Minister: Reverend Leslie Jane Noon

Senior Elder: Pat D

Senior Steward: Jan C

Weekly Notices: All items by Friday morning to Lynne W

Sunday Services:

10.30am Morning Service including regular All-age Worship.
10.30am Adventurers: Departments 3-15 years
Refreshments in the Wesley Room following morning worship.
6.30pm Evening Service
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 Les W 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.

July and August magazine: All items by Friday, 21st June 2019 to Jan T

July and August Magazine to be issued on Sunday, 30th June 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,

At our recent Church Meeting held on 2\textsuperscript{nd} May, a number of issues were discussed – important ones, that everyone needs to be aware of. So I’m taking this opportunity to fill you in. Please read this carefully so you are up to date with all that’s going on!

**Project Hall.** Our hall is not up to the same standard as the rest of the church – and this is the space most used by non-church groups. This doesn’t seem right (and has been commented on, for example during the Night Shelter). The meeting heard the plans for a complete refurbishment, which would include better insulation, lighting, heating etc, as well as a retractable stage. This follows consultation with the many groups that use the hall, in which they ‘wished’ for more space, as well as better heating and lighting etc. As part of this we will also look at environmentally friendly improvements, such as solar panels. The rough costing so far suggests the work will be in the region of £100,000. This is a lot of money, but we have already saved up £30,000 and we will be applying to use some of the Bethel money to make up the difference. The meeting agreed to explore this further with proper costings and drawings. So watch this space.

**Healthy Church.** The process of looking at what we do as a church, and what mission and ministry we are called to be offering, has started. Started but not finished! At the Leadership Team Vision Day held in November, it was suggested that all church groups and activities undergo a health check, asking questions such as what is
your purpose, what do you do well, how might you grow or develop. We are currently in the middle of these health checks. Then in September, coming to our Swansea URC region, is Adella, who is a Community Worker. Part of her time will be spent with our church, and we hope that wider meetings and conversations will take place together with her, as we seek to discern what God wants us to do and be.

**Church Twinning.** After this was discussed at our previous church meeting with an appeal for people interested in joining a Twinning Team, 5 people came forward. Following their meeting, Noel D (one of the group) gave an update on the progress. For more information on ‘why twinning’, see later in the magazine. Having heard Noel’s report, the meeting agreed to continue to explore a twinning relationship.

As you can see, we are seeking to do and be a variety of things, always trying to listen to God guiding us. Please look out for opportunities to be involved in all this (and more).

And lastly, just to say how delighted we were as a church that Angharad, Gareth, Elisha and Maresha were confirmed and made members on Sunday 2nd June. Ronia wasn’t able to make this date, and her confirmation will be later in the year. Please pray for them as they continue their Christian journey with the Lord.

With love,

*Leslie*
COMMITMENT FOR LIFE SERVICE IN MAY

At the Commitment for Life service on 5th May, Julius Mugadzaweta, outlined the tragic results of the failed economy in Zimbabwe. He emphasised the need for outside support, to help regenerate and once again become, the “bread basket of Africa”.

Leslie presented a Commitment for life initiative in the village of Masendu, to develop local businesses. This is another Christian Aid partner that is helping village banks to build small businesses in Masendu, as well as in other areas of Zimbabwe. In Masendu, change is happening. In this district of southern Zimbabwe, near the border with Botswana, the villages are remote; with limited access to markets and banks, so running a business is difficult. One of Christian Aid’s partners is trying to make it easier. Many women in the villages around Masendu have long been members of a savings and loans group. This was a success for them, but they could only lend small amounts, and only within the group. Now, the Institute for Rural Technologies (IRT) has backed their skills – and trained them to run a village bank.

With a small starter fund, the bank lends money to local people to help them start businesses. The bank’s founders have learned what makes a good business plan; they know how to make loan decisions and how to monitor the business. If someone defaults, the traditional courts of the village decide whether it was due to unexpected circumstances (and the loan is written off) or lack of effort – in which case the person must repay the amount through community work. Access to cash is a problem in Zimbabwe. IRT has helped to provide mobile banking kiosks, so that running a business doesn’t mean a long journey to the local town.

Commitment for Life is the United Reformed Church’s way of supporting Christian Aid.

