“I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable... Therefore, I bring charges against you again” declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 2.7 & 9 (NIV)
Minister: The Reverend Leslie Jane Noon

Senior Elder: Pat D
Senior Steward: Jan C

Sunday Services:
10.30  Morning Service including Adventurers for children, occasional all-age worship and break-out church
       Refreshments in the Wesley Room following morning worship
6.30   Evening Service
       •  Communion is normally celebrated in one morning service and one evening service each month
       •  An induction loop and large print hymnbooks are available
       •  Creche available on request – please speak to a steward or elder

This magazine is available on memory stick as an audio file for the visually 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 more information.
If you would like to receive the weekly notices and/or monthly magazine via email (.pdf file) please contact Lynne W

**November Magazine**
All items for inclusion in the November Magazine to be sent to Noel by 18th October 2019 at the latest. Issue date: Sunday, 27th October.

**Weekly Notices**
Material for Weekly Notices to Lynne W by Friday each week

[Images on front cover were obtained from www.awesome-art.biz and https://pixabay.com/service/ and are copyright free; logo from World Council of Churches, see https://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/climate-change/time-for-creation]
FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

“May you live in interesting times”. So says an alleged Chinese ‘curse’. Well, we certainly are ‘living in interesting times’ in terms of our nation. I’m not sure it’s wise to say anything about Brexit here, as it’s quite likely that between the time I write and the time you read, there could have been all sorts of developments! But needless to say, as Christians, wherever we stand on the Brexit debate, we must hold our nation and its elected leaders and representatives in our prayers. God knows this is desperately needed!

We also live in ‘interesting times’ in the British Methodist Church, as we begin conversations on the issue of human relationships and specifically same-sex marriage. The URC has already been through this and has made the decision to allow every local church to decide for itself whether (or not) it will offer equal marriage. This is the route the Methodist Church is now suggesting, as agreed at Conference in June. It allows for people and churches to come to differing conclusions on this, without falling out with each other (like we have over Brexit). Over the coming six months or so, churches and circuits will be asked to engage in conversations, so please watch this space for more information.

Another quote, this one from Tale of Two Cities, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”. It would seem that this describes the life of our church and church family at the moment. For some, life is at its worst, with bereavement, serious illness and other difficult family situations being faced by a number of people. We continue to hold them in our prayers. For others, life is at its best, with holidays and celebrations being enjoyed. We rejoice with them, and think
especially of Harrison, being baptised on 6th October and Ronia being confirmed on 20th October.

In all these times – interesting, best and worst – we know that God walks with us, and shares our despair and our joy. May we do the same for one another.

With love,

Leslie

OCTOBER SERVICES

Please note the following special services in October, which include some changes to the published Plan because of exciting church family occasions and preacher illnesses:

**Sunday 6 October morning:** Baptism of Harrison. We celebrate with Emily and Nathan, Lily, Hannah and George on the baptism of their baby boy, son and brother, great-nephew to Mary and Laura and great grandson to Maisie. Please come early to get a seat on that Sunday! This will NOT be a communion service as planned.

**Sunday 13 October morning:** Our Harvest Festival ‘There is no Planet B’. Come and join us for our harvest festival when our church will be decorated and we shall give thanks for God's wonderful creation whilst considering the eco challenges now facing us all. Please see elsewhere in the magazine about harvest foodbank and other donations.

**Sunday 13 October evening:** Our celebration of harvest continues with a Circuit Service in our church. Please make every effort to come along, as we launch our new Methodist Circuit Project ‘Creation-Wise’. There will be a special guest speaker sharing with us about environmental issues and Eco Church.

**Sunday 20 October morning:** Confirmation of Ronia. This will be another very special service as Ronia is confirmed and brought into membership.
We rejoice with her and her family. This service will INCLUDE communion and will be led by Leslie.

**Sunday 20 October evening:** This service will be led by Leslie, but will NOT be a communion service.

**Sunday 27 October evening:** This service will be led by Rev Noel Davies (thank you for stepping in) and will INCLUDE communion.

