

**MARCH 2016**  
**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 W

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

Refreshments in Wesley Hall following morning worship, after 6<sup>th</sup> March  
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.

Also, from **Sunday, 6th March 2016**, we will again be able to record some of our services for anyone unable to attend, whether regularly or on a particular Sunday. Please contact **Jean K** for further details.

Please submit all items for the April magazine to Jan T by Friday 25th March 2016

The Magazine for April will be issued on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 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.



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

The **Methodist Church** 

## Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends,

As you read this, we are half way through Lent. Maybe the words by AA Milne (sung by Kermit the Frog) could echo in our minds at this moment (sing it with me):

“Half way down the stairs is the stair where I sit.

There isn't any other stair quite like it.

It's not at the bottom and it's not at the top.

But this is the stair where I always stop”.



Half way through Lent. Half way through the wilderness experience. But maybe (as we're half way through) our heads are already turning in the direction of Easter – for isn't it human nature to want to step out of the dark times, the difficult times, and run towards the happy times, the good times?

And there's something to be said in that. We have a faith which places the resurrection light at its heart. We have a faith which places the EMPTY cross at its heart. And let's say 'Thank God' for that. But let's not seek to get there too easily or too quickly. For God is also to be found in the dark places of our lives, the difficult times in our lives.

There are people we know and love, people in our own church family who are experiencing such times. We want them to know (and we want to know ourselves, when we go through such experiences) that it's okay to struggle, it's okay to question, it's okay to cry and rail at God. For Jesus himself, in his darkest hour cried, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

If this is you at the moment, then I pray that you will know God's

presence in the midst of your pain, confusion and suffering. And, as we shared in our morning service recently about images of God, take this image into your life:

God is night.

Night can be scary sometimes,  
because you can't see anything,  
and because you can lose your way.

Night requires you to be patient  
and to wait, believing  
that the day will always come again.

Day will come. The resurrection will come. But sometimes we must stay half way, somewhere in between, just where we are now.

With love,

*Leslie*

### **Home Sweet Home**

We've been so fortunate during our dry rot problems to have been able to worship in our Bethel building. It's been good to have a

'second' home. But it's really good to get back to Wesley again – to be 'home sweet home'.



Our first Sunday service will be held there on 6<sup>th</sup> March – and of course on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March we resume our monthly coffee mornings and we celebrate with our 'Fun-Guy' (geddit?) Party' on Saturday evening.

There will be occasions in due course when we thank those who have taken on the responsibility of all the work that has been going on behind the scenes – but through the pages of this magazine, I would like, on your behalf, to thank the 'Fungus' Group, made up of

Alan, Keith, Jeff, Ian, Chris and Geoff for all the work they have put into this.

It is good to be home. There is still work to do on the balcony, but we give God thanks for bringing us safely through to the other side (just as he led the Israelites through the Red Sea).

*Leslie*

### **PASTORAL TEAM MEETING**

The next Pastoral Team meeting is at **7.30pm on Wednesday, 2nd March in the Wesley Room**, in our home sweet home.

**Pat T**

### **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER ON FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

The Sketty Service will be held at **10.30am at Sketty Baptist Church, Carnglas Road**, and has been prepared by women of Cuba on the theme:

“Receive children, receive me”.

A warm welcome is given to all.

For further information, please contact Delyth.

**Delyth R**



### **COFFEE MORNING FOR PETTIFOR TRUST**

The coffee morning at **10am on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March** will be hosted by the Pettifor Trust, a local animal care registered charity that wishes to raise awareness of its activities and the support it receives and gives. The morning will include a table top sale and raffle. Any contributions towards the cost of refreshments on the day will be appreciated. We hope you will be able to support the Coffee Morning. If you would like any further information, please visit [www.pettifortrust.co.uk](http://www.pettifortrust.co.uk) or contact Jon D.

**Jon D**

## **BRING AND SHARE TEA AND QUIZ**

On **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March from 5pm to 8pm**, we are having a 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.**

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

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

## **COMMUNION COLLECTIONS IN MARCH**

Communion collections during March 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, will be for Ty Olwen which is the hospice service in our local area. They provide specialist palliative care both for inpatients and in the community. The collection at the Easter service on 27<sup>th</sup> March will be our Easter Offering for Methodist World Mission. This works mainly through partner churches supporting a wide range of mission activities. Some current examples include work with Pakistani asylum seekers in Sri Lanka, funding a translator for a hospital in Benin which improves communication and patient care and a grant to support the All India Council of Christian Women.

