

FEBRUARY 2017
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 **March** magazine to Jan T
Friday, 17th February 2017.

The Magazine for March will be issued on **Sunday, 26th February 2017.**

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,

You probably all know by now that if I could design my favourite balanced diet, it would be a chocolate bar in each hand.... Sadly even I know that this isn't very balanced!

Balance seems to be a bit of an 'on-trend' topic. My sister and I are in the process of arranging a special spa day for us and our Mum to celebrate her 80th birthday, and I've been struck by how many of the spa treatments say something about 'balance' in their blurb (often in the context of chackras, chi etc – not that I'm all that sure what these things mean!).

We need balance in our church and spiritual life too. We need a balance between service to others (and therefore service to God), worship, deepening our discipleship and simply 'fun'.

We do some of these quite well, it seems to me. I'm so delighted that over 35 people from our church volunteered (in different ways) on the night shelter this year, which I think we all found both meaningful and enjoyable, as did our guests.

The rehearsals for the pantomime have been in full swing, and we look forward to watching or acting in the specially written church panto 'The Coastal Path'.

And of course there are our usual weekly or monthly activities – Wesley Club, Thursday Circle, Folk Dancing, Keep Fit, Reel to Real, Cover to Cover and our two house groups

All of these things are good – but I want to encourage us all in the one thing that is perhaps less well attended than I would like, and that is our Faith and Fellowship sessions. It is in these sessions, out of all the things that we do in church, that we consciously deepen our 'learning' of God in Christ.

It's true that around 25 people usually attend either the Tuesday morning or Thursday evening sessions, and in some ways this is good. But I estimate that this is only around one quarter of the people in our congregation who could attend.

Now of course there are many reasons for this – many will have other commitments at the times in which we meet. But maybe there are others of you reading this now, who have never been to such a group, for whatever reason. Or maybe you've attended in the past and life has simply got too busy.

I understand – I really do. But I want to challenge you. We cannot get all we need to learn of God from our worship on a Sunday. We need opportunities in which together we can ask questions and go deeper.

My experience here in Uniting Church Sketty is that the sessions are enjoyable and fun, as well as challenging and meaningful. This is not down to me, but to the regular attenders who bring their sense of humour, wondering questions and meaningful insights.

So, perhaps this coming Lent, you will dare to give it a go – and bring a balance to your life that may not have been there before. Details are not yet fully formed, but look out for information in the weekly notices and in the March magazine.

With best wishes,

Leslie

Faith & Fellowship

For Lent

Tuesday mornings
Thursday evenings

Look out for details in the weekly notice sheet
and next month's magazine.

All are welcome to come along!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday 1st March at 2pm

Reflect
Remember
Repent

All our welcome to this quiet
and reflective service.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Safeguarding training will take place in our church on:

Tuesday 14 February at 10am

Thursday 16 February at 7pm

We all know how important it is for us to be aware of what to look out for when, in whatever way, we have care of children, young people and vulnerable adults. As a church it is vital that we are a safe and welcoming space. All those who need to attend should have received this information already, but if you haven't, and you think you should, please contact Maggie Crawford our Safeguarding Coordinator or Leslie.

SWANSEA NIGHT SHELTER

I would personally like to thank all those who volunteered in various ways at the night shelter, which we held on all four Saturdays in January. Some people interacted with the guests, some cooked, some opened up for bedding, some shopped – but all was done with grace, reliability and good humour. All went very smoothly and we enjoyed getting to know the guests. It's a reminder that any of us, through misfortune, could be in their place.

And in addition, a huge thank you to Dilly's who at very minimal cost, made a wholesome and yummy beef casserole each week which was thoroughly enjoyed by the guests and volunteers alike.

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM: WHAT DO THEY DO?

The Leadership Team comprises all Serving Elders and Stewards. The role of the Leadership Team is to help the minister to lead the church and manage its day to day running; but it does not make decisions about major issues. We meet approximately every six weeks and discuss any matters which require a quick response, e.g. who can steward for a forthcoming funeral or special service, updates regarding immediate or ongoing issues such as the recent visit from members of the Mosque and dates of forthcoming special services.

Safeguarding is always on the agenda to keep this in the forefront of our minds, but recently because the Leadership Team, together with other Church members, will need to complete refresher training in the near future. However, issues which are more significant will be discussed, but will then be referred to the Church/Trustees meeting, because such fundamental issues need the views of a wider group of Church members and decision by them. For example, at the last Church/Trustee meeting there was a discussion on the purpose of our church and how we should be using our building. Leadership Team will have views, but it is not their role to make decisions of this kind. Some issues will be referred on to a more appropriate group for example the Events Committee.

