

MAY 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 **June** magazine to **Jan T**

by **Friday, 25th May 2018.**

The Magazine for **June** will be issued on **Sunday, 2nd June 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** 

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

PRAYER

As in all Christian traditions, prayer is central to both the URC and the Methodist Churches. In part we know this because each year both traditions produce a Prayer Handbook. They are very different from each other – which is not surprising, as we all know that there are many ways to pray.

This, however, brings us back to the challenging question – do we pray? Do you pray? I think, for many of us, if we're honest, we will know that there are times when it is hard for us to pray. Perhaps we're too busy, perhaps we don't see the point, perhaps we're in a bit of a wilderness place. All these reasons – and more – are why praying can be difficult.

We are not alone in this, and it may be one reason for the initiative entitled 'Thy Kingdom Come' – a global wave of prayer between 10th and 18th May (Ascension to Pentecost). Originally an Anglican project, it has since expanded, and other traditions have become involved. If you are interested, see the website www.thykingdomcome.global.

I would like us to be involved in a small way in this global initiative of prayer and have therefore ordered enough small booklets for everyone called 'Nine Days of Prayer – Waiting in Wonder'. It's written by Rev Michaela Youngson, the Methodist President-Designate. When I saw it, I thought it was a beautiful and helpful little booklet, and something that each one of us might like. These will be available on Sunday 6th May, in time for the nine days of prayer which start on 10th May. Please look out for these, take your copy and join in the global wave of prayer.

Talking of prayer, we continue with our monthly joint prayer meetings with our friends from Seventh Day Adventist Church. The next meeting is on Wednesday 23rd May – time to be announced.

And lastly, our monthly Faith and Fellowship sessions are to be resumed in May, following a break in April. In conjunction with this focus on prayer, we will be looking at the Lord's Prayer over the coming months. We've said it all our lives... is there anything new to gained from it? Or is it simply old hat? We'll be studying it in more detail. See the dates later in this magazine.

Leslie

WORSHIPPING AND PRAYING WITH OTHERS

Sunday 20th May – our morning Pentecost service will be celebrated jointly with our friends from the Asian Christian Fellowship. They will be joining us, and our worship will be in Urdu and English, and Rev Irfan John will preach.

Sunday 20th May – there will be no evening service at Sketty. Instead we will join with friends from around the circuit for a circuit service at Murton at 6pm. The service will be led by Rev Alwyn Evans, a former minister in this circuit.

Wednesday 23rd May – monthly joint prayer meeting with our friends from Seventh Day Adventist. We will meet at theirs – time to be announced.

NOW WE ARE THREE!

Uniting Church Sketty is three years old. As part of the Constitution which governs the way we work, each year a report must be presented at the **Annual Congregational Meeting** about the Life and Witness of our church over the previous 12 months. This year, our own **Pat D** has done this in the form of an **A – Z**.

ADVENTURERS: Young people learning and having fun and taking initiative to organize charitable giving. Let us all be Adventurers in the faith.

BETHEL BUILDING: Sadly declared surplus to requirements, but leaving a legacy of ministries, service and happy memories.

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE: The major charity of the URC to raise awareness and money, this year for Bangladesh.

DREADED DRY ROT: Returned in the basement and awaits treatment.

EDUCATION: Through worshipping, discussing and listening, we grow and develop in the faith.

FLOWERS: Thanks to givers and arrangers who decorate the church so beautifully with flowers to share with others.

GOOD NEWS: Rev. Leslie offered to stay with us for another three years!

HOUSE GROUPS: Two places to explore, discuss, pray and share experiences.

INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS: Praying for world justice and peace and sharing our treasure with those in crisis.

JOINT PRAYER MEETINGS: With the Seventh Day Adventists, where there is always a warm welcome and lots of food!

KEEN ON PANTOMIME. Oh yes we are! We also raised a significant amount of money for Hands Up for Downs.

LEADERSHIP TEAM: Elders and Stewards working together to serve the church.

MONEY: We met all our responsibilities and commitments as well as giving 17% of our income to Charity. Thanks to our Treasurer and helpers.

NIGHT SHELTER: Providing overnight accommodation, food, fellowship and safety for homeless people. Thanks to all who helped in any way.

ORGANISTS: How fortunate we are to have so many talented musicians.

PASTORAL TEAM: Providing support for all who attend church.

QUIZ: Just one of the events organized by the **Events Committee** and **Mission Committee** to provide fun and raise money for charity

REFORMATION: This was the year remembering the events started by Luther in 1517 which gave birth to the **Reformed** tradition.

SAFEGUARDING: Of crucial importance for all. Everyone requiring training received training during the year, audit completed and policy updated.

TOILET TWINNING: An excellent effort by the **Adventurers** and their leaders, which with our help, funded six toilets for a village in Malawi and toilet blocks for Zambia and a Displacement Camp in the Central African Republic. Well done!

