

FEBRUARY 2016
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

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. Please contact Jean K for further details.

Please submit all items for the March magazine to Jan T by

Friday, 19th February 2016.

The Magazine for March will be issued on Sunday, 28th February, 2016.

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.



The Methodist Church 

Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends,

Q: What room has no doors, no walls, no floors and no ceiling?

A: A mushroom!!

It perhaps hasn't been quite that bad, but there was certainly a time when we had no floor in much of the Wesley building. But that is almost a distant memory now as the work is near completion.

Of course, in the time it will have taken for the dry rot and all it's associated work to be sorted out, a baby could have been conceived and born! Nine months! This is the length of time that we have been worshipping in our Bethel building. And what a good job that we've been able to do that.

However the time is drawing very near when we shall be moving back into the Wesley building once again. At this point can I say a HUGE thank you to the 'Fungus' Group which has overseen the process from start to finish – but in particular to Keith and Alan. Although the work was handed over to a Loss Adjuster and Project Manager, Keith and Alan have been our links with all the work and the builders, popping in regularly and ensuring everything is in hand. From all of us, thank you!

Q: Why did the mushroom get invited to all the parties?

A: Because he's a fungi!

If all continues to go to plan, we will move back into Wesley on the first weekend of March and there will be a party atmosphere!

Saturday 5th March from 10am to 12noon: We resume our monthly coffee mornings (first Saturday of every month), this one with proceeds to The Pettifor Trust.

Saturday 5th March from 5pm to 8pm. Bring and share tea followed by a quiz. Come along with others from our church family and share in food and fun together. Bring something to share (finger food only) and those

that wish can stay for the quiz at the end. It's always good to eat together and to have fun together, and this is what we shall be doing.

Sunday 6th March at 10.30am. This will be our first service back in Wesley. It will be a Communion Service and it's also Mothering Sunday, so there will be lots to celebrate.

While the builders are on site, the Finance and Property Committee felt it was a good opportunity to organise other much needed work on the building – particularly the water ingress that has been affecting the wall on the balcony at the top of the stairs. We hope this will be completed by the time we move back in, but such work is of course weather dependent. So it is possible that the balcony area will not be completely finished by the beginning of March, but rest assured it shouldn't take too long.



One last thing for us to consider. We must never forget that the church is not the building – the church is the people. So while we must of course be good stewards to the buildings that we have, this must never become our focus or our priority. Our focus and priority is always to worship God and to love others – and so in the coming months we will be thinking about how we can use our buildings to do just that.

With love,
Leslie

Come and have fun, guys!! (Get it – fungi....)

Saturday 5th March – Wesley Building

5pm to 8pm

Bring and share finger food followed by a quiz

Come along and enjoy yourself with the rest of our church family



**Wednesday 10th February
2.30pm Bethel Sanctuary**

All are invited and welcome to come to a short, simple, quiet Ash Wednesday service. This is part of the ancient tradition of the Church – a time at the very beginning of Lent when we come to God in repentance. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. Come and join us. Come and be with God.



Lent 2016: Is Christ the only way?

In these sessions we will be exploring the topical issue of inter-faith relations. Lent is about examining our own lives and our own faith – and therefore working out how we relate to other faiths is hugely important. All are very welcome to attend – no prior knowledge or experience required! All sessions take place in the Elders Room at Bethel.

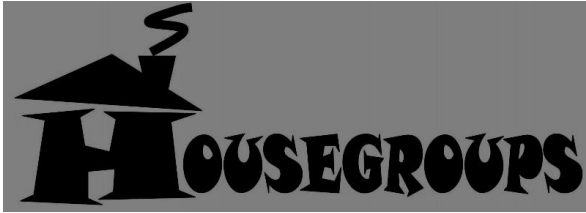
Session 1: Tues 16 Feb at 10am / Thurs 18 Feb at 7.30pm

Session 2: Tues 23 Feb at 10am / Thurs 25 Feb at 7.30pm

Session 3: Tues 1 Mar at 10am / Thurs 3 Mar at 7.30pm

Mosque Visit – Tuesday 1st March at 7.30pm

In addition, following our letter of solidarity to the Mosques in Swansea, we were invited to visit Swansea Mosque. This is a practical step in our desire to live in understanding and peace with brothers and sisters of a different faith. **There will be a sign up sheet in the vestibule for all those who would like to attend.**



House Groups at Uniting Church Sketty

We are hoping to start two new House Groups at UCS – and we hope that YOU might be interested. So here is some information as to what it's all about, and why it's something that you might wish to be part of!

What are House Groups? Well, essentially what it says on the tin! A group that meets in someone's house. Although of course, there is more to it than that. Early Methodism was founded on small groups – in John Wesley's day called 'classes'. The role of the group was to keep the members accountable to each other and to God. Since those early days, many other churches have seen how small groups can help people to flourish, and it is a fact that most growing churches have small groups – sometimes called House Groups, sometimes called Cell Groups, sometimes called Home Groups.

