

SEPTEMBER 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: Jan C

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 **October** magazine to **Jan T** by

Friday, 22nd September 2017.

The Magazine for October will be issued on **Sunday, 1st October 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,

Well, I think we've had summer. The calendar tells me this, even if the weather doesn't! But sunny or not, I hope August has been a time for a change of pace – church meetings have taken a break, holidays have been taken by many. And I now hope we are ready to face the start of our new church year, with all that this entails.

During August we have been delighted to welcome into our congregation Frieder and Grace. Frieder has just retired from the Methodist ministry, and so joins our growing group of retired ministers. This number now goes up to six, and we celebrate all they bring to our church community.

One or two others have found their way into our church community in the last few months, and we have been delighted to welcome them. I wonder if you know someone whom you could bring to church. So often we shy away from inviting friends to come along – maybe we think they'd be bored (if so, then that would require us to think about what we are doing), or perhaps we're too embarrassed. But studies show that this is the most effective form of evangelism – one bringing another. So think about the kind of church activities that a friend might enjoy – Breakout Church perhaps would be a good Sunday to come along, and then there's Wesley Club, Thursday Circle, Cover to Cover reading group or Reel to Real film group. All these groups are gentle ways to offer to someone else something that we know is precious – a relationship with the one who loved us into being.

With love, *Leslie*

CHURCH DAY OUT

Following a very enjoyable Breakout Church on 20th August, in which we thought in various ways about forgiveness (through the story of Joseph and his brothers), some of us then enjoyed our Church Day Out. However this turned out to be a Church Day In, because of the wet weather! But we enjoyed fellowship over our packed lunches, before we embarked on fun games such as giant ludo, giant snakes and ladders, bagatelle and quoits. This brought out the competitive spirits within us, before we calmed ourselves down again with a cup of tea and cake, and then went into groups to prepare our evening worship. The worship turned out to be something very special – with so many involved in the preparation and in the taking part. We may repeat this day again next year, so if you missed it, don't worry! There maybe another opportunity!

USE OF WHEELCHAIR

I am sure that most of you know that our church has a lightweight wheelchair that we keep in the porch. Recently, I borrowed the chair for a few weeks for someone who was recovering from an operation and who would otherwise have been unable to go out. The chair we have, fits easily into the boot of a car and is very light to push. It is available for anyone to borrow on a short term basis. All you need to do is let Alan, me or indeed anyone of the stewards know in advance.

Jan C

INVITATIONS COMMITTEE/STATIONING PROCESS

By the time you read this article, this process will be almost complete and the results will soon be shared with everyone. I am able to confirm the Uniting Church Sketty followed the process to the letter and completed forms from a large number of our church family in respect of our own minister Rev Leslie Noon and a much smaller number with regards to the Superintendent Minister, Rev Howard Long. Alan and I send personal thanks to everyone for your co-operation over the relevant two weeks. However, I am aware that many people were not happy with the process, and in particular the rule which insisted that all forms must be completed on the premises. Heather C, one of the three Circuit Stewards responsible for overseeing the exercise, on behalf of the Methodist Circuit and then for collating the completed forms and preparing the required Circuit Report, has confirmed that any concerns should be conveyed to the chair of the Wales Methodist Synod, Rev Stephen Wigley. Many of you will know Stephen and I am sure he would welcome your thoughts. His details are as follows:

Address – Cyncoed Methodist Church, Westminster Crescent, Cardiff, CF23 6SE.

Telephone:- Office: 02920 761515 or Home: 02920 844945.

Email – wigley@methodistwales.org.uk

Thank you again.

Jan C

LEIPZIG 2017: CELEBRATION, COMMUNION, COMMITMENT

Over 400 Christians from Reformed churches around the world, including the United Reformed Church and the Union of Welsh Independents, met in Leipzig from June 29th to July 7th for the World Communion of Reformed Churches' General Council, to mark 500 years from the beginnings of the Protestant Reformation in Wittenberg, near Leipzig, in October 1517. It was an inspiring and encouraging experience and a joy to be with so many Christians from so many countries and backgrounds.

The opening service was held in the Nicolaikirche. In the years up to 1989, prayer meetings and Bible studies were held here every Monday evening at 5.00pm. These are still held and we shared in one of these services. During 1989, these led to candle-lit processions through the streets of Leipzig that attracted many thousands of people. It was these non-violent, peaceful processions of witness that enabled the transformations that led to the downfall of East Germany, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany. Prayer and Bible study can have powerful consequences. On the Wednesday of the conference, we travelled to Wittenberg, the city where Luther was monk-priest, where he 'published' his 95 theses that gave rise to the Reformation and where he became the pastor of the Stadtkirche. During the service held in Luther's church, we celebrated an agreement on 'justification by faith' – one of Luther's key teachings – between the Roman Catholic Church, the World Methodist Council, the Lutheran World Federation and the World Communion of Reformed Churches. We also re-affirmed a commitment to Christian unity between us.

