

APRIL 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 Memory Stick for the vision impaired. We are also able to record some of our services on Memory Stick 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 **May** magazine to **Jan T** by

Friday, 21st April 2017.

The Magazine for April will be issued on **Sunday, 30th April 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,

This time last year I was starting my three month sabbatical! My last day of work before my sabbatical was Easter Sunday. And some of you may remember that, immediately after the sermon, I had to rush down from the pulpit and into the corridor where I was violently sick! Certainly those who came out with me or cleared up after me, probably won't forget!

Looking back, I can smile – at the time though it wasn't great! It wasn't the greatest start to my sabbatical – nor indeed a great way to lead any kind of service. But after a couple of days in bed, the virus (or whatever it was) cleared up and I was well again.

We live in a world where there is great sickness. Yes, of the health kind, and a number in our congregation are suffering in various ways. But the sickness I'm talking about is the kind of sickness that leads men to drive at speed into people walking across Westminster Bridge. The kind of sickness that means we turn a blind eye or deaf ear to millions on the brink of starvation because we don't know what to do about it. The kind of sickness that puts one faith at odds with another, as if it were a competition rather than a shared pilgrimage as we seek the One who is beyond us.

It was this kind of sickness that nailed Jesus to the cross. A sickness of mind and spirit and this is what we will be recalling on Good Friday. But what we know is this... that Good Friday is not the end. And so too for us. The resurrection tells us always that love is stronger than evil, hope is stronger than hate, light is stronger than darkness.

With love, *Leslie*

NEW MEMBERS

We were delighted recently to welcome Laura H into our congregation, by transfer of membership. We look forward to getting to know her more and to exploring her many gifts.

If *you* attend our church regularly but are not an actual 'member' of our church, and would like to be, please have a chat with me. If you have been confirmed or been a member of another church or denomination, we can usually simply transfer your membership. If you haven't been confirmed then we would explore this with you. We hope to be welcoming some new members fairly soon – so if you would like to join them, please speak to me.

Rev Leslie

ANOTHER YEAR – ANOTHER ACHIEVEMENT

Hooray, over the past year **League of Light** band has increased and we now have **21** box holders. This year their contribution to **Action For Children** has raised an amazing **£463.03**. I send my personal thanks to each of them, but more importantly, I send the thanks of the children and families who will benefit. If anyone would like to have a box to pop in their odd change (just 10p a week can raise £5.20 a year) please see me and I would be delighted to pass one over. Thank you again to my faithful band.

Jan C

COFFEE MORNING FOR PETTIFOR TRUST IN MARCH

The Pettifor Trust hosted a Coffee Morning on 4th March, to raise funds and raise awareness of its activities to support animal care in West Wales. We raised £252 on the day, so wish to thank everyone who took part in this event and for supporting such a worthy cause. If you would like any further information, please contact Jon D
Jon D

QUIZ NIGHT AND BUFFET AT THE MUMBAI RESTAURANT

On Monday 27th March, at the Mumbai Restaurant, we all enjoyed an evening of entertainment and delicious Indian food. Our thanks to the **Events Committee** for organising such an enjoyable evening for all our church family, friends and neighbours.

Ian and Judith supplied the quiz, which covered a wide variety of subjects, taking us down Memory Lane, where we tried to remember, or perhaps didn't, the name of Tonto's horse Scout, the champagne district of Epernay and many other interesting facts and figures. A huge big thank you to **Ian and Judith** for presenting the quiz, for marking all the quiz papers so quickly and for giving us all so much fun and laughter. We must have another one soon, please.
Jan T

NEW PRAYER GROUP

I was delighted to be contacted recently by Pastor Jovan, the pastor of our nearest neighbours, the Seventh Day Adventist Church (SDA). He was wondering whether we might be able to start a joint prayer group to pray for our community and our world. After meeting with him (along with Les W and Lil, one of their members) we decided that it would be good to give it a go. It may be in time that other churches or Christians in the Sketty area, will join us.

We will meet once a month, usually on a Thursday at 12noon. We will share a VERY simple meal together – basically bread and cheese, and then pray together. We will finish by 1pm. This means that even if we have a morning or an afternoon commitment, we should be able to make it.

We have two dates planned at the moment:

Thursday 4th May at 12 noon at UCS

Thursday 8th June at 12 noon at SDA

I very much hope that a number of people from UCS will feel that they can support this venture. We don't have a prayer group of our own – and that is perhaps a lack in our church life. So this maybe a very good way forward for us, as well as a way of getting to know our sisters and brothers.

Rev Leslie

OUR LOCAL AREA CO-ORDINATOR FOR SKETTY

Did you know that Sketty has a Local Area Co-ordinator?

Recently, Wesley Club was pleased to have Jon Franklin, the LAC for Sketty, Sketty Park, Tycoch and Derwen Fawr give a talk which explained the role of a Local Area Co-Ordinator.

LACs are employed by Swansea City Council and at present, there are six who cover different parts of Swansea. Their aim is to provide support and build partnerships in the local communities for older people, disabled, those with mental health difficulties and their families and carers.