Mary J
RECORDED SERVICES

Every week, I produce a recording of our morning service. As part of that process, I try and put myself in the position of the listener and make for them, the best product that I can. Thus I try and cut down unwanted silences, where nothing important is happening, such as a reader making their way to the lectern, the collection being taken, communion being distributed etc; whilst preserving the silences which are important, the preparation for worship, pauses between prayers etc.

I have often had the following thoughts, whilst doing this for a communion service:

If I could not get to church and was relying on listening to the recording, I would have available, a small glass of fruit juice or water and a piece of bread. At the moment when the congregation took the wine or the bread, I would drink and eat accordingly. This would be, for me, just as much a remembrance of Jesus, as the bread and wine in the church would be for the congregation. This would be even more enhanced if I had access to the script for the services as well, so that I could join in all the responses.

For me, the importance of communion, has little to do with the words of blessing which are said over the bread and wine. The real importance lies in the company with whom you take it. A group of Christian friends, meeting regularly to remember the suffering and passion of Jesus. Through the recording, I would be sharing the communion with all my fellow Christians who were at the actual service and also with those others like me, who couldn’t make it, but were listening to the recording.
I have no idea what the “official” reaction of the church hierarchy would be to this. Some, I have no doubt, would object. If you think about it, even though it does not seem important to me, the words of blessing would have been said over my glass of water and piece of bread by a person qualified to do so. When that part of the service was heard, I would be looking at and thinking about the bread and drink in front of me. When it was recorded, the minister could be thinking of those listening on the recording as well as the congregation. Just as the recording is joining me with the congregation for that period when I am listening, it is linking my “bread and wine” with the bread and wine on the communion table. Thus, to my mind, the communion is complete and valid.

If you find it difficult to get to church at any time, whatever the reason, and you would like to listen to a recording of the morning service, please contact me.

It is not necessary for you to agree with any of the above.

Les W
REPORT OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING ON 2nd MAY 2019
UNITING CHURCH SKETTY 2018/2019 AND INTO THE FUTURE

A ASSEMBLY MODERATOR (URC) Rev. Kevin Watson visited our church to share experiences of churches he had visited as Moderator and to hear about our experience of becoming a uniting church.

B BETHEL The URC building was sold in May so a final goodbye, but it is hoped that some of the monies raised from the sale can be used to further the Mission of UCS as a lasting legacy.

C CELEBRATE Four new Church Members, three long service awards for organists, two new Stewards and one wonderful Centenarian. C also reminds us of CHURCH RELATED COMMUNITY WORKER (CRCW) The URC has appointed a CRCW to work in this area and she will not only be attending UCS but spending some of her time to explore how we can better meet our Mission goals.

D DIVERSITY All are welcome at our church. May we be aware of the needs of those who visit us and come for the first time, so that they know we mean it!

E ECUMENICAL The regular prayer Meetings with the Seventh Day Adventists lapsed during the year when their pastor moved on but it has been agreed to explore other ecumenical possibilities.

F FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP sessions throughout the year arranged by Leslie providing opportunities to learn, share and discuss. Why not try to join one of these enjoyable series?

G GUIDE DOGS This year's charity organized by Adventurers enhanced by having our own Guide Dog in training who attended worship regularly. Mitre, we won’t forget you as you continue your training elsewhere.

H HALL Project Hall is seeking ideas from everyone to see how the Hall can be improved to meet the needs of all users

I INTERNATIONAL LINK? Tentative agreement to explore a relationship with a German Congregation in the Palatinate Region which could widen our horizons and develop new friendships.

J JOURNEYING Our journey into the third year of being a uniting church continued to be a blessing, benefiting from the traditions of both denominations.

K KNOWLEDGE Through worship, Bible study, discussion in House groups, Faith and Fellowship, Reel to Real and Cover to Cover we explore our faith and seek to learn and develop.
A generous legacy enabled the church to buy new Pew Bibles and provide enhanced Wi-Fi facilities.

Church Members are generous so that we have been able to meet our commitments to the Circuit and URC, as well as giving 17% of our income to a wide range of charities, local and international.

NATIVITY SERVICE thoughtfully prepared and in which young people and their leaders took part.

