JULY & AUGUST 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 September magazine to Jan T by Friday, 24th August 2018.

The Magazine for September will be issued on Sunday, 2nd September 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.
From the Manse

Dear Friends,

I write this on 20th June, which is the UN Refugee Day. This has been observed annually since 2001 and is designed to raise awareness of the refugee situation throughout the world. It coincides with two stories that have been making the national news.

The first, was when the search and rescue boat carrying 630 weak and tired refugees and migrants, was refused entry by Italy, following the appointment of their new far-right interior minister. It re-ignited the European-wide conversation about ‘Fortress Europe’ and how we share the load and manage the crisis.

The second, was when the Trump administration separated children from their parents at the southern US border, under the new ‘zero tolerance’ immigration policy.

What the status of these two stories will be by the time you read this, of course I don’t know. But whether or not they are still top stories matters not. Because the plight of refugees around the world will not have gone away.

The refugee issue is possibly one of the defining issues of our generation – and how we as individuals and as nations deal with it, will define how history sees us; at the moment, it’s not good.

In so many ways, we are comfortably protected from it. We can turn off our television screens. We can forget what we read. Maybe we do this because the issue is too vast for us to
comprehend. But as Christians, we must care. In the way we vote, in the way we talk, in the way we act – we show whether we pay more than lip service to our faith.

As Jesus said, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in.” (Matthew 25:35)

Or as Barack Obama said, “Our ability to imagine ourselves in the shoes of others, to say, ‘There but for the grace of God go I’, is part of what makes us human”.

I came across this poem by Brian Bilston. It made me think – I hope it makes you think too.

REFUGEES
They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries

Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

*(now read from bottom to top)*

*Leslie*
BAPTISM 12 AUGUST
We are delighted that Amy and Nick are bringing their children Toby and Oliver for baptism on Sunday 12th August. Amy is Dulcie H’s grand-daughter, so there are long links there with Sketty Methodist Church. It will be a special service for many reasons – including the fact that there could be up to 100 guests and 30 children! Because the hall may be out of action due to the work being done on the dry rot, the Leadership Team has made an important decision about this service. The service that morning will be much shorter than usual, around 30-40 minutes and will be accessible to children and to adults not used to going to church. So no sermon then! The Leadership Team and I felt that the congregation would not mind making this change for one Sunday and are sure that we will welcome all our guests into our church, even if it is delightfully chaotic! So on that Sunday, please come prepared to welcome visitors of all ages in our usual warm UCS way!

Leslie

BETHEL BUILDING
On Sunday 1st July we gave thanks for all that God has done through and in Bethel over the years. It was good to remember, but also to acknowledge that our task is so much more than bricks and mortar. In the lead up to the sale, a number of people in our church worked tirelessly and so efficiently to do oversee the huge task of disposing of the contents and making sure all was done properly. In particular I would like to thank Sonia, Alan and Jeff C. They did an amazing job and it meant that everything was disposed of appropriately and sensitively. In connection with this, I share a letter received from Eleanor C, who now attends Morriston:
Dear Leslie,

On behalf of Morriston Methodist Church, I would like to say thank you for the lectern and hymn board that Uniting Church Sketty has gifted us. It must be difficult for some in Uniting Church Sketty to part with the building and the contents. But hopefully this marks a continued direction and strength in continuing your work in Sketty.

I couldn’t believe what I was reading in the email that Jeff and Alan sent, as only two days earlier in our Church Council meeting did we discuss obtaining a lectern. Talk about divine assistance! We had decided that now we’re a smaller (dare I say it, ageing) congregation, when we worship upstairs some preachers would prefer to preach from the front rather than in the pulpit. But for that to happen, we would need a lectern. I hastily asked Jeff and Alan if we could offer the Bethel lectern a home, which they granted. Having read from the same lectern many a time whilst worshipping with yourselves in Bethel, I knew it was going to be perfect for our requirements and, although far less important a point, it nevertheless matches the woodwork in Morriston perfectly.

Thank you again for your generosity and please thank Jeff, Alan, Sonia and all else involved for their assistance.

