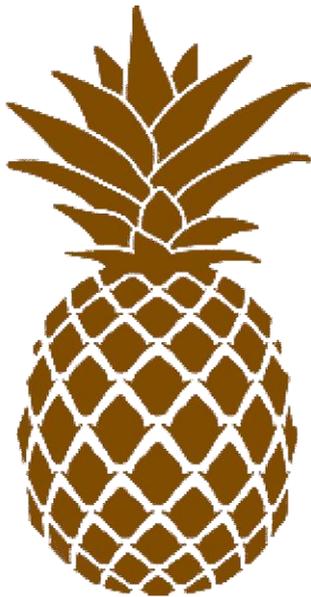


JULY/AUGUST 2016

**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

UCSweekly@aol.com

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 **September** magazine to Jan T **by**

Friday, 19th August 2016.

The Magazine for September will be issued on **Sunday, 28th August 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** 

From the Editor

Dear Friends,

Farewell flaming June! It was a month of extremes globally, locally, politically, emotionally, weather wise and in the world of sport! Our magazine news reflects the fact that our church family has endured a lot of changes.

We hope that July and August will take us into calmer waters, where there will be time to heal and recover. We must accept change, we are all in a state of becoming. However, we all hope that change evolves gradually. Sometimes, life appears to spin out of control with one shock after another. This is when our faith in God is so important to us all. We must all hold on to our faith and feel and know that God is never changing and always there for us.

Sometimes it is good to step out of the routine and see things from a slightly different perspective. Hence the human need for adventure and travel, to meet new people and explore new places and cultures; to sometimes look at a bigger picture.

In July, we have some delightful events to take part in, starting with The Big Day Out at Builth Wells on Saturday, 2nd July. Also on that date, we have the Coffee Morning in support of Zambuko ra Jehovah; remembering people less fortunate than ourselves, something our church family is frequently doing. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi:

“The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer.”

I am also really looking forward to Painting for Pleasure with Mary on Wednesday, 20th July. Please keep me a place Mary!

Although lots of our weekly clubs and meetings are taking a rest over the months of July and August, we have decided that we still have lots of coffee and conversation to share, so please don't forget the morning, and evening venues. Clearly our United Kingdom is going through a lot of upheaval and change. This will cause concern to many. Let's share our thoughts and concerns with friends and church family, don't feel alone, talk it out.

We will be celebrating the retirement of Rev Pam Cram and Brown Owl, Elspeth Rose over the next few weeks. We wish them both a long, happy and healthy retirement. Fortunately on Sunday, 10th July, our Rev Leslie returns to us from her three months sabbatical. We are all looking forward to celebrating her home coming!

It is good to have feedback about our church magazine, positive or negative. That is the only way the editor can improve the service! Thank you to everyone who contributes to the magazine; it takes self discipline to sit down and write. We would like to encourage more to contribute, please.

In the past, we used to have some really interesting accounts about our journeys of faith, so please may that continue. Although we should always look forward, it is also a comfort sometimes to look back at where we once were and realise perhaps how far we have journeyed. Mindful of the fact that, "happiness is not a destination, but a way of life". If anyone would like to write something for September's edition please do so.

Sunny days,

Jan T

OPEN DAY AT THE BEAUTIFUL GARDENS OF REV GILL EVANS

We all enjoyed a wonderful time at the gardens of Rev Gill Evans in June. There was excellent food for lunch and afternoon teas, a lovely selection of plants to buy and a very entertaining raffle with fabulous prizes. Jean K won a beautiful oil painting by a local artist! Everyone had a super time and we wish to send our thanks to Rev Gill for giving us all a lovely summer treat; she even arranged perfect weather! With gift aid added, the total raised at the event amounted to £3,650. This will go to support Cross Roads for Human Development, helping with schooling, health care and training people in a tailoring centre in South India.

Rev Gill responded, "A wonderful result and I am deeply grateful to all our supporters and helpers."

MARIE CURIE COFFEE MORNING

May I say a huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way and attended the Coffee Morning on Saturday, 4th June. Also to everyone who contributed to the Communion collections during June. I am able to send an amazing £716.08 to Marie Curie. On behalf of them may I congratulate you all on such a fantastic effort. Many thanks.

Kath D

THE ANNUAL METHODIST CONFERENCE

The Methodist Conference is held annually and this year is in London from 30th June to 7th July. Their first meeting was in 1744 under John Wesley. It inaugurates the new President and Vice-President, which this year is Rev. Roger Walton and Ms Rachel Lampard respectively. It also ordains Methodist Presbyters and Deacons, and it agrees policy for the Methodist Church.