OUTREACH Contact was made with our neighbours in Pant Gwyn in the hope of encouraging them to participate in some of our activities. This may need further contact.

PET SERVICE A first! All the animals behaved beautifully and we were pleased to welcome their owners too. We recognized the contribution pets make to our lives.

QUESTIONING In UCS we know it is a good thing to question in order to explore and learn about our faith.

REFUGEES are an important part of the community in Swansea and we are grateful for members of the church who provide teaching, physical and personal support. Perhaps there is more that we could do as a Church?

SAFEGUARDING is a constant so that we are vigilant and aware of our policy to protect people of all ages. Thanks to the Safeguarding Officer.

TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE is our church’s Circuit Project. Also, the TREASURER and his assistants who keep our finances in good order.

UNITING CHURCH SKETTY This is all of us. Last year was one for which to be thankful for many things: loving and thoughtful ministry, fellowship, laughter but also tears as we lost beloved friends.

VOLUNTEERS There is never a shortage of people willing to take on necessary work in the church, to help with the Night Shelter, maintain the building, serve the coffee and teas that enable us to chat each Sunday morning. They have much in common with the.....

WORKERS who serve on committees, run Sunbeams, arrange flowers, take care of the garden, edit the magazine, organise Sunday lunches, run Madcaps and Pantomime, give and deliver food for the Food Bank, run the Traidcraft stall and all those who use their creative skills; the Leadership Team who work together to serve the church, Pastoral Visitors who support members of the congregation.

XMAS Christmas was again a special time with some new dimensions: a Blue Christmas service arranged by Leslie to meet the needs of those who
find the Christmas season difficult because of loss and poignant memories, and a Christingle service enjoyed by families and children. Thanks also to the many people from our church who gave time to co-ordinate and help with Christmas boxes.

**YOU** are important. We need you each and every one; without **YOU** we are not whole.

**ZIMBABWE** The focus for the second part of the year the URC Commitment for Life project which is particularly relevant in view of the tragedy caused by the terrible floods and destruction.

**Pat D**

**WANTED – AN ORGANISED PERSON FOR HALF AN HOUR A WEEK!**

For many many years now, Jean K has been the liaison between our preachers, organists and readers. She has thoroughly enjoyed doing this, and she probably has more regular conversations with preachers and people in the congregation than many of us! However Jean is no longer in a position to carry on doing this, and so we are looking for a new volunteer. This is what is involved:

- Every Monday, send an email to the preachers for the following Sunday asking them for their hymns and readings.
- Find readers for the readings (from a long list of volunteers)
- Email the hymns to the organist
- Email the details to Lynne for the notice sheet

It takes no more than half an hour a week – but you need to be organised in order to get it done, as well as being willing to contact readers you may not know very well.

If this could be you, please have a word with me. It’s an extremely important but enjoyable role.

**Leslie**
WHY TWINNING?
Our church was recently put in touch with Pauluskirche in Kaiserslautern, Germany, who like us, had been wondering about the possibility of twinning with another church. After email correspondence between Leslie and their pastor, Karl, each church agreed to set up a Twinning Team to explore further.

Our Twinning Team (Leslie, Noel D, Frieder K, Mary H, Sue J, Jeff C) met recently, and did some more in depth thinking about the purposes and hopes of twinning.

What is the purpose?

• There is a symbolic significance at this time of Brexit in twinning with a church in Europe.

• As a church, we believe in building bridges rather than barriers, and a twinning partnership would contribute towards this.

• The Gospel has always been and will always be cross-cultural – and a twinning partnership makes this point.

What might we do?

• Send videos e.g. of worship or other parts of church life.

• To exchange letters in magazines.

• To learn more about the history of the church in Germany (and the history of the church in the UK).

• To share liturgical material, thus enriching our worship.

• To visit and offer hospitality.

The exploration of whether and how we might develop a twinning relationship with Pauluskirche continues.....

Leslie
SEATED ONE DAY AT THE ORGAN

My time of, “seated one day at the organ”, has not lasted just one day, but 40 years. During those years, and before that, from the age of 11 to 18, playing for the senior department of the Sunday School, I have had the privilege to serve 8 ministers, Ron Dyer, Ward Davies, John Atkinson, Margaret and Robert Crompton, Richard Hall, John Wiseman and Leslie Noon, plus many supernumeraries and local preachers. I have also helped out in the circuit, playing in eight chapels.

