

**APRIL 2018**  
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.

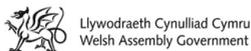
**Please submit all items for the May magazine to Jan T**

**by Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018.**

The Magazine for **April** will be issued on **Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 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.



Dear Friends,

Now that Easter Sunday has arrived, the beginning of Lent seems a long time ago! But cast your minds back... in church we had our Ash Wednesday service, which this year for the first time was preceded by some delicious pancakes. And the date?

Well, the date was 14<sup>th</sup> February, Valentine's Day. And as you may have noticed, Easter Sunday falls on 1<sup>st</sup> April, April Fools' Day. Apparently the last time that these days all coincided was 1956. And the next time will be 2029. When I realised the coincidence of these dates, it struck me as actually quite appropriate.

Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, is a time when we consider Jesus' journey towards death – a path that we understand as an expression of love. So how appropriate that it should begin on Valentine's Day.

Then for the first followers of Jesus, the morning news of an empty tomb might have felt like a joke in very bad taste. Indeed, Paul writes, in his first letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor 1.18) that the cross and the resurrection sound like foolishness to many, yet to those who believe it is something of immense power and significance.

But as we now know, those early followers soon encountered, in different ways and different forms, a RISEN Christ. Suddenly the joke was on those who sought to crush Jesus – to crush this expression of God's love.

For his love will not be silenced by death, but rises up in us all. ALLELUIA!

**With Easter blessings,**

Leslie

## **YPF**

Firstly a massive well done to the young people of the church who raised £840 over eighteen months for **Toilet Twinning**. Certificates are in church if you want to see photos of where the toilets they bought were built. The money bought six toilets for Villages in Malawi and two toilet blocks, one for a school in Zambia and one for a Displacement Camp in the Central African Republic.

Their next project will be with **Guide Dogs**. Sue L is a Guide Dog Trainer and she has just taken charge of a new puppy called Mitre. She will be explaining to us all, how the puppies are trained. She will be bringing Mitre in to some YPF sessions as he gets bigger and at a later date, will be bringing him in to church. The young people will then be thinking about how they want to support Guide Dogs as a charity and get involved with Mitre as he undergoes his training.

**Jackie C**

## **COMMUNION COLLECTIONS FOR APRIL**

Communion collections for April will be for Easter Offering, Methodist Fund for World Mission. Projects supported in the last year include providing early education in Myanmar, helping Haitian refugees in Chile, providing a grant for the Free Wesleyan church of Tonga to help with cyclone devastation and supporting the Methodist Church of South Africa to work against human trafficking. Remember the wider world this Easter time.

**Susan G**

## **SLEEP OUT IN FEBRUARY AT FFORESTFACH**

On Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Stuart and three colleagues did the **Sleep Out** in Tesco's car park at Fforestfach. It was very cold, but at least dry. Stuart was well equipped with layers and a good sleeping bag. He said it really made him realize how difficult it is for the homeless. Stuart wants to thank all of you who sponsored him. The four of them, from Low Cost Vans, **raised over £1000**. This will go to Shelter Cymru. Thank you all.

**Christine L**

## **BUS RIDE TO NEWTON ROAD, MUMBLES**

The road that sells everything,  
The homeless who have nothing.  
The bread shop, full of rolls and delights,  
The clothes shops that cater for all sizes and sights,  
The shoe shops with shoes, boots and bags made of leather,  
The holiday agent selling dreams in warmer weather.  
The cafe, the candle shop, the butcher and store for pet feeds,  
The hardware store brimming with all of our needs.  
The whole of life can be seen on Newton Road,  
The noisy, the quiet, the shoppers young and old,  
Where money changes hands and some get their wish,  
Some go home happy, with a new found dish,  
Found in a charity shop, handed in for free,  
Someone has died, so, "Let it go to charity".  
So why do we still, as we trundle along,  
Walk passed or walk over, the ones all alone?  
They are not shopping, just hoping for food,  
Cold and alone on our Newton Road.

**Jan T**

## **EASTER OFFERING 2018**

**Seek peace and pursue it**, is the theme for this year's EASTER OFFERING service. The service will be on **SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL AT 6.30PM at UNITING CHURCH SKETTY**. The speaker will be Win Hawkins and members of churches in the circuit will also be participating. After the service tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.

In 2017, the Easter Offering service raised £340, 641 throughout the Connexion. The Swansea and Gower Circuit's contribution was £2578.77, which was an increase of £75 from 2016. Uniting Church Sketty's contribution was £1241.15 (an increase of £300). With so many demands on people's money and with many people having less money to spare, the generosity of people in this church and the circuit is remarkable. Methodist Women in Britain says a heartfelt thank you to everyone.