Jean K

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.

Pat D

METHODIST PRAYER HANDBOOK

The Methodist Prayer Handbook for 2016-2017, which starts on 1st September 2016, is now available. Please see Weekly Notices in July regarding requests for ordering.

Pat T

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS IN JULY

The July collections will be for Zambuko ra Jehovah, the church project. This is the charity set up by Rev Siperire from Brunswick, to look after a group of children in Zimbabwe who have been orphaned by AIDS. The charity aims to feed and clothe them and also to pay for their school fees. As this is a small charity these children really do depend on our help.

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS IN AUGUST

The August collections will be for Maggie's Centre. This is based at Singleton Hospital and offers practical and emotional support to cancer sufferers and their families.

Susan G

COFFEE MONDAYS

Wesley Club is now closing for its summer break. However, at the request of members, we will be meeting each **Monday from 7pm** for coffee and a chat. **EVERYONE** is welcome to join us, on a regular or occasional basis. We look forward to seeing you.

Jan C

HUNGER LUNCH ON SUNDAY, 10th JULY

On Sunday, 10th July, we are having a hunger lunch after the morning service in the Wesley Room. We invite you to give a donation for this simple meal, as a contribution to help support our charity for Zimbabwe orphans (Zambuko ra Jehovah). Rev Siperire is travelling to Zimbabwe in November to pay the school fees for our thirty orphans. She also hopes to take items of clothing and other gifts for the children. Our donations are all adding up and we are managing to keep these children clothed and educated, as well as helping with some basic foods. Also, I hope we are now in a position to be able to pay for the water pump to be repaired at the well where they live. Many thanks to all who help.

Mary J

FOLK DANCING ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS

Folk Dancing will meet on **Monday, 4th July** and then take a break during the summer. We will resume on **Monday, 5th September** and we would welcome any new members who would like to join us. No experience necessary, so we look forward to seeing you!

Rosemary B

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

THURSDAY CIRCLE

We will have no meetings in July and August due to holidays. We look forward to all meeting up again in September.

Pat B. D

COVER TO COVER

May I begin by thanking Pat D who led us in an excellent discussion of 'Lila' in our June meeting. Due to holidays and other commitments, our next meeting will be on **Thursday, October 6th at 10:30**, when we will be looking at The Garden of Evening Mists by Tan Twan Eng.

Mike W

REEL TO REAL

Our film for June, The Theory of Everything, proved to be an excellent catalyst for debate from relationships with family and friends to virtually a discussion about everything in the universe. We have decided that because of the holiday period, we will not have a film for July and August. A new film for discussion will go into circulation at the start of September, so please look out for details in the September Magazine.

Sandra C

TRAIIDCRAFT

The next Traidcraft date is Sunday, 17th July, after the morning service. As usual, there will be no stall in August. We are hoping to clear current stock so that we can have a large re-stock in September. A big thank you to all our volunteers, including some of our young people who have manned the stall this year. If anyone else would like to help out, please let us know. If you have any queries, please contact **Jackie & Gary C**

COFFEE MORNING FOR ZAMBUKO RA JEHOVAH

On Saturday, 2nd July 10am – 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.

Mary J

SONGS FROM THE SHOWS BY ABBEY PLAYERS

On **Friday 8th July at 7.30pm**, we will have Songs from the Shows, by Abbey Players. Tickets are £5 each, payment at the door or from Jan C or Heather C. Proceeds will be split between Abbey Players and Zambuko ra Jehovah.

BROWN OWL RETIRES AFTER THIRTY-TWO YEARS

The 4th Sketty Brownie Pack has been meeting in our church building for over seventy-five years. The current Brown Owl, Elspeth Rose has elected to retire this July after thirty-two years of dedicated service to the organisation.

As a church, we wish to record our thanks to Elspeth and plan to do so during the family service on **Sunday, 17th July**. This service will be led by our Rev. Leslie Jane Noon, who will be safely back from her sabbatical. We invite as many as possible to share with us in this service, especially all Brownies or retired Brownies who have memories to share with Elspeth.

We are very fortunate that Snowy Owl, Nia Jones, has agreed to take on the role of Brown Owl. Therefore, the 4th Sketty Brownie Pack will continue to meet at our church building. For that, we offer Nia and her helpers our grateful thanks and best wishes for an exciting future together.

Linda J

BROWN OWL LOOKS BACK

My school years at Emmanuel Grammar School, helped to show me the importance of giving something back to the community that we all live in. Surprisingly, I was never a Brownie! I was a member of the Girls' Life Brigade, who met on Friday evenings at the Mumbles Baptist Church Hall. In fact I didn't become involved with the Brownies until my daughter became a Brownie.

