

2017
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 **July & August** magazine to **Jan T** by

Friday, 23rd June 2017.

The Magazine for July & August will be issued on **Sunday, 2nd July 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.




The **Methodist Church**

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

I recently read an article in the *Christianity Today* magazine which listed seven traits of an effective church leader. It said:

- Effective leaders are loyal.
- Effective leaders are joyous and fun.
- Effective leaders have a strong work ethic.
- Effective leaders are self-aware.
- Effective leaders take initiative.
- Effective leaders love people.
- Effective leaders are tenacious.

Well, thankfully for our church, leadership isn't confined to the minister! So if we agree with those characteristics, at least we can hope that they are spread across the Leadership Team! In both the URC and the Methodist tradition, there is a history and tradition, still continued today, of lay leadership in the church. And I know that we are all thankful for the elders and stewards who, in Uniting Church Sketty, work with me on the Leadership Team.

At our recent Annual Congregational Meeting we said thank you to Delyth and Gwen who are stepping down as Elder / Steward after serving so well for so many years. We will miss them, but know that their gifts will be used in other ways within our shared life together.

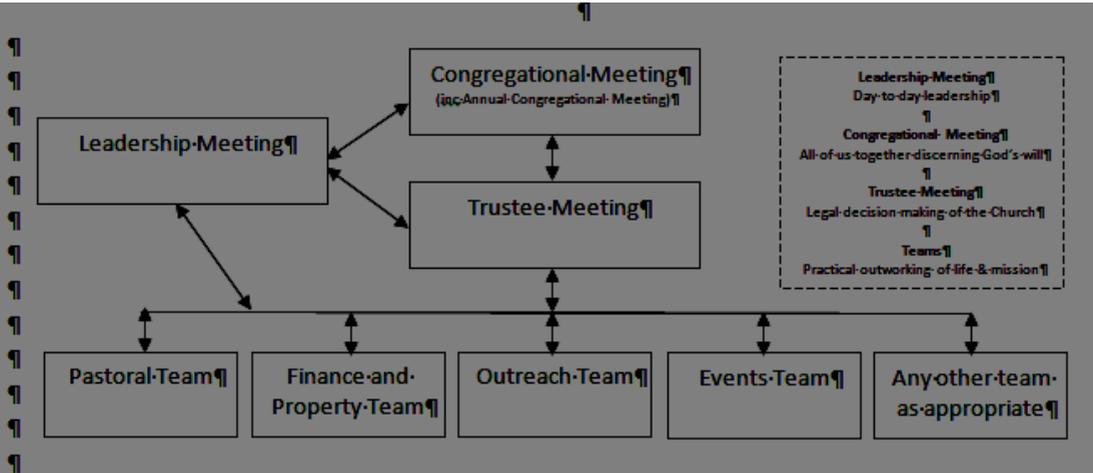
We also appointed two new stewards to the Leadership Team: Pauline L and Les W. They will add great value to the rest of the Team, which consists of Pat D, Julie G, Gwyn B, Gaynor B (Elders) and Jan C, Alan J, Maggie C and Laurie H (Stewards). Jan and Alan will share the role of Senior Steward, along with Pat who continues as Senior Elder.

Our church could not function well without the Leadership Team, and I certainly highly value the way in which we share and work together.

Looking at the list of seven traits of an effective church leader, I believe that between us we can say that we show all seven traits!

Indeed, the management of the church is focussed even more widely than the Leadership Team, with a number of different teams looking after different aspects of the life of the church. This means that we try to function as effectively as possible, using the gifts and skills of a wide-range of members. We are so fortunate that so many people are willing to serve God in different ways. Below is a diagram that shows how we function as a church.

With love, Leslie



FORTHCOMING SPECIAL SERVICE

Pentecost

Our Pentecost service this year (4th June) will be a shared service with our friends from the Asian Christian Fellowship (who use our Bethel building for their services twice a month). The service will be in English and Urdu, possibly with other languages thrown in (as is fitting for Pentecost!). What an opportunity, on what some say is the birthday of the Church, to worship together with another group of Christians. After the service, the Fellowship will be serving special finger food so that we may continue sharing together, and any donations for this food that we may make will be put towards a youth trip to the Holy Land that some of their young people are going on. The Communion Collection on that morning will be going to the same project.