**Susan G**

## **TRAI DCRAFT**

Traidcraft will be available in March. Please check the weekly notices to confirm the dates. **Jackie & Gary C**

### **CRAFT GROUP**

Home Sweet Home! From **Tuesday, March 1st we will again meet in the Wesley Room from 2.00pm till 4.00pm** during term time.

We look forward to seeing everyone and extend a warm welcome to any newcomers.

**Kath D**

### **THURSDAY CIRCLE**

The March meeting of Thursday Circle will take place on **Thursday, 3rd March 2016 at 2.00pm in Bethel Church Hall**. We are indebted to Rosemary and John B for agreeing to be our guest speakers on this occasion. They will lead us in songs from the 1940's. We look forward to welcoming them both.

A warm welcome to all to join us.

**Pat 'B' D**

### **LECTURE AT SWANSEA UNIVERSITY**

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable The Lord Williams of Oystermouth (Rowan Williams) will deliver the St David's Day Lecture on behalf of the RISW on **Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at the Faraday Lecture Theatre at Swansea University**. He will speak about "Understanding Poverty".

**Janet N**

### **COVER TO COVER**

We will be meeting at our newly re-opened Wesley Building at **10.30am on Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> in the Bethel Room**. We will be discussing, The Year of the Runaways, by Sunjeev Sahota. All are welcome, so please join us for coffee and conversation.

Our book for April is, Taliban Cricket Club by Timeri N Murari.

**Mike W**

## **ZAMBUKO RA JEHOVAH COFFEE MORNING**

The Zambuko Ra Jehovah coffee morning will be held at **11am on Thursday, March 10th at the Mansion House**. Tickets are £5 each and we all know that this will be a very pleasant way to spend the morning. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their sustained support, which allows us to keep to our target of paying the orphans' school fees every term. Many thanks to you all.

**Mary J**

## **REEL TO REAL**

February's film was, Hector and the Search for Happiness. Enjoyed by most people who saw it, we certainly had thought-provoking discussions about the meaning of the words happiness, joy and contentment, and the differences between them. Hector is an eccentric yet loveable psychiatrist at a crossroads in his life. He travels the world to find out whether happiness truly exists, and in doing so learns valuable lessons on his journey of self discovery. Hector's list was examined in detail; we all agreed that many of Hector's conclusions would not be our own, but learned also that listening is loving, nostalgia is not what it used to be, and to live in the present without wishing for the moon is the path to happiness. March's film is a topical one. The Good Lie is based on a true story. After their village is destroyed and their parents killed by Northern militia, Sudanese orphans Theo, his siblings and other survivors make a difficult journey to a refugee camp in Kenya. Thirteen years later, the group gets the chance to settle in the U.S. They arrive in Kansas City, Missouri where their encounter with an employment agency counsellor forever changes all their lives.

**The review dates in March will be the week beginning 20th March.**

Please watch out for the sign-up sheets in Church.

**Sandra C**

## **WE DID IT – OH YES WE DID!**

With panto over for another year, it just remains for me to thank the church as a whole for their tremendous support. All those immediately involved in Princess Cutie have had accolades but I, and indeed all of us are aware that without our church family, we would not be successful. We were successful, because apart from the fun and fellowship, I am sure that by now you all know that we raised £1700 for the New Mill Autism Centre in Swansea and passed £200 to our church.

However, more than money, I think our venture shines as an example of how a panto, led by our minister, can work across all barriers, including age, ability, culture and gender, by welcoming those from within and outside our church, a real Uniting Church Family. Thank you everyone for being part of it.

**Jan C**

## **PRINCESS CUTIE .... SKETTY MADCAPS .... ANOTHER GREAT SHOW!**

Written and Produced by Jan C. How does she do it?

A united effort by Uniting Church Sketty.

Wardrobe Mistress Linda J. The costumes were impressive.

Backstage Director and stentorian-toned Voice Off, Alan J.

Musical Director Alan S. He is a master of interlude music.

Backdrops artists Lynne W & Mary H. Fantastic!

Lighting Director Adam E & Graham, projector of the spotlight, were excellent.

Front of House and all that implies, John D.

Prompts, Sandra & Jon H.

There was a cast of thousands (well, 48 actually) of whom the children were an especial delight and they are to be congratulated.

It is impossible to mention the remaining characters individually in the space available but each was immensely entertaining.

