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.  
**Please submit all items for the March magazine to Jan T by Friday, 22nd February 2019**  
Magazine for March to be issued on Sunday, 3rd March 2019.

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,

“When you don’t know what to say, talk about yourself” said … well no-one really, but given that I couldn’t think of anything else to write, I thought you might be vaguely interested in some of the things I do when you don’t see me!

I feel very fortunate here in Swansea to have a multi-faceted ‘job’. As you know, as well as being your minister in Uniting Church Sketty (which I thoroughly enjoy), I am also minister to the small Methodist congregation in Clydach. This is a very different kettle of fish. The weekly Sunday afternoon service normally has around eight to twelve members only. The congregation doesn’t have its own building, but worships in the hall of Capel y Nant (a Welsh Independent Church). For a small congregation, it is very active, with a weekly Wesley Guild, which raises thousands each year for different charities; monthly Exploring our Faith discussion group, being involved in the ecumenical community shop and food bank Ty Croeso, as well as a great many other ecumenical services and events that take place in Clydach.

In addition to that, I am one of the Associate Chaplains in the Swansea University. This adds a completely alternative dimension, and in many ways is a relief from purely church work! In the university there is a full time (Anglican) Chaplain, Rev Mandy Williams, who together with our Muslim Chaplain (Mohsen Elnadi) leads the chaplaincy team, which consists of the four associate chaplains (Catholic, Evangelical, Anglican and Methodist/URC).

As part of this role, I lead Wednesday Worship every 4 – 5 weeks, occasional morning meditations, some one to one listening
conversations with students, a termly ‘de-stress’ day for students (which Wookie comes to and is very popular!) and other social activities. There are also events which come round every year – the Welcome Fair for new students in September, Remembrance on 11th November, the Christmas services (for the last two years I have led the informal ‘Carols on Campus’ event to which nearly 200 people come); Inter-Faith week, the Bigger Picture Festival.

It is a challenge, juggling these various parts of my job, but I feel that the variety gives me more energy and certainly makes life more fun and interesting! And when you don’t see me, it means I’m probably simply doing something else!

With love,

Leslie

MONEY RAISED TO HELP ALZHEIMERS CHARITY
My Trip Down Memory Lane, raised £30 for Alzheimers. I am going up to Garnogoch Hospital, their local office, with the money in hand. I am also going there to say “Hello” to Mary Craven and Jan. They also sell cards in the Reception, so I will put some of Gower up there. A massive THANK YOU to everyone for all your support.

Susan J

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
A thank you to all who prepared and took part in the Christingle Service. It took a lot of time and patience to put the components of the Christingle oranges into bags and making the assembling of them so easy. Our little Lucas, now just 4 years old, enjoyed joining in the service and his mum, Nadia, was very impressed.

Caroline C
NEW YEAR’S DAY AT WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM

What a way to start 2019! Up at 5am to take our friend to Bristol Airport for 8am, to return home to Spain. Over the Severn Bridge and with a whole day ahead, the choice was obvious, we would visit Westonbirt Arboretum for a good walk and talk amongst the trees. We were rather surprised to find that lots of other people had the same wonderful idea. We were even more surprised to find that we were just about the only ones without canine company. What a delightful commotion as all the four legged friends scurried to the gates; they were definitely taking the lead and showing their human helpers which way to go. Just about every dog was sporting a lovely colourful coat or jumper; yes jumpers were definitely in vogue, complete with four sleeves and a polo neck.

Cold, but clear, dry but soft under foot, we walked the Seasonal Trail. We walked, we talked and every now and then there were cheery salutations of “Good morning!” and “Happy New Year!” All new faces, all strangers becoming friends.

I was reminded of Professor Alice Roberts’ message from the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures of 2018. She explained that whether insect, animal or human being, we are all connected by our genomes. We are in fact, all one big huge family of cousins. With that in mind, let us all look after everything that has living breath and have respect for the soil beneath our feet. May 2019 be a good year for all of us and our cousins; whether with two legs, four legs or six legs.

Jan T
COMMUNION COLLECTIONS FOR FEBRUARY
Communion collections in February will be for Open Doors. This is a charity for persecuted Christians around the world. It provides them with Bibles and Christian literature, theological training, emergency relief and livelihood training and trauma care. Sadly, there are fifty countries on their watch list, with nine labelled as suffering from extreme persecution – North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Pakistan, Eritrea, Libya, Iraq and Yemen. Over 3000 Christians have been killed for their faith in the 2018 reporting period, more than twice as many as for the previous year. Law, media, state-sanctioned religions and social norms are used to attempt to stifle Christian belief. Open Doors can be found at https://www.opendoorsuk.org/, including resources for prayer.