Bible Month

Following Pentecost, our church, along with other churches in the Circuit and around the country will be doing Bible Month. This is an initiative which offers an opportunity for churches to immerse themselves in a biblical book over a few weeks. During Bible Month, all preachers will be drawing on the book of James, and our children and young people will also engage with it in their own groups.

Membership Service

We will be holding a very special Membership Service on the morning of Sunday 2nd July, when we will be confirming Mandy J and Amy W, and bringing into membership by transfer Atif and Saima, Ceri P and Anthony T. This will be a very special time for our church.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Around 40 people attended the Annual Congregational Meeting held on 27th April. Here are the main points for your information:

- We remembered Enid P, Doug P, Harold V and Joy M who had died in the previous year.
- We made some new appointments, including Pauline L and Les W as new stewards and Gwen D as Pastoral Co-ordinator.
- We thanked Delyth R (Elder), Gwen D (Steward), Pat T (Pastoral Co-ordinator) who were all stepping down from their appointments.
- Rather than receive a written report, we collectively reviewed the last 12 months, as Rev Leslie invited those present to discuss with each other different aspects of the life of the church, that we may tell our story for ourselves.
- We heard an update on the financial position of our church, which is healthy, and approved the assessment which we pay to the Methodist Circuit.
- We recognised that we now need to undertake the work to become a registered charity, and this was in hand.
- We heard of the work needed to be carried out on both buildings in the light of quinquennial inspections that have taken place, and we approved a new Health and Safety policy.
- The meeting was informed that by summer 2018, Rev Leslie's 5 year invitation as a Minister in our church will be complete. The stationing process starts this Spring and Heather requested that both Leslie and Geoff be allowed privacy and space whilst they prayerfully consider whether they wish to stay or move.

SWANSEA AND GOWER TALKING MAGAZINE

This is a charity which has strong connections with our church and produces a monthly talking magazine and a collection of Local History Books for the visually impaired and others who have difficulty reading. It also has a hand in recording our morning services each week and the church magazine. Since "going digital" and producing MP3 files rather than tapes, a lot of know-how has accumulated in myself and I am concerned that should anything happen to me, the magazine may find it difficult to function.

There are a variety of jobs that need to be done, some weekly, some monthly and some occasional. They do not call for a great deal of technical expertise, but you do need to enjoy "messing around" with the technology. Some jobs are more time consuming than others. If you are interested in either taking over some of the jobs or just "shadowing" me so there is someone available in reserve, please contact me. NB: I am not always able to answer the mobile, but when that is the case, I will call you back if your number is not hidden.

Les W

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN APRIL

On 27th April 2017, a successful Annual Congregational Meeting was held at our church followed by a Trustees meeting. Minutes for both meetings are available. Please contact Maggie C should you wish for a copy of these minutes.

Maggie C

CHRISTIAN AID 2017

“There are 65 million people across the globe fleeing their homes because of war, conflict and disaster and making dangerous journeys in search of safety. Thank you for not turning your back on them. Thank you for joining those who have witnessed this, so that we can be there for refugees around the world. You make it happen.”

So says this year’s Christian Aid literature.

I add my appreciation as once again our church family has been absolutely amazing in their generosity and I am now ready to bank a total of **£1,415.56**.

Of this, **£993 was gift aided**, which will of course increase our giving by 25%. This fund raising came from **envelopes in the pews £820.50 and the house to house collections £595.41**. I am sure you will forgive me if I say a special thank you to those involved in the latter. Street collecting is never easy and some churches no longer use this as a way of raising money. I am proud to say that we continue in this tradition as I believe that this is one of the ways the community see our Christianity and care for others in action. Additionally, we have **£200.40** raised at the **Coffee Morning**, together with an amount from our **May Communion Collection**.

This means that, even in these difficult economic times, when there are so many requests for finance, for so many good causes, including a very large amount already sent to Christian Aid in response to their Special Appeal earlier in the year, Uniting Church Sketty’s Christian Aid contribution for Christian Aid week, is larger than the contribution made last year.

So a huge THANK YOU for a wonderful achievement.

Jan C

HANDS UP FOR DOWNS

A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to making a success of our evening with the Gwalia Singers and Alan Sykes to raise money for **Hands Up For Downs**. Whether you were one of my really hard working behind the scenes helpers, ensuring our singers were fed and watered, were engaged in welcoming and selling, bought tickets to support us with your attendance or were unable to join us but made a donation to swell the coffers, a huge **THANK YOU**. Through you, we have been able to pass a cheque for **£1,400** to this special local charity.