One of the key concerns of the Council meeting was the injustice, oppression and violence experienced by so many of our fellow-Christians around the world today. One of the priorities was to make a stand against injustice towards women. We agreed a statement on the ordination of women and encouraged churches to oppose violence against women in the church (yes, in the church!) as well as in society generally.

We also had an opportunity to pray for the Korean Peninsula. Representatives of Reformed Christians from North Korea as well as South Korea were present. They were movingly welcomed on stage together at one of our plenary sessions and I had a personal opportunity to share in an agape lunch at which North and South Korean Christians and their friends shared in communion and lunch together. We are called to pray constantly for peace, reconciliation and reunification in the Korean Peninsula at this threatening and dangerous time.

These themes remind us of the 'motto' that defines the World Communion of Reformed Churches' work at the present time, 'Called to unity, committed to justice'. So, we pray with our fellow Christians around the world, in the words of the theme of the conference, 'Living God, renew and transform us'.

Noel D

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE PROJECT

This October we are starting our Commitment for Life project on Bangladesh. Just to remind you that, Commitment for Life is the United Reformed Church's way of supporting Christian Aid.

Christian Aid Bangladesh believes that women are the key to end poverty and therefore it places a focus on empowering women and girls. Christian Aid does this in Bangladesh by supporting partner organisations in their work to build more secure lives for disadvantaged women. Programmes include a more regular means of making a living, reducing people's vulnerability to disasters and lessening the risks associated with disasters. Christian Aid also funds projects that focus on issues of economic justice and governance and it is through changes in these areas that real progress can be made in eradicating poverty and enabling long term security.

Christian Aid works with 14 partner organisations in Bangladesh and throughout this coming year, we will be looking at some of these projects and how they are playing an important part in empowering women in the villages throughout Bangladesh.

Mary J

YPF CYCLE RIDE

We have most of the sponsor money in now and would like to thank everyone for their generosity. Most of the YPF and leaders, have not been around much over the summer. So, if you still have money that you wish to donate, please contact the Church Stewards. If it is gift aided, could you please use the gift aid envelopes and clearly mark them as BIKE RIDE. We do not have a final total yet but expect it to exceed £240 which will buy either 4 more toilets for villages or another school block. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Communion collections for September will be for **Action for Children**. The charity works for disadvantaged children across the UK, "...helping children from before they are born until they are into their twenties".

Susan G

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

Dr Alan Sykes is giving one of the lunchtime organ recitals at St Mary's, City Centre, at **1.10pm, Tuesday, 5th September**. **Alan** will be performing **Louis Vierne, Symphonie No. 2**.

GREAT NORTH RUN 10th SEPTEMBER 2017

Some of you may remember that I entered this race last year and raised over £1,000 for the Heart Foundation; obviously in memory of Dad. This year I entered the draw again, never thinking my name would come out. It did! I agree with Mum that because of the generosity of the church family last year, it would be presumptuous to make an appeal this year. However, Mum and I did think that perhaps it would be acceptable to say that Mum has a Heart Foundation Sponsorship form and so if anyone did feel they could make a small donation, she would be very happy to receive it on my / the Heart Foundation's behalf. Many thanks

Ceri C

SKY JUMP FOR WALES AIR AMBULANCE

Harry O is doing a Sky Jump at Swansea Airport. A Sponsorship Form is available. If you would like to sponsor him, the money will be collected after the event.

WESLEY CLUB

Wesley Club starts back after our summer break on **Monday, 11th September at 7pm**. Thereafter we will meet weekly and look forward to more absolutely wonderful speakers. We **laugh** a lot and we **talk** a lot, of course! Importantly, we **care for one another**.

We would love to expand our numbers on a regular basis and so, if you are not yet a member, why not give us a try? Alternatively, if you are not able to be with us every week, but see a speaker that would particularly appeal to you, please do come for that evening. **We would be delighted to welcome you as a visitor.**

Now then **gentlemen**, don't be discouraged. Our ladies have agreed that this year, when we know that we have a speaker who we think would appeal to a wider audience, we may try having more **“open” evenings**. So, look out for your invitation in the magazine or weekly newsletters.

Here's to another happy year.

Jan C.

HERGE'S ADVENTURES OF MYRDDIN!

MYRDDIN ON THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Who picked up the wrong suitcase in Bogota Airport?