Eleanor C (on behalf of Morriston)
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 3 Tuesday 10 July at 10am / Thursday 12 July at 7.30pm

CHRISTIAN AID 2018
Christian Aid works in 37 countries with 475 partner organisations. It is the official development agency of 41 church denominations in Britain and Ireland. For every £1 that CA receives, 86pence is spent on direct charitable activities. So, I think we at UCS can be justly proud of sending £1625.80p this year. This figure does not include £820 of gift aided contributions. Sadly, our total is lower than last year, partly accounted for by the fact that this year we had only three house to house collectors. Nevertheless, I think we did remarkably well and I would like to say a huge thank you from me, but more importantly, from all people across the world who will benefit from your generosity.

Jan C
COMMUNION COLLECTIONS FOR JULY AND AUGUST
Communion collections in July will be for Money for Madagascar. Madagascar is one of the world’s poorest countries. Money for Madagascar funds projects, tackles issues which affect the country, extreme poverty, loss of biodiversity, lack of food security and limited access to education. You can find out more on their blog at http://moneyformadagascar.blogspot.com/

Communion collections in August will be for Maggie’s Centre. Maggie’s Centre is based at Singleton Hospital and will be familiar to many. It has professional staff offering practical and emotional cancer support and advice.
Susan G

FOLK DANCING ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS
Folk Dancing will meet until Monday, 16th July and will then take a summer break. Classes will resume on Monday, 10th September at 2pm. We always welcome new members so why not come and join us! We look forward to seeing you! For any further information, contact 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, 5th July, when we will discuss, Mr Golightly’s Holiday by Salley Vickers.
Mike W

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

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, 10th July at 7.30pm.
Sandra C

WESLEY CLUB
Our last get together for the summer is on Monday, 9th July, when members are asked to meet at Verdi’s at 7 pm. Lifts can be arranged. Meetings will resume on Monday 10th September, when we will have a members’ evening.
Pauline L

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB
Our next lunch together will be at: 12 for 12.30pm on Sunday, 15th July at the Hen Dderwen. A list will be in the front porch as usual nearer the time. All members and friends are welcome to join us. If anyone needs a lift or any further information, please contact Pauline Please note: There will be no lunch in August. The next will be on the 16th September. Pauline L
TRAIDCRAFT
The next Traidcraft Stall is on **Sunday, 22nd July.** We will be trying to keep orders in July down to a minimum, as there will be no stall in August, but if anyone wants specific items, please contact us. Certain items are currently out of stock in the main Traidcraft depot, so we will check for you.

*Jackie and Gary C*

MESSAGE FROM BARGAIN HUNT CONTESTANT
Further to the Bus Ride to Bargain Hunt item in June’s Magazine, I would just like to apologise to all Bargain Hunt viewers, for not stating when the particular, Swansea-linked edition will be shown. According to the BBC, it should go out some time in September. Hopefully, we will have received a specific date in time to put into our September Magazine. Hopefully also, the ice-cream scene will be dropped!

_________________________________

A performance not to be missed!!

**ABBEY PLAYERS**

present

**SONGS FROM THE SHOWS**

on

Friday, 6th July at 7.30pm

at

**UCS**

**Tickets £6.00**

From Mission & Events Committee members or at the door
Celebration Og Roast
For Ogof Adullam
At home of Ken and Julia A
From 5pm
On Friday 13\textsuperscript{th} July 2018

**STRAWBERRY TEA**

**SATURDAY, 21\textsuperscript{st} JULY 2018**

3pm – 5pm
In Gaynor’s garden
IF WET AT UCS
TICKETS £5.00
From Gaynor or stewards

Proceeds for church funds
You must be joking! You can’t really be saying the Christmas word now, before we have even had our summer holidays!! Yes, we are saying that word, because as my work motto constantly tells me, “Failing to Plan is a Plan to Fail”!!!!

This year, our Operation Christmas Child Coffee Morning is earlier than usual and we rely on your support to help us fund raise for this very worthwhile charity. We appreciate how many charities tug at our heart strings for money, to continue the good work they do and we know what a very generous church, Uniting Church Sketty has always been.

As a church, we began supporting the Swansea Warehouse of Operation Christmas Child over 12 years ago. During that time, the number of shoe boxes we have sent to needy children, regardless of colour or creed, in various countries, has continued to increase. In a world where there are more children than ever in need of receiving a box of love, we are determined to try to fulfil our commitment to that cause.
Without our fund raising coffee morning, we would find it very difficult to raise the necessary transport costs for each box, as well as buying the top up items some boxes from other sources require. We assure everyone that no money received is spent on any staff resources at the Swansea warehouse, which is run totally by a dedicated team of volunteers.