**Communion collections in October will be for Open Doors:** Open Doors supports persecuted Christians in over 60 countries, supplying Bibles, training church leaders, providing practical support and emergency relief. It also works to raise awareness of global persecution. They have launched a “Hope for the Middle East” petition aiming for Christians in Syria and Iraq to have the right to equal citizenship and dignified living conditions and much aid has been provided to this region. More about their work can be found at [https://www.opendoorsuk.org/](https://www.opendoorsuk.org/)

Susan G

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**PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, PRAY**

*prepared by Janet N*

**OCTOBER**

**WEEK ONE** – We pray for everyone living in the streets near our church – Admirals Walk, Benbow Close, Raleigh Close, Dana Drive and Cunningham Close. We pray for all those living there who are unwell. *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

**WEEK TWO** – We pray for the URC churches and their congregations – Christwell, Manselton; Temple, Gowerton; Tabernacle, Mumbles; Hill, Mount Pleasant and Hall Street URC/Methodist Church, Llanelli – that they may work in their communities to show the love of God. *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*
WEEK THREE – We pray for districts of Swansea where youth clubs are needed and that volunteers will come forward to help with this important but challenging work so that young people have somewhere safe to go in the evenings.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

WEEK FOUR – We pray for churches which are celebrating Harvest at this time of year, whether it be the harvest of the fields, seas, forests, mines, oil wells or renewable energy. May we use these harvests wisely.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM: PERSONAL PROFILES

Following the article about the roles of elders and stewards in the last Magazine, the Leadership Team agreed to launch a series of personal profiles of its members. The first to appear comes from one of our newest stewards, Amy W.

In one church meeting, it was suggested that the magazine might be a good place for people to share a bit about themselves, their stories and faith journeys. I thought this could be a wonderful way for our congregation to get to know one another better and, in my excitement, I ended up volunteering(!) As a new steward, I hope that this will help us to connect with one another.

I am currently working as an Assistant Psychologist. I am fascinated by the brain and privileged to be involved in helping people when their brain is not functioning as it should. I enjoy theatre, crafts, crochet, puzzles, and DIY. I have recently taken up gardening and growing my own vegetables, with mixed results so far...

I grew up attending Sketty Methodist Church. When I moved away for university, I attended various other churches and noticed many
differences in traditions and beliefs. I also attended an Alpha course, which included lively debate and testimonies from those who had experienced a moment of conversion. I never had a moment where I felt “saved”. I always considered myself a Christian. My faith journey has felt more like the sea, ever changing with highs and lows, crashing waves and calm... But I have had moments where I have quietly felt God’s presence, when I have needed him. I have also never felt drawn to a particular denomination. No matter what the specific traditions or beliefs of a church, the thing that has stood out for me is the welcome and acceptance (or lack of). One experience in particular stands out in my memory. At a Christmas service one year, I was told “We wouldn’t normally allow you to take communion but, since it’s Christmas, we’ll make an exception”. I didn’t feel welcomed, I felt like an outcast. When I returned to Swansea, I returned to Sketty Methodist, in the process of joining with Bethel URC to become Uniting Church Sketty. It felt like coming home to extended family. At the moment, the focus of my faith is how it is translated into everyday life. If I am ever struggling, it is the concept of “love through action” that brings me back. This is what I love about being a steward at Uniting Church Sketty... I felt as though I did not have enough life experience or biblical knowledge to be part of the “leadership team”. However, in this role, I am able to contribute to the church by practical means: by setting up for services, helping with organisation, supporting fellow members. All skills can be used for good.

Amy W

A WORD OF THANKS AND AN INVITATION
First, I want to echo Revd Leslie’s word of thanks to Jan T in the September magazine. I’m now beginning to realize how much is involved in gathering, editing and designing material, and doing it all to a monthly deadline! Jan has done everything well, with grace and generosity, for five years! Thank you.
Secondly, three new features will appear in the Magazine from time to time: **Getting to know people...** will help us to know each other as members of UCS; **From the editor’s keyboard** will share occasional snippets from the wider church scene; **Welcome to Uniting Church Sketty** will be an opportunity to explore who we are and what we should be as a church. I hope these will make stimulating reading!

**And finally, AN INVITATION!** Contributions from members or friends of UCS will be warmly welcomed. They can be on a range of subjects that relate to the life, worship and witness of the church. Ideally, they will be no more than 350 words (and anything longer may well have to be edited!). Please feel free to discuss possibilities with me.