Who didn't hear the fire drill bell on the catamaran?

Who carried his walking pole around the world only to leave it on the bus to Swansea?

Find out more about **Myrddin** adventurous trip to the Galapagos Islands, with photos, at the **Wesley Club open evening** on **Monday, 23rd October 2017.**

CHURCH MEETING AND TRUSTEES MEETING

The next church meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, 12th September at 7.30pm in the Church Sanctuary**. A trustees meeting will follow the church meeting.

Ian H

URC THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

There is a poster in the entrance of the church about this very helpful service which consists of a daily Bible Reading, short commentary and prayer which can be sent to your computer/phone (free of charge) by signing in at Devotions.URC.org.uk

There are over a hundred URC Ministers, Lay Preachers and Elders who write for this service and as I write there is a series on Acts and the Psalms. Sometimes a picture or painting is included and when Psalms are discussed, the music with alternative tunes is usually available. It is the first thing I do every morning, by switching on my phone and now would feel bereft without it.

Pat D

GIVING FLOWERS ON SUNDAY

There are still a few available dates left on the 2017 calendar, if you wish to give flowers one Sunday. The calendar is on the notice board in the porch and if you would like to give flowers please sign your name against your chosen date.

Rosemary B

PANTOMIME 2017

Yes, I know that it is ridiculously early to be asking for a commitment to the above – oh yes it is! BUT, in my defence, as I start to think of some story lines, and believe me the way my brain works these days I will have to make an early start, I need to have some idea of who will be available. Of course I appreciate that things can change in the course of six months, or even six days, but what I am asking is that you let me know if, all things being equal, you would like to be included. Then be assured you're in!! Perhaps I should just add that, for those of you who would be new to “treading the boards”, is isn't nearly as scary as you might think and we do have lots of fun, ask those who are relatively new and they will tell you they are coming back again, I hope!

Jan C

A VISIT TO THE THEATRE

After last year's successful production of 'Oliver', the Abbey Players are presenting another Dickens classic, 'A Christmas Carol', a festive delight for all the family. With music by Alan Menken, whose credits include 'Sister Act' and 'Beauty and the Beast', I am sure we are in for another treat.

I have made the usual block booking for the matinee performance on Saturday, 25th November. This performance starts at 3.30pm. The Abbey Players will be doing an additional performance on the Saturday at 11.30am, as well as their usual evening performances, which will run from Wednesday, 22nd through to Saturday, 25th. If you would like to attend any of these performances, please add your name to the list on the notice board in the Church foyer, telephone me.

Liz R

COVER TO COVER

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, 7th September at 10.30am**, in the Bethel Room, UCS, when we will discuss, **The Five People You Meet In Heaven, by Mitch Albom**. Janet N will lead our discussion. All are welcome to join us.

Mike W

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Thursday Circle will meet at **2.30pm on Thursday, 7th September** at **Bethel Church Hall**. The Speaker will be the Director of Swansea Samaritans, who will give a talk about his work with this vital charity. All are welcome to join us.

Pat B D

FOLK DANCING ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS

After our summer break, classes will now resume on **Monday 11th September 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

After our summer break, classes will now resume on **Tuesday, 12th September**. Please come and join us **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 NEWS

The next Traidcraft stall will be on **Sunday, 24th September**. Please let us know if you need anything in particular and we will order it for you,

Jackie & Gary C

FAIRTRADE AT SAINSBURY'S?

Sainsbury's is considering ending its relationship with the Fairtrade Foundation, and plans to replace it with a pilot scheme in which tea will be labelled as "Fairly Traded". The new scheme will guarantee a minimum price for the tea growers. However, the Fairtrade Premium, which is the extra resources that accompany Fairtrade purchases, will no longer be given directly to communities but will instead be distributed by the Sainsbury's Foundation.

The principle of empowerment to communities would be lost which means that they receive funds that could be put back into community development as they themselves see fit.

Tea producers on the Fairtrade Foundation website said:

"As producers we believe that we have the best understanding of our local context and what is needed to make our businesses and communities thrive."

In addition, if Sainsbury's does this, will not other retailers establish their own systems, thus weakening fair trade?

Jean K

CHOCOLATE AND BANANA CAKE

ingredients:

100mls sunflower oil, plus extra to grease

175g **Fair Trade** caster sugar

175g self raising flour

2tsps bicarbonate of soda

4 tbsps **Fair Trade** cocoa powder

Chocolate chips or chopped chunks of **Fair Trade** chocolate

5 very ripe **Fair Trade** bananas

3 medium eggs, 2 separated

50mls milk

For the topping: 100g **Fair Trade** milk chocolate, 100mls soured cream, a handful dried banana chips, roughly chopped.

