

OCTOBER 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 **November** magazine to Jan T **by Friday, 21st October 2016.**

The Magazine for November will be issued on **Sunday, 30th October 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 Manse

Dear Friends,

Despite some very hot weather at the beginning of September, there are signs all around that Autumn is approaching. This is possibly my favourite time of year – the sun seems more mellow and golden (except when it rains!), the tree colours are so beautiful, and everything somehow seems more... 'quiet'. Quiet that is except possibly for things going on at Church.

Our **Faith and Fellowship** sessions begin again. These are wonderful opportunities to explore our faith in greater detail than we are able to do on a Sunday. It's so important that we do this. Living as we do in an increasingly secular world, we need to be 'at home' in our faith – understanding what we believe, asking questions of the Bible, seeing the world through the eyes of faith. Although good numbers attend both our morning and evening sessions, there is always room for more. Please consider giving it a try if you've not come before. It's also a time of fellowship, and there is absolutely nothing to be afraid of.

We also have our **Harvest Festival** – see elsewhere in our magazine for more details. Harvest is an opportunity to recognise our connection to the earth that God has made and all that we enjoy from it. This harvest we will be **giving thanks** for all the gifts that come from God, and marking in our own church family Jeff C's 40 years as a local preacher.

Giving thanks is a spiritual practice that reminds us that our achievements are not fully our own but emerge from a network of relationships – with God and with those around us. Our gifts are communal as well as individual. I look forward to sharing this with you all.

With best wishes,

Leslie

SAVE THE CHILDREN COFFEE MORNING

On behalf of Save the Children I would like to thank all of you who supported our coffee morning on 3rd September. It was a wet and miserable day and we were surprised at how many braved the elements to come. We sold more goods after Sunday morning service and left an honesty box for a couple of days afterwards. With gift aided donations, we raised approximately £560. This is a truly amazing amount. Save the Children members who do not belong to church, were very impressed with the support we had from church members. Thank you all so much for your generosity. Children in so many parts of the world, continue to need help in these troubled times.

Christine L

A VERY BIG THANK YOU

Thank you so much for both keeping me in your prayers and also for your sponsorship for my endeavours in the Great North Run. I had a great day and the support from the public around the course was amazing. My time was 1 hour 52 minutes and 18 seconds which was 12 seconds faster than when I ran it 8 years ago! Overall, I have raised £1,034.75 for the Heart Foundation which is of course a cause very close to our family's heart. Of this amount, just over £400 came from our church family, so thank you again to everyone. Love and good wishes.

Ceri C

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to all who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday, 23rd September, we raised £359.88. Many thanks to all.

Rosemary B

CIRCUIT PROJECT SPONSORED WALK

The Church Mission and Outreach Group would like to send a big **Thank You** to all those members of the congregation who took part in the "Walk Around the Marina" in aid of the Zimbabwean Orphans (Zambuko Ra Jehovah Trust), those who sponsored them and those who donated money. After the Circuit Meeting on 15th September, I am thrilled to tell you that the total raised by the Circuit was in excess of £3,600 and the amount raised by our church here in Sketty, comprised £1,628 of that total. The weather was kind to us and the walk was enjoyed by all; 87 adults, 11 children and 2 dogs took part. A special thanks to the more elderly ladies of our congregation, you know who you are, who made such a magnificent effort, thankfully without any ill effects. So once again **thank you all** for such impressive support. The amount raised, together with monies from other events, means the Project has raised enough money this year, to continue to fund the 30 orphans in Zimbabwe. Rev Siperire will be travelling to Zimbabwe in November to pay the school fees and provide clothing and food for the 30 orphans.

Sandra C

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS IN OCTOBER

The Communion Collections for October will be for the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal. The money will help to pay to send the shoe boxes and also to buy extra items to put into the boxes.

Susan G

Faith & Fellowship

Autumn Faith and Fellowship

Faith, Hope and Love

Tuesdays from 10am-11.30am:

4th October, 18th October, 25th October

Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9pm:

13th October, 27th October, 3rd November

A chance to explore these ‘theological virtues’ (as they are sometimes called). What does the Bible say about them? What do they mean for us today? And (in a consumer society), is there a way to get more of them?

If you’ve never been to a bible study before – or never come along to Faith and Fellowship, why not give it a try? There really is no qualification needed. You don’t need to know your bible. You don’t need to have all the answers. You simply need to want to explore your faith with others. We have a cup of tea, we talk together, we learn together, we laugh together. Sometimes we gain insights that stay with us. We’d love to see you – we really would!

