

**MAY 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: Gwen D

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, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

**The Magazine for June** will be issued on **Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> May 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.



## From the Manse

Dear Friends,

It's that beautiful time of year when everything is growing: the trees, the flowers and the grass. Something is a bit weird in our garden though... and that's the grass! It's stripey! Why is it stripey? You may be asking! Well, Geoff recently put down some Weed and Feed, but because he was in a hurry, he missed bits as he was walking up and down.

Of course, had he had more time, he would have taken more care! But we're discovering for a variety of reasons, that lawn care with a dog, poses certain challenges! Of course the obvious... but also, clearly we cannot put down Weed and Feed, if Wookie is going to then go out into the garden. So back in March, when we were away for a week and Wookie had been taken to the dog sitter, Geoff had twenty minutes to do it before we needed to leave.

Clearly, that wasn't enough time to do a proper job. But our stripey lawn is a vivid reminder, that when you feed something, it grows better. And it's the same for our faith. We need to feed our faith if it is to grow. There are so many ways that we can do this – you can join one of our house groups, you can join Cover to Cover or Reel to Real (using books and film as a springboard to exploring faith and life), or of course Faith and Fellowship. And if you are unable to do any of those, why not have coffee with a church friend during the week and chew over the Bible passage or the sermon from the previous Sunday?

It doesn't matter how you do it, but **feed your faith**, so it may grow!

With love, *Leslie*

## **EASTER GARDEN**

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the talented people who created our Easter Garden. It's the first time we've ever attempted something on such a scale, and it needed vision, creativity and a lot of patience to get it right. A special thank you to John B who made the three crosses and the tombstone.

It was moving to come to the bare garden in penitence on Good Friday, where we broke twigs and left them in the garden, as a symbol of our brokenness. It was uplifting to come to church on Easter Sunday to see it so beautifully transformed! Then to receive the bread and the wine from the garden, along with a flower which we each then used to transform the cross.

Symbols and symbolic action are important in worship. They sometimes speak in ways that words cannot. Our Easter Garden helped us to meet with God. Thank you to Rosemary and her talented team!

**Rev Leslie**

## **PRAYER LUNCH**

Our first joint prayer lunch with our friends at the Seventh Day Adventist Church will take place in the Wesley Room at **12 noon on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May**. We will share in a simple meal of bread and cheese, and then we shall pray together. It will finish at 1pm.

## **BREAKOUT PLANNING MEETING**

Our next Breakout Church will be a world church celebration on 21<sup>st</sup> May. The planning session for this will be on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 1.30pm** (following the Prayer Lunch). Anyone is welcome to attend the planning meeting – Breakout only happens when people have ideas! So, please come along!

## **URC REGIONAL SYNOD AT CHRISTWELL URC ON APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> 2017**

The opening worship was led by Rev Neil Riches with a contribution from the Vicar of Manselton, who introduced the works of the poet R.S. Thomas. The Rev Kevin Watson, former minister of Christwell URC and now Moderator of General Assembly of the URC, addressed the Synod and shared some of his experiences of hope within churches, which he has been visiting since becoming Moderator. (Note that on the following evening Kevin joined us at UCS at an informal café style evening service at which we were not only able to hear from him but to share with him the good news of becoming an LEP).

Synod agreed to adopt the proposed Welsh Language policy for the central office of the URC. The policy is modest and incremental and does not require individual churches to adopt it, but will increase the amount of Welsh used by the URC in Wales at low cost.

In small groups, Synod considered the future of rural ministry following the retirement of the Rural Chaplain Rev Chris Coe. The Learning, Leadership and Mission Board had already considered the future of the post and was minded, given the small number of URC Ministers in Wales soon to be only 14, to recommend to the Autumn Synod that the post be discontinued and other ways be found to support rural churches while we continue to contribute to chaplaincy on the Royal Welsh Showground and to keep rural issues on the agenda.

The Children and Youth officer Judy Harris, made a presentation on Positive Parenting, particularly in the light of a proposed change in legislation which would remove the defence of, "reasonable chastisement". In groups, we discussed whether or not there are ways that churches can provide support to families who struggle with the behaviour of their children.

At the closing worship, the music for the hymns was kindly played by Eleanor P, as Christwell was not able to provide a pianist. How fortunate we are in UCS!

**Pat D**

### **CHRISTIAN AID**

**The official Christian Aid week this year is 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May.** I believe that many of us could be forgiven if, on hearing this, we quietly sigh and think, “another appeal for finance”. We are a very generous church family and Christian Aid is, after all, just one more good cause. However, it is also our opportunity to show our practical care and concern for our wider church family, Christians or otherwise, across the world, helping them to help themselves. For this reason I know that we will lend our prayers and our financial support to this very special charity.

This year UCS plans to contribute financially by following much the same format as previous years:

**Coffee morning** and bric a brac/sales table on **6<sup>th</sup> May.**

**House to House Collection** – A suggested list is in the porch, although it seems many churches do not now stick to that, so if you have a more favoured street you are free to collect there. (Even if you can only collect from a few houses, it gives us an opportunity for our wider community to see our church in action).