A "little foot in to help", and I was hooked! I soon found myself attending the trainings and it was such fun, everyone was so enthusiastic. I helped with the 2nd Sketty Brownies for a while and if that wasn't enough, also helped with our 4th Sketty (Wesley) Brownies. When Brown Owl, Marlene Beer decided to retire, I became the next Brown Owl.

When the girls join Brownies, they will enjoy lots of exciting activities. They may do these in our church hall, or adventures out and about or away from home. But will all fit into one of the three parts of the Brownie programme. Making new friends, learn about themselves and the community they live in by exploring the local area and finding out about the people who live there. They will also look at the wider world and consider keeping it safe.

I have loved every minute of being part of the huge guiding family. It has been such a privilege to have "guided", so many Brownies who have joined 4th Sketty (Wesley) Brownies over the years. Also, to meet up with them years later and hear about their wonderful achievements; especially the daughters whose mums were once Brownies with our unit!

I would like to thank everyone in our church for their constant support to me and our Brownie unit. I know that the Brownies will continue to give their support and enjoy being part of the church family. Some general comments from our Brownies:

We love coming to Brownies because we like to, earn badges, play games, bake, be with our friends, enjoy parties, plan things, go on trips, meet new friends, be together and support each other.

Elsbeth R

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING FOR PLEASURE WITH MARY H

On **Wednesday, 20th July at 1.30pm to 3.30pm** in the **Wesley Room**, we will have the delightful experience of Watercolour Painting for Pleasure with Mary Hayman. There will be a small charge of £5.00 per person; all equipment will be provided. If you have any queries, please contact **Mary H**.

RECOGNITION SERVICE FOR CAROLINE B

On **Thursday 21st July at 7pm** there will be a Recognition Service for Caroline Butler on becoming an accredited Local Preacher at Mumbles Methodist Church.

VISIT OF REV NEAL RICHES

On Friday, 22nd July at 1pm, Rev Neal Riches will be visiting us and will give us a short service at 1.30pm. He is minister of Christwell, Temple Gowerton and Carmarthen Road URCs and will be travelling around all the URCs in our region on a pilgrimage; praying in each church during the week, walking from church to church. We are offering him and anyone who will be walking with him a snack lunch. Anyone who can help with lunch and/or attend the prayers please me as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Pat D

RETIREMENT OF REV PAM CRAM

On **Sunday, 24th July at 5pm**, a Camanfa Ganu style praise service will be held at **Capel Y Nant, Clydach**, to mark the retirement of Rev Pam Cram. The collection will be for "All We Can" and there will be tea, cakes and fellowship in the Church Hall after the service.

WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNINGS IN AUGUST

We plan to hold regular coffee mornings on Wednesday mornings in August to give people the opportunities to meet when most of the church meetings and activities stop during August.

Heather C

LINDA AND ALAN J CELEBRATE THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

On **Saturday, 6th August from 10am to 12noon**, there will be a **Coffee Morning** to celebrate the **Golden Wedding Anniversary** of Linda and Alan J. Linda and Alan send the following invitation out to everyone:

“This is our opportunity to share our Golden Wedding celebrations with as many friends as possible. We wish for no presents, just your presence, as we reminisce over the past fifty years; thirty three of them in Swansea. The invitation is open to everyone. We would love to see you!

Linda and Alan J

TICKETS FOR ANTON DUBECK AND ERIN AT BRANWYN HALL

I have been given two £45.00 tickets for a cabaret performance by **Anton DuBeck and Erin of Strictly Come Dancing fame**. They are for **Saturday, 6th August at the Brangwyn Hall** and for seats in the front block. We will be on our family holiday and the tickets are non-returnable. I would like to sell them with the proceeds to go to Save the Children.

Gaynor B

MURDER MYSTERY AT BETHEL HALL ON FRIDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER

This is a one evening only event and places are therefore limited. John D is now taking orders for tickets, which are £10 per person which includes a two course meal and tea or coffee.

Dietary requirements can be requested at the time of booking the tickets.

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.

All proceeds are for our own church funds.

Jan C

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We are thinking of Keith and Anne M and their family following the death of their grandson Tom who was killed in a road accident on 7th June. Tom was 22 years old. Our hearts have gone out to Keith and Anne, Tom's parents and all their relatives, and we assure them of our thoughts and prayers.

We send love and prayers from our church family to Beryl R, whose husband Ken died on 13th June. Ken was a real gentleman and during recent months it was sad to hear of his health failing. Ken will be sadly missed and we now want to assure his devoted wife Beryl, of our support to her in the time ahead.