Noel

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**The World Council of Churches calls on churches world wide to celebrate THE SEASON OF CREATION during September each year. As we approach our Harvest celebrations, it’s good for us to be reminded of the importance of creation for our shared faith and witness:**

“The Season of Creation is the time for us to lament our losses and to find new hope and energy to act on the threats to the creation, our home”, said Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches. “The biodiversity of the creation is what feeds us and keep us alive. In these times we have to act as protectors and caretakers.”

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**A PRAYER**

Creator of Life, The Earth is full of Your creatures, and by Your wisdom you made them all. At Your word, the Earth brought forth plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit, the waters teemed with swarms of living creatures of every kind, and world was filled with every kind of
winged bird, walking animal, and creatures that creep upon the ground. Mountains, plains, rocks, and rivers shelter diverse communities, and through the changing seasons Your Spirit renews cycles of life.
During this Season of Creation, open our eyes to see the precious diversity that is all around us. Enlighten our minds to appreciate the delicate balance maintained by each creature. Inspire us to conserve the precious habitats that nurture this web of life. In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

[For more information about Seasons of Creation see https://seasonofcreation.org/]

CIRCUIT MISSION PROJECT
Are you Creation-Wise?
On the evening of October 13th at Uniting Church Sketty at 6.30 p.m. we will launch our new Mission Project. This year we’re not asking you to fundraise for any charity, but instead we want churches and individuals to learn about and get involved in environmental activities. The service that evening will include a talk by Dr. Jemma Davies from the St. Madoc’s Centre at Llanmadoc, outlining briefly the work of the Christian environmental charity A Rocha and their Eco Church scheme, as well as telling us a little about St. Madoc’s and her own work. The service will be led by Rev. Pamela Cram who will also provide for each church a pack of material to help get you thinking about what you can do. The service will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity to speak to Jemma.

At Sketty we are already linked into the Eco Church scheme, which encourages us to increase our consideration of the environment in services and Bible studies; to consider the ‘footprint’ of our buildings
and ourselves; and how we might enhance the environment around us.

It’s hoped that following the service ‘enthusiasts’ will be found within the churches who will look at the Eco Church scheme, present ideas to the members, and liaise with a team of advisors who will be available to us free of charge through the Renew Wales project. Information will go out shortly about a morning workshop being arranged for us, and for other churches in the area, who are interested in Eco Church. This will be run by Renew Wales and include explanation of the services they have available, some case studies from Eco Church schemes, and input from A Rocha and others. Put the date in your diaries – Wednesday Nov. 13th at Capel y Nant, Clydach (an Eco Church).

Pam C

GETTING TO KNOW PEOPLE...

We’re always glad to welcome new people to be part of the life of our church. We hope that we make them feel at home within our Christian family. But they bring with them gifts and experiences of which we may not be aware. So over the next few months, in addition to profiles of our elders and stewards, some of our new friends – as well as some members of our church family who have been with us for a very long time – will share something of their own journeys of life and faith.

This month we hear from Frieder (and Grace) Kreschnak – who is interviewing himself! At least, he’ll know what the answers are...

Where were you born? Why do you ask?
Well, with your funny accent and your even funnier name, you can't possibly be a UK native!

I was born in Chemnitz – behind the Iron Curtain.

How did you end up in the West? My father faced the beginnings of persecution for his faith, and when things were hotting up too much, he decided to flee with his family.

Flee? Where to? To Heidelberg, West Germany.
Spent all your school time in Heidelberg, then? Yep, and my time in uni.

So you did make it to uni?! To study what? English and French.

But you're a Methodist minister; foreign languages didn't qualify you for that; what happened? God interfered.

He did what? Destroyed my modern languages dreams and changed the points on my track, coercing me to become a reluctant Methodist minister.

Coerced you? How? Don't ask; too long a story.

How did you land in the UK? Had to flee again? I was coerced once more; I met a Welsh student called Grace, studying German in Heidelberg for a term, got hitched and was enticed away from my homeland.

That's how you landed in Wales? No, at first, I was sent to college in Cambridge ...  

Cambridge?! Clever clogs, then! Far from it; Heidelberg is twinned with Cambridge, so just a default transfer.

And after Cambridge? I was let loose on the British Methodist Church.

All in a foreign language? Well done! Hang on! Without Grace's back-up I'd have put people's backs up and failed miserably. She's been a tower of strength.

How long have you been a minister? For 39 years; I don't know how I did it. People have been very gracious and long-suffering under my ministry.

