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.
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.
Please submit all items for the October magazine to Jan T
    by Friday, 21st September 2018.

The Magazine for October will be issued on Sunday, 30th 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 hope you had a good summer! The pace of life over July and August is certainly different – whilst some miss all our regular church activities, others are glad of the break! But I hope we are all ready to get back into the normal swing of everyday life.

I have no doubt that all the readers of our magazine will know by now that, since the last edition, our own Rev Kim Fabricius died very suddenly and unexpectedly.

I’m sure, like me, even two months later, you still find it hard to take in. Somehow we still expect to see Kim striding forth, brown and fit, full of energy. His funeral was one that most of us have probably not experienced before, with people travelling long distances to attend and the service packed out in church and relayed into both the Wesley Room and the Church Hall. If we had to say farewell to Kim, it was the way to do it.

Two days after he died, he was due to preach at our morning service in Sketty – a service in which we were giving thanks for all that happened from and within our Bethel building. Amazingly, Angie read his sermon – entitled ‘Goodbye – Hello’. There was not a dry eye in the house. Many people have since requested a copy of his sermon, and with Angie’s permission, it is printed within this magazine.

Kim’s absence makes our hearts hurt – but his legacy to us is encouragement to face the future with resolve and courage.

With love, Leslie
REMEMBERING KIM – SOME REFLECTIONS FROM HIS FUNERAL
The words below are from Leslie’s short address at the Crematorium, picking up on all that had already been said in our earlier church service.

Let’s remind ourselves of what we have heard today. Let’s remind ourselves of all we have remembered about Kim and why we’re here to celebrate all that he meant to so many.

In Noel’s sermon we heard about Kim’s commitment to engaging others in books, poems and topics that fired his imagination, and how he was committed to justice and peace, to searching together for ecumenical consensus, working towards partnership and nurturing an inclusive church community. And from the man of words himself, who used them so powerfully, prophetically, profoundly, two key words that he lived life by: GRACE. By grace we are forgiven. And RESURRECTION. The final word.

Angie, Karl and Katie recalled for us the man who loved his family beyond anything. Angie, who kept his feet on the ground and was his greatest supporter and provider of critique. His two children, Karl and Katie and how proud he was of the caring and compassionate human beings they have turned out to be. His grandchildren, Scarlett Grace and Delilah Joy, with whom he could be silly. His love of the New York Mets baseball team. His ability to establish firm friendships wherever he went, chatting with the privileged and the deprived without distinction.

We’ve heard of Kim’s passion for all things theological. How he crafted his sermons each week, with such profundness that could they could be mined throughout the following week for meaning and inspiration. His ministry in Bethel, in which he and the congregation formed a family, in which Kim was loved and respected by all. And his legacy, of two churches becoming one.
And lastly we heard of his love of coffee shops, where he was so often to be seen, talking theology or literature with old friends or the world and its politics with new friends or where he would spend time doodling his thoughts. One of the last of these was this: “What do people think of me? The question is both begged and vain: very few people bother to think about me at all. Why would they?” Well, in that Kim, you are wrong. Today we are thinking of you. And we are thinking of you with great love and great respect for all you have given to us.

So let our final thoughts be in the words of Kim himself, from two more of his doodlings:

- To us, here and now in this moment Kim says: Thank God for sorrow. Without sorrow, we would all be unbearably insufferable.
- And to himself in this moment Kim says: Pitiable is the person who approaches death saying, ‘I have had enough’, but blessed is the person who approaches death saying, ‘I want nothing more.’

Please find the words of Kim’s last sermon on pages 13 to 16 in the centre of this magazine.
MARIE CURIE COFFEE MORNING IN JUNE
A huge thank you for your amazing support at our coffee morning in June. You helped to raise a grand total of £475.30. From the team at Marie Curie and myself, thank you all so much. I appreciate all the work done before, during and after the event and the continued support you have given over the last few years. This will now provide 24 hours of nursing care.
Kath D

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER
Communion collections for September will be for Action for Children. The charity supports children in many ways including supporting young families, helping young carers and providing respite care for disabled children. As their motto goes: “Doing what’s right, doing what’s needed, doing what works”.
Susan G

We will be continuing with our study of the Lord's Prayer over the coming sessions.