**Christian Aid Envelopes** – will be in the pews for personal contributions. (If you are a tax payer, please remember to tick the gift aid box).

**The communion collections for May are for Christian Aid.**

Thank you all.

**Jan C**

## **REEL TO REAL**

The film for April, Risen, was the last film we will be able to show in the church due to screening in the light evenings.

I am planning to take an extended break, so for the foreseeable future we are looking for 1 or 2 volunteers to work with Leslie in organising a film each month, to be watched at home but discussed, as we have been doing, on one evening in the Wesley Room. This film club has gone from strength to strength and Leslie would be very grateful for help, beginning with a film to be circulated in May. If you would like to help but need more details please give me a ring or email me.

**Sandra C**

## **Quotes' Corner**

Just a little something to make us think:

“Our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children’s future. And we are all mortal.”

**John F Kennedy**

## **TRAIDCRAFT FAIRTRADE RECIPE CHALLENGE**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> April we had some fantastic recipes in response to our challenge to create a Fair Trade Recipe. It definitely made us all think (myself included) about what fair trade ingredients are out there and how we can use them. As many people wanted to give a donation, we also collected £25 for Traidcraft Exchange, which will go to support the work of Traidcraft further. A huge thank you for all the effort everyone put in!

Overleaf is our first Traidcraft Fairtrade Recipe, hope you enjoy!

**Jackie & Gary C**

## **GRANOLA BISCUITS**

**Ingredients:** (makes 16-18 biscuits)

150g Granola (**Fair Trade**)

50g Dried Mango (**Fair Trade**)

120g Margarine

40g Muscovado Sugar (**Fair Trade**)

200mls boiling water

75g plain flour

25g porridge oats

1tsp cinnamon

3 dessertspoons of squeezey honey (**Fair Trade**)

### **Method:**

Warm oven to 180C, Gas Mark 4.

Prepare a large tin 13"x15" (33cmx 38cm) by lining it with baking parchment/ greaseproof paper.

Cut mango into thin strips with scissors and then cut into small pieces.

Place in a bowl and cover with the boiling water.

Leave soaking whilst you make the biscuit mix for 10-15 mins.

Place granola in a plastic bag and roll with a rolling pin.

Place margarine and sugar in a pan over a low heat stirring until margarine has melted and crush any lumps within the sugar.

Add granola, flour, porridge oats and cinnamon to margarine and sugar mix.

Drain mango pieces and add to mix together with honey.

Once mix has formed a ball, place a dessertspoonful mix onto the prepared tin.

Flatten slightly with fingers and rotate mixture round to form rough circles.

Cook 10-12 minutes until slightly brown.

Allow to cool in tin.

**Eat one at a time!**

### **FOLK DANCING ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS**

Every **Monday 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**

Come and join us 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.

**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**

### **COVER TO COVER**

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am**, in the **Bethel Room, UCS**, when Pat Davies will lead our discussion of One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch, by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. All are welcome to join us.

**Mike W**

## **THURSDAY CIRCLE**

The May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting has been **cancelled** as Bethel Hall is being used as a Polling Station for the Local Elections. Our next meeting will be 1<sup>st</sup> June, which will also be our last meeting before the summer break. Speaker to be arranged.

**Pat 'B' D**

## **HUFD: HANDS UP FOR DOWNS**

I am a trustee for **Hands Up For Downs**. This is a group which operates in Swansea and the surrounding area, providing amongst other things, speech, language and physiotherapy. Also, gym and swimming sessions, playgroups and Maketon training.

Obviously, all this costs a great deal of money; last year speech therapy alone cost almost £40,000. We have recently achieved charity status and are always busy applying for appropriate funding. The group also undertakes a good deal of fundraising itself.

As part of this, I am organising a concert on **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> May** here at **our church**. The **Gwalia Singers** are putting together a varied programme and **Alan Sykes** has agreed to entertain us on the organ. Both of these are very generously giving their time and talents completely free. Me, well I am just selling tickets at **£8** each. It promises to be a really lovely evening and I hope that I and HUFD can count on your support. Please bring friends and neighbours who would like to support this very special charity and enjoy a happy evening with talented entertainers.

Thank you as always.

**Jan C**

## ZIP WIRE CHALLENGE

As you may have read in a previous magazine, I was unable to do the tandem sky dive I had planned, in aid of Muscular Dystrophy. However, all is not lost, as on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May**, I will be doing a zip wire challenge **at Zip Wire World in North Wales** instead. There are different activities that Zip Wire World operates, including jumping on trampolines in the Llechwedd Slate Quarries.

The one I am doing will be to sail at 100 mph over a large, disused quarry at Blaenau Ffestiniog. I will have a small camera attached to my helmet, so hopefully, I will have a keepsake of my journey to bore you with, in the near future! I have even bought bright orange trainers to help me on my way, orange being the co-operate colour of **MD UK**.