But now you're retired; do you have any hobbies to pursue? I love basketball, walking and reading – and having a bit of peace!

Showing the pulpit the cold shoulder, then? Fat chance! Unbelievably, I'm being invited to utter some further theological noises.

Frieder and Grace Kreschnak
NEWS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Alan R: We mourn the passing of Alan R who died on August 27th after a lengthy illness. He was an Elder of Bethel URC and Bethel members will remember him and Martin P performing Jesus and Peter dialogues during some of Kim's services. They were always memorable. I also knew Alan as Deputy Head and then Headteacher of Pennard Primary school. After a very successful Inspection report he decided to go out on a high and retired. Apart from good times with the family he delivered flowers, helped with Talking Books and played bowls. Good memories. We extend our love to Liz and family. His funeral was held at Margam Crematorium, followed by a Service of Celebration at Uniting Church on September 12th, led by the Revd. Leslie with family and friends sharing in the service.

Pat D

A message from Liz R: I would like to thank Leslie and all of my Church family for the love and support shown to Alan and myself over the past difficult year. Your prayers, cards, flowers and messages of support have all been a great comfort to us as a family.

In memory of John K: Donations, in lieu of flowers, were given at John's funeral on 9th July and the family wishes to thank friends for their kind generosity. The sum of £600 was raised, which would have delighted John, as he had supported Medicins Sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders) for many years. As the title indicates, it brings medical and humanitarian assistance to victims of conflict, natural disasters or health epidemics.

Jean K

Julie G, her mum Sylvie, and the whole family would like to thank everyone so much for the love, support and prayers on the death of
Sylvie's husband Mike last month. It was sudden and devastating. However, we truly believe Mike is at peace now. To see so many familiar faces at the funeral was a great comfort on such a difficult and traumatic day. We are grateful to belong to such a loving and supportive church family.

Julie and Sylvie

We remember in our thoughts and prayers people who are housebound due to incapacity, those in care or nursing homes, those experiencing loneliness, debt and other financial challenges, mental health problems or relationship issues. A number of our church family have experienced bereavement, illness or stays in hospital and we remember them all in our thoughts and prayers. In particular, we remember

- Jean K, Liz R, Julie G and Alice R following their recent bereavements
- David G, who has left hospital and is currently at Burrows Hall Nursing Home, Llangennith.
- Maisie who had a short stay in hospital and is currently at Brynffield Manor Nursing Home.
- Minna B who is now at Gorseinon Hospital
- Chris H who is awaiting surgery
- Barbara G who is making progress and has now moved to Tŷ Waunarlwydd Care Home, Swansea Road, Waunarlwydd
- Anne G who is also making progress and hopes she will soon be able to come to church

Gwen D

From Eric P: Joan and I very much wish to thank the members of our church family at Uniting Church Sketty for the loving thoughts in cards and good wishes on our 70th wedding anniversary.
Happy Birthday Bunny and Happy Centenary to the Botanical Gardens in Singleton Park! We have a true Swansea celebrity in our midst, **Bunny A**! In 1919, Swansea City Council employed Daniel Bliss, who had trained at Kew Gardens in London, to become the superintendent of Singleton Park. It was his decision to create a botanical garden in the centre of our beautiful Singleton Park. Not far away in Swansea, in October that year, our Bunny was celebrating her first birthday! **Happy Birthday Bunny!**  

Jan T

**Congratulations to Jacob E**, one of our young people, who has achieved excellent results in his recent GCSE exams. Jacob is now looking forward to attending a Technical Theatre course at Gorseinon College. We extend him our best wishes for his future studies.  

Anne W

**ATIF AND FAMILY CELEBRATION**

“As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24.15), was the backdrop for a very special celebration service that we held on Sunday, 22nd September.

Following on from the Atif’s family’s British Citizenship Ceremony, they shared with us, their church family, what they had gone through in their home country of Pakistan, where Christians make up only 2% of the population and where radical Islam has led to Christians being targets of violent attacks by extremists, and treated as ‘unclean’ by society in general.