I went to college in 1969 and then had a teaching post in Swansea straight away. I had an extremely long way to travel to work each day, from OVER BY HERE to OVER BY THERE and two years later an even shorter walk! For 19 years, I didn’t own a car, but eventually I had to buy one as I was unable to carry everything I needed for school. During the 1980s, I also conducted the choir, when we had a balanced 4 part harmony choir.

During my teaching career, I had a few lengthy absences due to ill health, including one in 1995, when my life was saved due to the expert medical attention I had from Dr Chris Sait. Returning after an absence in 1995, of 6 months, to the school’s first ever full inspection in its 25 year history, finished me off. Once again Dr Sait came to the rescue. He signed me off, I never went back and I never looked back. I then took up the reigns of piano teaching, having qualified in 1974. Soon after, in 1979, I had organ lessons with Dr Ian Graham, then organist of St Paul’s Sketty.
So, this year, not only have I served as one of our organists for 40 years, but so too have Eleanor and Alan. We have been so fortunate to have had this Compton organ, which we were given when our Townhill chapel closed.

We only had one organist before Eleanor, Alan, Geoff W and I took up the reigns, the indomitable Mildred Edwards, who served for 51 years, until her death in 1979. She was also my first piano teacher.

That is why, this year, I asked to play during Holy Week and today, Easter Day, to give thanks that 40 years ago, during Holy Week 1979, I recovered from my first serious illness, again diagnosed by Chris Sait. At this juncture some people may be thinking, gosh, we could have got rid of her all those years ago......so blame Dr Sait for that too!

Over the 40 years I have been playing I think I have become more of a non-conformist and a dissenter, as many of my ancestors were! And, no doubt, many of you will agree that I have! But on a more serious note I am retiring whilst I am still compus mentis and my faculties are intact, and, because, physically I am finding it too much of a strain to play.

So thanks to everyone who has supported me and our other organists over the years. **With these words I will sign off:**

**SO LONG FAREWELL, AUF WEIDERSEN, GOODBYE.**

Janet N
REPAIRS TO THE UCS COMPTON PIPE ORGAN

Our Church has approved work on the organ, thank you! But what, you ask, is the nature of those repairs? Many of you will have witnessed me disappearing into the organ chamber, to remove a pipe that is playing when it shouldn’t; what is called a cypher. In the past, it has usually been a small pipe that we can manage without for the time being. But now there are quite a few pipes removed from their sockets, so they don’t cipher or play! Why the cyphers? Believe it or not, a crucial material in organ building, old or new, is leather. This is used for the wind reservoirs, two large pieces of wood connected at their edges with leather; as you have in a concertina or the old-fashioned bellows for encouraging a coal fire to ‘get going’. It is also used for controlling whether pipes speak.

In our organ, each pipe sits on a rack with its bottom resting in a hole, leading to a wind chest that contains wind, typically at about 3-6 pounds per square inch, supplied of course from a wind reservoir. Underneath the pipe hole, in the wind chest, is a small bellows engine. When expanded by air fed into it, this little bellows should firmly close the hole in the top of the wind chest leading to the pipe, so the pipe does not speak. When a key is pressed, this causes, by electrical means, the bellows to deflate, allowing wind to the pipe. Just think, this plucky little bellows engine can respond to very quick repetitions of pressing a key, deflating and re-inflating fast enough for distinct sounds to be heard. Amazing!

Leather of course, can shrink or go stiff with age. This shrinkage leads to the bellows not expanding sufficiently, to completely close the hole; hence a resulting cypher! So, the first aim of the conservation work, is to renew those bellows that are not functioning properly. One is split, others are in a condition that means they are likely to cause problems in the near future.
We have also had some problems with pedal notes playing when they shouldn’t! One reason for this, is electrical leakage in some of the wiring that suffered when the dry rot removal was in progress, so this also has to be attended to.