UNITING CHURCH: A year of worshipping and working together, of friendships and support. Another year to be thankful for all that we share.

VALENTINES Day Coincided with the start of **Lent**. We marked the day with delicious pancakes for **Shrove Tuesday** and a special service for **Ash Wednesday**.

WORKERS: Thanks to so many who serve on committees, make

refreshments and run Sunbeams every week. For Craft Group that created a beautiful Nativity window for the church. For those who organize Cover to Cover and Reel to Real, dancing and for those who give to and take food to the Food Bank. For those who take care of the building and the garden, edit the magazine, organize a Sunday lunch each month, take a service at Parkway Home and so much more.

XMAS: Christmas was a wonderful time of inspiring, creative and thoughtful services led by Rev. Leslie and the young people.

ZAMBUKO RA JEHOVAH: Our other main charity of the year, providing education for orphan children in Zimbabwe.

A year of some difficult decisions, such as our Bethel building, but one in which we were fortunate to have, week by week worship, led by our Minister, other ministers and Lay Preachers, to encourage and challenge us, discussion groups, activities, fellowship, fun and shared laughter to support us on our journey in faith.

Pat D



NEWS ABOUT MITRE, THE TRAINEE GUIDE DOG

Mitre is doing well. He is growing fast, eating lots and is just as lively as he was before. He can sit on command and he can wait for his food. He is getting used to all kinds of people, which will help him when he becomes a fully qualified **Guide Dog**. He is an intelligent dog who learns fast.

At YPF we are looking forward to supporting Mitre and **Guide Dogs for the Blind** and we have lots of events planned to raise money for this.

Thank you for supporting us with the Easter crafts. We raised about £92, which is a really good start.

From Isabel on behalf of YPF



COFFEE MORNING FOR PETTIFOR TRUST

My trust colleagues and I are so appreciative of the welcome and support we received for the recent coffee morning held at our church in April. The final figure raised was £292.22. Thank you all so much for your help.

Jon D

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

One of our safeguarding responsibilities is to be aware of the needs of the victims and survivors of abuse and to pray for them.

I recently attended, as the Circuit Safeguarding Officer, an awareness raising conference about the Inquiry which was launched in 2015 by the Prime Minister. Its terms of reference are to:-

1. Consider the extent to which state and non state institutions have failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation.
2. Consider the extent to which these failings have been addressed.
3. Identify any further action necessary for statutory and non statutory institutions to protect children from such abuse in future,
4. Publish a report.

One part of the Inquiry is THE TRUTH PROJECT, which provides an opportunity to share experiences with the Inquiry in a private session or in writing. Those who come forward; to date over 700 people have shared their experiences of being a victim, are offered emotional support, before during and after their session and are not contradicted or challenged. Not only does this provide information about the scale and nature of abuse, it gives survivors the opportunity to be heard and, it is hoped, to experience some support from sharing their experiences.

If you know anyone who could benefit from the Truth project, there is an office in Cardiff. The contact details are:

Tel: 08009171000 Email: contact@iicsa.org.uk

Address: Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

PO Box 72289, London, SW1P 9LF

Pat D

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS FOR June

During June we are supporting **Marie Curie Cancer Care** with our Communion Collections. We also have a Coffee Morning on **Saturday, June 2nd** to help raise funds for this wonderful charity. This is a charity that we don't really think about until it's too late. When you want your loved one to stay with you at home and not be admitted to hospital during what can be a difficult time, it is good to know that a Marie Curie nurse will be there to help.

Marie Curie is the leading charity providing care to people with any terminal illness in their own homes or in one of the charity's nine hospices. All the services are free to patients and their families.

Marie Curie has almost 2,000 nurses, who work in the community to provide free end of life care to 94% of the UK population.

Around 24% of Marie Curie Nursing Service patients, cared for in 2013/14 had a non- cancer diagnosis. People cared for by Marie Curie Nurses, are three times less likely to be admitted to hospital in an emergency, at the end of their lives.

When someone is cared for at home by Marie Curie, overall costs are around £500 lower, even when costs in social care, primary care and community care are considered. They have nine hospices across the UK that provide free specialist care for those with terminal illnesses. They invest around £3 million a year in palliative and end of life care research.

They have three long-term research facilities: Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Unit University College London, Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Centre Cardiff and Marie Curie Palliative Care Institute, Liverpool.