The completely full audiences had a very enjoyable time – thank you from us all.

**Jean K**

## **PANTO THANKS**

What a wonderful production was given of Princess Cutie, it was much enjoyed and appreciated by the large audiences over the four performances. It is a great privilege and pleasure, to give a very simple, yet sincere, vote of thanks to everyone from the producer right down through the cast, and all the various assistants, for their dedication over such a long spell of rehearsals and then the final shows.

The scenery and costumes were exceedingly out of this world, and the way in which it all took shape was marvellous. Congratulations to one and all; not forgetting all those who did preparation work before hand, on the night, and clearing up afterwards.

All your efforts in raising such a large amount of money will certainly bring joy to all who benefit from the New Mill Autistic Day Centre. Thank you once again for giving your time, laughter, and pleasure to us all. Looking forward to next years panto!

With grateful thanks.

**Jean E**

## **A VIEW FROM THE DRESSING ROOM**

The panto was hilarious on stage, but was also extremely entertaining backstage, as dames flew in for at least five dress and wig changes, with cries of “Where's my broolly?” and “Oh, do I look gorgeous in gingham?” The children of the village transformed into flower fairies under the magical care of our demure Fairy Godmother and gentle Queen Wilemena. Princess Cutie and Beauty floated in and out in gowns and tiaras, whilst Saucy Susie polished up 'er naughty French accent. The two mischievous heralds giggled in the wings, whilst the crew belonging to Captain Handwash did their best to keep the dressing room shipshape. The school mistress looked wonderful in her Welsh costume as she placed the Welsh hat on her head. Then the scariest bit; not going on stage, but seeing King Black in anger.... Oh yes it was!

**Herald Nippy (With some help from my sister Hippy.)**

### **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.

**For further information please contact Mary.**

**Maisie H.**

### **TALK ON RUSSIAN ICONS**

Prof. Prys Morgan will talk on Russian Icons at **Sketty Parish Centre on 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30pm**. This lecture is hosted by the Abertawe Centre of the National Trust. Members of the NT can attend free of charge, but there may be a charge for non-members.

**Janet N**

### **GARDEN 2GETHER**

The Prayer Labyrinth at the Amelia Farm Trust is in need of some TLC. If anyone is willing to help with a working party, which is being set up, to do some gardening occasionally, please let Janet Neilson know. Other gardeners from our circuit are also invited. Some will be coming from the Barry circuit as well.

**Janet N**

### **DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR EASTER**

We shall be decorating the church for Easter a little differently this year. Each window of the church will have a flower arrangement in one of the colours of the rainbow - a symbol of Hope. We would like to invite you to give a donation of £2, in memory of loved ones, towards the cost of the flowers. Please put your donation in an envelope with the names of those you wish remembered and give it to Rosemary. We shall then put the names alongside the arrangements. Thank you.

**Rosemary B**

## **EASTER SERVICES AT UNITING CHURCH SKETTY**

### **MAUNDAY THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> March**

7.30pm service with Rev Leslie Noon: Communion

### **GOOD FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> March**

2.30pm service with Rev Leslie Noon

### **EASTER SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> March**

10.30am service with Rev Leslie Noon: Communion

## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL AND TRUSTEES MEETINGS**

The Annual Congregational and Trustees Meetings will be held on **Thursday 28th April 2016 at 7.30 pm in our Wesley Building.** (Please note the date and time and encourage as many people as possible to attend). The life of the church over the previous 12 months will be reviewed and important appointments made for the next 12 months.

As agreed at the November 2015 meeting, two Trustees, Chris H and Pam T will step down this year, (but they can and are both willing to stand for re-election). There are therefore vacancies for two Trustees to be elected in April, each for a three year period. If more than two nominations are received then a ballot will be taken at the meeting. The agenda will be printed in the weekly news sheet in April. **Nominations for Trustees and any items of other business should be received by me no later than 1st April .**

**Ian H**

## **COFFEE MORNING FOR SWANSEA & GOWER TALKING MAGAZINE**

The Coffee Morning from **10-noon on 2nd April at Wesley** will be in aid of The Swansea & Gower Talking Magazine and we'd be glad of your support.

**Jean K**

## **BREAKOUT SERVICE IN MAY**

The next **Breakout Service will be on 15 May 2016**. All those who are interested in contributing to this service are invited to attend a **planning meeting on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30 at church**. We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you.