Susan G

REV NEIL RICHES
Rev Neil Riches will soon appear on our Circuit Plan, taking occasional services in Uniting Church Sketty. Neil is a URC minister, currently serving at Christwell and Gowerton. He will be taking occasional evening services, and every fifth Sunday, he and I will do a pulpit swap for the morning service; Neil in Sketty and me in Christwell. We are fortunate to have him leading worship with us.

Leslie

SLIMMING WORLD
On Saturday, 26th January, there will be a Slimming World session in the Hall at the Church, starting at 9.30am. It will be run by Michelle H. Please contact her with any enquiries.

Jeff C
PIPE ORGAN NOTES
The Swansea Organists Association is holding its February meeting at UCS. Ian Rutt and myself will be the recitalists at a recital to be held on Wednesday 6th February at 7pm lasting for about an hour. There will be a collection and the proceeds are split between the association and the host church.

We are very fortunate at Sketty having inherited from Townhill Methodist Church a modest Compton pipe organ which will support the performance of a remarkably large repertoire of organ music. Please support this event - bring a friend!

As some of you know, I am the curator of the (rather larger!) organ in the Brangwyn Hall and for the past two years I have been ‘organising’ free lunch-time concerts. There are four planned for the Spring term, one in each of February, March, April and May, starting with me on Wednesday 13th February at 12.45pm. The recital will last about 45 minutes and will include the whole of Widor’s Organ Symphony No 5, ending with that famous toccata. I hope to see you there! If you have any queries, please contact me

Alan S

IDEAS TO IMPROVE OUR OLD HALL
We are looking for ideas to improve the old hall. Have you seen or know of any hall that has recently been improved or had a makeover, which might give us some useful ideas? If you have or are able to help in any way please could you inform Alan J or one of the Stewards.

Alan J
QUOTES’ CORNER:
Just a little something to make us think:

A NUN’S PRAYER

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older, and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody’s affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody: helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details: give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for enough to enjoy the tales of others’ pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet: I do not want to be a saint, some of them are so hard to live with, but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Anon

Quoted by Rev. De Gordon Rupp in his book, Sixty Plus and Other Sermons

This has again been included in our magazine, due to popular demand!
MEMORIES OF MY BRAVE HUSBAND DURING WW2

Burn, which lies two miles south of Selby in North Yorkshire, was rudely disturbed in the early 1940s, when a large RAF airfield was established alongside the village. The newly formed 578 Squadron then arrived in February 1944 together with its huge four-engined Halifax aircraft. 578 Squadron, was operational for only fourteen months and during that time, they flew 2,722 sorties against the strongly armed enemy, suffering grievous losses of aircraft and 219 aircrew. Few operational squadrons could have excelled the record of 578 in so short a period, during which time, the aircrews earned: 79 Distinguished Flying Medals; 143 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 2 Distinguished Service Orders and 1 Victoria Cross, which was awarded posthumously to Pilot Officer C J Barton, the only Halifax Bomber pilot to be so honoured.

My husband John, did his flying training in Canada. On his return to Britain, there were too many pilots, so he retrained as a Bomb Aimer. After what was called, conversion training, where crews were formed and practised in heavy bombers, John and the six other members of the crew, two Australians, two Scotsmen, one Irishman and two Englishmen, were posted to Burn. By this time, the tide of war was turning and 578 Squadron was involved with the bombing before and after the D Day Landings. My husband flew thirty-two operations, many of which were for the destruction of the V1 and V2 installations, which were causing so much destruction in London. John and the other crew members survived; no mean feat, considering that 46% of aircrew died and many more were injured. Their plane was shot and damaged several times, but they were able to limp home; not always landing at their base at Burn, but at any airfield able to take them.

After the war, Churchill disassociated himself from Bomber Command, partly because of the heavy bombing of Germany, particularly Dresden. However, in 2012, it was at last realised that there should be some
recognition of those in Bomber Command, who gave their lives for their country.

On 28th June 2012, the Queen unveiled the Memorial in Green Park, to those young men who died for their country. I was invited to attend and together with my son, we spent a memorable day with families and survivors of Bomber Command. I was just sorry that John was not there to see it.

Hazel M

FOLK DANCING ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS
We have Folk Dancing classes from 2pm to 4pm every Monday during term time. We always welcome new members, so why not come and join us! 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

COVER TO COVER
Our book for February will be, Burnt Shadows by Kamila Shamsie. We are meeting at 10.30am on Thursday, 7th February, in the Bethel Room. I look forward to seeing you all.