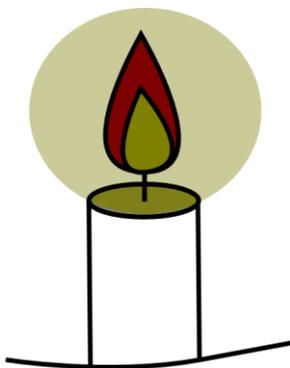
Mary J

ACTION FOR CHILDREN – LEAGUE OF LIGHT BOXES

Well, despite all the many and worthy claims on our time and our income, we have done it again. We have **increased** our annual contribution, via our collecting boxes by **over £100, to a grand total of £586.10**. Now you may think that doesn't sound a great deal, but when you remember that the money comes mainly by all of our collectors, over the year, contributing small amounts of change, it is quite significant. More importantly it is over £100 extra money to help the charity which offers such amazing support to our children and, children are our future.

Additional to the increase in amount, I am delighted to report that we have increased out box holders from 22 to 26. Mind you, we still have only one male, so guys, if you want to up the ratio of males to females, I would be delighted to present you with a collecting box. Of course, if there are any more ladies in our community who would like to be part of this special collecting group, I have boxes to spare. But for the moment, on behalf of the many children who you are assisting, my sincere thanks to the 26. Please keep up the good work.

Jan C



NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN AID

As we approach Christian Aid week in May, please read about some of the people and situations helped by appeals last year.

More than £1.4 million was raised for the Rohingya refugees. Local partners worked tirelessly to support over 12,000 people with health care. Over 51,000 received blankets and kitchen equipment. Furthermore, food packages were distributed to over 10,000 families.

The 2017 Christmas Appeal, raised £3.4 million to tackle hunger and malnutrition in South Sudan. For every pound donated, there was match funding from the government. Sadly, conflict is making conditions in Sudan even worse, with 40% of the population facing a lack of food and 1.3million children under five, at risk of severe malnutrition.

During Lent and Easter, Christian Aid has invited supporters to stand in solidarity with internally displaced people in Nigeria and Kenya. Forced by severe drought, they have had to move from home, in search of pasture for livestock with families lacking water, food and income.

These are only some examples of where the money we have given, has been used during the last year. As you know, wars, droughts and floods mean that the need is still very much there and every pound we can give will help.

Pat D

QUOTES' CORNER

Just a little something to make us think:

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 13th to 19th MAY

Another year has passed and sadly our world is in such a state that the aid which comes from this special week of remembering and fund raising is needed now more than ever. It seems that emergencies occur somewhere in the world at least every month, if not every week. Christian Aid always responds.

Responses are normally made through partner organisations in the area in which there is a crisis and thus negating the need to dispatch large numbers of international aid workers themselves. The benefits of this are many with perhaps the biggest being the fact that the local people can have a deeper relationship with the staff who are from, and accountable to, the communities they are serving. This is obviously vital work, which is not likely to end for the foreseeable future.

However, Christian Aid is also very aware of the need to be there for the long term and to take actions which make a difference long term. One example of this is the story of Vilia who lost everything in the earthquake which hit Haiti in 2010.

Vilia's story of the devastation and loss she felt, is heart wrenching. However, her story ended happily when one of the Christian Aid partners, built her a new house. It was safe and strong enough to withstand disasters and she was able to rebuild her life.

Her happiness was multiplied in 2016, when hurricane Matthew hit her home village. Her house was one of the few "safe" buildings and she was able to shelter fifty-four people. The ferocity of the storm left eight hundred people dead and thousands displaced. Vilia's home lost only one roof slate.

This year again, can our church family offer love and hope to those who we will never see? Those who are often living in condition

which we can never imagine. Conditions which are normally not of their making. Can we do this in the belief, that through our gifts, these people will know of God's love and feel the practical support which this love can bring from their extended Christian family?

This year we will be seeking to support Christian Aid through:

- **Monthly coffee morning – Saturday 5th May**
- **Communion collections**
- **Pew envelopes**
- **House to house collections – List in the porch**

Thank you as always for the support you give to this special cause which demonstrates our church's commitment to aiding Christians world wide.

Jan C



A series looking at the Lord's Prayer.

Praying it. Meaning it. Living it.

We say the Lord's Prayer each week. We've probably been saying it since we were children. And yet have you ever recited it without even thinking? All are welcome to join in our groups. No special knowledge is required. Bring yourselves, bring your questions, bring your insights.

Session 1	Tuesday 15 May at 10am / Thursday 17 May at 7.30pm
Session 2	Tuesday 12 June at 10am / Thursday 14 June at 7.30pm
Session 3	Tuesday 10 July at 10am / Thursday 12 July at 7.30pm

WEEKLY NOTICES

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

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 held as usual, in the Bethel Room at UCS at 10:30 on Thursday, 3rd May. Sandra will lead our discussion of Winter In Madrid by C J Sansom. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Mike W

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Thursday Circle will meet at Bethel Hall on **Thursday, 3rd May at 2.30pm**. Speaker to be arranged as soon as possible. We welcome all who wish to join us for this meeting.