September: Tuesday, 4th at 10am and Thursday, 6th at 7.30pm
October: Tuesday, 9th at 10am and Thursday, 11th at 7.30pm.
November: Tuesday, 6th at 10am and Thursday, 8th at 7.30pm.

All welcome to join our interesting and thought-provoking sessions.
AN UPDATE FROM MITRE THE TRAINEE GUIDE DOG
Hi everyone! Mitre here, with an update of my life as a guide dog puppy.
I am working very hard to learn new skills and now walk steadily on lead. I can sit and wait and lie down and stay. My recall is good, unless I am distracted; as in the case of the dogfish on Swansea Bay which I just had to devour before returning when called!
I am a regular at Tesco, walking nicely next to a trolley and am becoming a seasoned bus traveller. I also have a lot of fun with my doggy friends, enjoying a game of tug-tug; chasing in the fields and splashing in the sea.
My next challenge will be travelling on a train.
Hope you are all enjoying our wonderful summer as I am.
Love,
Mitre

This is a photo of me on the beach
THE TALE OF AN UMBRELLA

I recently had a phone call from Rev. Arnold Harrison, a former moderator of the URC in Yorkshire. He was trying to trace any relatives of the late Rev. Dr. Edgar Jones who was a former minister of Walter Road Congregational church in Swansea, later a Professor of Hebrew in Northern Theological College, where he became Principal.

On his retirement Edgar was a Member of Bethel URC. Rev Arnold had been one of his students as had a friend of his, Peter, who had read an article in Lancashire Life about an umbrella in the Lost Property of Oswestry Library with Edgar's name on it! The umbrella had a silver collar on the handle inscribed, "Presented to Rev. Edgar Jones by Tockholes Chapel in 1958".

Tockholes Chapel was founded in 1662 and recently celebrated its 356th anniversary. The article questioned whether or not the umbrella could be reunited with a member of Edgar's family. I was delighted to tell Arnold that I remembered Edgar and his wife Eirlys. Also, that I could contact Edgar's daughter Val and tell her about the umbrella. I did and Val decided that the umbrella should go to one of her Father's students, who had held him in such great esteem.

It was delightful to hear stories about Edgar and it brought back many memories of my own. Edgar had been of such help and a real Mentor to Kim in the early days of his ministry. Edgar was a great OT scholar and we all benefited from his ministry. How the umbrella ended up in Oswestry’s Lost Property remains a mystery!

Pat D
JOINT PRAYER MEETING
Our next joint prayer meeting with friends from the Adventist Church is on Thursday, 6\textsuperscript{th} September from 12 – 1pm. A time of fellowship followed by prayer. All welcome.

COVER TO COVER
Our next meeting will be at 10.30am on Thursday, 6\textsuperscript{th} September at the usual time of 10:30. Our chosen book is, One Night in Winter by Simon Seebag Montefiore. It is set in Stalin’s Russia towards the end of the Second World War. I wonder if there might be parallels with President Putin’s current regime? I look forward to seeing you all in September.
Mike W

FOLK DANCING ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS
Folk Dancing classes will resume on Monday, 10\textsuperscript{th} 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
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
**SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB**
The next lunch will be on **Sunday, 16th September at the Hen Dderwen, 12 for 12.30 pm.** All members and friends are welcome to join us. Please sign the list in the front porch. **All members and friends are welcome to join us.** For further information, please contact Pauline L

**TRAIDCRAFT**
The next Traidcraft Stall will be on **Sunday, 16th September.** If anyone wants specific items, please contact Jackie or Gary C

**WESLEY CLUB’S ANNIVERSARY IN SEPTEMBER**
On **Monday 24th September,** Wesley Club will be celebrating their 65th anniversary. We hope that anyone who used to be a member in the past will join us to make it a really special evening. Invites have been sent out, but if you have not received one and would like to join us, or know of someone who used to attend and doesn’t now attend church, please let us know.