Mike W
OUR NEXT CHURCH MEETING
Our next Church Meeting (followed by the Trustee Meeting) will be on Thursday, 7th February, in the Sanctuary at 7.30pm. All members of the church congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have any items for the agenda, please let Ian H know by Sunday 3rd February.
Ian H

UPDATE ON TRAIDCRAFT
Traidcraft announced in September, that it faced closure. There were several reasons put forward for this, but ultimately the business model they used was felt to be unsustainable. Here in UCS, sales and support continue to be amazing. In the year August 2017-August 2018, the final total for Traidcraft sales was £3,087. The church makes no profit on this as the margin between order price and sale price is very small and offset by any items that go out of date, or have to be sold at reduced price. Thank you all for your incredible support.
The latest news is that Traidcraft is now going to continue, but with a much reduced staffing, from sixty-seven to twelve and a different business model; concentrating on the more profitable lines. Craft products may be one area they will reduce and many craft items have been on sale at reduced prices. Currently, however, we don’t know what the new model will look like. Most importantly though, Traidcraft lives to see another day!
Traidcraft stalls for 2019 will continue as normal on the 10th February and on 17th March. By March, we may have more information. I am expecting the stalls to carry on after this, but you may find certain products are unavailable.
However, the charity arm of the organisation, Traidcraft Exchange, continues to raise concerns about their support, which could be affected by any change of business plan, and the effect on those producers who Traidcraft will no longer support. They have asked us all to consider making donations to them, to help find other markets for the people for whom Traidcraft has been a lifeline. If anyone wishes to make a donation, please talk to us or go to the Traidcraft Exchange website, where you can donate directly.

Jackie and Gary C

**SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB**
The next lunch will be on **Sunday, 17th February** at the Hen Dderwen, **usual time 12 for 12.30**. Please sign the list in the porch if you would like to come. Don’t forget, it’s for church members and friends. If you need a lift, we can arrange it. Please see Pauline if you have any queries.

Pauline L

**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 **Thursday, 28th February at 7.30pm**.
All are welcome.

Sandra C
THE WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Women’s World Day of Prayer at St Hilary’s, Killay, was cancelled last year, because of the weather; remember the Beast from the East?! So it is good that they are hosting the Sketty Service this year. It will be at 11am on 1st March. All are invited to this Service - women, men and children.

Jean K

ASH WEDNESDAY: 6th March 2019

Mark the start of Lent!:  

6.30pm: Relish the tradition of home made pancakes! Have fun, laugh and enjoy the company of our church family.

7.30pm: Come before God, aware of all that separates us from God and from others. A quiet, informal service in which we can spend time reflecting on our lives.

All are very welcome!

Advance Lent Faith and Fellowship dates for your diary

Tuesdays at 10am 12, 19, 26 March, 2, 9 April

Wednesdays at 7.30pm 13, 20, 27 March, 3, 10 April

More details will be available nearer the time. Please note that the evening sessions are on Wednesdays (NOT Thursdays).
It is with great sadness that we have only recently learned of the death of Rev Ivor Mann. Ivor was minister of Sketty Methodist Church from 1970-76. When he and Sheila and their sons, Matthew and Daniel arrived in Sketty, they had already suffered great sadness, as their eldest son, Andrew had died, aged three. I well remember walking into the manse and my eye was immediately drawn to a child’s painting, which was framed and hanging on the wall in pride of place.

Ivor had previously been a shipwright and a missionary in Rangoon. He was very practical in more ways than one. His ministry at Sketty was “a doing ministry” and, perhaps, seemed to some people radical, or at least very different from previous ministers. During one Good Friday service, he knocked large nails into a cross he had made. One of our members can still hear the banging of those nails into the cross to this day. In the summer he often wore sandals, with no socks, under his cassock!


Ivor never returned to Sketty after 1976. I was told that he couldn’t face coming back, as this was the last place that they were all happy together as a family.

Rest in peace Ivor, and rise in glory.

Janet N
CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT
Gary and Jackie C would like to thank all their friends at UCS for their kind words, cards and messages following the death of Gary’s mum, Anne. Everyone’s concern and support has been very much appreciated.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF AVRIL E
Avril was a devoted member of our church family since the 1960’s when she and husband Tom and children Janet and Brian moved to Sketty, Swansea from Bridgend. At her funeral in Cardiff on the 8th January and at her thanksgiving service here at our church on 19th January, we all shared cherished memories of a wonderfully kind, warm and generous lady, who throughout her life, was a constant shiny light of love and laughter. Av’, was a devoted messenger of “Love thy neighbour”; an inspiration to us all. Everyone knows this little song, and it sums up Avril’s kindness to everyone.

