impaired and some of our services are recorded on tape for anyone unable to attend whether regularly or on a particular Sunday - please contact Jean K

The Magazine for November will be issued on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015.

Items for inclusion should be with Jan T Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 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 

## From the Manse

Dear Friends,

Recently I went to Methodist Synod in Newtown. This means a very early start! It's a beautiful (if very long) drive, through stunning Welsh countryside. However on this journey – or at least on the way there – there was tremendous mist. (Or was it fog? I'm not sure of the difference!).

It was one of those classic autumn mornings when the mist / fog hangs in the valleys and surrounds the tops of the hills, making the world at times ethereal, at times magical and at times downright difficult to see! Every now and then, through the mist, the landscape would appear again, only to disappear once more as we either went higher or dipped into the valley.

It reminded me a little of our journey with God. There are times in our personal lives and in the life of the church when we see or sense God clearly. When we understand clearly where God is leading us. Recently we experienced this in the coming together of our Uniting Church. It felt as if we had a clear call from God that this was the right thing to do.

However there are other times when it seems as if our journey with God is shrouded in fog. When we cannot see the way clearly, no matter how hard we peer or how hard we try. Perhaps as a church we are going through a period like that at the moment. Having come together, and then abruptly been thrust into the dry rot situation, it feels a little as if we are unsure where God is leading.

There's that famous hymn by Fred Pratt Green, "What shall our greeting be?". It's a very fitting hymn for our church at the moment and we sang it at our launch weekend especially for the lines:

"May we no more defend barriers he died to end

Give me your hand, my friend, one Church one Lord”

However the second verse begins: “What is our mission here?”. I wonder if this is where we are now? Asking this question. When we move back into our Wesley building, we need I think to have a clearer understanding of this.

I hope you will join with me in praying about this, in seeking answers to this question and discerning the will of God through the mist.

With love, *Leslie*

# Autumn **Faith & Fellowship** Series

We've made a good start to our Autumn series of Faith and Fellowship. However each session is independent (although of course connected) and so you can join in at any time! In our sessions 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. The remaining sessions are:

## **Tuesdays 10 – 11.30am**

6 October, 13 October (note NOT 20 October), 27 October

## **Thursdays at 7.30 - 9pm**

8 October, 22 October, 5 November



In September we shared together in a wonderful harvest festival, in which we held our third Breakout Church. Thank you to everyone who brought food for our local foodbanks and to those who then transported it to the foodbanks. We collected a large amount and we know it will be used by families in great need. Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the church which made it look so beautiful for harvest – and especially to Pat Davies, Jeff Coleman, Linda Jones and Rosemary Blyth who worked with me in putting Breakout together. The Bible Study space was stimulating, the Creativity space was fulfilling, the Prayer Walk in Sonia's garden was uplifting and the Words and Images Space was thought-provoking. Praise God for this time!

*Rev Leslie*

## **Standing up and Being Counted**

The news in recent weeks has been full of the desperately sad and deeply disturbing images and stories of thousands of asylum seekers and migrants seeking a safe sanctuary in Europe. The situation is complex and there are no easy solutions. However Jonathan Sacks, former Chief Rabbi reminds us that the command to 'love your neighbour as yourself' only appears once in the Old Testament. However no less than 37 times are we challenged to 'love the stranger'. There is no other command repeated so often.

I was delighted therefore that 30 'Uniters' (thanks Ivor for identifying a collective name for us) went on the rally in Castle Square in Swansea to join our voices with others who say 'Refugees

are welcome here'. The youngest Uniter was 11 and the oldest 89! But we must not stop there. The message is that we should support voluntary organisations in Swansea who work with refugees and asylum seekers already in our midst. Some members of our congregation are already involved – and we will be looking to see what else we can do.

***Rev Leslie***

### **VOLUNTEER TRAINING INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM NIGHT SHELTER PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR, MANDY HARVEY**

Refresher Sessions for those who volunteered in 2015 and would like to volunteer again. These sessions will aim to highlight any changes e.g. new drugs on the streets/changes to any policies and to remind volunteers of any key features/rules of SNS operation. We are offering 4 different dates and times to ensure that everyone who wants to volunteer again is able to get along to a refresher session.