Method:

1. Heat oven to 160°C/140°C fan/gas 3.

2. Grease and line a 2lb loaf tin with baking parchment (allow it to come 2cm above top of tin).

3. Mix the sugar, flour, bicarb', cocoa and chocolate in a large bowl. Mash the bananas in a bowl and stir in the whole egg plus 2 yolks, followed by the oil and milk. Beat the egg whites until stiff, quickly stir the wet banana mixture into the dry ingredients, stir in a quarter of the egg whites to loosen the mixture, then gently fold in the rest. Gently scrape into the tin and bake for 1 hr 10 mins.

Cool in the tin on a wire rack.

To make the icing:

Melt the chocolate and soured cream together in a heatproof bowl over a pan of barely simmering water. Chill in the fridge until spreadable. Remove cake from tin, roughly swirl icing over and scatter with the banana chips.

Gwen D

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

I can't believe a year has gone by since my last Macmillan Coffee Morning but it is now time to let you know that this year's coffee morning will be held on **Friday, 29th September**, 10am to 12 noon in the Wesley Room. I plan to have a Bring and Buy Stall, Cake Stall and a raffle. Any donations for the Bring and Buy and the Cake Stall will be much appreciated. I look forward to seeing you all and let's see if we can raise over £500, like we did last year!

Rosemary B

COULD YOU "BRAVE THE SHAVE"?

I will be taking part in the MacMillan, "**Brave the Shave**" campaign, to raise money for the work of Macmillan, in memory of my friend Janet Jeffries, who died of cancer in a MacMillan Hospice in Cardiff earlier this month. I am willing to have my head and beard completely shaved off! If people would also like to take part, please let me know. Also and importantly, if you would like to sponsor me, I would be really grateful. I will be "Braving the Shave" on **Friday, 29th September at Uniting Church Sketty**. Thank you to Rosemary, for offering to let me do this at the same time as the MacMillan Coffee Morning, taking place between **10.00am and 12.00noon**. Please come along and support us and the work of Macmillan. For further information go to <https://bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk>
Many thanks.

Andy V

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

OUR LOVE TO MAISIE H

We send all our love and best wishes to Maisie, who has been feeling unwell lately.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JEAN AND JOHN K

On the 27th August 2017, Jean and John celebrated **65 years** of wedded bliss. Many congratulations Mr and Mrs K from all your church family and friends!

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN SEPTEMBER TO:

Angel on the 22nd

Daniel on the 27th

Matthew on the 27th

QUOTES' CORNER

Just a little something to make us think:

“The day the power of love, overrules the love of power, the world will know peace.”

Mahatma Gandhi

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 4.30-5.45pm Beavers 6.15-7-30pm 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

SEPTEMBER DIARY

- 2nd Sat 10.00am-12noon Coffee Morning for Save The Children
- 3rd Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**
6.30pm Dr Alan Cram
- 5th Tues 7.30pm Methodist Circuit Meeting at Penlan
- 10th Sun 10.30am Mrs Ann Gregson
6.30pm Rev Noel Davies
- 11th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Social Evening
- 12th Tues 7.30pm Church Meeting followed by Trustees Meeting
- 13th Wed 7.45pm Bible Study: Ezekiel
- 17th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon
6.30pm Rev John Jones
- 18th Mon 7 pm Wesley Club: A Jewish Way of Life with Norma Glass
- 24th Sun 10.30am Miss Sue Raad
6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**
- 25th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Celtic Bonsai with Chris Thomas (**Open evening**)
- 26th Tues 10am Events Committee Meeting.
- 29th Fri 10am-12noon Macmillan Coffee Morning & Brave the Shave

SEPTEMBER ROTAS:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin Po

3 SEPTEMBER	10 SEPTEMBER	17 SEPTEMBER	24 SEPTEMBER
Allan & Jo	Ian & Susan	Leighton	Ian & Judith
Caroline	Shirley	Jan T	Sonia
Tina L	Grosvenor	David Kaye	Alan & Liz
Paul E			

Sound

Elizabeth	Myrddin	Gary	Harry
-----------	---------	------	-------

Evening

Keith	Anne	Jeff	Pat D
-------	------	------	-------

Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

tba	Pat B	Joan & Eric	Carole
-----	-------	-------------	--------

Arranger:

Chris	Rosemary	Rosemary	Lynne
-------	----------	----------	-------

Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Margaret	Sonia	Anne	Maggie
----------	-------	------	--------

Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

Jackie & Gary	Jon & Sandra	Ruth A	Myrna
		Claire K	Liz R
		Sandra C	Julie G