An additional thanks to our church for giving us a lovely venue in which to hold the event. As always the support of our church family was evident in the number of you who were present, but additionally there were a very large number of people, including of course the very large choir, who had never been in the church before and they were, as one of the representatives of the charity said, “.... blown away by the lovely building, but more, the warm welcome and happy inclusive atmosphere.”

So again thank you to everyone for making the evening a success and me, very proud to be able to say, I am a member of Uniting Church Sketty.

Jan C

SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

Many thanks to friends who put their Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers into the box for the benefit of our Brownies and Cubs. We'll hope to be able to report next month on what the Vouchers gave them. The Scout leader is currently organising things.

IT'S OVER, THE EAGLE HAS LANDED!

Why did I do it? I must have been mad, because I really didn't enjoy it at all! I suppose I could have done another sponsored event, such as going to various cafes to test out their cream teas. But then I would have had to do a sponsored walk to help lose all the weight I would have gained. I could do the zip wire, I thought, but I really didn't think it through carefully enough.

It didn't help that my harness needed adjusting. I stood on the edge of the step, my harness was adjusted. I lay horizontally, hanging in mid air....my harness wasn't right. I stood up and it was re-adjusted. This happened four times. Eventually I set off, with a man who also lived in Swansea. He had been kept waiting, hanging in mid air, whilst my harness was adjusted!

Suddenly, it was all over. The Eagle had landed! I then had to be unhooked. I grabbed the pole which was held at the other end by one of the helpers, to steady me. Another helper tried to unhook me. That pole didn't work. He got a longer pole, that didn't work. He got the longest pole. That worked after some effort. All this time I was hanging horizontally!

Eventually my feet touched the ground. They unhooked me and I had to make my way down a hill of slippery pieces of old slate, back to the reception area. The camera on my helmet which filmed my descent was taken off and I was handed a memory card. I took off the harness and suit and off I set back to the car.

The following day I arrived home. Eager to see the video of my descent, I put the memory card into my computer. Nothing, just a black screen. Oh no I thought, the man from Swansea didn't turn on the camera properly for me. With the memory card was another tiny memory card, but it wouldn't fit any of the equipment I had at

home. The next day I took both cards to Colliers photographic shop in the Uplands. If anyone could do anything Neil was the man. When I returned the following day there was the video on his screen. The tiny memory card fitted into the larger memory/reader card! How was I to know that, without any instructions?

Anyway, all's well that ends well. I have raised nearly £4,000 for research into Facioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy thanks to the generosity of many people in Uniting Church Sketty and our circuit, my family, former pupils from Parkland, girls I was in Glanmor with and other friends. I raised about £1,000 for each 30 seconds I was in the air.

Takk, as we would say in Norway. Now all I need to do is tend to my aching muscles.

Janet N (Now known to her friends as Zippy)



ZIPPY

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS FOR JUNE

Our June communion collection is to help fund a youth pilgrimage to the Holy Land for a group of young people from the Wales Methodist Synod, including some from minority ethnic groups, with whom Rev Irfan John works.

Susan G

CIRCUIT PROJECT RAMBUKO RA JEHOVAH

Around £17,000 has been raised for **Rambuko Ra Jehovah**. Rev Siperire will be going to Zimbabwe in August to sort out some problems with permission from the Government Education Department to distribute clothes which she took out in November. The next circuit project will be Ogof Adullam for the homeless in Swansea.

Susan G

YPF

Many thanks to all the young people and adults, who took part in the, **Guess How Many Balloons You Can Fit in a Toilet Challenge**. The correct answer was **333** and congratulations to Gaynor B who won First Prize and Sandra C who was runner up. The event raised £90 and so a total of **£240** has now been sent off to pay for a **Toilet Block in a school in Zambia**. There may be another event over the next few months, so watch this space! **So far the youngsters have raised £360 so a huge well done to them all!**

Jackie and Gary C

COVER TO COVER

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, 1st June at 10.30am**, in the **Bethel Room, UCS**, when we will discuss, **The Essex Serpent, by Sarah Perry**. The book is available in paperback for £2.99.

All are welcome to join us.