Finally, you may have noticed Pam T signalling, very politely to me, that I have let my foot drop onto a pedal key, sufficiently to cause an unwanted sound! When the organ was re-wired, unfortunately the pedal contacts were constructed in such a way that only a very slight depression of the pedal key is required to activate the note. This means that it is very easy to catch a pedal and play a wrong note! This will be rectified by re-positioning the contacts. Of course, it will not guarantee the absence of wrong pedal notes! A very famous and somewhat absent-minded organist at Westminster Abbey, once set up the organ for a loud voluntary after the sermon had finished, then proceeded to walk across the pedal board to sit comfortably for the sermon!

The work will be carried out by Harrison & Harrison who are the largest UK firm building and maintaining organs at the moment. They recently rebuilt the Royal Festival Hall organ; so I have every confidence that their work will be done to the highest standard. Our organ at Sketty may have only a small number of pipes, about 300, but it is an extremely versatile instrument worth treasuring and caring for. Thus allowing it to continue supporting and enhancing worship at UCS for many years to come.

Alan S
A PATRON’S VIEW
What a lovely evening we had recently when we were invited to Mary's home, to spend time with her, her family and some close friends. Mary lives in the Cwmdonkin area of Swansea. On our arrival, we were shown to our seats in the parlour, where we found Mary busy cooking.

The venue of course was our very own church hall, to enjoy the latest production from Madcaps, *It'll Never Taste The Same*, which is a play set in Swansea in 1940. Its creator, Gillian Sharpe, is well known to both the Madcaps and Fforestfach Amateur Dramatic Groups. As well as Mary, the other characters were Dot, Nancy, Nan, Hilda, and Vera; being frequently interrupted by Mr Goody Two Shoes, the hilarious air raid warden, Jim.

The family were all looking forward to the safe return of Albert from the war. This is why Mary was busy making bread, ready for a bread and butter pudding. Jim was suspicious of Nan and the rest of the family, helping the enemy by giving away secrets, as well as having black market items from poaching. Personally, I was not surprised that Nan was involved, I have always thought there was something fishy about that character! Sorry for the pun, but if you were there, you would realise why I used that phrase.

Sadly, the play was interrupted by an air raid, which meant the cast had to be taken off stage for a short while. To help take our minds off the air raid, we were served with ice cream. Then, we were all taken by surprise when it was announced that the BBC were doing a live sing a long at the event, led at great expense by the well known personality, DJ Chaplin.
When peace was restored, we were welcomed back to Mary's parlour, where everyone was still awaiting news of Albert. Whilst examining the damage caused by the bombing, which included the destruction of Nan's Ty Bach, a shock that she never got over, Albert suddenly appeared! He said nothing, just walked around the parlour in a trance. He then disappeared again as quickly as he had arrived; this happened a few times. On the third time, he returned with his friend Tom, who was also an air raid warden. Tom reassured Albert that nobody would have suffered, death would have been instantaneous, following a direct hit on the home. As you looked around the parlour, you realised that all the family and Jim were dead.

What a wonderful evening, for such a wonderful cause, produced by our wonderful Jan C. The Usherettes, Julie and Mandy showed us to our seats in torch light; there was no electric lighting because of the war! The whole performance presented by our wonderful Madcaps was truly out of this world! Excellent costumes by Linda J and excellent sound affects by Les W. Special thanks also to Alan J, Adam E and John D. Also, many thanks to all the patrons who dressed up in period costumes to add to the drama!

But, there was one sad part of the evening for me. We never got to taste Mary's Bread and Butter Pudding!

Paul E
MONEY RAISED BY MADCAPS
At our recent Madcaps evening, over £720 has been raised for Christian Aid. We are still counting the pennies, so the final amount will be given in our July/August edition. Thank you to everyone.
Jan C

FOLLOWING ON FROM OUR MONTH OF PRAYER
As May turns to June, our month of prayer comes to an end. But our praying doesn’t! After our Breakout service, with its prayer walk, ways into creative prayer and exploration of the challenges of prayer, it was suggested that we might like to ‘set up’ a prayer group that meets regularly in someone’s home. We don’t currently have a prayer group, and given all this is going in in our church and in our world, to start one would be wonderful.