Like many others, Atif, Saima, Elisha and Maresha had to flee in the dead of night, following personal attacks on their house, and the killing of their dog. Because of Atif’s job with the British Embassy,
they all had visas for the UK, and so arrived in 2011 with very little, but at least with their lives. None of us can imagine what it must be like to land in a new country, not knowing anyone. But they made a determined effort to settle and to integrate, our church being a very important part of that. So our service was both deeply moving and celebratory, culminating in Angel’s baptism on her 7th birthday. After church, around 90 people stayed for a special lunch, and had an attempt to answer the sort of questions that refugees face when applying for British citizenship. We didn’t do all that well….!!! A huge thank you to Saima who provided some of the food and Jan C and her team of helpers who did all the rest – setting up, providing food, serving and clearing up afterwards. This was an occasion never to be forgotten! And we give God thanks and glory!!

Leslie

AUGUST COMMUNION COLLECTIONS
Our communion collections in August were for “Jack”, who lives locally. “Jack” has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. The total our generous members contributed was £495. The cheque has been given to “Jack” who was delighted. It means he can buy the laptop he needs to start his IT course at Gower College. “Jack” says a big thank you to everyone

Janet N

NEWS FROM THE YOUNG PEOPLE’S FELLOWSHIP
The YPF have now finished their fundraising and raised an amazing £1902.16 for Guide Dogs. They will be able to purchase a package to support a class of puppies during their training, help to sponsor a particular puppy, and be able to name a Puppy themselves. It has been an amazing project with an amazing total. The YPF would like to sincerely thank all those who helped, supported and gave so
generously to the fund-raising effort. Particular thanks to Sue L and Mitre for teaching us so much about Guide Dogs.

Jackie C

MESSAGE FROM MITRE!

Have moved south to Southampton for my last stage of advanced training before meeting the special person I will be looking after. Everything was going well until last Sunday when out on a free run I couldn't resist the bait on a fishing hook and swallowed the lot!

Wow! Did I cause a panic!
I was rushed to a vet and then taken to an animal hospital where I had to have an op to remove the hook.
But I am a tough cookie and twenty-four hours later I was back in training with everyone hoping I have learnt my lesson.
Here I am with another pal in the van en route to our day's workout.
Will be in touch.
Your pal Mitre

EASTER OFFERING 2019

The Swansea and Gower Circuit, once again, collected over £2,000 towards projects which are supported by Methodist Women in Britain. UCS collected £1272.92 (2018 £997.37 and 2017 £1241.15). The circuit total was £2617.76 (2018 £2091.71 and 2017 £2578.77). On behalf of MWiB, I would like to thank everyone for their generosity.

Janet N
THANK-YOU MESSAGES

Towards the end of the financial year, which ended on 31st August, we make a range of donations to various organisations for whom we have not had a specific fund-raising opportunity during the year. Most of these are related to either the Methodist Church or URC organisations, but not exclusively. Here are some of the thank-you letters we’ve received (you can find others on the noticeboard)

Geoff N (Treasurer)

Traidcraft Exchange
Over the past couple of years, we have built up a surplus on the sales from the Traidcraft stall - our profit if you like. Given the recent changes in the Traidcraft organisation, the charity side has less income, so we donated this surplus to Traidcraft exchange. Here is their “thank you”.

Thank you so much for donating your profits from your Fairtrade Stall at Uniting Church Sketty of £400.00. You are part of a community of inspirational people who are helping to build a world free of injustice in trade and business, where all people, no matter where they were born, can earn a decent living from the hard work they do every day.

Your dedication and generosity are changing the future for people like Monica, our oldest project participant. At 95, thanks to taking part in a project run by Traidcraft Exchange, she is running a successful farm in rural Kenya and no longer faces an impoverished old age. Her children died as young adults, leaving her to raise six grandchildren alone.

Now they have grown up and moved away, Monica has had to do all the planting and hoeing herself and struggled to produce enough to eat through the dry season. When she took part in Traidcraft Exchange’s training sessions, she learned about early planting and crop diversification, improving her yields and earning enough to buy a water tank – meaning she can grow enough to eat and sell a surplus
at market. Her future is brighter thanks to her own hard work and the kind support of people like you.

**Tŷ Croeso**
*This organisation was the beneficiary of our Communion offerings in July.*

Very many thanks for your exceptionally generous donation towards the work of Tŷ Croeso in Clydach. Tŷ Croeso (‘Welcome House’ in Welsh) provides a range of essential services to vulnerable individuals and families.

Our team of volunteers provides a Trussell Trust food bank, personal counselling programmes, debt management, support in bereavement and loss, support for the families of drug users, advice and referral, a credit union facility, a prayer group, exercise groups and drop-in sessions where lonely and insecure members of the community can have refreshment and a sympathetic ear in a non-threatening environment.