29<sup>th</sup> October @ 7.30pm-8.30pm @ Christwell, Manselton

2<sup>nd</sup> November @ 7.30pm-8.30pm @ Parklands, Sketty Park

9<sup>th</sup> November @ 8-9pm @ Linden, West Cross

18<sup>th</sup> November @ 7.30pm-8.30pm @ LifePoint, Uplands

To book and/or for further information about volunteer training please email: [swanseanightshelter@gmail.com](mailto:swanseanightshelter@gmail.com)

**Everyone** who wants to volunteer with SNS will need to attend a training session and each volunteer will be given a certificate at the end of the session to say they have attended. Not only does the training tick a box for the insurance companies but it is a mark of respect to the guests to show that we've done all that we can to make sure SNS is a positive, safe and affirming environment for them. We will also want to use the sessions to really encourage and positively affirm the volunteers and make sure that it's a good experience for everyone.

## **Basic training for new volunteers; this is an in depth 2 hour training session**

22<sup>nd</sup> Oct & 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 7.30pm-9.30pm at Parklands.

This training will be for NEW volunteers e.g. for anyone who hasn't volunteered with SNS before and for those who haven't volunteered with us recently. Current volunteers (who volunteered in the winter of 2015) do not need to attend this training.

**Gwen D**

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS BOXES**

It's another " It's that time of year" again. Although to most of us Christmas is, thankfully quite far away, for those of us involved with Operation Christmas Child, it grows frighteningly close. To ensure that our boxes are packed, checked, loaded and most importantly delivered to those special children, we need to start NOW. If you plan to complete a box yourself, then obviously that will be so welcome. However, if you wish to contribute to our church boxes, as usual we are placing a collection box in the church porch. You will know that pack boxes for boys and girls and cover ages 2 - 4 years, 5 - 9 years and 10 - 14 years. Just as a reminder,

### **We Welcome:**

small soft toys.

small musical instruments.

little cars, dolls, building blocks, jigsaws, balls, yoyos, other games etc.

scarves, gloves, hats.

pens (felt tips and biros), pencils (plain and coloured), sharpeners, rulers, rubbers, pencil cases, note and colouring books.

toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, brushes, flannels, soaps, hair decorations etc.

jewellery.

**No Thank You:**

food and chocolate.

medicines or vitamins of any kind.

war related items such as guns or items displaying a skull and crossbow, (sign of a land mine in war torn countries).

clothing.

liquids of any kind, including blow bubbles.

aerosols.

sharp items such as scissors, razors, pen knives etc.

reading books.

hand knitted / stuffed toys.

political literature.

playing cards.

Marbles.

A big thank you to everyone who supports this very special charity, which reminds such needy children that they are loved and not forgotten.

**Jan C**

**COMMUNION OFFERTORIES IN OCTOBER**

Communion collections for October will be for Samaritan's Purse, to help finance the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. These provide gifts such as toys, toiletries, notebooks etc. to children in war torn and troubled countries. The gifts are valued by the children and are a sign that someone cares.

**Susan G**

**MARIE CURIE COFFEE MORNING IN SEPTEMBER**

A huge thank you to all those who supported such a worthwhile cause and helped raise £419.16. This is a great achievement made possible by the wonderful team of people involved. To those who made cakes, provided biscuits, helped to set up the hall, serve drinks and came to support us on the day, a very big thank you.

**Kath D**



## **WHERE ARE WE WITH THE DRY ROT?**

This is our latest update, as supplied on 15th September 2015:

Since the last time I reported to the Church, the whole of the church floor has been removed, along with a large area of the informal area in front of the kitchen and Wesley room doors.

The loss adjuster has taken advice from various dry rot professionals and has now decided that, now that the timber and water leak have been removed along with the contaminated soil, they can start to plan the reinstatement.

The loss adjuster has appointed a quantity surveyor to oversee the work and prepare the schedule of works which were sent out on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015, to Bowden Builders, John Weaver, Flanagan Ltd and David Rees. These are due back by 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The contract should then be issued by the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015 with a start date of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015.

The work should take approximately twelve weeks; so given that the Christmas period is in that time and builders shut down for two weeks, I would hope that it would be finished by the end of February 2016.

In the meantime, we are able to use the hall, prayer room, Bethel room and the upstairs rooms along with the toilets. A screen has been fitted across the walkway, allowing access to all these parts of the building.

I would like to thank all those in the Fungi Group for all their patience and hard work. Also, a very special thanks to Keith M who is leading this project.

**Alan J**

## **CRAFT GROUP**

We will continue to meet every Tuesday, during term times from 2-4pm All are welcome, no experience necessary. For further details, please contact Kath.

**Kath D**

## **THURSDAY CIRCLE**

The Thursday Circle will meet at Bethel Hall on Thursday 1st October @ 2.30pm. Delyth will lead us in our Devotions this afternoon. Our guest speaker will be John B. Davies who will present 'A Photographic Extravaganza'. All are welcome, so please come and join us.