If you would be interested in attending a small, short, regular prayer group, meeting in someone’s home, in which we pray for our church, our community, our world and ourselves, please speak to me or Laura H.
Leslie

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS FOR JUNE
In June we will be collecting for Ty Croeso. This is a small community project on the High Street in Clydach. It distributes for Swansea Foodbank and hosts a branch of the Celtic Credit Union. It also hosts one to one counselling, runs a seated exercise class and provides a meeting place for Families Anonymous meetings. As with many small projects any support is greatly valued.
Susan G
COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY, 1st JUNE FOR MARIE CURIE
Please come to the Coffee Morning, which will start at 10am on Saturday 1st June. All proceeds will go to Marie Curie.

BLUE SWANSEA
On Tuesday, June 4th at 10.30am, you are invited to join members of the Swansea Hebrew Congregation in the Wesley Room to hear part 2 of the blue plaques of Swansea.
Janet N

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!
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. If you would prefer to bring knitting or your own project, please do so. All will be most welcome to join our very friendly group.
Kath D

COVER TO COVER
Our book for June is, A Grain of Wheat by Nguni wa Thiong’o.
We are meeting at 10.am on Thursday, 6th June in the Bethel Room.
Mike W
TRAIDCRAFT
Our next Traidcraft stall will be on Sunday, 16th June. If you have any queries, please contact us.
Jackie and Gary C

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 on Tuesday 25th June at 7.30pm in the Wesley Room
All are welcome.
Sandra C

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB
The next lunch will be on Sunday, 23rd June at the Hen Dderwen, meeting together at 12noon to 12.30pm. Please sign the list in the porch if you would like to come. All members and friends very welcome. Any queries, please contact Pauline
Pauline L

ROBIN FRIEND ON MY RIGHT FOOT!
Down at the beautiful National Botanic Gardens of Wales in Llanarthne, one sunny lunch time, a few Tuesdays ago, I sat on a park bench, behind the Statue for Peace in the World and prayed. Deep in meditation, I gently became aware of something sitting on the left hand side of me! I opened my eyes and saw a sweet little Robin perched on the armrest of the bench. With a confidently cocked head,
the little Robin sized me up and then flew down onto the toe cap of my right boot! I was spellbound and could not move; I was entranced and felt honoured that the little one trusted me.

That little robin touched my soul. We had no ability to communicate, except for direct eye contact. We both sat together in peace and basked in the joy of the lovely sunshine. Little Robin then flew off and I sat in absolute calm and peacefulness. “Let go and let God”. When we cross paths with other living things, pass with love and peace.

“Nature’s beauty helps us To be as vast as possible, As peaceful as possible, And as pure as possible.”

Sri Chinmoy

Whenever you are unsure of what to do, take a little time out with nature. Nature always puts things into balance and gets on with the important things in life.

Jan T
GOOD MORNING

I am God. Today I will be handling all your problems.
Please remember that I do not need your help.
If the devil happens to deliver a situation that you cannot handle DO NOT attempt to resolve it, kindly put it in the SFJTD (something for Jesus to do) box. It will be addressed in MY time not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box do not hold onto it or attempt to remove it. Holding on or removal will delay the resolution of your problem.
If it is a situation that you think you are capable of handling, please consult me in prayer to be sure that it is the proper resolution.

Because I do not sleep nor do I slumber there is no need for you to lose any sleep. Rest my child. If you need to contact me I am only a prayer away.

I have just been given this from a friend. Following our month of prayer, I thought this would be lovely to share.

Maggie C

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.
FATHER'S DAY
Each year in the UK, Father's Day takes place on the third Sunday of June; which is the 16th June, this year. According to one tale, Father's Day first began, because of a woman named Grace Golden Clayton from Fairmount, West Virginia. An orphan, Grace lobbied her local Methodist Ministers for a church service to honour fathers in 1908. The story goes that she was inspired to do this, after a mining disaster killed 362 local men. Their deaths orphaned more than 1000 children and Grace wanted to pay tribute to the children's dead fathers, as well as her own.

Another story involves the daughter of a Civil War veteran, Sonora Smart Dodd, from Arkansas. While listening to a sermon for Mother's Day, Sonora became convinced of the need to celebrate fathers too. She campaigned to her religious leaders for a special service dedicated to fathers. In 1966, President Johnson designated that the third Sunday in June should be Father's Day. In 1972, Father's Day was made a permanent national holiday in the United States.