FOLK DANCING ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS

Please come and join us on **Mondays at 2pm in Bethel Hall**. We extend a warm welcome to any new members who would like to join us. No experience is necessary and you don't need to bring a partner. Dancing is good for you, so why not come and join us – we'd love to see 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

COVER TO COVER

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, 6th October at 10:30**, when we will discuss **The Garden of Evening Mists** by **Tan Twan Eng**. Our book for November is, *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep*, by Joanna Cannon.

Mike W

THURSDAY CIRCLE

The next meeting of the Thursday Circle will take place in Bethel Hall on **Thursday, 6th October at 2.30pm**. The Guest Speaker will be our friend Jan C, who will relate her experiences of her visit to China last year. I'm sure that it will be a fascinating journey that we will all enjoy. A warm welcome is assured, to everyone who wishes to join us on this afternoon.

Pat B D

REEL TO REAL

The summer is now over and it's time to renew our acquaintance with the celluloid world! This month we will be watching "Unbroken" - a true story of Louis Zamperini, who as a boy had been a cunning and incorrigible delinquent, breaking into houses, brawling, and fleeing his home to ride the rails. As a teenager, he had channelled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the 1936 Berlin Olympics and within sight of the four-minute mile. But when war had come, the athlete had become an airman, embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown. He is caught by the Japanese Navy and sent to a prisoner-of war camp. This is an unbelievable and inspiring true story, about the resilient power of the human spirit.

The films will be circulating in September with reviews the first week in October, dates to be arranged. If anyone not on my lists would like to join us, you will be very welcome.

Sandra C

TRAI DCRAFT

Traidcraft dates between now and Christmas are:

16th October, 13th November and 11th December.

The new catalogue is out and Christmas items are in stock, so if you would like one, we will leave some in the front porch of the church; please return them as soon as you can. You can also browse the Traidcraft website to see what items they have in stock. Please let us have Christmas orders by phone, text or email. We are away for the first two weeks of October, so if you don't catch us before we go away, please let us have your orders when we get back on 16th October. Order items earlier rather than later, as some items can be out of stock by early December. There are some new items in the food section, so if there is anything you would like us to order that we don't usually stock, please let us know.

Jackie & Gary C

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

In the early part of the 17th century, the Pilgrim Fathers, together with many others, set sail for the New World, to be free of political and religious persecution. They had very little food, but were brimming with faith, hope and love. They believed that they would cross the great water to be free from tyranny and that liberty awaited them. It is often said that, without pumpkins, a strange looking plant on the new land, many of the early settlers might have died from starvation. The following, is a testament to the Pilgrims' dependence upon pumpkins for food. Pilgrim verse, circa 1633:

“For pottage and puddings and custard and pies
Our pumpkins and parsnips are common supplies,
We have pumpkins at morning and pumpkins at noon,
If it were not for pumpkins we should be undone.”

Harvest Festival

This year we celebrate our Harvest Festival on **Sunday 16th October.**

All God's Gifts

We will be thinking of *all* the gifts that God has given us, and our windows will represent: Singing and Dancing, Caring and Sharing, Gardening and Growing, Making and Creating, Preaching and Teaching, Building and Planning.

As usual our harvest gifts will go to local food banks. Please give generously.

Immediately after our harvest service we will be holding another **Hunger Lunch**. This is what it says it is! Simple bread and cheese. The idea is that you will give a donation that you might spend on a meal, but instead eat much more frugally. The money raised will go to our Circuit Project, Zambuka ra Jehovah, supporting Aids Orphans in Zimbabwe (there will be no tea or coffee served after the service). We hope you will join us.

HARVEST HUNGER LUNCH FOR ZAMBUKO RA JEHOVAH

There is a developing crisis in Zimbabwe with delay in the payment of salaries by the government to manual as well as professional employees, including doctors, nurses and teachers. Zimbabweans are dreading the imminent return to their national currency, the Zimbabwe dollar. Many fear that this will trigger economic catastrophe all over again, as in 2000. The new currency is expected to become worthless almost immediately. "We don't know what this bond cash will do. Will it mean we won't have food in the shops as before? There were no medicines then." This was a comment by a pharmacist, in Harare in August 2016.

Church groups, including The Zimbabwe Council of Churches have warned the government to listen to the cries of suffering Zimbabweans or expect an implosion. Currently there are restrictions on the movement of money and goods into Zimbabwe which is affecting our Zambuko ra Jehovah charity. Rev Siperire is hoping to be able to get around the regulations to take our donations to our Aids orphans. These thirty boys and girls are depending on us; the churches in the Swansea and Gower circuit are the sole contributors to this charity. Therefore, at UCS we are having a hunger lunch for their support.

