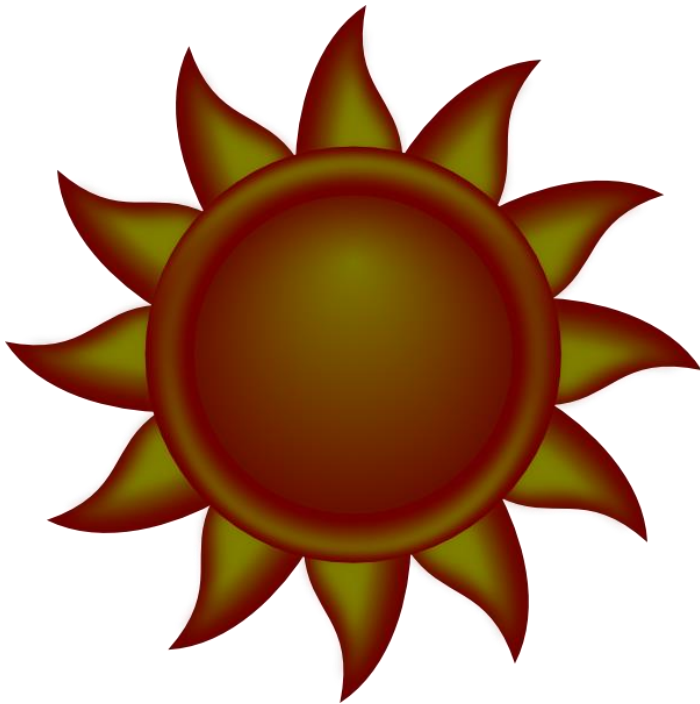


JUNE 2016
The Magazine
of
UNITING CHURCH SKETTY



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 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.

Also, we are 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 **July & August** magazine to Jan T by
Friday, 24th June 2016.

The Magazine for July & August will be issued on **Sunday, 3rd July 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



From the Editor

Dear Friends,

We have reached the beautiful month of June, full of sun and fun, happy holidays for some and sunny smiles for everyone, we hope. We have gardens brimming with plants that are grown for colour and fragrance and many of us will have enjoyed watching yet another incredible show at Chelsea. I certainly have and feel inspired to do better next year!

“The touch of the sun on my shoulder, the song of the bird in mirth, one is closer to God in the garden than anywhere else on Earth.”

I think a lot of people feel like that; being in touch with the soil seems to dig deeply into the soul. If ever you are feeling troubled with life, a little time in the garden always lifts the spirits and will often help to put the things of life into perspective. At this time of year we also seem to have more time for neighbours.

In Mark chapter 12:31, we are told “... Love your neighbour as you love yourself...”. That is often a test of patience and toleration. When we look at the work that continues to be done by our church, month after month, to help others less fortunate than ourselves, it must surely be a sign that we are all trying to be good neighbours.

Just look at the work described in many of the following pages. The funds raised for Christian Aid, the Easter Offerings, coffee mornings for a variety of charities, our monthly social groups and Traidcraft. All these groups of friends, helping people far less fortunate than themselves, locally and in different parts of the world.

Hopefully our local efforts will help our global neighbours. As Rev. Sally Thomas so succinctly stated in her service last Sunday, "We are a world family, we are all one Human Race."

Unfortunately, there is still so much inequality and poverty in our beautiful world, where "the poor man makes others rich". It is only right that we should be aware of this situation and try to bridge the gap in whatever way we can. In the words of John Wesley, "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."

What is so wonderful is the fact that the more good you do, the better it makes you feel. Shakespeare speaks of this, through his character, Portia, "Mercy is a double blessing. It blesses the one who gives it and the one who receives it."

We are able to help and enjoy the reward together as a church family, knowing that we have done something worthwhile and had lots of fun and friendship along the way. Even just sharing a smile could just make someone's day a little better.