Jean E

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT LIVING IN THE 1500S!
The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn’t just how you like it, think about how things used to be! Most people got married in June, because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were beginning to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married. Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children! Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty, you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, ‘Don’t throw the baby out with the bath water’!

Pauline L
Role Play

Since the beginning of time, humans have told stories. They have painted them on the walls of caves, handed them down through generations, told them around camp fires. Today we tell stories through film (Reel to Real), books (Cover to Cover) and of course television. Stories – real or imagined – help us to make sense of life, help us to experience the world beyond our own, help us to empathise and learn.

The Bible is full of stories – indeed it was Jesus’ main way of teaching. Stories and accounts handed down from community to community were eventually written down. But so often when we study the Bible, we do so using our heads. We ask ‘head’ type questions and have ‘head’ type discussions. Of course, this is good, but it doesn’t have to be the only way. Using our imaginations to enter the story is another way. Our Summer Faith and Fellowship sessions are going to attempt this! We’re going to be looking at stories from the Bible and entering into them using role play! For a great many people this is a real eye-opener, bringing the biblical world and its characters to life in a way never before experienced. Others find it more difficult – but you never know until you’ve tried it! So why not come along and see what you think. For each story, as well as having participants who will role play, we will need participants who will observe. So there’s definitely something for everyone. Come along, be with us and try it out!

June: Tuesday, 18th at 10am and Thursday, 20th at 7.30pm

July: Tuesday, 23rd at 10am and Thursday, 25th at 7.30pm
STRAWBERRY TEA IN GAYNOR’S GARDEN!
on SATURDAY, 22\textsuperscript{nd} JUNE 20193pm – 5pm

AT IF WET AT UCS TICKETS £5.00

Please obtain tickets from Gaynor or stewards

Proceeds for church funds
GOWER CHORALE SUMMER CONCERT
At St Mary’s Church Swansea
7pm on Saturday, 22nd June 2019
Cantique de Jean Racine, Faure
Chichester Psalms, Bernstein
Lux Aeterna, Morten Laurisden
Musical Director, Dr William Reynolds
Organist, Huw Tregelles Williams
Harpist, Llywelyn Ifan Jones

Tickets now available: £15.
Children free of charge.

(Change of venue, due to organ repair work at All Saints, Oystermouth)

Preliminary notice
Swansea Summer Choral Music School will take place from
Monday, August 12th until Friday, August 16th
at West Cross Community Centre 10am – 4pm
Music Director Ros Evans and colleagues
Grand finale concert on Friday, August 16th at 7 pm
at All Saints Church Oystermouth
More details will be given in our July Magazine

Anne W
BIG DAY OUT (National Synod of Wales)
Saturday, 29th June, at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Showground.
Jesus said, "Follow Me". Come. This will be a day of worship, activities, workshops, time to chat and eat! This event happens every two years and is an enjoyable day to spend with members of other churches; many united churches. I hope that there will be a group of us able to go. Those who went last time thoroughly enjoyed it, so please put it in your diary.

Please note that there will be free transport paid for by the URC. A coach will be leaving from outside our church, so I hope this will encourage you to attend! There will be a variety of activities, presentations and displays on the theme of, Following what it means to be Disciples of Jesus in the 21st Century.

There will be a worship and contemplative prayer spaces, opportunity to join a scratch choir, exploring mission space, refreshments, places to sit relax and chat about a wide variety of displays and presentations.

All churches have been given a large board on which to depict their church in any way they wish; drawings, craft work, photos etc. If you have any ideas about how you think we should describe UCS or could help prepare the board which we will take with us please let me know.

Pat D
WORKING TOGETHER WITH OUR SISTER CHURCHES IN SKETTY

There are some areas of Swansea where there is excellent co-operation between the different churches – Clydach and Mumbles are two such examples. In Sketty this has pretty much completely been lost (apart from, we should say, the Night Shelter, which three churches based in Sketty host).

It has become apparent in recent months, after a variety of different conversations, that many of us in UCS would like to see a greater relationship with our sister churches in Sketty. Of course, we can’t do this on our own – no relationship can be one-sided! However, to start the ball rolling, I have arranged a meeting for anyone from our church who is interested or who has contacts in other churches.