Mary J

LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERTS IN THE BRANGWYN HALL

Alan Sykes will give the first of three Autumnal organ concerts in the hall on **Wednesday, 26thOctober**, to be followed by Dr William Reynolds on Tuesday, 8th November and Huw Tregelles Williams on Friday, 25thNovember. Come and listen to Swansea's magnificent Willis Organ and be entertained! **All concerts from 12.45 – 1.30pm.**

Alan S

THE BRIDE AND GLOOM!

Thank you to MADCAPS for all the hard work to present 'Bride and Gloom!' Murder Mystery. Guests were courteously greeted and directed to the beautifully decorated hall to find their places at tables set with a delicious wedding breakfast. Caterers efficiently served the guests throughout (and will probably receive enquiries from prospective brides). The suitably attired wedding party gave a realistic performance and the guests were challenged to work out 'who done it'. It was not easy, but some were able to come to the correct conclusion. Thank you, to the writer, producer, actors, caterers, wardrobe and all involved for an entertaining evening. Profits are in aid of Church refurbishments.

Lynne W

MADCAPS – SAY THANK YOU

The wedding couple, Peter and Katie, would like to thank all guests for attending their reception on Friday 23rd September. They comment that everyone looked lovely and had clearly made an effort to dress for the occasion. They sincerely apologise for the few surprises and hope this did not detract from the enjoyment of the event.

However, they are assured that, with Uncle Terry and Aunty Judith now removed from the scene, they can look forward to a happy future. They also wanted you to know that they have donated all the money you kindly gave to them, to UNS and thus the church have benefitted by a total amount of £460. They and we trust that you all feel your time was well spent. Thank you.

Jan C

BRIDE AND GLOOM

I am delighted to say that somehow I survived my meal last night which could have been my last!! Seriously though, what a wonderful occasion the night turned out to be. From the moment we entered the hall, one felt the atmosphere of a true wedding reception. Everyone must be congratulated on all the thoughtful preparations in setting up the hall so realistically in every detail. The meal was superb and the waitresses were on top form. As for all the characters, they portrayed themselves excellently and concealed the culprit very well, keeping us all in suspense. Even though all the players must have been exhausted, I marvelled at the way they all joined in to clear everything away at the end. Congratulations and many thanks once again to everyone for such a wonderful evening. Looking forward to the next Murder Mystery.

Jean E

A VISIT TO THE THEATRE

After last year's successful theatre trip to see Sister Act, I have made a block booking to see the afternoon performance of the Abbey Players' musical, **Oliver at the Grand Theatre on, Saturday 19th November**. If you have not already given me your name and you would like to join us for what promises to be an enjoyable afternoon, please add your name to the notice in the Church foyer, or contact me.

Alternatively, if you would like tickets for any evening performance (Wednesday 16th– Saturday 19th) please add your name to the notice, stating which performance you would like to attend; or if you would prefer, email or phone me.

Liz R

JOURNEYS OF FAITH

SIXTY YEARS LATER

I was taken to Sunday School at Hope Baptist Chapel, Bridgend at the age of four, then dragged morning and evening to services until I was fourteen. Please don't think Mum and Dad were zealots, it was just what was done in the fifties. My faith dimmed to almost lights out level. My faith became irrelevant to my life, career pursuit, designer status and all the hedonism of 20th century materialism.

However, it never quite went away, waiting patiently, until one Sunday morning a few years ago, I attended a Communion Service. Not being sure of whether non-members could join in taking the sacrament, I beamed up a silent prayer, asking if it was an open table. Just before commencement, Rev John Wiseman announced that the table was open to all who wished to take communion. A prayer answered.

Thanks to that answer, the lights were gradually switched back on, perhaps not full beam, but enough for me to refer to my Bible knowledge and feel my faith become a growing force that offers me guidance in today's difficult world. I am now sixty-four and full of hope.

Anthony T

If you would like to share your journey of faith, please send your story to the editor. We all have interesting life experiences to share.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

WORDS OF THANKS FROM ENID P'S FAMILY

Myrddin writes:

What can I say but a heartfelt thanks to everyone in Uniting Church for the support we have received after Enid's very swift passing.

The personal tributes expressed in the sympathy cards show that she definitely must have had some special gift. Her thanksgiving service was as she had wished it to be and as for the attendance – unbelievable! Our thanks to Rev. Leslie for the way she conducted the service and also all who helped with the catering.

Thank you also to everyone who donated money in her memory to the local charity **Cariad Defibrillators Cymru**. We thought this to be very appropriate, as Enid had heart problems and the defibrillators are being installed in schools.