Pat B D

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 in the Wesley room on Tuesday 15th May at 7.30pm

Sandra C

FORTHCOMING TRADCRAFT DATES

The next Traidcraft stall will be on **Sunday, 20th May**.

If you need specific items, please speak to Jackie and Gary who can order them for you when they submit the monthly order.

Jackie and Gary C



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



SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Our next lunch together will be at:

12 for 12.30pm on Sunday, 20th May at the Hen Dderwen.

All members and friends are welcome to join us. If anyone needs a lift or any further information, please contact Pauline at
Pauline L

SUNDAY, 20th MAY EVENING SERVICE

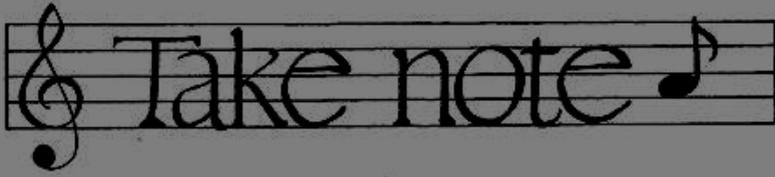
Please remember that there will be no evening service at UCS. The evening service will be held in Murton at 6pm with Rev Alwyn Evans.

MARIE CURIE COFFEE MORNING

How quickly a year goes by! Our Coffee Morning on 2nd June, will again be for Marie Curie. There will be the usual cakes, bric a brac, raffle etc., but no clothing. All donations of items would be very much appreciated; many thanks.

Kath D





GOWER CHORALE SUMMER CONCERT 2018

7pm on Saturday, 16th June, at All Saints Church, Oystermouth

The Gower Chorale will be performing a Summer Concert,
to include:

Magnificat: John Rutter

&

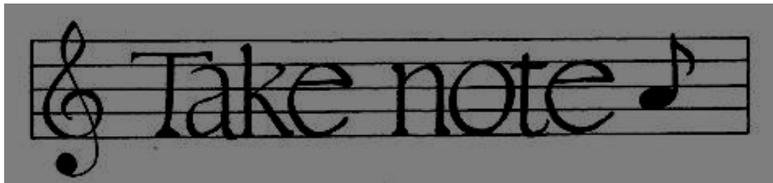
Regina Coeli: Mozart

Musical Director, Dr William Reynolds
with Festival Orchestra of Wales
and soloist, Ros Evans, Soprano

Tickets £15.00, available now from Anne Whitehead

Under 15 year- olds go free!

Please put this in your diaries, a performance not to be missed!!



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

MESSAGE FROM ANNE & PETER G

Thank you very much indeed to the church for the lovely bouquet of flowers and to all the friends who sent us cards and good wishes for our **Diamond Wedding Anniversary**. Your kind thoughts were greatly appreciated.

Anne and Peter G

ANNE V

We are pleased and relieved to hear that Anne continues to make good progress following her recent fall and operation. We send Anne our love and best wishes.

JOAN AND ERIC P

Happy New Home! To Joan and Eric Pace who have now settled into their new home in Sketty. We send our best wishes to them.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MAY J

A Memorial Service for May J 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.

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN MAY TO:



To everyone in our church family and to friends, who will be celebrating a birthday in May,

Happy Birthday!

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

MAY 2018 DIARY

1st Tues 7.30pm Tuesday House group

Studying John Chapter 8

5th Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for Christian Aid

6th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

6.30pm Rev John Jones

7th Mon Wesley Club **NO MEETING** (Bank Holiday)

10th Thurs 7.30pm Joint meeting of Mission and Outreach and

Events Teams

13th Sun 10.30am Rev Ivor Rees

6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

14th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Flower making

18th Fri 7pm Murder Mystery Play. Performance at **Bethel Building**

20th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon

6.pm **Service at Murton** with Rev Alwyn Evans

21st Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Flowers of the Dolomites with

Teifion Davies

27th Sun 10.30am Rev Pam Cram

6.30pm Miss Sue Raad

28th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: **NO MEETING** (Bank Holiday)

START OF JUNE MAGAZINE

2nd Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for Marie Curie.

MAY 2018 ROTAS:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin

6 MAY

Allan & Joe
Caroline C
Tina L
Paul E

13 MAY

David K
Leighton
Jan T

20 MAY

Ian & Susan
Shirley J
Grosvenor

27 MAY

Ian & Judith
Sonia B
Alan & Liz R

Sound

Elizabeth

Myrddin

Gary C

Harry

Evening

Pat D

Myrddin

Keith M

Anne V

Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Caroline & Susan

Jean E

Sonia B

Anne & Mike W

Arranger:

Pam T

Chris

Una

Lynne

Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Sonia

Gwen

Janet N

Margaret W

Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

John & Sandra

Margaret W
Una
Pat D

Lynne W
Kath & Bill

Jackie & Gary