I hope to go to Rev Gill Evans' gardens on Saturday, 18th June. I so love visiting other people's gardens to help germinate new ideas for my garden and share experiences and knowledge with others.

Then we all have the Big Day Out on Saturday, 2nd of July to look forward to, when we go as a church family to Builth Wells. I will be on the bus provided and may just burst into song with, "Neighbours, everybody needs good neighbours. Just a friendly wave each morning, helps to make a better day....."!

Without doubt we are a church of busy bees and the month of June

is full of interesting adventures for all of us.

Sunny days,

Jan Thomas



YOU SAW THE NEED AND RESPONDED

I am sure that everyone reading this letter made a contribution to our **£1,704.40 Christian Aid collection** to assist neighbours such as Morsheda in Bangladesh. I am thus hesitant to mention anyone by name. Can I therefore say, to everyone who organised and attended the Saturday coffee morning, sold and bought raffle tickets, ran and supported the sales tables (over three days) and placed money in church envelopes, a **very big thank you.**

Perhaps one extra thank you to our 10 house to house collectors, one of whom has been collecting for over 40 years and was never so wet!

Despite being a little down on our totals compared to last year, I think it was a magnificent effort. So, a personal thank you for your support to me, but more importantly for the long term aid you have provided to our **neighbours across the world.**

Jan C

EASTER OFFERING SERVICE

Another record year for Easter Offering, money wise, that is. But collecting more each year isn't the be all and end all, though it is important.

The service this year was "Child, get up!" Our preacher was Rev Denise Yeadon, from the Llanelli and Carmarthen Circuit. It was good to welcome a preacher from outside our circuit and good of her to come over the border! Denise wove the theme, the readings and the stories together to give us much food for thought.

The amount raised in our circuit this year was £2,513.08 (2015 = £2,153.32). This may not be the final total, as some gift aid still has to be claimed. This is a wonderful result and to increase year by year since 2011 is remarkable, considering that there are fewer members in the circuit and people's economic circumstances change. This shows people's commitment to the work of Methodist Women in Britain through **All We Can** and its partners around the world.

Sketty's contribution was £816.60 from envelopes and we received more money by cheque. This is an increase of more than £200 from 2015. Thank you for your generosity. Since 2000, the circuit has collected £27,538.20 through our EO envelopes.

I would like to thank all those who contributed and all those who took part in and attended the service at Mumbles.

Janet N

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS IN JUNE

Communion collections in June will be for Marie Curie, who provide care and support for anyone with a terminal illness.

Susan G

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, 2nd June at 2.30pm** in Bethel Hall. The Guest Speaker this month will be our own Shirley J, who will speak of her experiences on her recent “**Passage to India**”. We look forward to welcoming Shirley and as always, we extend a warm welcome to all who wish to join us.

This will be our last meeting until we reconvene in September. We wish all our friends a very safe and happy summer vacation.

Pat B. D

MARIE CURIE COFFEE MORNING IN JUNE

June is traditionally tea party time at Marie Curie so the coffee morning on **Saturday, 4th June** will be for this good cause. Last year we had an excellent response so I am hoping that we can repeat that this year. There will be a stall, raffle and the usual coffee and cakes to buy, so please bring your friends and neighbours. Offers of help and donations of cakes etc. will be much appreciated.

Kath D

LADIES' KEEP FIT

Come and join us on **Tuesdays at 10 to 11am in Bethel Church Hall**. We do gentle standing and floor exercises, so please bring a mat and a sense of humour. The exercises are suitable for all ages and it just costs £2 per session. New members always welcome

Maisie H

CRAFT GROUP

We will meet in the Wesley Room every **Tuesday, from 2pm to 4pm** during term time. We look forward to seeing everyone and extend a warm welcome to any newcomers.

Kath D

COVER TO COVER

We will be meeting on **Thursday, June 9th at 10.30am** in the Bethel Room at UCS. Pat D will lead our discussion of Lila, by Marilynne Robinson. I look forward to seeing you all next month.