This year's theme aims to sit within the year 2018, 100 years since the end of WW1, where still today we have to strive to seek peace and pursue it. The act of worship shares stories from some of our mission partners: people called by God and sent to become part of local communities, using their gifts and talents to share God's love. They help remind us that God's one mission is both local and global. The EASTER OFFERING envelopes are now available in church. If you are able to make a donation please put your envelope in the collection plate.

**Janet N**

## GIFT AID

The tax year ends early in April and once again I will be working on the Gift Aid claim for HMRC. This scheme allows us to claim back the tax you have paid on any gifts to or through the church which are attributable to you in the accounts. This includes standing orders, gifts through the envelope schemes etc. **If you pay tax** and you give to the church itself, or you support the numerous charities we support, then can I urge you to fill in a Gift Aid Form (obtainable from myself) so that we can claim back the tax. Filling in a form now will enable me to claim for all the gifts you have made during the tax year.

If you pay higher rate tax, then the church reclaims it at the lower rate, but you can then reclaim the extra for yourself. For those who have already done this, **if you have changed address recently**, then you will need to fill in a new form with your new details on it. You are also required to let me know if you have **fallen below the tax threshold** and are no longer eligible.

If you have any queries about the scheme and how it works, please have a word with me and I will advise you. This makes a significant contribution to the church finances.

**Les W**



## **TO FACEBOOK OR NOT TO FACEBOOK? THAT IS THE QUESTION**

You might not know that Uniting Church Sketty has a **FACEBOOK** page. You might not be interested that we have a FACEBOOK page. You might actually be anti-FACEBOOK. However, FB has its uses, as long as you are selective with the pages and people with whom you link and engage.

One positive use of FB is, for example, when a page acts as a forum for discussion with people who have the same illness or problems etc. that you have. You can use it to ask for advice, keep abreast of events, meetings etc., which may interest you or with which you can help.

A church FB page, as I envisage it, is to inform people about weekly services and church events. In other words, it shows the wider community what is happening in our church and circuit. Our FB page is linked to many Methodist churches throughout the Connexion and several in other parts of the world, so it is a way of purloining ideas. The Methodist Church (UK) is very active through FB on a daily basis and by email on a weekly basis. You can subscribe to its different email lists.

Sadly, the URC is not really active on social media. Consequently UCS FB page, may seem heavily weighted to Methodist posts, but I am sorry there is little I can do about that if nothing is posted by the URC. I also post updates from other denominations and other religions when relevant.

I also envisage our FB page as a “community” page, informing

people about events in Swansea, and bringing to people's attention, the concerns of the wider world, such as climate change; news of atrocities around the world; litter on our beaches, in our seas and oceans and encouraging people to use local independent shops. Some people make vile comments on FB, and this is where it can be a very negative and dangerous means of sharing views. It has been, and will be used to post events which people, usually young people, share on the spur of the moment and regret for the rest of their lives, because once they are in the ether they cannot actually be removed. This, sadly, is why many people decry it. I can understand and appreciate this, so it comes with a warning! **Be very careful who you "friend" and which pages you "like"**. Also, not everyone shares the same sense of humour!

FB can also be used positively as a vehicle for PRAYER. So many people post and share their genuine personal concerns and their concerns for the wider world. You may or may not know these people, they are like virtual friends! But so many share our concerns and as we pray at different times, the prayer becomes continuous. Will you join our church FB family? Please consider it. If you need help setting up an account there are several people who can help you.

**PS** We don't have a **TWITTER** account! The beginning of the word – **TWIT**, not thinking of anyone in particular, in the wider world, says it all, really!

**Janet N**



### **WEEKLY NOTICES**

If you would like to receive the weekly notices and/or the monthly magazine via email (pdf file), please contact **Lynne W Lynne W**

### **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**

### **COVER TO COVER**

Our next meeting will be at **10.30am** on **Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> April** in the Bethel Room. We will be discussing **Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine, by Gail Honeyman**. All are welcome.

**Pat D**

### **THURSDAY CIRCLE**

The April meeting will be held on **Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> April** at Bethel Hall **at 2.30pm**. It will be a Members' meeting, where prayers, poems, readings and other items of choice will be contributed. The March meeting was cancelled due to the threat of a heavy snowfall, so we hope to gather in Spring weather on this occasion. **PLEASE NOTE the new start time of 2.30pm**, now that the clocks have been put forward and the afternoons are lighter. Why not pop in and join us? A warm welcome awaits you.