Age is no barrier and anyone can arrange an introduction directly with the co-ordinator, regarding anyone who they might be concerned about. It might be loneliness, financial difficulties, grief or safety; any problem can be tackled and support offered to help someone stay strong, connected and confident in the future.

If you know of someone who might need this support or for more information, contact Jon Franklin on 07471 145 351, or LAC Manager Jane Tonks on 07881 269 205. There is also information on the Council website www.swansea.gov.uk

Pauline L

FOLK DANCING ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS

Every **Monday 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.

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 April at 10.30am**, in the **Bethel Room, UCS**, when we will discuss Elizabeth is Missing by Emma Healey when I hope to be leading our group.

Mike W

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our next meeting will take place at **Bethel Hall on Thursday, 6th April at 2.30pm**. Please note the new time, now that the days are lighter.

Our speaker will be **John B. D**, who will give a digital presentation of "**A Welshman's Wanderings**". Who knows where we may land up? All are welcome to join us for the afternoon.

Pat 'B' D

FREE ORGAN RECITAL AT THE BRANGWYN HALL

I am pleased to announce one more lunch-time free organ recital to be held at the Brangwyn Hall on **Wednesday, April 12th** with **James Gough** who is a young person from Neath who has established himself nationally as a recitalist and choral accompanist.

The recital 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.

Alan S

FOR THE BROWNIES AND CUBS

The box for Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers will again be at the hall end of the church corridor, and it would be much appreciated if you could leave your vouchers there for our Brownies and Cubs.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Please join us for our Holy Week services:

Maundy Thursday Communion (13th April) at 7.30pm

A service with a difference.

We will start in joy as we recall the celebration of the Passover.

We will continue in remembrance as we recall how the Passover was for Jesus the Last Supper that he shared with his disciples, and how he washed their feet as an act of service.

We will finish in silence as we accompany Jesus into the Garden of Gethsemane.

Good Friday Vigil (14th April) at 2.30pm

The world may go on as if this is just another day.

We know it is not.

We watch and wait at the foot of the cross.

**L
G O D
V
E**

EASTER OFFERING

In **April** we will be supporting various charities, under the umbrella title of **EASTER OFFERING**. Annually, Methodist Women in Britain, undertake the mammoth task of preparing a service, which is for women, men and children. The service is used to receive the monetary gifts collected in churches and circuits around the UK. The theme this year is “**SHINE LIKE STARS**”. The service will be held at **Penlan Methodist Church on Sunday, 21st May at 6pm**. The preacher will be **Rev Linda Woollacott**. Refreshments will be served after the service.

We do not know, at the moment, which projects will be supported by our gifts. They could be used to supply relief in times of disaster, or be used to support long term projects e.g. buying sewing machines for women to make clothes for their families. Many schools in Ghana, for instance, expect children to attend school wearing uniform and shoes. If children are able to attend school, their life chances are enhanced. Their mothers can also make clothes to sell, enabling them to buy shoes for their children and food for the families.

Other projects might give families animals e.g. bees, goats, hens or seeds/plants to grow vegetables and fruit, enabling them to feed themselves and to sell surplus produce. There is a bookmark with the EASTER OFFERING envelope which gives more detail about EO. Last year, Sketty’s contribution was £816.60, which was an increase of nearly £200 (2015). Since 2010, Sketty has contributed £3,021.27. This is a tremendous effort and the circuit is extremely grateful. The circuit total for 2016 was £2,352.58 (without Gift Aid). If you are able to support EASTER OFFERING, please return your envelope by the end of April.

Janet N

CHURCH FLOWERS FOR EASTER

This year, for Easter, we shall be decorating the church with daffodils and we invite you to bring a bunch of daffodils to church on **Saturday 15th April between 10am and 11am**. These will then be displayed in vases around the church.

Thank you.

Rosemary B

REEL TO REAL

. 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** will be on **Wednesday, April 26th at 7.30** in the **Wesley Room**.

Sandra

TRAIDCRAFT ANNOUNCES FAIRTRADE RECIPE CHALLENGE

Following on from the last Breakout Service, Gary and Jackie are setting a challenge to you all. **Can you devise a recipe, either sweet or savoury, using at least two Fair Trade ingredients?** Two ingredients have to be Fair Trade, but not necessarily from Traidcraft, so have a look in your local shops to see what is around. We want these to be totally your own creations, as we want to be able to have the recipes themselves on the Traidcraft Stall, so please try them out at home before you submit anything!! When all is ready please send the recipe to Jackie or Gary or hand in a paper copy with your name, a title for your recipe, and which ingredients are Fair Trade and where to get them if they are

unusual. Please include sizes of any tins, dishes used and exact amounts and timings.

On **Sunday, April 23rd**, we are hoping to have a “**Taste Off**”, where people can bring the completed recipes in for everyone to sample, and have the recipes available on the Traidcraft Stall. If people can have their recipes sent to me by 9th April that would be fantastic!

So, start experimenting and then start cooking!

Don't forget to be in church on 23rd April to taste them all!