What do House Groups do? Well, I guess it varies from place to place. However our intention as UCS is that each group will meet once a month on a fixed time and day. The group will meet in the home of one of the members. What the group will do might well vary from month to month, but it will always include talking about faith and about life. It may sometimes include Bible Study or it may think about a topic. No doubt there will be laughter and food to go along with the questions and the exploration.

What do House Groups offer? Unlike the other small group opportunities available in our church (Faith and Fellowship, Reel to Real and Cover to Cover), a House Group is made up of a 'fixed' group of people. As they get to know each other it becomes a group where people are able to share their worries and joys, concerns and questions. It becomes a safe space to be 'you', a space where you are supported and can offer support to others and where you can grow in spiritual maturity.

How will it work? We already have one House Group which has been going for many years and is thriving. Those who attend that group value the conversation, the exploration and the support they get. I am delighted that two people have offered their services as new house group leaders. The suggestion is that each group has around 10 or so members (so that it is possible to fit in someone's living room). It will be up to that group to decide what it wants to do – although the leaders will always have some ideas up their sleeve! We have not yet fixed the day or the time that the groups will meet, as of course, that will depend on who goes!

Why should I think about it? Essentially because it will offer you something meaningful and life-giving (and enjoyable). Anyone can belong to a group – do not think you don't know enough or it's not for you. It is for everyone – and I would love to be in a situation where the response is so good that we need to find more leaders to set up more groups.

What do I need to do now? If this is something you are interested in, please complete the form at the bottom of this page and put it in the box marked 'House Groups' in the vestibule. When these have been collected in we will be able to proceed with sorting out practicalities.

PLEASE DON'T JUST READ THIS AND FORGET ABOUT IT! WE ARE WANTING **YOU** TO BE PART OF A GROUP!!

Please place in the box in the entrance vestibule by the end of February.

Yes, I would be interested in being part of a House Group.

Name _____

I would prefer to meet (please tick):

During the day During the evening Either is fine for me

13768 BOXES SENT FROM SWANSEA WAREHOUSE

13768 - This is the total number of boxes sent from our Swansea warehouse!

This means that you contributed to putting smiles on the faces of **13768 children!!**

Thank you everyone.

Jan C

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS IN FEBRUARY

February collections will go to Ogof Adullam. This is a drop-in centre, which is based at Brunswick Methodist Church, for the homeless; those with drug or alcohol addiction, asylum seekers and prison leavers. It offers advice, befriending and a place of refuge. The centre opens three evenings a week, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday 5 to 9pm, plus Saturday afternoons while the night shelter is running.

Susan G

COVER TO COVER

We will recommence our monthly meetings in February on Thursday, 11th at 10:30am. Our host will be Pat D, and we will be discussing 'To Kill a Mockingbird', by Harper Lee. We look forward to seeing all who enjoy a good discussion over a cup of tea or coffee.

Mike W

CRAFT GROUP

We will continue to meet in the old hall in the Wesley building on Tuesday during term time, 2.00 till 4.00 pm. Please use the back door. We look forward to seeing everyone and extend a warm welcome to any newcomers.

Kath D

REEL TO REAL

January's film was Unstoppable, a fast moving thriller, based loosely on a real-life event in Pennsylvania, U.S., when a train carrying potentially disastrous freight hurtles out of control. Enjoyed by everyone who saw it, we had thought-provoking discussions about ageism in the workplace; the generation gap and how we should respect the experiences of both the older and younger members of society, how the pursuit of wealth and power can easily sway our perspective on life and how two ordinary men were prepared to sacrifice their lives for the sake of many others.

February's film, Hector and the Pursuit of Happiness, is a very different take on how to live our lives; not in the fast lane, but searching for the meaning of life in an enjoyable comedy-drama. If you would like to see the film or join us in our follow-up discussions, please let me know, we'd love to see you.

Sandra C

THURSDAY CIRCLE

The first meeting of the New Year will be held at Bethel Church Hall, on Thursday 4th February at 2.00pm. The speaker has yet to be arranged. All are welcome to join us.

Pat 'B' D

TRAI DCRAFT

The Traidcraft stall will be available after the morning service on 21st February, so hope to see you then.

Jackie & Gary C

LADIES' KEEP FIT

On Tuesdays at 10 to 11am in Bethel Church Hall, we now have Keep Fit for Ladies. We do gentle standing and floor exercises, so please bring a mat. The exercises are suitable for all ages and it just costs £2 per session. So let's all keep fit together in 2016!

For further information please contact Mary.

Maisie H.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2016

Our meeting will be held at Sketty Baptist Church, at 10.30. a.m. on, Friday, 4th March. The material has been prepared by the women of Cuba, on the theme, "Receive children, receive me." All are welcome.

Delyth R

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

If your plan is for a year, plant rice.

If your plan is for a decade, plant trees.

If your plan is for a lifetime, educate children.

