

**NOVEMBER 2017**  
The Magazine  
of  
**UNITING CHURCH SKETTY**



**Dillwyn Road, Sketty, Swansea SA2 9AE**

**[www.unitingchurchsketty.org.uk](http://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 **December and January** magazine to **Jan T**  
by **Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017.**

The Magazine for **December/January** will be issued on **Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December '17.**

### **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.



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

**The Methodist Church** 

## FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

We've had some interesting weather lately, haven't we? What did you make of ex-Hurricane Ophelia, when the sky turned a funny dark yellow colour, cars were covered in Sahara dust and the wind was pretty wild? And then we had Storm Brian....

I quite like this notion of naming the various weather events that we have – in a weird way it makes them more friendly! Although, it has to be said that the best name for a storm is Abigail (a big gale – get it!).

Names are important. In Isaiah 43:1, God says “Do not fear, I have called you by name”. In recent weeks we have welcomed Chris and her daughter Wendy into our church family. They are from China, and are here for a year, as Chris is a visiting scholar at the university. We have been delighted to begin to get to know them both – but also to find out the differences in the names that are given in China. It's quite different from the European way of naming children. But it's the same in that names are important!

In November we recall by name those whom we have loved and who have now died. People who were precious to us. People who we still miss. There will be an opportunity at the evening service on 12<sup>th</sup> November to remember them (see details later in the magazine). But we will also, on that same morning remember people whose names we will never ever know, but who have died in wars in the last century. We will keep silence as we remember.

Above all my prayer is that we may know the God who knows us by name.

**Leslie**

## **RE-IMAGINE FORUM – SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

“A day for those interested in revitalising church” .... which, I hope will be most of us here in UCS!

We are being encouraged to bring a team of people from our church to attend this day in Newport. It will explore different ways of being church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it will offer practical support to move from ideas to action.

There are 6 or 7 of us going already – if you are interested, please see me in the next few days, as the deadline for registration is early November.

**Leslie**

## **NIGHT SHELTER**

We will once again be playing our part in the Swansea Night Shelter scheme by hosting the night shelter on Saturdays, between 6<sup>th</sup> January and 10<sup>th</sup> February. Last year large number of people from our church helped in different ways – from being on one of the shifts (evening, overnight or morning), to doing some cooking, making deserts, opening up to receive the bedding, doing the shopping. Each night that we do the shelter, we probably need around 15 people to cover the shifts – plus others who will help in other ways. I am delighted that we have three new volunteers from our congregation – in addition to the many returning volunteers. You will be hearing more about the night shelter and what you can do to help over the coming weeks. I hope you will be as wonderfully supportive this year as you have been in the past.

**Leslie**

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Chris and her daughter Wendy whom we have been delighted to welcome into our church family are looking for some accommodation. If you know of anyone who has a couple of rooms which they would be willing to rent, or in which Chris and Wendy could stay, until August 2018, please let Leslie know. It needs to be near the church and Olchfa school.

Thank you.

## **THE LEADERSHIP TEAM OF UCS**

The Leadership Team and Rev Leslie spent several hours together on a Saturday in October, to discuss those aspects of leadership which we considered to be most important. Highest on the list were, loving care, integrity and wisdom, not to forget hard work and commitment. Conscious of our own weaknesses and vulnerability, we took heart that we are a team and that we can work to one another's strengths and support one another.

We shared some personal experiences of what had led us to be where we are now and paid tribute to those who had influenced us. As light relief, we tried to guess who were the grown up versions of childhood photos. No one guessed that the three-year-old on a huge motor bike was me!

We closed our time together with a short Communion Service, praying that together as a team, we will serve the church as best we can.

We would all like to remind you, that if you have any concerns or suggestions about our life together as Uniting Church Sketty, that you may contact anyone of us at any time.

Pat D (Senior Elder)

### **BRAVE THE SHAVE**

A huge big **Thank You**, to everyone who sponsored us for “**Brave the Shave**” for MacMillan. Now that we are recovering from the trauma of having our hair and beards shaved off; we are pleased to tell you that the total raised was **£904.00!** Thank you all so much for your support and generosity!

Please can the few people who haven't paid us, settle up soon, so that the money can be paid into the bank.

Bob and Andy

### **THE MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

A massive thank you to everyone who supported my Macmillan Coffee Morning. We raised the marvelous sum of £755.00. This is the largest amount I have ever raised! Will we be able to top that next year? A big THANK YOU, to all my helpers as well.