**Pat B D**

### **REEL TO REAL**

Last month's film "The Shack" was met with mixed reactions. Like the book, which some of us had previously read, it produced marmite comments; either we loved it or hated it! However, as part of the Lent Faith and Fellowship studies, it provoked some really good discussions about the nature of God.

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 in the Wesley Room on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. Please contact Sandra C if you have any queries.

**Sandra C**

## **FORTHCOMING TRAIDCRAFT DATES**

Our next Traidcraft date at our church will be on **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> April**. If you need specific items speak to Jackie and Gary who can order them for you when they submit the monthly order.

**Jackie and Gary C**

## **SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB**

Our next lunch together will be at **12.30pm on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April at the Hen Dderwen**. Reminders will be in the newsletters in April. If anyone needs a lift or any further information, please contact Pauline. We are not lunching together in March, because of all the other events.

**Pauline L**

## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL AND TRUSTEES MEETINGS**

On **Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm**, there will be an annual **Congregational Meeting** followed by a **Trustees Meeting**. Everyone is welcome to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting.

The Agenda for this will be available in the weekly new sheet for the two weeks prior to the meeting. This is when we make all the recommendations for appointments and decisions regarding Finance and Property matters for the following 12 months. Please make every effort to attend, we look forward to seeing you.

**Ian H**



## QUOTES' CORNER

Just a little something to make us think:

### A GARDENER'S REFLECTION

First look at the weeds:

Weed out the gossip,  
Weed out the laziness,  
Weed out indifference,  
And weed out pride.

Plant five rows of peas:

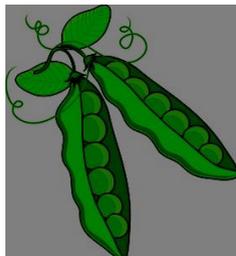
Patience, peace, promptness, politeness and prayer.

Then plant five rows of lettuce:

Let us be faithful,  
Let us be loving,  
Let us be useful,  
Let us be trusting  
And let us be grateful.

Then we can turn to the reliable turnips,

Turn up on time,  
Turn up with a smile,  
Turn up with a new idea  
And turn up with new determination.





## MURDER MYSTERY EVENING

FRIDAY 18TH MAY 2018



The Brayling Family are very proud to have received the International Award for Family Hotels. To mark this prestigious occasion, **Residents of Calypso Island**, are invited to join the family for a meal at their **Hawaiian bar and restaurant.**

The evening is by **ticket invitation only** and is of course financed by the family. However, the family are asking for a donation of £10 per guest to support UCS Benevolent/Discretionary Fund. Please speak to **John D** to ensure that your name is on the guest list.

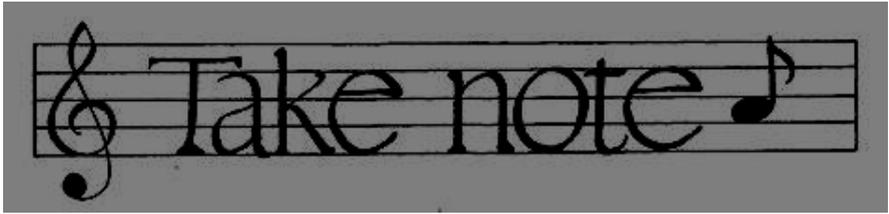
**Pre-dinner drinks** will be available between 6.30–7pm. Soft drinks will be provided at the meal, but guests should feel free to bring their own wine or other drinks. **Dinner** will be served at 7pm.

In keeping with our hotel policy to encompass the atmosphere and culture of the island, we invite our male guests to wear their most colourful shirts and similarly ladies their most colourful outfits.

**We look forward to you joining us for a happy evening.**

**Board of Directors – Brayling Family**





## **GOWER CHORALE SUMMER CONCERT**

**At 7pm on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> June at All Saints Church, Oystermouth,**  
the Gower Choral will be performing a Summer Concert, to

include:

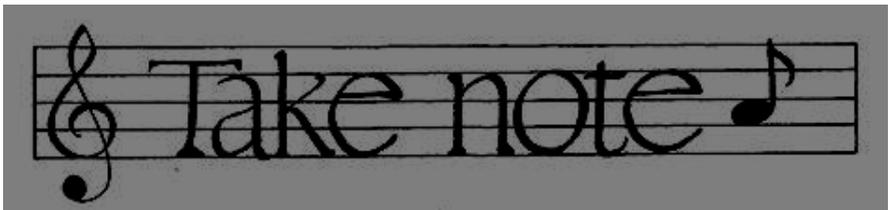
Magnificat —John Rutter,

Regina Coeli — Mozart

With soloist, Ros Evans

More details later! Please put this in your diaries now as this is a  
performance not to be missed!!