Mike W

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our next meeting will held at **2.30pm on 1st June at Bethel Hall**.

Speaker to be confirmed; all are welcome to join us. This will be our last meeting before the summer break, so wishing all an enjoyable and safe holiday. Our meetings will resume in September.

Pat 'B' D

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

PRAYER GROUP

Around 18 people from our church and our friends in Seventh Day Adventist Church came together in May for our first shared prayer group. It was a marvelous and uplifting occasion as we shared fellowship over a simple meal of bread and cheese and then prayed together. **The next Prayer Group will be at the Seventh Day Adventist Church at 12 noon on Thursday, 8th June.**

TRAI DCRAFT NEWS

The next Traidcraft stall dates are **18th June** and **16th July**; no stall in August. We want to keep orders over June and July to a minimum, to allow us to empty the cupboard as much as possible. Please let us know if there is something you definitely want so we can order specifically for you. The Traidcraft stalls are getting very busy and we will be having three people on every stall as from September, so if anyone else would like to volunteer, please let us know. Just another three people and the volunteers would only have to do one duty every three months. It does require arriving early and leaving late on the day of duty and there is a fair bit of fetching, carrying and bending. However there is no ordering or pricing to do, as Gary and I do all that. A huge big thank you to our current, hardworking volunteers, Paul, Shirley, Lynne, Anne and Sandra. With a few extra people, this would make everything easier for everyone.

Jackie & Gary C

BANANA MUFFINS WITH A CHOCOLATE TOPPING

Ingredients: (makes 12 muffins)

200g flour [100g almond flour and 50g buckwheat flour and 50g rice flour]

[you can use any flour, white plain or SR or whole wheat]

Half a teaspoon baking powder

2 beaten eggs

5 tablespoons olive oil

5 tablespoons milk

350g **Fairtrade** bananas [weight without skins]

100g **Fairtrade** milk chocolate

Method:

Put 12 paper cases in a bun tray.

Put flour[s] and baking powder into one bowl and mix.

Beat eggs, oil and milk in a measuring jug.

Mash bananas on a plate.

Add egg mixture and bananas to dry ingredients and fold till just mixed.

Put mixture into bun cases.

Bake at 200 degrees C for 15 minutes [sometimes 20 or 25] till golden brown on top.

When cooled, bain-marie chocolate and decorate the top.

Best eaten on the day. They do freeze and taste fine, but bananas go a bit dark.

This delicious recipe was sent in by Isabel.

JUNE COFFEE MORNING FOR MARIE CURIE

On **Saturday, June 3rd from 10am to 12 noon**, we will have a **Coffee Morning**, to help raise funds for **Marie Curie**. How quickly a year has gone. The morning will take the same format as last year with cakes, raffle, good quality bric a brac, and of course tea and coffee. Any offers of help and donation of goods will be much appreciated. Hope to see you there.

Kath D

THE GOWER CHORALE PRESENTS

An Evening Of Baroque Music By Bach & Handel,

Accompanied by the

Cambrian Consort

Including Vocal Soloists

Musical Director is Dr William Reynolds

on

On Saturday, 3rd June 2017, at 7.30pm

at

All Saints Church, Oystermouth

Tickets Available Now: £14 Adult, children under 15yrs free

Please contact Anne W

for tickets or further details.

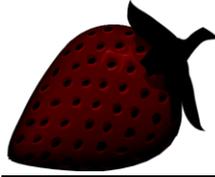
Quotes' Corner

Just a little something to make us think:

“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass....

It’s about learning to dance in the rain.”

Vivian Greene



STRAWBERRY TEA

on

SATURDAY, 10th JUNE 2017

in

Gaynor's Garden

3pm-5pm

(if wet at UCS, Dillwyn Road, Sketty)

tickets £5.00 from Gaynor or church stewards

All proceeds to church funds



CHURCH DIRECTORY:

To help us to contact one another, we hope to compile a consolidated list of contact details of all members and adherents of Uniting Church Sketty; copies will be held in the Vestry for members to request, via a Steward or Elder.

To enable us to comply with Data Protection Law you are asked to consider whether or not you are happy for your contact details to be published in this list or whether you would prefer to 'opt out'. If you wish to 'opt out' of one or more of the following details being included in the list, please e-mail or write to Gwen D.