We do need to remember that we are all responsible for ensuring that anything we feel needs discussion and possible action, is passed on to the Leadership Team so that it can be dealt with appropriately. Future meetings of the Leadership Team will be flagged up in the Church notices.

The **next meeting is on February 28th 2017**, so do please refer any concerns, ideas or problems by informing one of the Elders or Stewards so that, if appropriate, it can go on the next agenda.

Pat D

POSTCARDS TO PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

One of the options in the last Breakout Sunday was to write postcards to prisoners of conscience, as well as to representatives of their governments to show our concern for their plight. Noel began with Bible Study which gave relevance to our activity. Pat provided postcards of local scenes and background information and photos of prisoners. She also supplied cards, envelopes and addresses of embassies.

The very next day, on the radio, a former prisoner of conscience who had been unexpectedly released, spoke about her experience. People from around the world had sent her Christmas cards. She never received them, but they demonstrated to her captors that there was great sympathy for her cause and therefore they should set her free. This was further proof that such efforts are worthwhile.

Delyth R

CRAFT GROUP AND BUILD AFRICA

Craft group members pay a small sub each week to provide materials and threads for our projects. As we had a surplus in the kitty, we decided to make a donation to a charity. We specifically wanted something linked to education and this became the criteria of our search for a suitable benefactor. After much research and with the help of a Radio 4 Appeal, we decided that Build Africa would fit the bill. This was set up in 1978 as part of International Christian Relief, later becoming Build Africa.

Build Africa is a charity which believes in the power of education to help end poverty. Often working with vulnerable children, it provides the right infrastructure, resources, quality teaching and parental support, to encourage them to get the most from their time at school.

We were able to send a cheque for £150 to the appeal and a certificate is on the church notice board.

Kath D

THE SWANSEA & GOWER TALKING MAGAZINE

The S>M much appreciates being granted permission to use the church office to process our wallets, but who is the Magazine for? It is for blind and partially sighted people and is based on items from the Evening Post in the preceding month, and includes other information of interest, such as the excellent social groups organised by the local branch of RNIB. We have also recorded many Local History books which are available on Memory Sticks. If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive this service, please contact the Hon.Secretary, Jean K.

Jean K

CELEBRATIONS IN 2017

2017 is a special year in the life of the United Reformed Church, which came into being 45 years ago in 1972, through the union of the Presbyterian Church of England and the majority of the churches in the Congregational Church in England and Wales. In 1981 we joined with the Reformed Association of the Churches of Christ and in 2000 with the Congregational Union of Scotland. Seeking unity and being ecumenical is second nature to the United Reformed Church, as shown in the strong relationships with the churches and Christian organisations around the globe, including the Council for World Mission, World Communion of Reformed Churches and the World Council of Churches.

During this year, we also celebrate 500 years since the Lutheran Reformation and 100 years since the ordination of Constance Coltman, the first woman to enter Congregational ministry. It will also be 25 years since Commitment for Life began and 50 years since Pilots started.

There will be more about some of these special celebrations to follow.

Pat D

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS IN FEBRUARY

Our collections for February will be for **Share Tawe**, which is a Swansea based charity set up to help asylum seekers. They try to match up local hosts with suitable asylum-seeking guests who stay from 3 nights to 11 months. On an average night, 8-9 people need shelter and the charity has found that the number of destitute people needing support has increased.

Susan G

FREE ORGAN RECITALS AT THE BRANGWYN HALL

I am pleased to announce three more lunch-time free organ recitals to be held at the Brangwyn Hall. They are:-

February 2nd with **Leslie Ryan** who was organist at All Saints until quite recently.

March 1st with **Andrew Goodwin** who is Organist Emeritus of Bangor Cathedral.

April 12th with **James Gough** who is a young person from Neath who has established himself nationally as a recitalist and choral accompanist.

All three recitals will begin at 12.45pm and last for approximately forty-five minutes. Come and enjoy a relaxing lunch-time listening to the magnificent Brangwyn Hall organ. The bar will be open for drinks and bar-meals. For further information please contact Alan S
Alan S

COVER TO COVER

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, 2nd February at 10.30am**, in the **Bethel Room, UCS**. We will be discussing **The Siege** by **Helen Dunmore** and Sandra will lead the discussions. All are invited, so please come and join us.