**Anne W**



## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

### **ANNE V**

Anne had a most unfortunate fall at a recent Quiz and Curry evening. Anne's fall, although at the same venue as our Curry and Quiz evening was actually the week before at a similar event for 'Save the Children' It was later discovered that she had in fact broken her hip. Anne has undergone surgery at Morrision Hospital and is now making good progress. How easily these things can happen! Be careful everyone. We send all our love and best wishes to Anne.

### **JEFF C**

Jeff recently suffered a fall, resulting in a few damaged ribs. We are pleased to say that Jeff is making a swift and full recovery, but nobody is to ask him to lift anything. Take care Jeff, our love and best wishes to you.

### **AVERIL L**

Averil's daughter Sian has informed us that her mum is now very poorly and will not be returning to Bloomfield. A suitable Nursing Home in the Sketty area is now being sought. Our thoughts and prayers are with Averil and her family at this difficult time.

### **ALAN H**

Carol's husband Alan has had an operation. We send our love and best wishes to them.

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MAY JONES**

A Memorial Service for May Jones will be held at UCS, led by Rev John Atkinson, on 11th June at 2pm. All May's friends are invited to

the service and afterwards to chat with her daughters, Ennis and Meriel over tea and cakes.

### **COME ON ELINOR!**

We join the Elinor's family in supporting Elinor as she runs in the **Women's Marathon** at the end of the **Commonwealth Games**. Good luck and all best wishes to you.

### **WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN APRIL TO:**

Alex on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Catrin on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Heidi on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Grace on the 6<sup>th</sup>  
Daniel on the 11<sup>th</sup>  
Eden on the 12<sup>th</sup>  
Noah on the 13<sup>th</sup>  
Eliza on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
Flynn on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
Rhodri on the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Hannah on the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Hattie on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
Amelia-Rose on the 26<sup>th</sup>  
George on the 26<sup>th</sup>  
Megan on the 30<sup>th</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

## APRIL 2018 DIARY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sun **EASTER SUNDAY** 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**  
6.30pm Mr Ken Allison
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon **EASTER MONDAY**
- 7<sup>th</sup> Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for Pettifor Trust
- 8<sup>th</sup> Sun 10.30am Miss Selina Taylor  
6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**
- 9<sup>th</sup> Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Owen Lewis, Landscapes of Vietnam
- 10<sup>th</sup> Tues 7.30pm Tuesday House Group Studying John's Gospel  
Chapt 7
- 15<sup>th</sup> Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Breakout**  
6.30pm Dr Alan Cram
- 16<sup>th</sup> Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Crafty Dog Cymru, A Hound in the  
House
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Sun 10.30am Rev Kim Fabricius  
6.30pm Easter Offering Service at UCS
- 23<sup>th</sup> Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Gwerfyl Gardner, Adventures in Quiz  
Land
- 26<sup>th</sup> Thurs 7.30pm Trustees Meeting
- 29<sup>th</sup> Sun 10.30am Rev John Atkinson  
6.30pm Rev Howard Long
- 30<sup>th</sup> Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Louise Fleet Role of the High Sheriff  
(OPEN MEETING)

## Start of MAY DIARY

- 1<sup>st</sup> May 7.30pm Tuesday House group Studying John's Gospel Chapt  
8
- 5<sup>th</sup> May 10am Coffee Morning for Christian Aid

## APRIL 2018 ROTAS:

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

### **Welcome Teams: Myrddin**

<b>1 APRIL</b>	<b>8 APRIL</b>	<b>15 APRIL</b>	<b>22 APRIL</b>	<b>29 APRIL</b>
Allan & Joe	David K	Ian & Susan	Ian & Judith	Harry O
Caroline	Leighton	Shirley J	Sonia	Graham
Tina	Jan T	Grosvenor	Alan & Liz	David P
Paul E				

### **Sound**

Elizabeth	Myrddin	Gary	Harry	Bill
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### **Evening**

Pat	Myrddin	Keith	Anne	Jeff
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### **Flowers: Rosemary B**

#### **Giver:**

EASTER	Jennifer	Shirley	Una	Anne
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#### **Arranger:**

EASTER	Rosemary	Rosemary	Una	Pam E
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### **Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W**

Margaret	Anne	Mary	Maggie	Gaynor
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### **Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E**

Ian & Susan	Pauline	Jane & Laurie	Myrna C	Claire K
	Pam E	Paul E	Liz R	Ruth A
	Jean		Julie G	Sandra C