I wish to inform you that I am opting out of having the following information published in the Uniting Church Sketty Directory:-

Name [_____]

Address [_____]

Tel. No. [_____]

E-mail [_____]

This notice will also be published in the July and August Church Magazine, and in 2 further Weekly Church Notices on the last Sunday in June and the last Sunday in July. The deadline to 'opt out' is the end of July, thereafter, the contact details of all those who have not 'opted out', will be included in the printed list.

Gwen D

Open Day at Riverside, Middleton, Rhossili



on
24th June 2017



Supporting a Women's Sewing Project and a
Village Primary School in South India
(charity no 111652)

Coffee and teas from **10.30am**

Wonderful lunches **12-2.30pm**

Afternoon teas **3-4.30pm**

There will be:

A Raffle, Cake stall, Plant stall and Book stall.

All are welcome!

As are donations for all the stalls.

For further details, please contact: Rev Gill Evans



ABBAY PLAYERS

PRESENT

“SONGS FROM THE SHOWS”

ON

FRIDAY, 30th JUNE 2017

7.30pm

AT

UNITING CHURCH SKETTY



Admission £5 (incl. refreshments)

Tickets can be reserved by emailing
unitingchurchsketty@gmail.com or pay at the door

Proceeds in aid of Church Funds and Abbey Players

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL GRANDDAUGHTER FOR CHRIS AND IAN

Lily Rebecca has arrived in Australia! Born on Tuesday, 25th April at 5.38pm, a very considerate time and weighing 7lbs 11ozs. Sarah and Lily are doing well and so are the grandparents. Love and congratulations are sent to Chris and Ian H and to all their family from all their church family and friends at UCS Swansea.

IN MEMORY OF JOYCE S

The funeral took place on Wednesday, 24th May for Joyce S. Our thoughts and prayers are with Nansi and Gabrielle at this sad time.

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN JUNE TO:

Grace on the 3rd
Sophie on the 3rd
Oliver on the 10th
Lottie on the 11th
Alana on the 14th
Jordan on the 15th
Isabel on the 20th
Matteo on the 22nd

CORRECT TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR PAULINE LITTLER

Please Note:

Pauline L's telephone number is incorrect on the Pastoral List.

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

JUNE DIARY

3rd Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning proceeds to Marie Curie

3rd Sat 7.30pm An Evening of Baroque Music at All Saints Church

4th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

6.30pm Rev Mrs Heather Coleman

5th Mon 6.15pm tea followed at 7pm with Local Preachers and

Worship Leaders Meeting, at Pitton Methodist Church

5th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: An Explosion and its Aftermath!

with Martin Price

6th Tues 7.45pm Bible Study of Ezekiel, with Rev Noel Davies

8th Thurs 10am Circuit Church Property Stewards Meeting at UCS

10th Sat 3pm-5pm Strawberry Tea

11th Sun 10.30am Rev Ivor Rees

6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

12th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Swansea Through the 50s,

with Geoff Brooks

13th Tues 7.30pm Tuesday House Group Studying Isaiah 6: 1-8 and
Psalm 29

15th Thurs 7.30pm Circuit Trustees Meeting at Horton Church

18th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon

6.30pm Rev Howard Long

19th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: The Reason For The Rhyme with

Georgina Scammell

24th Sat 10.30am-4.30pm Open Garden at Rev Gill's, Rhossilli

25th Sun 10.30am Mr Ken Allison

6.30pm Mr Martin Gregson

26th Mon 7pm: Wesley Club: AGM

30th Sat 7.30pm Songs From The Shows presented by Abbey Players

JULY

1st Sat 10am- 12noon Coffee Morning

JUNE ROTAS:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin P

4 JUNE	11 JUNE	18 JUNE	25 JUNE
Leighton	Ian & Judith	Harry O	Allan & Joe
Jan T	Sonia B	Graham B	Caroline C
David K	Alan & Liz R	David P	Tina L
			Paul E

Sound

Gary C	Harry O	Bill D	Elizabeth E
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Evening

Anne V	Jeff C	Pat D	Myrddin
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Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Jean E	Keith M	Pam T	Avril E
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Arranger:

Una	Pam E	Pam T	Rosemary
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Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Sonia	Maggie	Gaynor	Margaret
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Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

Jon & Sandra	Pauline	Kath & Bill	Susan & Ian
Lynne	Pam	Elizabeth	
	Jean		