Thanks again for your support. The amount of sponsorship given and promised now amounts to well over £2,000.

**Janet N**



## **BUS RIDE TO THE BBC .... AND GINGER SPICE**

We love an annual adventure to the cosmopolitan city of London, where people from all countries and cultures co-exist in relative harmony. Before leaving London, we like to pay homage to certain landmarks and Anthony decided on this occasion that we should go to the BBC at Langham Place and All Souls Church. We are not celebrity spotters, but it is fun to see a familiar television face walk passed you.

We strolled passed the One Show windows with our small squeaky wheeled case; it seemed very noisy as we walked under the building which acted as an echo chamber. Approaching the other side, I could see a long lensed camera in hot pursuit of someone with long auburn hair; she was happily supplying an autograph. Who could it possibly be? I ventured across and looked at the lady in the long black suede coat and matching high heeled boots. As she tossed her hair to one side, I could clearly see the face of Geri Halliwell Horner, an ex Spice Girl!

Anthony was a little way behind me, pulling the squeaking case and completely oblivious of the ongoing excitement. Squeak, squeak went the wheels as he crossed diagonally in front of the well heeled Geri, who was forced to stop to let the man with the noisy case move along.

“Anthony!” I said, “that was Geri Halliwell Horner that you almost ran over with our case.”

“Who?” He retorted, rather loudly I felt, in the echo chamber. “Come on, otherwise we will miss our bus”, he continued with complete disinterest.

Whether with celebrity or anonymity, we are all loved by God.

**Jan T**

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### THANK YOU

Many thanks for your kind words, cards and prayers that have been sent to us since the death of my husband Keith last month.

Reverend Leslie conducted a caring and loving service at Margam and that, plus many other good memories, will stay with us for ever.

Thank you.

**Maggie C and family.**

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY JEAN!

On the **3<sup>rd</sup> of May**, **Jean K** will enjoy a very special birthday.

All church family and friends want to send their love to you and wish you a very **HAPPY BIRTHDAY! xxx**

### WE ALSO SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN MAY TO:

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

Kodi on the 8<sup>th</sup>

Eve on the 24<sup>th</sup>

Jacob on the 26<sup>th</sup>

Jenson on the 27<sup>th</sup>

Jessica on the 29<sup>th</sup>

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### FOR THE BROWNIES AND CUBS

The box for Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers will again be at the hall end of the church corridor, and it would be much appreciated if you could leave your vouchers there for our Brownies and Cubs.

## **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

4.30-5.30pm Beavers

5.45-7pm 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 DIARY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mon 7pm Wesley Club: **NO MEETING**: Bank Holiday
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues 7.30pm Tuesday Evening House Group at Rosemary B,  
studying, Acts 3: 1-10, Psalm 144 & Hymn 364
- 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs 12noon Prayer Lunch with friends
- 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs 1.30pm Planning Meeting for Breakout Church
- 5<sup>th</sup> Fri 7.30pm Concert with Gwalia Singers and Alan Sykes playing  
the organ for Hands Up for Downs
- 7<sup>th</sup> Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**  
6.30pm Rev John Jones
- 8<sup>th</sup> Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Antiques with Tim Hughes
- 9<sup>th</sup> Tues 7.30pm Bible Study on Ezekiel
- 14<sup>th</sup> Sun 10.30am Rev Gillian Evans  
6.30pm: Mrs Cynthia Mumford
- 15<sup>th</sup> Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Clyne Through The Seasons with Teifion  
Davies
- 18<sup>th</sup> Thurs 7.30pm Joint Mission and Events Team Meeting
- 21<sup>st</sup> Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Breakout Church**  
6pm Rev Linda Woollacott at **PENLAN METHODIST**  
**CHURCH**: Shine Like Stars
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Mon 7pm Wesley Club: My Life In The RAF with Rev Sue Knight
- 28<sup>th</sup> Sun 10.30am Rev John Atkinson  
6.30pm Rev Noel Davies: **Communion**

## MAY ROTAS:

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

### **Welcome Teams: Myrddin P**

<b>7 MAY</b>	<b>14 MAY</b>	<b>21 MAY</b>	<b>28 MAY</b>
Ian & Judith	Harry, Graham	Allan & Joe	Ian & Susan
Sonia B	David P	Caroline	Shirley J
Alan & Liz		Tina L	Grosvenor
		Paul E	

### **Sound**

Harry O	Bill D	Elizabeth	Myrddin
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### **Evening**

Pat D	Myrddin	Paul S	Keith M
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### **Flowers: Rosemary B**

#### **Giver:**

Jean K	Una	Sonia	Les w
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#### **Arranger:**

Pam T.	Una	Rosemary	Lynne
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#### **Distribution of the Flowers: Anne Whitehead 299127**

Anne w	Pat B	Gwen	Janet N
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#### **Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E**

Ruth	Judith & Ian	Margaret	Jackie & Gary
Sandra		Una	
Claire		Pat D	