To help give the party that special feeling, guests are asked to wear a hat, gloves and carry a handbag as would have been the custom 65 years ago. Don’t worry if you don’t have a hat – there are plenty to choose from in our costume collection!

**The party will be from 5pm to 7pm and we look forward to sharing memories of the past 65 years.**
WHAT’S YOUR FAVOURITE CHARITY?
That’s the question we are sometimes asked. When we reply ABCD, people either look puzzled or say that they have never heard of it. ABCD stands for Action around Bethlehem for Children with Disability. It works with Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR). I met both societies in 1989 during my sabbatical at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute, situated between Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

That year, Bamford Chapel was due to launch the third of its Third World Projects, where we “learned about the country, prayed with the Church there and supported a project.” I was told to find one. At Tantur, I was introduced to Tom, a student at Notre Dame University. Like his fellow students staying at Tantur, Tom had to share in social work in the area when the first Intifada was taking place. He took me to a breeze block building in Bethlehem’s industrial zone. This was a school/clinic for handicapped children in the area. There were two class rooms, each filled with smiling children and with a young dedicated teacher.

The day began with breakfast at 8am, ending with lunch at 1pm. That was the theory, but the occupying army made life difficult. Almost each day there would be a road block at one or other of the villages or near the school, preventing children or a teacher from arriving. Despite that, this was a happy place, with smiling children.

On many afternoons the two teachers would then drive around the villages looking for handicapped children, who were a “disgrace” and therefore hidden away; as often happened in Wales a century ago. I met the local committee led by a Muslim physiotherapist, who did paid work in the mornings, but gave his afternoons to the clinic run in the school. I was taken to a house for refreshments and met an army patrol, which frightened me.
Some years later, I took a pilgrim group to visit and they were as impressed as I was. The school was driven out of that building by a landlord who tried to charge an excessive rent. In another year, I visited the school’s new breeze block building, where the same happy regime ruled. In Jerusalem I met Edward Shehade, the Christian chief executive of BASR, who earned my great respect.

But about ABCD: Val Jourdan trained as a physiotherapist, but gave up work to care for her husband and children. When the latter were old enough to take care of themselves, the family agreed that Val could take six months to help a worthy cause. BASR agreed to take her for six months and she went to Bethlehem as a volunteer. She stayed for a year and her family joined her for Christmas.

That experience led her to found ABCD. It is a small charity run on a shoe string. A Bamford Chapel member went on a visit with ABCD supporters. They flew with Monarch Airlines – I did ONCE! As soon as the plane took off, everyone pulled down the little table and addressed envelopes until they reached Tel Aviv.

On another visit I spent a day at BASR’s orthopaedic hospital at Beil Jala near Bethlehem; I was most impressed by the skill and love there. Sadly, the medical superintendent, my host that day, was shot dead by soldiers two weeks later, wearing his white coat, he sought to help a wounded man. But that is another story.

But why have I told you all this? I have applied to our committees to place ABCD on our list of charities.

Ivor R
Many people have asked for Kim’s sermon, which Angie read at our service on 1st July, when we were giving thanks for all that had happened from and within the Bethel building. His words from beyond turned out to be prophetic – words which we as a church will want to guide us in the future.