Mike W

THURSDAY CIRCLE

The **February 2nd** meeting of the Thursday Circle is **cancelled**. We look forward to being back on track for the **March 2nd** meeting, which will take place in **Bethel Hall at 2.00pm** when we welcome all to join us. Speaker to be arranged.

Pat 'B' D

REEL TO REAL

The Reel to Real group is changing its format and we will now be showing a film in Church at the beginning of each month. **Due to copyright issues we are unable to display any information regarding film chosen in this online version of the church magazine. For details please see posters in the church or the paper copy of the church magazine.**

The **discussion** about the film will take place in the **Wesley Room** on **Wednesday 15th Feb at 7.30pm**. Come to both or either, you will be very welcome.

Any queries please phone Sandra.

Sandra C

Quotes' Corner

Just a little something to make us think:

“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s needs, but not enough to satisfy every man’s greed.”

Mahatma Gandhi.

COFFEE MORNING FOR URC CHURCHES IN COMMUNITY PROJECT

The Coffee Morning on **Saturday 4th February** between **10.00am and 12.00noon** in the **Wesley Room**, is being held in order to help raise funds in support of the **URC Swansea Region “Churches-in-Community” Project**. Coffees, teas, cakes and biscuits will be served and a raffle will be held.

This Project is based mainly on a wide range of Community Development Activities carried out in the URC churches at ChristWell, Carmarthen Road and Gowerton. These activities include:

(i) “The Memories Choir” - for Dementia and Alzheimer sufferers, their carers and members of the local community; (ii) Children’s Club; (iii) Coffee Shop; (iv) “Talkie Thursday”- lunches for the lonely; (v) Day Services for older people; (vi) “Time-to-Meet” Group - for those with learning difficulties; (vii) Computer Training for “Silver Surfers”, and (viii) “Unity in Diversity”- a network and support group for asylum seekers, etc.

Your support, and any offers to make cakes, would be greatly appreciated.

Gwyn B

FOLK DANCING ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS

How many of us have made New Year’s Resolutions to do more exercise? Nothing too strenuous!! What about dancing? After all they say it is good for you! We have a folk dancing class and they invite you to a free taster class on **Monday 6th February at 2pm in Bethel Hall** (entrance via back door). We are a friendly group who always welcome new members of any age and ability. Why not come and join them? We look forward to welcoming you. Contact Rosemary for further details.

Rosemary B

MISSION SPEAKER AT MURTON METHODIST CHURCH

On **Monday 6th February**, **Julia Edwards**, a mission partner on Furlough From Fiji, will be speaking at **Murton Church at 7.30pm**. She has been involved in helping the Pacific Council of Churches deal with the severe problems of helping people suffering from the effects of climate change. All are invited to hear her speak about her work.

Susan G

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

TRAI DCRAFT

Traidcraft Stall will be back on Sunday 19thFebruary. Any orders can be sent via email or by text to Jackie and Gary, or simply leave a paper order on the table in the front porch.

Jackie & Gary C

SKY DIVE IN AID OF MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

My sky dive is fast approaching, **26thFebruary 2017**. I would like to thank all those who have sponsored me. The total to date, without adding gift aid, is £1,330, so many thanks. I am not sure what will happen if the weather conditions are not right on the day. All I know at the moment is that I will receive a text the day before, if it is definitely called off. On the day, if conditions are "dodgy" I may have to wait several hours before a decision is made. So please keep your fingers crossed for good weather.

Janet N

UNITING CHURCH SKETTY CHINA MUGS

We still have approximately 30 mugs left. Complete with our splendid logo and a unique sketch of the church by Bill Bytheway, a friend of mine; these mugs are a joy to drink from and make lovely presents! They are priced at £10, including £3.50 for church funds. If you would like to purchase one, or more, please ask Gwen D or myself. Thank you, in anticipation!

Alan S

DO WE WANT A MEN'S GROUP AT UNITING CHURCH SKETTY?

It was brought up at Church Council that we do not have a specific men's group. So initially, to gauge interest, I would appreciate it if you could complete the questionnaire below, speak to me or email me on myrddinandenid@gmail.com as soon as possible, at the latest by **28th February 2017**. Many thanks.

Myrddin P

NAME:

INTERESTED	YES	NO
DAY(S) AVAILABLE		
TIME	AM	PM

COFFEE MORNING FOR PETTIFOR TRUST

The Pettifor Trust will be hosting the Coffee Morning being held on **4th March 2017** to raise funds and raise awareness of its activities to support animal care in West Wales. There will be a raffle and table top sale and your attendance and support, as in previous years, would be appreciated.