Mike W

REEL TO REAL

Our film for June is **The Theory of Everything**. This is an incredible film, based on the life of one of the world's greatest living minds, the renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking. In the film we explore his Cambridge life as a student and how he met his beloved wife Jane. The future looked so bright until he received some earth-shattering news about his health. The film depicts a man of great intelligence and determination. It also shows the compassion and support given by friends. It should be a wonderful catalyst for our future discussions. Please look out for the dates of our meetings at the end of June.

Sandra C

OPEN DAY AT THE BEAUTIFUL GARDENS OF REV GILL EVANS

On **Saturday, 18th June**, an **Open Day in aid of CRHD** (Charity in South India) will be held in the beautiful gardens of Rev Gill Evans, at Riverside, Middleton, Rhossili. Coffee will be served from **10.30am, lunches from 12 noon and afternoon teas from 3pm**. It really is a wonderful day out and there will also be a cake stall and a plant stall for extra treats. All are welcome

Rev. Gill Evans

TRAI DCRAFT

The next Traidcraft date is Sunday, 19th June after the morning service.

Jackie & Gary C

ADVANCE NOTICE REGARDING COFFEE MORNING IN JULY

There will be a book stall at the July coffee morning. If you have any books to donate, Ian and I would be pleased to have them as soon as possible.

Susan G

COFFEE MORNING FOR ZAMBUKO RA JEHOVAH

On **Saturday, 2nd July 10am to 12 noon** there will be a Coffee morning to help raise funds for **Zambuko ra Jehovah**. The support of our congregation is making this charity successful and I am grateful to everyone. Hope to see you all there.

Mary J

THE BIG DAY OUT ON SATURDAY, 2nd JULY

Our **Big Day Out** will be at the Show ground in **Builth Wells**. This is a day arranged by the URC Synod of Wales and is open to ALL. The theme of the day is "Growing in Faith", focussing particularly on the Emmaus Road story.

The day will begin with worship at 11am and conclude with a Communion service at 3pm. There will be many different workshops, displays, a prayer space and activities suitable for all ages. The day is free of charge and there will be a free bus travelling from Swansea. Bring a picnic if you want to, but drinks and cakes will be available.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you want to attend, so that a place can be booked for you on the coach from Swansea.

Pat D

CONCERT BY ABBEY PLAYERS ON 8th JULY FOR ZAMBKO RA JEHOVA

On Friday 8th July at 7.30pm there will be a Concert by Abbey Players, entitled, Songs from the Shows. Tickets will cost £5 and will be available at the door. Half the proceeds of the concert will go to Zambko Ra Jehova and half to the Abbey Players.

Heather C

MURDER MYSTERY AT BETHEL HALL ON FRIDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER

For **one night only**, a show with intrigue and tension, mystery and murder. A script written to rival the pen of Agatha Christie and costumes more couture than Anna Wintour on a good day.

Madcaps will proudly present, **MURDER MYSTERY AT BETHEL HALL!**

Tickets will cost £10 will be limited and therefore sold on a first come first served basis.

Once purchased, the ticket holders will become welcome guests at **Bethel Hall for 7.30pm on Friday, 23rd September**. They will take part in the wedding celebrations of a young couple who were married at Bethel Hall earlier in the day. Therefore all guests will be expected to adhere to a strict dress code, to respect and support the bride and groom.

During the evening all guests will be served a two course meal plus tea and coffee. A soft drink will be served on arrival and if guests choose, they may bring additional soft drinks or wine for their own consumption.

St John's Ambulance Services will be available to assist anyone of a nervous disposition. Book early to avoid dyspepsia. All funds raised will go to church funds.