Many thanks

Rosemary B

### **COMMUNION COLLECTIONS FOR NOVEMBER**

Communion collections in November will be for our Commitment for Life Project. Working through Christian Aid, Commitment for Life supports development projects in five countries. This year we are thinking particularly about Bangladesh.

Susan G

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A very big thank you to all who helped, attended or supported in any way the October Coffee morning. We raised the magnificent total of £443.94 which will be of great help to top up boxes with fillers or provide postage for boxes where the donors have not done so.

As we explained in last month's newsletter we are always appreciative of help at the warehouse. This help, from both men and women, may take the form of checking boxes, carrying boxes from sorting to packing areas or packing boxes into cartons. The warehouse we will be using is the same one as last year, **Unit 7, Tower Court, St David's Road, Llansamlet, Swansea SA6 8RU.**

The starting date for volunteers will depend upon the number of boxes we receive in the initial few days but certainly we will hope to be in full production by **Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> Nov from 10am till 4 pm.** Checks can be made on Alan's mobile if necessary.

The planned destination this year, always subject to alterations to the schedule, is for a complete container lorry of about 8,000 boxes to Liberia on **Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> November.** We then hope for a further collection of all remaining boxes on **Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December,** which will probably be going to an Eastern European destination.

Please help us in this work either by volunteering, or by donating items we might include in the boxes. We also invite as many as possible to join us at **Wesley Club** on **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November,** when we will be packing our shoeboxes. Every child who receives this small gift is a child deserving of our love. For further information please contact Alan or Linda J or Jan C.

**Alan J**

## OUR CHURCH PROJECT -BANGLADESH

### HOW FOOD SECURITY BEGINS IN THE CLASSROOM

All the Christian Aid projects in Bangladesh include lessons in literacy and numeracy; that is, the Three Rs, reading, writing and arithmetic. In every rural village in Bangladesh, achieving a good harvest is the main aim in their fight against starvation. In order to achieve good cropping, a vital component is good soil, which has to be scientifically managed. This process demands a degree of literacy and numeracy.

It's hard to imagine life without being able to read. When I lost my glasses, I just had to look at the pictures on the packaging in Sainsbury's. However, when I arrived home I realised that I had bought fruit pie filling instead of sliced fruit! Rather more importantly, illiterate villagers can't read the instructions on bags of fertiliser, which is the single most important ingredient in good soil management. With increasing reading skills, they can select the appropriate chemicals for their type of soil. This also leads to the need for skills in arithmetic. Simple arithmetic allows calculation of the concentration and volume of fertiliser required for the volume of soil to be treated, no examples given! This leads to active good soil management, which results in maximum harvesting.

Furthermore, having attained this level of literacy, it is then possible to go into the Christian Aid resource hut, in every project village and look at flood management and disaster prevention, or perhaps animal husbandry or anything else. This is what our Commitment for Life project is supporting. Thank you everyone for your support.

Mary J

## **QUOTES' CORNER**

Just a little something to make us think:

"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day.

Teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime."

**Confucius**

## **COVER TO COVER**

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 10.30am**, in the **Bethel Room, UCS**, when we will discuss, **All the Light We Cannot See**, by **Anthony Doerr**. Sandra C will lead our discussion.

All are welcome to join us.

**Mike W**

## **THURSDAY CIRCLE**

The next meeting of the Thursday Circle will be held at **Bethel Hall** on **Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 2pm**. The speaker to be arranged.

As always, a warm welcome awaits all who wish to join us. **Please note the new time of 2pm for the Autumn/Winter meetings.**

**Pat B D**

## **FOLK DANCING ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS**

We meet on Mondays 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 us? We look forward to welcoming you.

**Rosemary B**

### **LADIES' KEEP FIT**

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, so please come and join us.

**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**

### **FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP-EXPLORING THE BIBLE THROUGH ART**

Session 3: Tuesday, **14<sup>th</sup> November** at 10am and on Thursday, **16<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.30pm

### **A CELEBRATION OF ANIMALS**

**The Pettifor Trust** is holding a Celebration of Animals, family event, on **Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> November**, from **2pm to 6pm** at the **Seventh Day Adventist Church**, in Sketty. The event will include games with prizes; refreshments, face painting and a petting zoo. The event will be attended and supported by a number of animal care agencies and charities. For further information, phone 01792 281138 or email [www.pettifortrust.co.uk](http://www.pettifortrust.co.uk) or [jon@pettifortrust.co.uk](mailto:jon@pettifortrust.co.uk).