Your donation will help us to finance our activities by ensuring that we can cover our core costs of rent, heat and light in order to maintain our current level of help to the community; our work is only possible through the kind contributions of supporters and well-wishers like yourselves.

Very many thanks once again, and may God bless you all at Uniting Church.

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**FROM THE EDITOR’S KEYBOARD**

Much of my ministry has been spent in ecumenical relationships in Wales and around the world. So from time to time, I’ll be sharing some of my own reflections on the world church and what is happening around the world. Now and again we’ll also feature articles by key people in the life of the wider church. Hopefully this will help provide a perspective – a way of
seeing things – for our life together in Uniting Church Sketty. This month, we’re sharing a reflection by the President of the Methodist Conference...

**Embodying God’s grace**

*The Methodist story is about caring for people, whether they’re next door or in a refugee camp thousands of miles away, writes the Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference for 2019/2020 (who’s ministry has been with the Bread Church working with diverse people in Liverpool, Touchstone, a Methodist interfaith project in Bradford, and with people who have experienced abuse following the Past Cases Review)*...

Miss Clark was about four foot high. I think she would have been taller except she was completely doubled over with arthritis. When she opened the door to us Sunday school kids, she peered upwards through her spectacles because she couldn’t straighten up. Every year we took Miss Clark the biggest harvest marrow, and every year Miss Clark peered upwards and smiled thankfully.

Fifty years later, I am in awe of that diminutive old lady and the grace with which she received that obese courgette. After all, a marrow is a serious commitment even for a family of 12 with imaginative ideas on soup. But for an 80-year old spinster... Well, what did she do with it? I have to hope she had a compost heap!

Why am I telling you about Miss Clark? I think it’s because in that one small gesture, she embodied something quintessentially Methodist. The love she had for us far outweighed the immediate dilemma of her vegetable basket. Miss Clark embodied God’s grace...

**Connecting with people across the globe**

We may feel like a small Church, because in the UK Methodism isn’t as big as it used to be. But we are also part of the World Church. It is the DNA of the Methodist people to look beyond our small island for others to connect
with us through a shared sense of belonging. Across the globe many of us continually and faithfully do small things very well...

**Encouraging signs as Methodists witness God’s grace**
(And) there are significant signs of hope. I see big strides towards a broad understanding of evangelism as we seek to express God’s good news afresh in the light of our contemporary experience of grace. But mostly, I am encouraged by the many ‘ordinary’ Methodists who work out what it means to be followers of Jesus. Because, like Miss Clark, you bring ongoing hope to a complicated world. You are possibly bowed down with cares, but nevertheless standing tall, as you witness in many small yet significant ways to the transforming potential of God’s abounding grace.

The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson: an extract from the connexion, the free magazine of the Methodist Church, which churches can freely reproduce, www.methodist.org.uk

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**AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET MORE INVOLVED!**

Far more people walk past our church building than ever come in it. More people come into our church building (to various groups and activities) than ever come to worship. Therefore, the message we give on the outside of our church and in the entrance is extremely

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FAITH CUP

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- Romans 5:2 KJV

image-source: http://www.turnbacktogod.com (© free)
important. It says something of who we are, and it says something of who we believe God to be.

For the last four or five years, Chris H has been responsible for the posters in the two outside notice boards and the ‘prayer display’ in the entrance. In particular we would like to thank Chris for her creative, imaginative displays on the prayer board. They have been beautiful, thought-provoking and meaningful. Chris is now stepping down from this role, and we are looking for a team of people who would be willing to take it on.

Would you be willing to take on the role of putting the posters in the outside notice boards? This is relatively straightforward – you need to be willing to change the posters every month or so and, at special times of year (eg Christmas and Easter), liaise with GPS printers in Tycoch for posters which advertise our special services. We already have a number of posters, but the willing person would work with Leslie to research whether we would like to buy more.

Would you be willing, perhaps as part of a team, to be responsible for the ‘prayer display’ in the entrance? This involves some creativity, but by working as a team, people can pool their ideas and strengths and share the load.

Please see Leslie if you would be interested in either of these roles. And please don’t think ‘someone else will do it’. The more we can share the work out, the healthier we will be as a church community.