Also, the date for our next Traidcraft Stall is **Sunday, April 23rd**. The new **Spring Catalogue** is here, so feel free to pick one up to have a look. If there is anything you would like to order for yourself or like to see on the stall, please let us know around 10 days before the date of the stall so we have time to order it in for you. Simply leave a paper order on the table in the front porch. If anyone wants to order **Fair Trade Easter Eggs**, please let us know as **we will make a special order.**

Jackie & Gary C

THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

On **Thursday, 27th April at 7.30pm** we will be holding the **Annual Church Meeting**. The meeting will be held in the **Church Sanctuary**. It will be followed by the **Annual Trustees Meeting**.

Ian H

HUFD: HANDS UP FOR DOWNS

I am a trustee for **Hands Up For Downs**. This is a group which operates in Swansea and the surrounding area, providing amongst other things, speech, language and physiotherapy. Also, gym and swimming sessions, playgroups and Maketon training.

Obviously, all this costs a great deal of money; last year speech therapy alone cost almost £40,000. We have recently achieved charity status and are always busy applying for appropriate funding. However, the group also undertakes a good deal of fundraising itself.

As part of this, I am organising a concert on **Friday, 5th May** here at **our church**. The **Gwalia Singers** are putting together a varied programme and **Alan Sykes** has agreed to entertain us on the organ. Both of these are very generously giving their time and talents completely free. Me, well I am just selling tickets at **£8** each. It promises to be a really lovely evening and I hope that I and HUFD can count on your support. Please bring friends and neighbours who would like to support this very special charity and enjoy a happy evening with talented entertainers.

Thank you as always.

Jan C

Quotes' Corner

Just a little something to make us think:

Pauline L read this recently and thought that we would all enjoy the wise words of this young boy. We only have space for part of Danny's explanation, so please ask Pauline for further information, if you would like to obtain a full copy.

Danny Dutton was eight years old when he wrote this, living in Chula Vista, California. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to explain God.

EXPLANATION OF GOD

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of the things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime.

.... God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

.... Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God.

.... You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you, because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. Besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

.... It is good to know that He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And that's why I believe in God."

Danny Dutton

GIVE THE FOLLOWING GIFTS:

"To your enemy, forgiveness,
To your opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all people, charity.
To every child, a good example
To yourself, respect"

Anon

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

WELCOME HOME LAURA

We were all delighted in March to welcome Laura H back to our church family by transfer of membership.

IN MEMORY OF KEITH C

The funeral of Maggie's husband Keith took place at Margam Crematorium on 23rd March. We remember Maggie and her family in our prayers.

GLORIA IS MUCH BETTER

Following a recent operation, Gloria M is now back on her feet and feeling much better.

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN APRIL TO:

Alex on the 1st

Catrin on the 4th

Heidi on the 4th

Indie on the 4th

Grace on the 6th

Daniel on the 11th

Eliza on the 14th

Flynn on the 14th

Hannah on the 21st

Hattie on the 25th

George on the 26th

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

APRIL DIARY

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

6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon

3rd Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Members Evening: Easter

4th Tues 7.30pm Tuesday Evening House Group

Studying Song of Solomon.

4th Tues 7.30pm Meeting of Methodist Circuit Church Treasurers

5th Wed 7.30pm Son of Man play at Dylan Thomas Theatre

6th Thurs 7.30pm Son of Man, follow up discussion

9th Sun 10.30am Miss Selina Taylor

6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

10th Mon NO MEETING FOR WESLEY CLUB: **HOLY WEEK**

11th Tues 7.30pm Study of Ezekiel with Dr Noel A Davies.

13th Thurs 7.30pm **MAUNDY THURSDAY**: Rev Leslie Noon:

Communion

14th Fri 2.30pm **GOOD FRIDAY**: Rev Leslie Noon

16th Sun 10.30am **EASTER DAY**: Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

6.30pm: Mr Quentin Hawkins

17th Mon NO MEETING FOR WESLEY CLUB: **EASTER MONDAY**

20th Thurs 7.30pm Reel to Real:

23rd Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon

6.30pm Rev Andrew Walker

24th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Fun With Hats, with Yolande Fret-

Howells

26th Wed 7.30pm Reel to Real: Discussion

27th Thurs 7.30pm Annual Church Meeting

30th Sun 10.30am Miss Sue Raad

6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon

APRIL ROTAS:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin P

2 APRIL	9 APRIL	16 APRIL	23 APRIL	30 APRIL
Ian & Judith	Harry	Allan & Joe	Ian & Susan	David K
Sonia	Graham	Caroline	Shirley	Jan T
Alan & Liz	David P	Tina Paul E	Grosvenor	Leighton

Sound

Harry	Bill	Elizabeth	Myrddin	Gary
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Evening

Myrddin	Paul	Keith	Anne	Jeff
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Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Anne & Mike	Barbara	EASTER	Anne	Caroline
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Arranger:

Una	Rosemary	EASTER	Anne	Una
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Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Sonia	Maggie	Gaynor	Mary	Shirley
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Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

Jackie & Gary	Pauline	Mary	Jane & Laurie	Julie
	Pam	Ruth	Paul Evans	Liz
	Jean	Clare K		Myrna