We couldn't believe how generous people have been; we have just found out that £1,125 was raised! This will more than pay for a new defibrillator to be put in Dunvant School where Enid used to teach.

Angela writes:

A huge thank you for all the love and support you have shown us, especially through the very tough early days when it was so hard to focus on what needed to be done. We were so touched by the unbelievable turn out at the celebration of Mum's life. That's when I realised just how many lives have been touched by Mum in her Christian journey.

We are so blessed to know Dad has a Church family around him to continue to help and support him in the weeks and months ahead. May God continue to bless Uniting Church Sketty on your journey together.

Simon writes:

It felt tough to follow Mum's funeral wishes, "don't be miserable!", when we felt so bereft at her sudden death. But we were lifted by a wave of love from so many people whose lives she'd touched and the service was a fitting tribute. As our ten-year-old son Rhys said afterwards, "It was sad, but it was happy too."

We are especially grateful to Leslie, who has been so kind, wise and generous and was uncannily accurate in the way she captured Mum's character. We know it appeared in the last newsletter, but we wanted to leave you again with her beautiful words of farewell: "Enid. We love you. We miss you. We want you to be happy. Go safely. Go dancing. Go running home."

A HUGE BIG THANK YOU

I wish to say thank you to my friends in Church, who supported me in so many ways, through a difficult few weeks. The flowers, cards, visits and phone calls were very much appreciated.

My love to all.

Rena G

A VISIT FROM ANJA, SIMON AND AVA

We were all delighted to see Anja, Simon and Ava at our Sunday morning family service on the 18th September. They were over from Germany to visit family and friends and of course, came to see their Church Family in Swansea. They looked extremely happy and healthy and told us that all is going well for them in Germany.

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN OCTOBER TO:

Esme on the 4th

Nathan on the 10th

Miriam on the 10th

Rachel on the 12th

Gareth on the 15th

Mab-lilune on the 24th

**SOMETHING TO PUT INTO OUR DIARIES FOR NOVEMBER
AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED!**

**Saturday, 26th November 2016 Games Evening,
for all ages.**

Play the games that you did in Church Socials.

Learn new ones

4pm-6pm

Come and have fun

THE FLOWER ROTA FOR 2017

The flower rota for 2017 will shortly be on the notice board in the vestibule. We all like to see flowers in church each Sunday, so if you would like to give flowers one Sunday, please add your name to the list against your chosen date. If you would like to arrange your own flowers or are willing to arrange flowers one Sunday, please sign your name in the arrangers' column. Thank you

Rosemary B

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

4.30-5.30pm Beavers

5.45-7pm Cubs

6.15-7.30pm Brownies

Wednesday 10-11.30am Sunbeams Play Group

7.30pm Sketty Madcaps

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

OCTOBER DIARY

1st Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for Samaritan's Purse

2nd Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

6.30pm Rev John Dews

3rd Mon **NO MEETING OF Wesley Club**. PLEASE SEE Wed 5th

5th Wed 6.45pm for 7pm Wesley Club visit to Dylan Thomas Theatre and Swansea Museum for The Ghost of Morfa Colliery

9th Sun 10.30am Mrs Ann Gregson

6.pm **Service at Penlan**

10th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Swansea & Gower Talking Magazine

with Les W

11th Tues 7.30pm Tuesday Evening House group (new name for Killay/Dunvant House group) at Janet N

16th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Harvest Festival**

followed by **Hunger Lunch**

Traidcraft available today after morning service

6.30pm Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta

17th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Journeys around the World Church with

Rev Noel Davies

23rd Sun 10.30am Rev Kim Fabricius

6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

24th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Filling Operation Christmas Child shoe

boxes

30th Sun 10.30am Mr Ken Allison

6.30pm Rev Noel Davies

31st Mon Wesley Club 7pm Blue Swansea with Janet N

OCTOBER ROTAS:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin

2 OCTOBER	9 OCTOBER	16 OCTOBER	23 OCTOBER	30 OCTOBER
Ian & Judith Sonia	Harry Graham David P	Allan & Joe Caroline	Ian & Susan Shirley	Myrddin David K Jan T

Sound

Bill	Elizabeth	Myrddin	Gary	Harry
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Evening

Keith	<u>SERVICE AT PENLAN</u>	Anne	Jeff	Pat D
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Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Pam T	Keith	Jean	Pam E	Eleanor
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Arranger:

Pam	Lynne	HARVEST FESTIVAL	Pam E	Pam T
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Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Sonia	Janet N	Gaynor	Maggie	Anne W
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Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

Susan & Ian Clare K	Kath & Bill Lynne W	Judith & Ian Elizabeth	Jane & Laurie Paul E	Margaret Una Pat D
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