Leslie

HARVEST AND FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Donations for the Food Bank, for our Harvest Service on 13 October may be brought to church on Sunday 6 October, or any time during the following week if it is more convenient for you to bring items with you when you are at church for another reason. Items most needed are small jars of coffee and small bottles of squash, tinned meat and fish, mashed potato, dried rice in quantities of 1kg or 500grms.

Following the morning service on 13 October, we will need:
• A few people who are willing to deliver to the Food Bank during the following week.
• A few people to help transfer donations from church into the cars of the people who will deliver.

If you are able to help with either of the above, please speak to Gwen or email her.

For the display at the front of the church, we would also like some home-grown fruit and veg. We do not need loads! But if you are able to bring in small amounts of home grown produce to add to the display, that would be well received. Please bring it to church on Saturday morning (12th). We hope to sell / give it away after the circuit service in the evening.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC) NEWS

Despite the decision made at headquarters not use a warehouse in Swansea this year, Jan C, Alan and I are determined to try to continue the work of OCC in some way. Therefore, we have decided to try holding community packing parties in our church to which everyone will be welcome. The format of these sessions is still in progress but you can be assured there will be a warm welcome to everyone to come and help pack a box using both fillers you have bought or collected, and those we plan to purchase using funds. Please note that this year, because of customs restrictions, neither sweets nor toothpaste can be included, although a toothbrush is a very welcome item.

The boxes we pack, along with any that are brought to church already filled, will be blessed on Sunday Nov 17th before being transferred to Cardiff the following week. There they will be checked and packed into cartons before transportation to their, as yet unknown, destination.
We intend holding these packing parties between Monday 4th and Thursday 14th November between 10am and 4pm, excluding Wednesdays. There may be some variations when other activities in the premises would make the packing difficult. Please make a note of these dates in your diaries and try to keep some time free to join us.

We thank Hazel very much for the scarf she offered to raffle for our funds at the coffee morning on Saturday 7th September. “Guess the Name” of the scarf resulted in £26 with which to buy some box fillers. The winning name of Fred was selected by Gwen D who was delighted with the warm scarf. Thank you everyone for joining in the fun and especial thanks to Hazel for all her beautiful knitting.

We ask the church for their blessing in this new venture as we continue to show God’s love to needy children in the form of a shoebox present. So just as Strictly Come Dancing says, “Keep dancing” we’re saying “KEEP COLLECTING”.

Linda J

FOR YOUR DIARY

COFFEE MORNINGS:
Saturday, 5th October 10am-12 noon Coffee Morning in aid of Save the Children
Saturday 2nd November 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for Shuktara.

WESLEY CLUB PROGRAMME
Monday, 7th October  Gwerfyl Gardner “Are you being served?”
“ 14th  “ Janet Neilson “Walking the Worm”
“ 28th  “ Keith Millward “A life in entertainment”
**SUNDAY LUNCH:** The next lunch is on 20th October in Yr Hen Dderwen, 12 for 12.30 pm. Please sign the list in the front porch – all welcome. Contact Pauline for information.

**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.

Please contact Sandra for more information.

**GO ORANGE QUIZ**
On Friday 8th November in our hall at 6.30 for 7pm, there will be a light hearted general knowledge quiz to raise funds for MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY UK. Tickets will be available in October at £5 each, which will include light refreshments. There will also be a raffle and cakes for sale. You can come as a team, especially if you are "into quizzes", or as an individual and join a team on the night. To enter into the spirit of the quiz you may like to wear something orange. For further information or to book tickets, contact Janet.

Janet N

**PLEASE NOTE: Concessionary Bus Pass Renewal:** All Concessionary Bus Passes for the over 60s have to be renewed by the 31 December 2019. The easiest way to do this is via the online application. For those who need to renew their Pass, but don’t have access to a computer, or need help with the process, Les W and Gwen D who will have their laptops at the Coffee Mornings in October, November and December and will be happy to help.
WEEKLY PROGRAMME

Sunday services: 10.30am (including Adventurers for children)
  6.30pm

Sunday lunch is arranged once a month in Yr Hen Dderwen. You are most welcome to join us. Please contact one of the leadership team.