“One of the disciples said, ‘Teacher, look at that stonework!’ Jesus said, ‘You’re impressed by this grandiose architecture? There’s not a stone in the whole works that is not going to end up in a heap of rubble’” (Mark 13:2, The Message). Well, you’d hardly call Bethel “grandiose architecture”, but you get the picture: one day it too will be a ruin. A heap of rubble is the way of all buildings, from a wonder of the ancient world to an attractive modern nonconformist chapel. (My father was an architect: “Sorry, Dad!”) Note, however, that before its looting and razing by the Romans, the Temple suffered the indignity of pagan desecration. Might some of us be thinking a similar thought about a Muslim presence in Bethel? If so, remember the prophetic logic of Jesus: the destruction of the Temple will be the divine confirmation of his own repudiation of the religious system that sustained it. Might we see this ironic end of a Christian presence at Bethel as God’s judgment on the church? Not the takehome message we want to hear, is it? We should certainly not be troubled about Bethel becoming an Islamic educational centre. (A betting shop or a military recruitment centre – now that’s a different matter.) The presence of Christians is no guarantee of the presence of Christ, and the absence of Christians is no obstacle to the work of his Spirit. Wherever human dignity is honoured, compassion is cultivated, and peace is pursued, God is there.

You’ll remember that against the xenophobia of his own people, Jesus proposed a religious pariah – a Samaritan – as a role model for what a proper human being should look like. Wearing a kaftan
or a hijab, Christ may encounter us. So we must welcome our Muslim friends to Bethel and pray that their work will be a blessing to Sketty. And God keep us from being like some people who pop by their old house, politely ask if they might have a look around for old time’s sake, and then mutter, “Just look what they’ve done to our living room!” Nor need I belabour the point that the church is a people, not a steeple. Even before its destruction, Paul had already deconstructed the Temple: God shows up wherever Christians gather, each one a living Temple, which was such an outrageous idea that they were called atheists by their proper shrine-going neighbours. Yet because Christianity is the most materialistic of faiths – because God lived with us in flesh and bone and feeds us now with bread and wine – we may rightly give thanks for bricks and mortar and consider places of worship a blessing – and church halls too for the activities that take place there: ballet classes, AA meetings, children’s parties. Mere “secular” activities, not proper “religious” events? Such “thinking in two spheres” (as Bonhoeffer called it) misses the point. Christ came to bring us life, not religion, and there can be more life in a plié and a pirouette, a heartfelt admission of addiction, or a lively game of pass the parcel than in many a hallelujah. Pat has given us a mini history of Bethel, and Mary a personal reflection of special moments of joy and sorrow mediated through Bethel as a place and a people. It will resonate with many, each with their own stories to tell. Profoundly, Bethel has been a family home for generations of saints. Poignantly, we say goodbye.

Over the past year I have become intimately acquainted with similar goodbyes. First, to my home in Huntington, New York, where I came of age in the 1960s, a colonial house built by one Silas Sammis in 1730. In the den I watched Bonanza, Perry Mason, and The Man
from U.N.C.L.E. with my parents; in the dining room, with its huge cooking fireplace, we celebrated Thanksgiving with kinfolk; in my bedroom I did my homework and plotted mischief with my friends; and on our large back lawn we played wiffle ball long into moonlit evenings surrounded by the luminescence of fireflies. For decades I returned every year to visit, and, haunted by ghosts, I would walk the rooms and grounds. My mother died in August. The house was sold in March. “Goodbye, 302 West Neck Road.” And then to the manse in Sketty, called Ty Draw. Angie and I, with Katie and Karl (then 3 and 4), moved into the “House on the Corner” in 1982, with not much more than a hole in a doughnut. Almost all our furniture and electrical appliances were given to us by the generous people of Bethel. There we have laughed and wept, rowed and made up; there we have taught each other how to be – and not to be – better people (if your children are no better than you are, you’ve raised them in vain); there Angie marked her coursework and planned her lessons, while I wrestled with the Bible and learned how to fail better as pastor and preacher. In three weeks we’ll be leaving Swansea. “Goodbye, 17 Carnglas Road.” It is right and proper to remember the past. Nostalgia is not only permitted, it is compulsory – but in small doses. Large doses can be toxic. Sentiment has a way of distorting the past, of deceiving us with the fantasy of what Bruce Springsteen called “glory days”, as if our personal and collective narratives don’t contain episodes of shame as well as pride. “Make the Church Great Again” is as ludicrous a slogan as “Make America [or Britain] Great Again”. Besides, a sense of temporal as well as spatial dislocation has been in the DNA of the people of God since the time of Abraham and Sarah. But here’s the thing: every goodbye contains a hello. For Angie and me, it’ll be “Hello, 1 Priory Close, Bryncoch”. For Bethel folk, in October 2013,
it was “Hello, Wesley Chapel, Dillwyn Road”. From that moment the people of Bethel didn’t have a building, rather the people of what would become Uniting Church Sketty had two buildings. As we say “Goodbye” to one of them, we say “Hello” – to what? To a revival? Well, given the continuing decline in both Methodism and the URC, and the failure of experiments in so-called cultural “relevance” to fix it – attempts to make discipleship look hip when it’s as hard as hammered nails – well, a sermon isn’t a pep talk, and it would be false prophecy to suggest that the church as a colony of exiles, an outpost of resistance, in an aggressively nihilistic world should expect numerical growth before further spiritual weeding-and-feeding. Which is why the real question is “Hello” not to what but to whom.