**Gwen D**

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

### **A NEW MEMBER AT LAST**

Many already regard Elizabeth E as a full member of our church. Elizabeth is a PhD student at Swansea University, and has worshipped with us for over a year and been involved in many church activities, including the making of our church film last year and starring in our February panto this year. So it was with great pleasure that we officially welcomed Elizabeth to our church family during our morning service on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2016.

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

Sophie on the 1<sup>st</sup>

Ellis on the 1<sup>st</sup>

Eli on the 10<sup>th</sup>

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

Beatrice on the 23<sup>rd</sup>

Zachary on the 23<sup>rd</sup>

Caitlin on the 26<sup>th</sup>

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

---

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

“ Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time.”

**Martin Luther**

## 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 Wesley Hall, after 6<sup>th</sup> March.

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 –Bethel Hall
	7pm Wesley Club – Wesley Room Wesley Building
Tuesday	2-4pm Craft Group – Wesley Room Wesley Building
	4.30-5.30 Beavers -Wesley Hall
	5.45-7 Cubs – Wesley Hall
	7.15-8.30 Scouts – Wesley Hall
Wednesday	10-11.30 Sunbeams Play Group - Wesley building
	6.15-7.30 Brownies – Wesley Hall
	7.30 Sketty Madcaps – Wesley Hall
Thursday	7.30-9.30 Explorers – Wesley Hall

Uniting Church Sketty weekly notices:

Lynne W (Please send to Lynne by Friday morning)

Property Stewards:

Alan J and Keith MorM

Gwyn B(Bethel property)

Booking enquiries and heating requirements:

Kath & Bill D

Bethel booking and heating requirements:

Sonia B

## **MARCH DIARY**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tues 10am Faith & Fellowship  
Tues 7.30pm Mosque Visit
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednes 7.30 Pastoral Team Meeting in Wesley Room
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs 2pm Thursday Circle  
Thurs 7.30pm Faith & Fellowship
- 4<sup>th</sup> Fri 10.30am Women's World Day of Prayer, service at at Sketty  
Baptist Church
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sat 10am – 12noon Coffee Morning for The Pettifor Trust.  
5pm – 8pm Bring & Share Tea and Quiz.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: Communion  
6.30pm Dr Alan Cram
- 7<sup>th</sup> Mon 7pm Wesley Club, Debra John, A Gower Miscellany.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Thurs 11am Coffee Morning for Zambuko Ra Jehovah.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Sun 10.30am Rev John Jones  
6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: Communion
- 14<sup>th</sup> Mon 7pm Wesley Club, Rev. John Atkinson, Easter Devotions.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Tues 7.30pm Killay/Dunvant House group,
- 20<sup>th</sup> Sun 10.30am PALM SUNDAY Rev Leslie Noon  
6.30pm Mrs Ann Gregson
- 21<sup>st</sup> Mon HOLY WEEK. NO MEETING
- 24<sup>th</sup> Thurs 7.30pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE Rev Leslie Noon
- 25<sup>th</sup> Fri 2.30pm GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE Rev Leslie Noon
- 27<sup>th</sup> Sun 10.30am EASTER SUNDAY Rev Leslie Noon  
4.30pm Rev Leslie Noon (at Parkway)  
6.30pm Mr Ken Shingleton
- 28<sup>th</sup> Mon EASTER MONDAY, NO MEETING

## **START OF APRIL DIARY**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat 10am – 12 noon Coffee Morning for The Swansea & Gower  
Talking Magazine.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun 10.30am Miss Sue Raad  
6.30pm Rev John Jones

## MARCH ROTAS:

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

### **Welcome Teams: Myrddin**

#### **6 March**

Ian & Judith  
Sonia  
Alan & Liz

#### **13 March**

Harry, Graham  
David

#### **20 March**

Allan & Joe  
Caroline, Tina  
Paul

#### **27 March**

Ian & Susan  
Shirley

### **Sound**

Bill

Elizabeth

Myrddin

Gary

### **Evening**

Anne

Jeff

Pat D

Myrddin

### **Flowers: Rosemary**

#### **Giver:**

Myrna

Pat G

Pat T

EASTER

#### **Arranger:**

Rosemary

Pam E

Una

EASTER

### **Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W**

Jan T

Mary J

Margaret

EASTER

### **Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul E**

Julie, Liz R

Jane & Laurie

Pat, Mary J

Gary & Jackie

Myrna

Paul E

Elizabeth

Clare K