Confucius

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

THANK YOU

A very big thanks to all our friends at Uniting Church Sketty for the support we have received over the last difficult weeks. Your prayers, love, cards, gifts and phone calls have been so much appreciated. Without our minister and church family we would have found everything more difficult to deal with. Again, with love and many thanks.

Jean and Denis E

THANK YOU

Pat G and her family wish to send a huge big thank you to everyone who has sent cards, flowers and messages, made visits and phone calls to wish her well. It has been a difficult time, but Pat now feels better and hopes to be back in church soon.

CONGRATULATIONS

Gwen and John D would like to thank everyone for their congratulations, cards and kind messages following the birth in December, of their Grandson Rhys. Also for the warm welcome given to his sisters, Nia and Ffion, when they've come to Church.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sandra and Bob C now have another granddaughter, baby Nora Sophia. We send our love and congratulations to them and all their family.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Gladys R has moved to Uplands, Swansea. We all send her our love and best wishes.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

We were delighted to welcome two new members by transfer at the beginning of January. Grosvenor moved to Sketty from Somerset and has a Baptist and Methodist background. Leighton moved to Langland from Devon and has a Baptist background. Both found their way to Uniting Church Sketty and found with us the church that they wish to call 'home'. They are our first 'joint' members, holding both Methodist and URC membership. On the same occasion we should also have made Elizabeth a member, but unfortunately car trouble on her journey from Lancashire the day before, meant this has been delayed until later in February. Elizabeth is a PhD student at the university and has been worshipping with us for over a year now.

Three more people have expressed interest in becoming members and I will be meeting with them very shortly. If you are not already a member, and would like to make this commitment, please speak to me. Membership says, 'It is with this group of people that I wish to travel with on my journey of seeking God'.

Rev Leslie

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN FEBRUARY TO:

Freddie on the 6th

Ioan on the 6th

Lana on the 7th

Rhys on the 10th

Ben on the 18th

Macsen on the 20th

Ethan on the 22nd

Hugo on the 24th

Sophie on the 28th

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, (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

FEBRUARY DIARY

- 1st Mon 7pm Wesley Club, Rosemary B, Songs from the two
World Wars (by request).
- 2nd Tues 7.30pm Killay/Dunvant House Group
- 4th Thurs 2pm Thursday Circle
- 7th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon
6.30pm Rev Howard Long
- 8th Mon PANTOMIME REHEARSAL, NO WESLEY CLUB MEETING
- 10th Wed 2.30pm Ash Wednesday Service
- 11th Thurs 7.30pm PANTOMIME: OPENING NIGHT...Oh yes it is!!
- 12th Fri 7.30pm PANTOMIME
- 13th Sat 2.00pm & 7pm PANTOMIME(See back page for full details)
- 14th Sun 10.30am Ken A
6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: Communion
- 15th Mon 7pm Wesley Club, Kath Palmer, A Ukulele Entertainment.
- 16th Tues 10am Faith & Fellowship
- 18th Thurs 7.30pm Faith & Fellowship
- 21st Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: Communion
6.30pm Rev John Jones
- 22nd Mon 7pm Wesley Club, Rev Leslie Noon, The One Sure Thing.
- 23rd Tues 10am Faith & Fellowship
- 25th Thurs 7.30pm Faith & Fellowship
- 28th Sun 10.30am Rev Kim Fabricius
6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon
- 29th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: John Powell, Riding the Mumbles Train
from Blackpill to the Mumbles Pier.

Changes to the following services which will be led by Rev Leslie Noon as planned:-

7th February will now be All Age Worship. The theme of the service will link to the Panto with some of the younger members of the Cast taking part in the service. **No Communion at this service.**

21st February will be a Communion Service (and not Breakout). We will not now have a Breakout Service in this quarter, the date for the next **Breakout Service will be 15th May 2016.**

FEBRUARY ROTAS:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin

7 Feb

Harry, Graham
David P

14 Feb

Allan & Joe
Caroline, Tina
Paul E

21 Feb

Ian & Susan
Shirley

28 Feb

Enid, David K
Jacqueline,
Jan T

Evening

Pat D

Myrddin

Paul S

Keith

Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Jan C

Anne & Mike W

Barbara N

Jean E

Arranger:

Rosemary

Rosemary

Chris

Enid

Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Ann W

Gwen D

Janet N

Gaynor

Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

Kath & Bill

Pat B

Pauline L,

Judith & Ian

Sandra C

Margaret W

Pam E,

Ruth A

Una G

Jean

M A D C A P S P A N T O



The panto season is here again and this year's production is

PRINCESS CUTIE

Again under the direction of Jan C, the performances are:

Thursday 11th February 7-30pm

Friday 12th February 7-30pm

Saturday 13th FEB 2-00pm (Matinee) & 7-00pm (Eve)

Tickets are priced at £6 adults and £3 children and are available from:

John D

It's an all star cast, although not "United Artists" they come under the auspice of that new bright star "Uniting Church". Now featuring a quality cast from 5 years old to somewhere near eternity, they aspire to the usual high standard which the producer requires for this occasion ... **look forward to seeing you there.**