To whom? To Christ! Always Christ! For the future of God does not evolve from the past as human progress, it comes to meet us as the already-known yet ever-new reality of the crucified and risen Jesus, both friend and stranger, who calls us to be a church that is neither static nor busy-busy, neither hidebound nor trendy, but a pilgrim people who are serious about being otherwise and ready to follow his perplexing and perilous but purposeful way. Christians live not by optimism but by hope. “Goodbye – Hello” is thus a timely reminder that we can be neither attached to the way things were, nor adjusted to the way things are, nor anxious about the perils of tomorrow. Blessed are those who can leave the past with serenity, attend the present with discernment, and face the future with resolve and courage.
COFFEE MORNING FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

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, UCS 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.

On Saturday, 1st September, please 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
SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB
The next lunch will be on Sunday, 16th September at the Hen Dderwen, 12 for 12.30 pm. All members and friends are welcome to join us. Please sign the list in the front porch and contact Pauline L

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNINGS
The years are certainly flying by! Already, it is now time to think about our next Macmillan Coffee Morning which will be held on Friday, 28th September from 10am till noon in Wesley Room. Last year, we raised £700, a fantastic amount! Can we beat that this year? I look forward to welcoming you all to share in refreshments and raise money for this very worthwhile cause. Thank you. Rosemary B

CHURCH AND TRUSTEES MEETINGS IN OCTOBER
Time flies, so just to let everyone know in plenty of time, the next meetings will be on Tuesday, 9th October at 7.30pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend as your ideas and opinions are valued. Ian H

PASTORAL MEETING IN OCTOBER
Please note that the Pastoral Meeting planned to take place on Friday, 19th October will now take place on Thursday, 18th October at 7:30 in the Wesley Room. Gwen D
PANTO PLANNING FOR 2019

They who should be obeyed tell me that panto time is approaching. However, at this moment in time all we have are the dates, 21\textsuperscript{st} to 23\textsuperscript{rd} February 2019. So far as a script is concerned, I do not yet have a word on paper. However, if I am going to start thinking, I will of course need to know who is desperate, or should I say eager, or even is maybe, considering or perhaps just willing to be involved. I really do not want to go around hassling people, So,

- If you \textbf{were involved} in DREAMS, but \textbf{don't want to be involved next year}; I can't imagine how that could possibly be, please will you email me asap. Otherwise, I will assume you are “in”.
- If you were \textbf{not involved} with DREAMS, but \textbf{would like to be involved for next year}, on or off stage, please will you email me asap. Otherwise I will not write you in; “Phew!”, I hear you sigh. All good wishes.

\textbf{P.S.} This might be a very appropriate time to say we are without a \textbf{musical director}, as VERY sadly Eleanor is not able to rehearse on a Tuesday with our Brownies and Wednesday with Madcaps. Any offers?