If you would like any further information, please contact Jon D
Jon D

THE WELSH SINFONIA AND SWANSEA UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA

As part of their **Crescendo** project, the acclaimed Welsh Sinfonia joins forces with Swansea University Musicians Society and will be playing live at the **Great Hall, Bay Campus, Fabian Way on Friday 10th March at 6:30 pm**. They will present a programme of classical favourites and film music, conducted by **Mark Eager & Dr Ian Rutt**. **Crescendo** brings professional players to work and perform alongside aspiring amateurs, helping them build up confidence and musicianship over several years. The project has already been very successful in schools across Wales. Now, Crescendo has come to Swansea University, and this concert is the first fruit of that collaboration. For telephone bookings for events at The Great Hall please call The Great Hall Box Office 01792 60 49 00 | 01792 60 49 99. Full price £15, concessions £12.

QUIZ NIGHT AND BUFFET!

Monday, 27th March 2017

At 7pm

MUMBAI RESTAURANT, BLACKPILL

Tickets £15

Tickets from: Heather C, Jan C, Gaynor B and other members of
Events Committee.

Proceeds for Church Funds.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to Mandy and David J on the arrival of their first grandchild Lillie Mae, born to Heidi and Rhys on 20th Oct 2016. We look forward to welcoming her into our church family.

Congratulations to Alex J on his army cadet promotion to NCO Sergeant; well deserved.

A huge big THANK YOU

During this past year when I have been feeling so unwell and with surgery in December, I have been cared for so beautifully by everyone at the Church. I have been overwhelmed by kindness and support in so many ways, with phone calls, visits, cards and flowers. I want to say how much it has been appreciated and valued.

Mary J

Welcome Home to Uniting Church Sketty

We were all delighted on Sunday morning 22nd January, to welcome home Atif, Saima, Marisha, Elisha and Angel who have decided to return to Swansea. It was a lovely surprise for all of us to be able to embrace them back into our UCS church family. Welcome home!

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN FEBRUARY TO:

Dexter on the 6th

Freddie on the 6th

Ioan on the 6th

Lana on the 7th

Ethan on the 22nd

Osian on the 22nd

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

FEBRUARY DIARY

3rd Fri 7.30pm: Reel to Real film at church

4th Sat 10am-12noon: Coffee Morning, funding for URC Worker

5th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

6.30pm Mrs Cynthia Mumford

6th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: **NO MEETING** (Panto rehearsals)

6th Mon 7.30pm Circuit Event: Talk by Julia Edwards, Mission Partner in Fiji, involved in helping the Pacific Council. Meeting at
Murton Church.

9th Thurs First night of Panto: Please see back page for details.

10th Fri Panto

11th Sat Panto

12th Sun 10.30am Mr Martin Gregson

6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

13th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: 'Nicknames' with Brian Quick

14th Tues 7.30pm Tuesday Evening House Group

19th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Breakout Church**

6.30pm Mrs Caroline Buckler

20th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Swansea at War with Elaine Kidwell

21st Tues 7.30pm Church Meeting

26th Sun 10.30am Rev Kim Fabricius

6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon

27th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Local Area Coordinator, Jon Franklin

FEBRUARY 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 FEBRUARY	12 FEBRUARY	19 FEBRUARY	26 FEBRUARY
Allan & Joe	Ian & Susan	Jan T,	Ian & Judith
Caroline C	Shirley	Leighton	Sonia
Tina	Grosvenor	David K	Alan & Liz
Paul E			

Sound

Elizabeth	Myrddin P	Gary C	Harry O
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Evening

Myrddin P	Ann V	Jeff C	Pat D
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Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Jan C	Hilary E	Myrna	Barbara N
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Arranger:

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

Shirley	Margaret	Pat B.D	Gwen
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Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

Ruth A	Pauline L	Julie G	Judith & Ian
Sandra C	Pam E	Liz R	Elizabeth E
Clare K	Jean	Myrna C	

MADCAPS

present

FOLLOW THE COASTAL PATH

THURSDAY 9th & FRIDAY 10th FEBRUARY at 7.30pm

SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY at 2pm matinee & 7pm

Tickets available from John D or email

unitingchurchsketty@gmail.com

Adult £6 Child £3

Proceeds to circuit project, Zambuko Ra Jehovah

UNITING CHURCH SKETTY, DILLWYN ROAD