“Neighbours, everybody needs good neighbours
With a little understanding, you can find the perfect blend
Neighbours, should be there for one another
That's when good neighbours become good friends.

Neighbours, everybody needs good neighbours
Just a friendly wave each morning,
helps to make a better day
Neighbours, need to get to know each other
Next door is only a footstep away....”

We miss Avril here at UCS and in Cae Bryn Avenue, where she lived and was loved by everyone.
MESSAGES FROM OUR NIGHT SHELTER GUESTS
It is so lovely to hear words of appreciation and thanks for the good things that our church does.
“I really enjoyed my meal last Saturday. I hope it will be as good tonight.”
“This church is a bit special, I like this one.”

OUR LOVE AND BEST WISHES TO REV IVOR REES
Rev Ivor Rees has been in hospital. We all wish him a speedy recovery and hope that he is now feeling a lot more comfortable and on the mend.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES
To all our church family and friends, who will be celebrating a birthday in February,
Happy Birthday!

PLEASE WRITE AND SHARE
We all sometimes need, “.... time to stand and stare”, but perhaps we should also find time to write and share! We are all on a journey of life and hopefully a journey of faith, learning about this great big wonderful world. Sometimes we need to remember that we are all on the journey together. So let’s share our experiences and help one another along the way.
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:**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Folk-dancing</td>
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<td>7pm Wesley Club</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>2-4pm</td>
<td>Craft Group</td>
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<td>5-6pm</td>
<td>Rainbows</td>
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<td>6.15-7.30pm</td>
<td>Cubs</td>
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<td>6.15-7.30pm</td>
<td>Brownies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10-11.30am</td>
<td>Sunbeams Play Group</td>
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<td>7.30pm Sketty Madcaps</td>
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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
FEBRUARY 2019 DIARY

2nd Sat 10am-12 noon Coffee Morning
3rd Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: Communion
  6.30pm Rev Andrew Walker
4th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: The Big Apple – Bite 2 with Janet N
5th Tues 7.30pm Tuesday Evening House Group
  Studying John Chapter 15
6th Wed 7pm Organ Recital with Alan Sykes and Ian Rutt
7th Thurs 7.30pm Church Meeting
10th Sun 10.30am Rev Pam Cram Traidcraft after service
  6.30pm Mrs Heather Coleman
11th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Swansea’s Bad Girls with Elizabeth F Belcham
17th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon
  6.30pm Rev Noel Davies: Communion
18th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: NO MEETING : Panto rehearsals
21st Thurs 7.30pm Panto
22nd Fri 7.30pm Panto
23rd Sat 2pm Panto
  7pm Panto
24th Sun 10.30am Miss Sue Raad
  6.30pm Rev Neil Riches
25th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: (OPEN EVENING) Everyone Whistled
  Their Tunes with Griff Harries

START OF MARCH 2019 DIARY

2nd Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning Proceeds for Commitment
  for Life – Zimbabwe
ROTAS FOR FEBRUARY 2019

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>3 FEBRUARY</th>
<th>10 FEBRUARY</th>
<th>17 FEBRUARY</th>
<th>24 FEBRUARY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Harry O</td>
<td>Allan &amp; Joe</td>
<td>David K</td>
<td>Ian &amp; Susan G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graham B</td>
<td>Caroline C</td>
<td>Jan T</td>
<td>Shirley J</td>
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<tr>
<td>David P</td>
<td>Tina L</td>
<td>Leighton J</td>
<td>John P</td>
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<td>Paul E</td>
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Sound

Elizabeth E  Elisha G  Myrddin P  Gary C

Evening

Anne V  Jeff C  Pat D  Myrddin P

Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Jan C  Jennifer R  Myrna C  Jean E

Arranger:

Pam T  Jennifer  Chris  Pam E

Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Gwen  Mary  Maggie  Margaret

Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

Jackie & Gary  Pauline L  Maggie C  Kath & Bill

                   Pam E  Pat D  Lynne W
.. MADCAPS ..

present

Around the world in 80’ish minutes

THURSDAY, 21st FEBRUARY at 7.30pm
FRIDAY, 22nd FEBRUARY at 7.30pm
SATURDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY at 2pm and 7pm

Tickets available from John D
Adults . . . £7       Child . . . £3

PROCEEDS TO: Ty Garngoch Dementia Centre