\textbf{Jan C}

\textbf{NO NEWS YET FROM THE BBC}

The BBC has not yet confirmed the date on which the programme with our UCS Bargain Hunt contestants will be shown on air. It is expected to be at the end of September 2018. Please look out for a newsflash in the weekly notices over the next few weeks.
ALZHEIMER’S MEMORY WALK IN OCTOBER
This year’s Memory Walk will take place on Saturday, 13th October and will be starting on the Museum Green, behind the National Waterfront Museum. The Event site opens at 10am and the walk will start at 11am.

Last year’s memory walk raised seven million pounds throughout the UK. The target this year will be nine million pounds. My two daughters, Catherine and Claire, and I will be walking for my wife Gillian. Gillian was diagnosed with early onset of Alzheimer’s in January 2013.

In the first two years very little happened with the disease and Gill coped with daily living. In these two years, we had support from the Alzheimer’s Society based in Ty Garngoch. This support included visits to the Feel Good Cafe, based in St. John’s Church, Gowerton and Singing for the Brain at the Civic Centre, Swansea. Three times a week we had sitters who would come and look after Gill while I could go shopping and go to church. Also, every Thursday, Gill attended the day centre at Ty Garngoch from 9.00am to 3.00pm.

Should anybody wish to sponsor us, there will be a sponsorship form in the church porch. Alternatively, please contact me in church.

John P
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, 24th October through to Saturday, 27th October. 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, please contact Liz

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
A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM CAROLE
A huge **THANK YOU** for all your support. Your cards, flowers, visits and most of all your prayers over the last few months, have been a great comfort to me and the family. Thank you all, with love, Carole.

A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM KATH AND BILL D
Bill, Kath and their extended family would like to say thank you, for keeping them in your thoughts and prayers as they go through a very difficult time. The hugs, cards and messages mean so much at times like this and they appreciate all your love and kindness.

A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM KIM’S FAMILY
Kim's family would like to express their deepest thanks for the love and support our wonderful church family has shown us over the last few sad weeks. The numerous cards, letters, flowers, phone calls, messages and kind wishes we have received have been of immense comfort to us. We would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in making Kim's funeral such a magnificent, special and memorable day. Our gratitude goes to all who gave such thought and meaning to the services themselves, to all those who worked tirelessly to ensure everything went smoothly, the parking, the parking notices, the superb sound system, the gorgeous flowers and the warm welcome and kindness extended to the many who attended. Everyone, wherever they were seated, felt fully a part of the service. Finally, a huge thank you to all who joined us at the Norton House Hotel. It was a joy to spend time with you and to share memories and funny stories with you.

*Angie, Karl, Katie, Scarlett Grace and Delilah Joy*
CONGRATULATIONS TO REV NOEL D (MSc)
Our church family would like to send our love and congratulations to our own Rev Dr Noel Davies on receiving his MSc into stem cell research. Well done Noel! Not content with being a theologian, he is now a scientist as well!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO REV NOEL D
Rev Noel Davies was ordained 50 years ago on September 12th.

ELIZABETH E STAYS IN SWANSEA, HURRAY!
Elizabeth has been offered a year’s post as a university engineering tutor, so will be able to stay with us for at least another year.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR PAUL E
Paul has moved

TRANSPLANT GAMES
William has again taken part in the transplant games, held in Birmingham this year. Having moved up to the 18 to 29 years age group, we thought it would be more challenging for him. He rose to the occasion and came away with four medals! 3 silver, in table tennis, cycling and high jump, also one bronze in the mini-marathon. It is a real privilege to be part of this event and a very humbling experience, with people of all ages, enjoying a quality of life given by the generosity of others. This year they managed to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest gathering of organ transplant recipients at a games event. A total of 732 competitors took part, from very young to over 70 years of age.

Kath D
A BIG THANK YOU FROM JOHN AND SUE D

We would like to thank everyone at Uniting Church Sketty for your cards, phone calls, best wishes and prayers during John’s recent illness. We have been so greatly supported by them all and give thanks to God for such special and valued friends. John is now being treated and slowly recovering from his kidney disease and we both hope to be with you again very soon. With love and every blessing to you all, John and Sue.