**Jon D**

## **TRAIDCRAFT NEWS**

The next Traidcraft stalls are on **19<sup>th</sup>November** and **17<sup>th</sup>December**. As usual, there will be a selection of Christmas cards and gifts on the table, but people can also contact us with Christmas orders. The new Christmas Magazine is now available and copies are being left on the table in the entrance porch. Please return the catalogue as soon as you have finished with it, as we only have a limited supply. Please remember that all Traidcraft goods can also be viewed on the website [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk).

Please contact Jackie and Gary with any orders either by email, text or hand a paper copy in to any of our volunteers.

There will be no stall in January, so please let us know if you need extra stocks of items in December. Please note that chocolate advent calendars are by order only.

In addition to the usual stalls, the **Coffee Morning on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December** will also be raising money for Traidcraft. We will be having a cake stall in addition to the usual Traidcraft products, and donations of cakes are welcome, especially if they have fairly traded ingredients included.

Also, we will be having a stall taking items of **unwanted jewellery** which can then be sent to Traidcraft as another means of fundraising. This can include costume jewellery and broken or snapped items. So if you have anything at home that may be suitable, bring it in on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December or hand it in to Jackie, preferably by the **19<sup>th</sup>November**.

Many thanks to everyone for their continued support.

**Jackie & Gary C and the whole Traidcraft Team**

## **LEMON DRIZZLE CAKE (PACKED WITH VITAMIN C!)**

### **Ingredients for cake:**

- 225 g butter, softened
- 225 g caster sugar (FAIRTRADE)
- 275 g self-raising flour (FAIRTRADE)
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 4 eggs
- 4 tbsp milk
- 2 lemons, grated zest only

### **For the topping:**

- 175 g soft brown sugar (FAIRTRADE)
- 2 lemons, juice only



### **Method:**

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4.
2. Cut a piece of baking parchment to fit the base and side of a 30x23x4cm cake tin.
3. Measure all the ingredients for the cake into a large bowl and beat well for about 2 minutes, until well blended.
4. Turn the mixture into the prepared tin and level the top gently with the back of a spatula.
5. Bake in the middle of the oven for about 35-40 minutes, or until the cake springs back when lightly pressed and is beginning to shrink away from the sides of the tin.
6. Leave the cake to cool in the tin for a few minutes then lift it out of the tin while still in its lining paper. Carefully remove the paper and put the tray bake onto a wire rack placed over a tray.
7. To make the topping, mix the lemon juice and soft brown sugar in a small bowl until the sugar dissolves. Gently spoon over the cake whilst it is still just warm. Cut into squares when cold. It is now ready to eat.
8. Enjoy with a cup of tea.

## **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.

Everyone is welcome for a small donation towards refreshments and church costs. The **discussion** will be at **7.30pm on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December in the Wesley Room**. We will question faith and doubt, righteousness and wickedness, judgement and mercy, and the relationship between humanity, the world and God.

**Sandra C**

## **FLOWERS FOR OUR CHURCH**

The flower rota for next year is now on the notice board in the foyer. If you would like to give flowers one Sunday, please put your name in the givers' column, against your preferred date. If you wish to arrange your own flowers, and we always welcome anyone who wishes to arrange their flowers, please put your name in the arrangers' column. Thank you.

**Rosemary B**

## 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, 25<sup>th</sup> November**. This performance starts at 3.30pm. The Abbey Players will be doing an additional performance on the Saturday at 11. 30 am., as well as their usual evening performances which will run from Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> through to Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup>. The seats are £13.50 and £15.50

If you would like to attend any of these performances either add your name to the list on the notice board in the Church foyer, telephone me

**Liz R**

## BUS RIDE TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

I always feel a special excitement when travelling to London on the bus, just sitting back and watching the beautiful British countryside whizz by. A four hour journey yes, but the last hour is



always full of exciting things to see, such as the first plane spotted taking off from Heathrow Airport; the flag on top of Windsor Castle; the Chiswick Flyover, Cheyne Walk in Chelsea and all the other familiar landmarks as you enter the great metropolis.

This journey was extra special, because we had arranged to go around the Houses of Parliament on Anthony's birthday. Security there is now like any airport; all belts and watches were removed and our friendly police force carried guns. We were given clearance and politely ushered into Westminster Hall, where history oozed from the walls. From there, we walked to Central Lobby and down the ornately decorated corridor to the House of Lords, so beautiful in the palatial style, with vaulted ceilings, walls of wainscoting, highly gilded and painted in reds and greens.

Inside the House of Lords, my hand reached out to the Woolsack, a symbol of British wealth, derived from wool. We then entered the Head of State's robing room, with ornate gilded chair and footstool covered in claret velvet. I can remember thinking, "The Queen has actually sat right there in her full regalia!"

From palatial to proletariat, we moved to the House of Commons, all plain wood, pewter and green leather. I touched the table where the dispatch boxes live and the parliamentary mace when the house is sitting. We were told that every morning prayers are given at 8am; this was reassuring. We then moved onto the Terrace and enjoyed the view of the river. Up from Swansea, touching history; I felt so privileged to have been allowed in and escorted around.

The return journey on the bus, soon brought me back down to earth. As soon as I saw Mumbles Lighthouse in the distance, welcoming us home to Swansea, I knew I was back where I belonged.

**Jan T**

### **SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB**

Are you interested in enjoying Sunday lunch with friends from church, avoiding the cooking and clearing up afterwards? If there is sufficient interest, we are hoping to arrange initially, to meet once a month for lunch after church, at a local pub or restaurant. We would need to book ahead and will need to establish numbers, hopefully meeting for the first time in January, at the Hen Dderwen, Sketty Park. However, we welcome any other suggestions or ideas about venues or frequency.

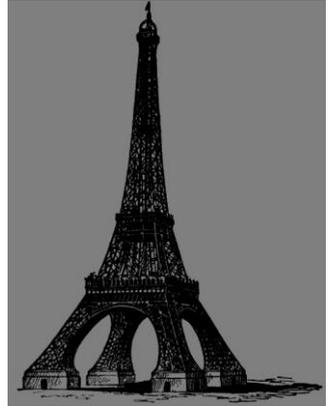
If you are interested, please put your name and contact number on the notice on the board, near the front entrance of our church, or contact Pauline

**Pauline L, Jean R and John P**

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### MAISIE H GOES TO PARIS

In late October, Maisie and her family flew to Paris to attend the wedding of her grandson. Congratulations and best wishes to the bride and groom and all the family!



### WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN NOVEMBER TO:

Isabelle on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Ronia on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
James on the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Ryan on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Hannah on the 27<sup>th</sup>

### WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS AT THE START OF DECEMBER TO:

Ameilia on the 2<sup>nd</sup>



## 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

## NOVEMBER DIARY

- 4<sup>th</sup> Sat 10am-12 noon Coffee Morning and Craft Fayre
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**  
6.30pm Dr Alan Cram
- 6<sup>th</sup> Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Christmas box packing
- 7<sup>th</sup> Tues 7.30pm Tuesday House Group, Studying John Chapter 2
- 9<sup>th</sup> Thurs 10am Circuit Churches Property Stewards Meeting at UCS
- 12<sup>th</sup> Sun 10.30am Rev John Jones REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY  
6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**
- 13<sup>th</sup> Mon 7pm Wesley Club: More Blue Plaques with Janet N
- 19<sup>th</sup> Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Breakout Church**  
6.30pm Rev Howard Long
- 20<sup>th</sup> Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Blood Bike Wales with Malcolm Platt  
(OPEN EVENING) Everyone welcome
- 26<sup>th</sup> Sun 10.30am Rev John Atkinson  
6.30pm Rev Pam Cram
- 27<sup>th</sup> Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Asylum Seekers with Hannah Sabatia

## START OF DECEMBER DIARY

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning in aid of Traidcraft

## NOVEMBER ROTAS:

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

### **Welcome Teams: Myrddin**

<b>5 NOVEMBER</b>	<b>12 NOVEMBER</b>	<b>19 NOVEMBER</b>	<b>26 NOVEMBER</b>
Harry O	Allan & Jo	Ian & Susan	Leighton
Graham	Caroline	Shirley	Jan T
David P	Tina Paul E	Grosvenor	David K

### **Sound**

Bill D	Elizabeth	Myrddin	Gary
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### **Evening**

Myrddin	Keith	Anne V	Jeff
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### **Flowers: Rosemary**

#### **Giver:**

Maisie	Chris L	Jean & Paul E	Jean E
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#### **Arranger:**

Chris	Rosemary	Pam T	Pam E
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#### **Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W**

Gwen D	Janet N	Margaret W	Anne W
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### **Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E**

Jon & Sandra	Jackie & Gary	Myrna C Liz R Julie G	Judith & Ian
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