Jan C

LINDORS 31 MARCH – 2 APRIL 2017

We have a provisional booking for a church weekend away in 2017. The cost will be £152 per adult for the weekend, based on a full board basis. The cost for children and young people in full time education will be on a sliding discounted rate according to age. If you would like to go to Lindors, could you please sign the sheet on the Information Notice Board in the Vestibule. A non-refundable deposit of £30 will be due at the end of September 2016; final balance will be due first week in February 2017. For more information regarding the cost, venue and format of the weekend, contact Gwen

Gwen D

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

“Seven days without prayer makes one weak”.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations go to our good friends Joan and John P who will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Thursday, 9th June.

THANK YOU

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their very kind and sincere inquiries, cards and flowers following my recent and unexpected period of illness. I am slowly gaining my strength once again and trusting that it will not be too long before I am out and about once more. With love, all good wishes and grateful thanks.

Jean E

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN JUNE TO:

Ollie on the 2nd

Sophie on the 3rd

Ayla on the 9th

Oliver on the 10th

Tabitha on the 11th

Alana on the 14th

Todd on the 14th

Isabel on the 20th

A POEM TO CELEBRATE JUNE

JUNE

For stately trees in rich array,
For sunlight all the happy day,
For blossoms radiant and rare,
For skies when daylight closes,
For joyous, clear outpouring song
From birds that all the green wood throng,
For all things young and bright and fair,
We praise the Month of Roses.

For blue, blue skies of summer calm,
For fragrant odours breathing balm,
For quiet, cooling shades where oft
The weary head reposes,
For brooklets babbling through the fields
Where Earth her choicest treasures yields,
For all things tender, sweet and soft,
We love thee, Month of Roses!

by Elaine Goodale

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 the Wesley Room.

There is an induction loop for those with hearing aids.

There are large print versions of hymns in the pews and large print notices at the door.

For evening services the offerings plate is placed at the entrance.

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

JUNE DIARY

- 4th Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for Marie Curie
5th Sun 10.30am Rev Ivor Rees: Communion
6.30pm Mr Jeff Coleman
6th Mon 6.15pm tea, 7pm Local Preachers Meeting at Sketty
6th Mon 7pm Wesley Club, Recycling in Swansea, Thomas Williams
7th Tues 7.30pm Killay/Dunvant House Group
9th Thurs 7.30pm Methodist Circuit Meeting at Reynoldston
Methodist Church
12th Sun 10.30am Rev John Jones
6.30pm Mr Ken Allison
13th Mon 10am Events Committee Meeting in Wesley Room
13th Mon 7pm Wesley Club, Lady Margaret Beaufort, Jackie Coates
18th Sat 10.30am-12noon, Open Day at Rev Gill Evans' garden
19th Sun 10.30am Rev Andrew Walker
6.30pm Rev Howard Long: Communion
20th Mon 7pm Wesley Club, Swansea Mobile Foot Clinic, Sharon
Morgans
26th Sun 10.30am Rev Kim Fabricius
6.30pm Mr Quentin Hawkins
27th Mon 7pm Wesley Club, Annual General Meeting

Beginning of JULY DIARY

- 2nd Sat The Big Day Out (See P.8 for full details)
2nd Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for Zambko Ra Jehova
3rd Sun 10.30am Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta
6.30pm Miss Selina Taylor

JUNE ROTAS:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin P

5 JUNE	12 JUNE	19 JUNE	26 JUNE
Ian & Susan G Shirley	Enid, David K Jacqueline B Jan T	Ian & Judith Sonia B Alan & Liz	Harry O, Graham B David P

Sound

Gary	Harry	Bill	Elizabeth
------	-------	------	-----------

Evening

Anne V	Jeff C	Pat D	Myrddin P
--------	--------	-------	-----------

Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Pat B D	Vicky L	Ann V	Pam T
---------	---------	-------	-------

Arranger:

Una	Una	Una	Pam
-----	-----	-----	-----

Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Margaret	Anne W	Pat B D	Maggie
----------	--------	---------	--------

Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H Evans 426045

Pam E	John & Sandra	Susan & Ian G	Judith & Ian
Pauline	Ruth A	Clare K	Sandra C
Jean			