**Pat 'B' D**

## **REEL TO REAL**

September's film has been Robot and Frank, an engaging and thought-provoking film set in the near future. Frank, a notorious career burglar who is now retired, causes his grown-up children Hunter and Madison all sorts of worries with his failing memory and onset of dementia. Hunter presents him with the newest accessory for the ailing older person: a robot butler! At first, the cantankerous Frank is grumpy with his new servant, but then he warms to the robot when he realises that it can be trained to help him with a new series of burglaries he's secretly planning. In time-honoured sci-fi fashion, the robot starts to develop a mind of his own and matters do not progress as Frank hopes. This is an engaging, humane fantasy which encourages discussion on caring for the elderly, what we remember and why, about our lives and really what makes us human.

The discussion dates are Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> October and Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> October. The Sign Up sheets with further information are in the porch at church.

October's film is set, not in the future but in the 1970s. Cemetery Junction is a world of working-class lads and jumping class barriers. Themes such as starting out; work and career; ambition and expectations; fear of failure; friendship; and racism should bring much discussion.

Anyone who would like to join our Reel to Real Group please give

your name to Judith M and she will include you in the circulation lists.

**Sandra C**

### **SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015**

Rev. John Wiseman will be leading our morning worship on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> October. Following this service there will be an opportunity to talk to John at a Bring and Share Lunch. If you are able to attend the lunch, could you please sign the list on the Notice Board and bring one plate of food to contribute to the finger buffet (sandwiches, quiche, pizza, cake etc.). It will be very helpful if all contributions could be delivered on a serving plate and, where appropriate, cut into individual portions.

Help will be needed to set up tables, accept and lay out the buffet food, make tea and coffee and clear away at the end of the lunch. Please contact Gwen D if you are able to help.

### **LAUNCH OF CIRCUIT PROJECT, ZAMBUKO RA JEHOVAH**

Please come and support the launch of this exciting project at BRUNSWICK METHODIST CHURCH on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 3.30pm.

At 3.30 we will have the presentation of the project, ZAMBUKO RA JEHOVAH, which means "bridging the gap with Christ". This will provide information about caring for "AIDS" orphans in Zimbabwe.

At 4.30 there will be 'a bring and share' tea.

At 6.00 the circuit service will commence and the launch of the project for the following 2 years, October 2015 to October 2017. There will be a retiring collection.

**Mary J**

### **TRAI DCRAFT**

The date for the next Traidcraft stall is 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Jackie & Gary C**

## **SHUKTARA**

As many of you know, I collect small change to send money to support Shuktara, the charity set up by Denis E's son, David, in Kolkota, to provide homes, education and employment for disabled and abandoned young people. Not many of us change people's lives, but reading David Earp's recent newsletter, I was struck by the story of Sanjay. Sanjay went to Shuktara in 2000. He always had the ambition to work and have his own family. One of the amazing things that happened through Shuktara was the setting up of a patisserie by a French supporter, at which some of the young people are employed. Through working there, Sanjay has managed to save enough money to rent a small house. He has married and his wife is expecting a baby soon. He is SO proud, says David. I e-mailed David to thank him for all that he has done and he replied that Sanjay often asked him for money to help him achieve his dreams. But David always refused, because he knew he would be able to achieve his ambitions himself through his own hard work. Now Sanjay can be justifiably proud. Sometimes it is right to say 'No!'.

I am always pleased to receive small change or donations if you want to support Shuktara and its work in Kolkota.

**Pat D**

## **REMEMBERING THOSE WE HAVE LOVED**

Advance notice: Our evening service on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November (Remembrance) will be a special service in which we are invited to remember those loved ones who have died. All are invited to come to the service – you may wish to bring family members or friends who also would value a time in which they can remember. The service will start at 6.30pm as usual. There will be prayer stations set up around the church to encourage people to engage in praying and remembering through different activities. All will be welcome – come along and bring someone else.

***Rev Leslie***

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

### **AUF WIEDERSEHEN!**

It is with great sadness that we said goodbye to Anja, Simon and Ava during our harvest festival. At the end of September they moved back to Germany – for Anja this means going back home and for Simon and Ava it means a new adventure! We are so sorry that they are going, and we will miss them all greatly. But they take with them our love and prayers for this new chapter in their lives. And as they say in German, *Auf Wiedersehen* – the directly translation of which is 'until we see you again'. And we hope we will!!

### **MOVING HOME**

We send our best wishes to Pauline L who is moving to Sketty.

### **IN LOVING MEMORY**

Our thoughts go out to those whose loved ones have died recently, thinking especially of Marion D whose husband Ron has died and the family of Helen J.

### **BAPTISM ON SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

On a joyful note, on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October, we look forward to welcoming and baptising Delilah Joy R, daughter of Katherine and Paul, sister to Scarlett and granddaughter to Kim and Angie

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

Roberto on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
Miriam on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
Rachel on the 12<sup>th</sup>  
Gareth on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
Mab-Lilune on the 24<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 in Bethel Hall.

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	2-4pm 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 notices:

Lynne W UCSweekly@aol.com

(Please send to Lynne by Friday morning)

Property Stewards:

Alan J

Keith M

Gwyn B (Bethel property)

Booking enquiries and heating requirements: Kath & Bill D

Bethel booking and heating requirements: Sonia B

## OCTOBER DIARY

- 1 Thurs 2.30pm Thursday Circle, Bethel Hall  
4 Sun 10.30 Rev. Leslie Noon: Communion  
6.30 Ken A  
5 Mon 7pm Wesley Club:  
6 Tues 10-11.30am Faith & Fellowship  
6 Tues 2-4pm Craft Group  
6 Tues 7.30 pm Killay/Dunvant Housegroup  
8 Thurs 2.30pm Thursday Circle, Bethel Hall  
8 Thurs 7.30pm Faith & Fellowship  
8 Thurs 7.30pm Reel to Real at Sandra's  
9 Fri 7.30pm Reel to Real at Julie's  
11 Sun 10.30 Rev. John Wiseman  
3.30 Launch of new circuit project at Brunswick  
4.30 Bring & share tea at Brunswick  
6.00 Service at Brunswick, Circuit Missions  
12 Mon 7pm Wesley Club:  
13 Tues 10-11.30am Faith & Fellowship  
13 Tues 2-4pm Craft Group  
15 Thurs 2.30pm Thursday Circle, Bethel Hall  
18 Sun 10.30 Rev. Leslie Noon (Traidcraft following service)  
6.30 Rev. Noel Davies: Communion  
19 Mon 7pm Wesley Club:  
20 Tues 10am-11.30 Faith & Fellowship  
20 Tues 2-4pm Craft Group  
22 Thurs 2.30pm Thursday Circle, Bethel Hall  
22 Thurs 7.30 -9pm Faith & Fellowship  
24 Sat 10.30 am Coffee Morning with Betty Phillip's talk 'Weakest Link' at Morriston Methodist Church  
25 Sun 10.30 Ken S  
4.30 Rev. Leslie Noon  
6.30 Rev. Leslie Noon  
26 Mon 7pm Wesley Club:  
27 Tues 10-11.30am Faith & Fellowship

29 Thurs 2.30pm Thursday Circle, Bethel Hall

31 Sat 10 am Coffee Morning for Muscular Dystrophy at Bethel Hall

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**Quotes' Corner: Just a little something to make us think.**

**A Gardener's Reflection**

First look at the weeds:

Weed out the gossip,  
Weed out the laziness,  
Weed out indifference,  
And weed out pride.

Plant five rows of peas:

Patience, peace, promptness, politeness and prayer.

Then plant five rows of lettuce:

Let us be useful,  
Let us be faithful,  
Let us be loving,  
Let us be trusting  
And let us be grateful.

Then we can turn to the reliable turnips,

Turn up on time,  
Turn up with a smile,  
Turn up with a new idea  
And turn up with new determination.

Author Unknown

Wow, if we can do all this, everything will be coming up roses all over the world!



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

**Welcome Teams: Myrddin**

**OCT 4**

Ian & Susan

Gwyn

Shirley

**Evening**

Pat D

**Sound Recording**

Gary

**Flowers: Rosemary**

**Giver:**

Pam T

**Arranger:**

Pam

**Sunday Morning Coffee:**

Jane, Laurie,  
Una

**Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W**

Margaret W

**OCT 11**

Enid P

David K

Jacqueline

Jeff

Pat

Jean E

Enid

Kath, Bill,  
Clare

Maggie

**OCT 18**

Ian & Judith

Sonia

Jan T

Paul

Harry

Gwyneth

Lynne

Susan, Ian,  
Pat

Jan T

**OCT 25**

Harry

Graham

David

Alan & Liz

Keith

Myrddin

Jean K

Pam

Jackie, Gary,  
Mary

Pat B D