If this is you, please come along to the meeting, which is on **Tuesday, 30 July at 2.30pm**. The purpose of the meeting is to work out how we might fan the flames of renewed interest in a Sketty CYTUN or similar.

Leslie
A BIG THANK YOU FROM ANN G
Thank you to all church family and friends who have sent me lovely cards, flowers and good wishes over the last few months. I am now feeling much better and hope to see you all in church quite soon.
Ann G

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FROM CLARE
Thank you to everyone at UCS for the flowers, cards and messages during my mother’s treatment in Singleton and Velindre hospitals. I am delighted to say that she is making good progress.
Clare K

SANDRA AND BOB C OUR GOLDEN COUPLE THIS MONTH
CONGRATULATIONS to you both, on fifty years of wedded bliss! Love and best wishes, from all your church family and friends.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGES
To all our church family and friends, who will be celebrating a birthday in JUNE
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
          5-6pm Rainbows
          6.15-7.30pm Cubs
          6.15-7.30pm Brownies
Wednesday 10-11.30am Sunbeams Parent and Toddler 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
## JUNE 2019 DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>10-12noon</td>
<td>Coffee Morning for Marie Curie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Rev Leslie Noon: Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Rev Andrew Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Local Preachers’ Meeting at Clydach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Wesley Club: Phil Treseder, The Mumbles Railway (OPEN MEETING)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Tuesday monthly House Group, studying John: Chapt 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Methodist Circuit Invitations Committee in Wesley Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Rev Noel Davies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Rev Leslie Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Wesley Club: Rhian Rees, The Role of Women in Medieval Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Rev Leslie Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Rev Howard Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Wesley Club: Tony Fitzgerald, Travellers’ Tales</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Strawberry Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Gower Chorale Summer Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Miss Selina Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Rev Leslie Noon: Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Wesley Club: AGM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Big Day Out (National Synod of Wales)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Rev Neil Riches</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Rev Linda Woollacott</td>
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### START OF JULY 2019 DIARY

<table>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Tuesday Monthly House Group studying John Chapter 20 &amp; 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Songs from the Shows, presented by Abbey Players</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>10-12noon</td>
<td>Coffee Morning for Guide Dogs for the Blind</td>
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### ROTAS FOR JUNE 2019

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

**Welcome Teams:** Myrddin P

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Welcome Team</th>
<th>2 JUNE</th>
<th>9 JUNE</th>
<th>16 JUNE</th>
<th>23 JUNE</th>
<th>30 JUNE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan T</td>
<td>Ian &amp; Susan G</td>
<td>Sonia B</td>
<td>Harry O</td>
<td>Allan &amp; Joe A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Leighton J</td>
<td>Shirley J</td>
<td>John N</td>
<td>Grosvenor H Caroline C</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>David K</td>
<td>John P</td>
<td>Grosvenor H</td>
<td>David P</td>
<td>Tina L</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Paul E</td>
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**Sound**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>2 JUNE</th>
<th>9 JUNE</th>
<th>16 JUNE</th>
<th>23 JUNE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bill D</td>
<td>Elizabeth E</td>
<td>Elisha G</td>
<td>Myrddin</td>
</tr>
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**Evening**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jeff C</td>
<td>Pat D</td>
<td>Myrddin</td>
<td>Keith</td>
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**Flowers:** Rosemary B

**Giver:**

<table>
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<th>9 JUNE</th>
<th>16 JUNE</th>
<th>23 JUNE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eileen P</td>
<td>Keith M</td>
<td>Pam T</td>
<td>Rosemary B</td>
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<td>Angie F</td>
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**Arranger:**

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<th>23 JUNE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pam E</td>
<td>Una</td>
<td>Pam T</td>
<td>Rosemary</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Rosemary</td>
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**Distribution of the Flowers:** Anne W

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gwen</td>
<td>Margaret</td>
<td>Maggie</td>
<td>Pat B</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Sonia</td>
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**Sunday Morning Coffee:** Paul H E

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>9 JUNE</th>
<th>16 JUNE</th>
<th>23 JUNE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jackie &amp; Gary</td>
<td>Jane &amp; Laurie</td>
<td>John &amp; Sandra</td>
<td>Pat D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ruth A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Maggie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Claire K</td>
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32