Please put the date of 1st September in your diaries and come and share a cup of coffee and piece of cake, whilst sharing your holiday stories, at the same time as helping our cause. We will very much appreciate the offer of cakes and perhaps any unwanted gifts for the sales table. Looking forward to seeing you.

Alan and Linda J and Jan C

A VISIT TO THE THEATRE
This year the Abbey Players are taking us on a fantastic, fun filled, family adventure. They will be performing the amazing, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, in the Grand Theatre from Wednesday, October 24th through to Saturday, October 27th. I have made the usual block booking for the Saturday matinee. If you would like to attend this performance or any of the evening performances, please add your name and telephone number to the list on the notice board in the Church foyer. For further information, contact me.

This promises to be a stage spectacle with unforgettable songs, and you never know, we may even see a flying car!

Liz R
CRAFT FAYRE IN NOVEMBER
As usual, the annual Craft Fayre will be held on the first Saturday in November. Due to on-going Church projects, this will be a slightly lower key event than normal. We thought we would take a different approach this year and ask members of the Church if there was anything they would particularly like the group to make for them. Also, we are open to suggestions about items to sell, that you think might be popular. Please speak to Kath Davies or any other members of the Craft Group, as soon as possible, so that we can start working on your requests. We hope to see as many of you as possible on Saturday, 3rd November.
Liz R

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAT AND NOEL D
Our congratulations and love to Pat and Noel Davies who will be celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary in August.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES
Due to the new data protection legislation of 2018, we have decided that it is now prudent to refrain from having a birthday list each month in the magazine. However, if you have a special message that you wish to convey in our Church Family section, please let us know and with your permission, it will be included.

To all our church family and friends, who will be celebrating a birthday in July and August,

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
Booking enquiries and heating requirements:
Kath & Bill D
JULY 2018 DIARY

1st Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**
6.30pm Rev Malcolm Guest

2nd Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Family History with Margaret Cross

6th Fri 7.30pm Abbey Players present, Songs from the Shows

7th Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning & Book Sale for Ogof Adullam

8th Sun 10.30am Mr Martin Gregson
6.30pm Mrs Heather Coleman

9th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Summer outing to Verdi’s

15th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Breakout Church**
6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

21st Sat 3pm-5pm Strawberry Tea

22nd Sun 10.30am Rev Kim Fabricius
6.30pm Miss Sue Raad

29th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon
6.30pm Siperire Mugadzaweta

AUGUST 2018 DIARY

4th Sat 10am-12 noon Coffee Morning

5th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**
6.30pm Rev Noel Davies

7th Tues 7.30pm: Tuesday Evening House Group at Parklands Court,
studying John Chapt 10

12th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon
6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

19th Sun 10.30am Mr Quentin Hawkins
6.30pm Rev John Jones

26th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon
6.30pm Rev Andrew Walker

START OF SEPTEMBER 2018 DIARY

1st Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for Operation Christmas Child

2nd Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**
6.30pm (Name not yet available)
**JULY 2018 ROTAS:**

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin

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Sound

| Harry O      | Bill D       | Elizabeth    | Elisha G    | Myrddin      |

Evening

| Anne         | Jeff C       | Pat D        | Myrddin     | Keith M      |

Flowers: Rosemary B

**Giver:**

| Rosemary     | Myrddin      | Jan C        | Anne V      | Sandra Mc    |

**Arranger:**

| Pam E        | Chris        | Lynne        | Rosemary    | Pam T        |

**Distribution of the Flowers:** Anne W

| Gaynor       | Sonia        | Gwen         | Anne W      | Janet N      |

**Sunday Morning Coffee:** Paul H E

| Susan & Ian  | Gwen         | John & Sandra| Lynne      | Pat D        |
| Glen         | Maggie       | Bill & Kath  | Bill & Kath| Margaret     |
|              | Linda W      |              |            |              |
AUGUST 2018 ROTAS:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin

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Sound

Gary C       Harry O   Bill D     Elizabeth
Evening

Anne V       Jeff C    Pat D     Myrddin

Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Susan G      Kath D    Jean K    Chris H

Arranger:

Rosemary    Lynne    Pam T     Chris

Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Pat B D  Mary J  Maggie C  Gaynor

Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

August coffee duties will be down to volunteers.
If you are able to do a coffee duty during August, please place your name on the coffee rota, master copy, on the notice board in the foyer. Many thanks.
Paul