IN MEMORY OF MARGARET P

Margaret P passed away on 23rd July. Born in 1930, to John and Margaret P, Margaret lived in Sketty all her life and was the youngest of five sisters. After passing the 11+, she attended Llwyn y Bryn Secondary School for Girls, then attended secretarial college and eventually worked as a secretary at Swansea University until she retired in 1990.

She was a long standing member of Wesley Club and entertained us with her humour and amusing sketches and poems. We always enjoyed the Magazine Evenings she devised and her tips for health and beauty were hilarious! Her rendition of Shirley Bassey was fabulous. Margaret will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Janet N

CONGRATULATIONS TO MIRIAM H!

Miriam is going to Exeter this autumn to read English.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MATTHEW E!

Matthew is going to Swansea this autumn to read Civil Engineering.
CONGRATULATIONS TO ELISHA GILL!
Elisha is going to study Mechanical Engineering in Swansea College.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

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

Happy Birthday!

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.

____________________________

QUOTES’ CORNER
Something to make us think:
BELIEF
There was no sudden “flash” of realisation, No gradual revelation; God has always believed in you. He always has, and always will, Even when we doubt Him, or doubt His existence; Even if we deny Him, He still believes in you. Thank you God; that you are always there, watching over us, Loving us.
Andy V
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
SEPTEMBER 2018 DIARY

1\textsuperscript{st} Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for \textit{Operation Christmas Child}

2\textsuperscript{nd} Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: \textit{Communion}
6.30pm Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta

3\textsuperscript{rd} Mon \textbf{No Wesley Club meeting}
6.15pm Tea followed at 7pm with Local Preachers’ Meeting

4\textsuperscript{th} Tues 10am Faith and Fellowship
7.30pm Tuesday House Group studying John Chapt. 11

5\textsuperscript{th} Wed 7.30pm Mission and Events team meeting

6\textsuperscript{th} Thurs 10am Cover to Cover
12noon -1pm Joint Prayer Meeting
7.30pm Faith and Fellowship

9\textsuperscript{th} Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon
6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: \textit{Communion}

10\textsuperscript{th} Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Members’ Evening

16\textsuperscript{th} Sun 10.30am Mr Ken Shingleton
6.30pm Rev Howard Long

17\textsuperscript{th} Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Italians in Swansea with Anita Carie

20\textsuperscript{th} Thurs 7.30pm Methodist Circuit Meeting at Brunswick Methodist Church

23\textsuperscript{rd} Sun 10.30am Rev John Jones
6.30pm Mrs Heather Coleman

24\textsuperscript{th} Mon 5pm Wesley Club’s 65\textsuperscript{th} Birthday Celebration

28\textsuperscript{th} Fri 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for \textit{Macmillan’s}

30\textsuperscript{th} Sun 10.30am Rev Noel Davies
6.30pm Mrs Ann Gregson

OCTOBER 2018 DIARY

6\textsuperscript{th} Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for \textit{Save the Children}

9\textsuperscript{th} Tues 7.30pm Church and Trustees Meetings
SEPTEMBER 2018 ROTA:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin P

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<th>2 SEPT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ian &amp; Susan</td>
<td>Sonia B</td>
<td>Harry O</td>
<td>Allan &amp; Joe</td>
<td>David K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shirley J</td>
<td>Alan &amp; Liz R</td>
<td>Graham B</td>
<td>Caroline C</td>
<td>Leighton J</td>
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<td>Grosvenor H</td>
<td>David P</td>
<td>Tina L</td>
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Sound

Elisha Myrddin Gary Harry Bill

Evening

Keith Anne Jeff Pat Myrddin

Flowers: Rosemary B Giver:

Pat T Madelaine W Joan & Eric P Kath D Pam T

Arranger:

Pam T Rosemary Una Rosemary Pam T

Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Sonia Gwen Anne Janet Pat B.

Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

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