WELCOME BACK REV LESLIE

Can it really be three months since Rev Leslie went on sabbatical? Thankfully, yes! Rev Leslie, we've all missed you and look forward to seeing you on **Sunday, 10th July** for your first service following your sabbatical.

Church Family

MANY THANKS FROM JOAN AND JOHN

We would like to thank all our friends in Uniting Church Sketty, for all the many cards, flowers and best wishes received on our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. They were all very much appreciated, thank you.

Joan and John P

GARETH H STARS AGAIN

Congratulations to **Gareth H** on his recent performance in Guys & Dolls at The Gwyn Hall in Neath. Those of us who were privileged to be there enjoyed a wonderful show with outstanding performances from such a young cast. Well done to Gareth and all his friends at the Neath Amateur Operatic Society Youth Group. We look forward to the next show!

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN JULY TO:

Kali on the 1st

Peter on the 11th

William on the 14th

Lucas on the 16th

Toby on the 17th

Violet on the 22nd

Harrison on the 23rd

Emilia on the 23rd

Zoe on the 31st

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN AUGUST TO:

Leo on the 2nd

Vincent on the 9th

Destiny on the 13th

Samuel on the 15th

Alex on the 16th

Lily on the 18th

Mason on the 20th

Bethany on the 26th

Rhian on the 28th

Zachary on the 30th

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

“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”

Mother Teresa

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

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

JULY DIARY

- 2nd Sat The Big Day Out
2nd Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for Zambko Ra Jehova
3rd Sun 10.30am Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta
6.30pm Miss Selina Taylor
4th Mon 7pm Coffee Club
5th Tues 7.30pm Killay/Dunvant House Group
8th Fri 7.30pm Songs from the Shows by Abbey Players
10th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: Communion
Hunger Lunch after service
6.30pm Rev John Jones
11th Mon 7pm Coffee Club
17th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon
6.30pm Rev Noel Davies: Communion
18th Mon 7pm Coffee Club
21st Thurs 7pm Recognition Service for Caroline B at Mumbles
22nd Fri 1pm Visit of Rev Neal Riches
24th Sun 10.30am Dr Alan Cram
5.00pm Service at Capel Y Nant, Clydach
25th Mon 7pm Coffee Club
31st Sun 10.30am Rev Kim Fabricius
6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon

AUGUST DIARY

- 1st Mon 7pm Coffee club
3rd Wed 10am-12noon Coffee Morning
6th Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning to celebrate Alan and Linda
J Golden Wedding Anniversary
7th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: Communion
8th Mon 7pm Coffee Club
6.30pm Mr Martin Gregson
14th Sun 10.30am Rev John Jones
6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: Communion
15th Mon 7pm Coffee Club
17th Wednes 10am-12noon Coffee Morning
21st Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon
6.30pm Mrs Heather Coleman
22nd Mon 7pm Coffee Club
24th Wednes 10am-12 noon Coffee Morning
28th Sun 10.30am Rev Noel Davies
6.30pm Mrs Ann Gregson
29th Mon Summer Bank Holiday
31st Wed 10am-12 noon Coffee Morning

JULY ROTAS:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin P

3 JULY	10 JULY	17 JULY	24 JULY	31 JULY
Allan & Joe Caroline	Ian & Susan Shirley	Myrddin David K Jan T	Ian & Judith Sonia	Harry Graham David P

Sound

Myrddin	Gary	Harry	Bill	Elizabeth
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Evening

Paul	Keith	Anne	Jeff	Pat
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Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Rosemary	Mary	Jan	Hilary	Sue
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Arranger:

Rosemary	Una	Pam T	Lynne	Rosemary
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Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Jan	Sonia	Janet	Anne	Gaynor
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Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

Jackie & Gary	Margaret Una Pat D	Julie Liz Myrna	Jane & Laurie Paul	Bill & Kath Mary J
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AUGUST ROTAS

Welcome Teams: Myrddin P

7 AUGUST	14 AUGUST	21 AUGUST	28 AUGUST
Allan & Joe Caroline	Ian & Susan Shirley	Myrddin David K Jan T	Ian & Judith Sonia

Sound

Myrddin	Gary	Harry	Bill
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Evening

Myrddin	Paul	Keith	Anne
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Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

May	Kath	Barbara	Jean
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Arranger:

Rosemary	Rosemary	Chris	Pam E
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Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Shirley	Mary	Margaret	Anne
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Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

Please see notice board for coffee duties during August. August is a very busy month for many of our volunteers and therefore it proved difficult to organise a rota in advance. I am sure it will all work out well on the day! Many thanks to everyone who lends a helping hand.