The following are held during term-time:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>Folk dancing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Wesley Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>2.00-4.00pm</td>
<td>Craft Group</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.00-6.00pm</td>
<td>Rainbows</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.15-7.30pm</td>
<td>Cubs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6.15-7.30pm</td>
<td>Brownies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10.00-11.30am</td>
<td>Sunbeams: Play Group</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Sketty Madcaps</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

House Groups, Faith and Fellowship, Cover to Cover and Reel to Real Groups are held from time to time throughout the year. Everyone welcome. Please contact one of the leadership team for details.

ROOM HIRE

A range of larger and smaller rooms is available for hire. Folding chairs and folding tables are available. All bookings are subject to Methodist terms and conditions. Further information available on request.

For booking enquiries and heating requirements please contact: Kath and Bill D
### ROTAS FOR OCTOBER 2019

If you are unable to fulfil your place on a rota, please re-arrange with someone else or contact the organizer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>October 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>October 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>October 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome Teams and Sound: Myrddin</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Morning</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Harry</td>
<td>Alan &amp; Joe</td>
<td>David K</td>
<td>Ian &amp; Susan G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David P</td>
<td>Caroline C</td>
<td>Jan T</td>
<td>Shirley J</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hilary E</td>
<td>Tina L</td>
<td>Leighton</td>
<td>John P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graham B</td>
<td>Paul E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sound</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill D</td>
<td>Elizabeth E</td>
<td>Elisha</td>
<td>Myrddin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evening</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Keith M</td>
<td>Anne V</td>
<td>Jeff C</td>
<td>Pat D</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Flowers: Rosemary B</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Giver:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pam T</td>
<td>Madelaine W</td>
<td>Gwen D</td>
<td>Sandra C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arranger:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pam T</td>
<td>Harvest Sunday</td>
<td>Rosemary B</td>
<td>Una G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distribution of Flowers: Anne W</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne W</td>
<td>Pat B. D</td>
<td>Sonia B</td>
<td>Mary J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H Evans 01792 207506</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gwen D</td>
<td>Pauline L</td>
<td>Margaret W</td>
<td>Susan and Ian G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra C</td>
<td>Pam E</td>
<td>Pat B D</td>
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</table>
On our recent holiday in Devon, we visited Buckfast Abbey on the Sunday. We were moved and impressed by the beautiful coloured glass window at the East end of the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, the holy chapel where the reserved sacrament is kept.

The window was designed by Charles Norris, a Benedictine monk and artist, who entered Buckfast Abbey in 1930, aged 21. Dom Norris (1909-2004) trained at the Royal College of Art and used his talents to work as an artist in the rebuilding of Buckfast Abbey by the Benedictine Community. Supervising a team of monks, he was responsible for creating the iconic East window constructed in *dalles de verre* (slab glass). This consists of glass tiles about 25mm thick that have their surfaces chipped so that light coming through them shines brightly.

Imagine these bright and shining blues, purples, greens, yellows and reds that go to create this wonderful image, filling the East wall of the chapel. You do get a powerful sense of the way in which Jesus, who is present with us in the Holy Communion, extends his hands in blessing over his people and at the same time seems to embrace the altar, in the forefront of the picture, where the eucharist is celebrated.

For us, too, Jesus is present when we celebrate the eucharist. As Luke tells us: ‘When Jesus was at table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him...’ Jesus blesses us and embraces us in God’s love. May we, too, recognize him ‘in the breaking of the bread’

Noel
Over the next few months, we will explore some of the key aspects of this statement (which you can find on the UCS website). Hopefully, this will help us learn more about who we are and who we are called to be as God’s people.

“Uniting Church Sketty is an open and welcoming church for people from all walks of life who seek to learn more about Jesus Christ. We bring together the Methodist and United Reformed traditions as we seek to deepen our unity and strengthen our witness. If you are new to church or if you are looking for a church or if you simply have questions about life, then we think you might find a home with us. Why? Because we too are people who have questions, but we have found it better to seek God together than alone. We seek God, but in fact we know deep in our hearts that first God sought us – it’s just that sometimes, somehow, we fail to notice and grasp this. And so we come to worship on Sundays, desiring more than anything to connect with God and to connect with each other. There are other opportunities through the week which also offer the chance to connect. If you want to join us on a Sunday or at one of our weekday activities, you will be very welcome.”

Contacting Us: Uniting Church Sketty, Dillwyn Road, Sketty, Swansea, SA2 9AH
Website: www.unitingchurchsketty.org.uk

Our redevelopment was funded by grants from the following: