

FEBRUARY 2018
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 **March** magazine to **Jan T**

by **Friday, 23rd February 2018.**

The Magazine for **March** will be issued on **Sunday, 4th March 2018.**

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.



ARIENNIR GAN Y LOTERI
LOTTERY FUNDED



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

The **Methodist Church** 

Dear Friends,

There are times in all of our lives, and in the life of our church, when we are faced with difficult choices. We faced one such difficult choice at our Church Meeting on 18th January, and that was whether to retain the Bethel Building or whether to declare it redundant for our purposes.

This was not an easy choice to make. On the one hand the building is used well by many community groups, and it is good that we are able to offer such hospitality. On the other hand, the huge amount of work that goes into ensuring that the needs of all the lettings are met and the building is maintained to a good level, is demanding work, on the shoulders of too few people.

In the end, after around forty-five minutes of debate, the meeting was ready to make its decision, which was overwhelmingly in favour of declaring the building redundant.

Kim, who was minister in Bethel for so long, led the meeting in prayer, reminding us that the church is not the steeple, but the people. It is this that we must remember.

One mark of a church, is how it deals with disagreement. Our meeting was conducted in the spirit of respect and graciousness, as different people offered their views. For this I thank you, and I thank God.

You will be kept informed as each next stage unfolds. Much of it is out of our hands, as the process of selling the building is taken on by the URC Wales Synod and in particular Sue Cole, who came to our meeting and was extremely helpful.

Clearly we have a duty of care to the many different groups that use the building. We will notify them with as much information as we can. As we know, we have no control over who may purchase the building. But, we do know that this will not be a short process and we will continue to offer hospitality to the various groups and maintain the building in the meantime.

There numerous examples, both near and far, of church buildings that have fallen into a state of disrepair, because of the lack of people and resources to maintain them. As a church, we are grateful for all those who undertake to manage and care for all the lettings in both buildings and who maintain the fabric of both buildings. However, with no one else readily available to help in this matter, we have, I believe come to the best decision in the circumstances.

We now pray that God's hand will be in what unfolds over the coming months.

With best wishes,

Leslie

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

Communion collections for February will go to the **Samaritans**. Every six seconds someone contacts the Samaritans. They are known for helping the suicidal but also listen to all sorts of problems and to those who are just lonely.

Susan G

PARKWAY HOME

For a number of years, we have had a rota of people to take a short Sunday afternoon service at Parkway. But now we need more volunteers. The service is always appreciated by those who live at Parkway and there are usually about a dozen people who attend. We need people who will prepare a short talk or reflection, with a reading. Also, people who can play a musical instrument, as everyone enjoys singing well known hymns. We only need to go once a month, so it should not be too time consuming. If you feel it is something you could do, please let me know.

Pat D

ASH WEDNESDAY-14th FEBRUARY 2018

Valentine's Day is so old hat and overdone!!!

Why not come along to church and mark the start of **Lent** instead?

6pm Relish the tradition of homemade pancakes!

Have fun, laugh and enjoy the company of our church family.

7.30pm Come before God, aware of all that separates us from him and from others. In a short, informal service with prayer activity stations, we spend time reflecting on our lives.

All are very welcome!



Faith & Fellowship

Lent 2018: God!

- **Who is God? What is the nature of God?**
- **These are critical questions for us in search for faith and understanding.**
- **Our thoughts affect the way we live, the way we worship and the way we interact.**

Our first two sessions will be discussions arising out of tradition, scripture and experience.

Our third session will be the viewing of the film *The Shack* (combining with *Reel to Real*)

Our fourth session will be a discussion on the film and how *The Shack* portrays God.

Week 1: Tues 27 Feb at 10am and Thurs 1 Mar at 7.30pm

Week 2: Tues 6 March at 10am and Thurs 8 Mar at 7.30pm

Week 3: Tues 13 March at 10am and Thurs 15 Mar at 7.30pm (Film)

Week 4: Tues 20 March at 10am and Thurs 22 Mar at 7.30pm

All are welcome to come to any or all sessions! No prior knowledge is required – just your life experience. If you simply want to come to watch the film, as part of *Reel to Real*, that is fine.

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN BANGLADESH

Oprah Winfrey’s dramatic speech at the Golden Globes in January, helped to transform the show business awards into a platform for women’s rights and social justice. Empowerment of women has featured prominently in our national news recently, with Mrs. May’s cabinet reshuffle offering high profile jobs to women.

The rights of women in Bangladesh traditionally, do not comply with those that we expect and demand in western society. Our Commitment for Life projects in Bangladesh, focus on the needs of these women. The projects throughout Bangladesh, provide education for both women and men in literacy and numeracy as well as in gender awareness. Literate women can change and improve their situations, and the awareness of basic human rights of women leads to enhanced coping abilities within households. The participation of women in household decisions has been shown to improve their self-esteem and well-being, as well as that of their children.

The Department for International Development states that, “The empowerment of women is an essential precondition for the elimination of poverty and the upholding of human rights.” (DIFID, 2008:8)

Upgrading the status of young women in Bangladesh will help to build a basis for social change.

Thank you to everyone at UCS for your ongoing support for this Commitment for Life project. Our next Coffee Morning is on Saturday, 3rdFebruary.

Mary J

REVIEW OF THE FILM NOAH

The film finished and there was a stunned silence followed by, “That was bizarre”. It was a violent film, and showed the landscape as desolate and barren, over exploited and poisoned. Very little grew, the people were hungry and were shown fighting over a few berries and later fighting to get into the Ark.

It was a far cry from the somewhat cosier story from our childhood. But, as we read the Bible, we realised that it closely mirrored the biblical series of events.

Following further discussion, we realised the environmental issues in Noah’s world, were relevant to today’s problems; which may have been the intention of the Director Aronofsky. We finished by asking the question, “What can we do as a church community?”

Anne and Gloria

COVER TO COVER

Our next meeting is on **Thursday, 1st February at 10.30am** in the Bethel Room at UCS. We will be discussing **Catcher in the Rye** by **J D Salinger** and Janet Neilson will be leading us. All are welcome.

Pat D

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Thursday Circle will meet on **1st February at 2.00pm** in Bethel Hall. We are pleased to welcome **Mike Clifford**, who trains **Guide Dogs for the Blind**, as our Guest Speaker. It’s possible we might have a fluffy guest too! I’m sure we will all enjoy his experiences and knowledge of the subject. Do come along and join us if possible. You are all warmly welcomed to join us.

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?

Rosemary B

CRAFT GROUP

We 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 who would like to join us. Please feel free to pop in for a tea or coffee and find out more about the work we do. Anyone who would prefer to bring knitting or their own project would also be very welcome to join our very friendly group.

Kath D

REEL TO REAL

There will be no film shown in February, as we are linking Faith and Fellowship with Reel to Real for Lent.

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 discussions will be in the Wesley Room on Tuesday, 20th March at 10.00am and on Thursday, 22nd March at 7.30pm

Sandra C

THE BIG DAY OUT

On **Saturday, 3rd February 2018**, The Big Day Out event has been organised for young people. Everyone should meet in **Mumbles Methodist Church at 10am**. There will be swimming at LC2. The cost is £10 per person. Please see Janet for any further details.

Janet N

THE COLD TRUTH SLEEP OUT 2018

My son Stuart is taking part in **The Cold Truth Sleep Out 2018**.

With three work colleagues he will be sleeping in the car park at Tesco, Fforest Fach on **Thursday, 22nd February**. No tents are allowed! This is to draw attention to those who sleep on our streets every night. If anyone would like to sponsor Stuart, please speak to Christine.

Christine L

QUOTES' CORNER

Just a little something to make us think:

“Be not inhospitable to strangers lest they be angels in disguise”.

“There are no strangers, only friends you have not met yet.”

W B Yeats

QUIZ AND CURRY NIGHT AT THE MUMBAI!

Quiz and Curry night at the **Mumbai Restaurant** on **Monday, 19th March at 7.30pm**. This is a chance to socialise while raising money for our current project, **Commitment for Life**. As we are focusing on Bangladesh, it will be good to enjoy food from the region while Ian McCloy exercises our brains in his inimitable style. Tickets are £15 from the Mission and Outreach team.

Susan G

NEWS FROM THE STAGE DOOR

The excitement builds as the first dress rehearsal for our February panto, **DREAMS**, has now taken place; all characters look and sound amazing. The costumes are at regal level and the stage backdrops are on the level of Canaletto! The musical direction this year, puts Bernstein in the shade. Enjoy the **DREAMS** of a lifetime at UCS.

This is a panto not to be missed; please see P.15 for dates.

Tickets are now on sale, so please book early to avoid disappointment! You have been warned.... Oh yes you have!!

Church Cat

THE VIGIL – SUNDAY, 25th MARCH 2018

Advance date for your diaries, something different for **Palm Sunday**. Instead of our usual evening service, the **Fforestfach Drama Group** will be performing, in church, the play **The Vigil by Ladislav Fodor**.

The dramatic Easter story is translated into a modern setting in a small town American courtroom and the action occurs between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. A man known as the Gardener is on trial, charged with having moved Christ's body from the tomb after the crucifixion. The characters involved in the great drama are called to the stand.

Each tells in everyday language, what he saw and the way he reacted. As each in his fashion contributes evidence for the defence or the prosecution, the familiar story achieves stirring suspense.

Put the date in your diary now – and bring a friend!

Performance starts at 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm)

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

MAY JONES HAS PASSED AWAY

May Jones was an active and faithful member of Sketty Methodist until ten years ago, when she moved to Port Sunlight to be near her daughters. She celebrated her 100th birthday on 20th December. Wesley Club sent her a special bouquet, and many friends at Sketty sent her cards then and at Christmas. Those at the Wesley Club lunch on 8th January, also remembered her and saw a letter she had sent which included photos ranging from one of her aged 12, a wedding picture with Graham, and another with the Young Wives Group in 1964. If you would like to see her letter, I would be pleased to share it with you.

May died on 17th January, mourned by her friends here. She had fallen on the 16th, breaking her hip. She was successfully operated on, but then 'took a turn for the worse' and passed away. Until three years ago, she had lived independently and her mental faculties were strong to the end.

She had been in touch in the New Year, as she was concerned that she hadn't thanked everyone who sent cards. She had asked if a "thank you" for these could be in the church magazine.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Meriel, who had been living with May, whilst still working with Liverpool University Biology Department, and also with Ennis, who lives with her husband Richard in Gloucestershire.

A service will be held on 6th February, at Landican Crematorium and later on there will be a Service of Thanksgiving for May's life at Sketty, which Meriel and Ennis hope to attend. We assure her family, that May is remembered with great affection and many happy memories.

Jean K

ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE AWARDED TO EILEEN'S SON

Eileen P's son Kevin, has been awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours List 2017, for all his charitable work. From all Church Family, we send our congratulations.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Carol and Alan H, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 1st January. Church Family send their congratulations to the golden couple.

HEATHER AND JEFF HAVE MOVED HOUSE

Heather and Jeff C have moved home in January. Their telephone number and email addresses have not changed.

Church Family wish them lots of love and best wishes in their new home. What a lovely way to start the New Year!

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN FEBRUARY TO:

Clara on the 2nd

Nia on the 2nd

Dexter on the 6th

Ioan on the 6th

Lana on the 7th

Charlotte on the 9th

Alec on the 17th

Amber on the 18th

Macsen on the 20th



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

FEBRUARY 2018 DIARY

- 3rd Sat 10-12noon Coffee Morning for Commitment for Life
- 4th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**
6.30pm Dr Alan Cram
- 5th Mon Wesley Club: The Big Apple with Janet N
- 6th Tues 7.30pm Tuesday Monthly House Group
studying John's Gospel, Chapters 4 & 5
- 11th Sun 10.30am Miss Selina Taylor
6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**
- 12th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: **NO MEETING** (Panto rehearsals)
- 14th Wed 6pm **ASH WEDNESDAY EVENT**
(please see P.5 for details)
- 15th Thurs 7.30pm DREAMS Panto
- 16th Fri 7.30pm DREAMS Panto
- 17th Sat 2pm: DREAMS Panto Matinee performance
7pm: DREAMS Panto Final performance
- 18th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon
6.30pm Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta
- 19th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Desert Island Discs with Sue Knight
- 25th Sun 10.30am Rev Kim Fabricius
6.30pm Rev John Jones
- 26th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: A Musical Evening with John & Linda
Atkinson

Start of MARCH DIARY

- 3rd Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for Benevolent Fund

FEBRUARY 2018 ROTAS:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin

4 FEBRUARY

Jan T
Leighton
David K

11 FEBRUARY

Ian & Judith
Sonia
Alan & Liz R

18 FEBRUARY

Harry O
Graham B
David P

25 FEBRUARY

Allan & Jo
Caroline C
Tina L
Paul E

Sound

Gary C

Harry O

Bill D

Elizabeth

Evening

Keith

Anne V

Jeff C

Pat D

Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Jan C

Pauline L

Pam T

Barbara

Arranger:

Pam T.

Una

Pam T.

Chris

Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Janet N

Margaret W

Mary J

Maggie

Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

Ruth

Susan & Ian

Jane & Laurie

Pauline L

Claire K

Pam E

Sandra C

Jean