“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed”

“Glory to God in highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom God’s favour rests”

“The Word became a human being... We have seen his glory”

Images by Rembrandt (1606-1669) at https://www.pinterest.co.uk/Actionary/8-adoration-ofthe-shepherds/ and https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q21806478
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 informal worship and break-out church
       Refreshments in the Wesley Room following morning worship
6.00  Evening service: PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME OF EVENING SERVICE FROM DECEMBER 1ST 2019: 6.00pm

- 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

FEBRUARY MAGAZINE
All items for inclusion in the February Magazine to be sent to Noel D by 17th January 2020 at the latest. Issue date: Sunday, 26th January.

WEEKLY NOTICES
Material for Weekly Notices to Lynne W, by Friday noon each week

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

Dear Friends,

I recently attended (along with two or three others from church) the Faith and Science lecture at Swansea University. The speaker was the Rt Revd Dr Joanna Penberthy, Bishop of St David’s. I was looking forward to a good evening, but through no fault of her own, Bishop Joanna’s lecture fell on ignorant ears.

Her topic was the link between science and theology, specifically quantum physics and theology, for it is in quantum physics that she has her doctorate. Well, as someone who 40 years ago scraped a ‘C’ in physics ‘O’ level (which in itself was a miracle), 99.9% of the lecture went over my head.

But two words that she said in relation to the quantum world stood out. The two words were ‘connections’ and ‘interactions’. Obviously, I can’t elaborate on what this was about (!), but the words stayed with me, for isn’t this what our faith, and specifically the incarnation is all about? **Connection** and **interaction**.

The lecture took place during Interfaith Week – in which I had been involved in a variety of events that took place in the University, in Swansea Market and of course here in our church when we hosted the film and discussion *The Sultan and the Saint*, which was attended by around 50 people of different faiths who very much enjoyed our interactions (do you see what I’ve done there?).

Meeting and talking with people of different faiths helps us to realise that we all have a connection with God – even if we call God by a different name and even if we have different ways of expressing that connection.
But for Christians, the incarnation, the very idea of God coming into our human world in the form of a vulnerable baby, takes the idea of interaction into a whole new realm. *God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son*, as the gospel writer says in John 3.16.

God interacts with us, God comes to us – and God interacted in a special and significant way at the birth of Jesus. And it is through this interaction that we are called in turn, to interact with the world.

Into our world, as into Mary’s womb... come, Lord Jesus.
Into the forgotten places, as into the stable... come, Lord Jesus.
Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope;
into the lives of the powerful, bringing caution;
into the lives of the weary, bringing rest;
into the lives of the wise, bringing restlessness;
and into our lives and longings...
Come, Lord Jesus

(from Cloth for the Cradle, WWG)

Whether we understand the quantum world or not, the fact that it is made up of connections and interactions speaks to us of how God created the world – and why he crept in beside us at Christmas.

May you know in your lives, this Christmas and beyond, the blessing of and the connection to God-with-us, Emmanuel.

With love,

Leslie

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**OPEN HOUSE AT THE MANSE**

Instead of our usual January Coffee morning, you are all invited to come and have a coffee (or something!) at

*The Manse (Rock Road)*  
Saturday 4th January  
Between 10am and 1pm
Christmas at Uniting Church Sketty
Come and celebrate with us!

Sunday 15 December
10.30am: The Christmas Story
With the participation of people of all ages: a nativity with a difference!

6pm: A Blue Christmas
Many people find Christmas and its preparation hard. This is a gentle, contemplative service for all of us who carry pain or anxiety.

Sunday 22 December
6pm: Carols by Candlelight
The Church will be decorated, the candles will be lit, and once again we start our preparation for Christmas by singing carols.

Tuesday 24 December
8pm: Christmas Eve Family Christingle Service
Celebrate Christmas as we make our own Christingles

11.30pm: Christmas Eve Communion
“When the world was dark, and the city was quiet, God crept in beside us”. A quiet, communion service as we greet the Christ-Child.

Wednesday 25 December
10am Christmas Day Family Service
Come and join the celebration! It’s a very special day.

Everyone is VERY welcome!
Uniting Church Sketty, Dillwyn Road, Sketty, SA2 9AH
www.unitingchurchsketty.org.uk
Communion Collections for December will go to Stepping Stones. Stepping Stones was first set up by three ladies from Sketty Methodist Church under the auspices of Action for Children. It provides services for pre school children with an emerging or diagnosed disability and is the only facility of its kind in Swansea. It offers visits from physiotherapists, speech therapists and other specialists as well as opportunities for children to play.

Collections for Christmas Services will be for recovery housing. The circuit is aiming to buy a property to provide supported accommodation for homeless people recovering from drug or alcohol addiction to give them a real chance of reintegrating into normal life. It will be known as Tŷ Ogof.

Tŷ Laura is our cause for January. This is an Action for Children project based in Mumbles, providing respite care for children and young people with severe learning difficulties and complex needs. (James, Heather and Jeff’s grandson, has regular breaks there).

If anyone has any suggestions for communion collections please let me know at The next meeting of the Mission, Outreach and Events committee, which will decide on collections for the next six months, is 21 January.

Susan G

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, PRAY (prepared by Janet N)

DECEMBER

WEEK ONE – We pray for all nursing homes, sheltered accommodation and assisted living accommodation in our area – Pen-Y-Bryn; The Old Vicarage; Sketty House; Pantgwyn; Maxime Court; Parklands Court and Fern Court.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
WEEK TWO – As Christmas and New Year approach, we pray for people who don’t look forward to this time of year for whatever reason. May they remember that Jesus is the reason for the season.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

WEEK THREE – We pray for those who will be homeless over Christmas and the New Year. We pray for groups such as the Salvation Army, who provide Christmas lunches.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

WEEK FOUR – As the weather gets colder, we pray for those who have no room or home in which to sleep and those who will be volunteering to help with the Night Shelter in UCS.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

JANUARY

WEEK ONE – At the beginning of a New Year, we pray for people who don’t look forward to this time of year. May they look to this new year with hope and trust in God’s constant love, renewal and forgiveness.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

WEEK TWO – We pray for all nursing homes, sheltered accommodation and assisted living accommodation in our area – Pen-Y-Bryn; The Old Vicarage; Sketty House; Pantgwyn; Maxime Court; Parklands Court and Fern Court.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

WEEK THREE – We pray for those who are homeless at this time. We pray for Shelter Cymru and all those organisations that seek to provide accommodation and shelter in our city.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

WEEK FOUR – As the weather gets colder, we pray for those who have no room or home in which to sleep and those who are
volunteering to help with the Night Shelter in UCS and other churches in Swansea.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**ADVENT: HOSPITALITY AND SANCTUARY FOR ALL**

Faith & Fellowship

Session 1: Tuesday 26 Nov at 10am and WEDNESDAY 27 Nov at 7.30pm
Session 2: Tuesday 3 Dec at 10am and Thursday 5 Dec at 7.30pm
Session 3: Tuesday 10 Dec at 10am and WEDNESDAY 11 Dec at 7.30pm
Session 4: Tuesday 17 Dec at 10am and Thursday 19 Dec at 7.30pm

As politicians talk about immigration policies, hospitality and sanctuary has become a ‘hot topic’. In these sessions we will explore God taking sanctuary among us, offering hospitality to the stranger, building cultures of welcome. **All are welcome.** Why not try to do something different or extra during this season of Advent, and join us.

**RELATING TO OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS**

Following a remark in a Church Meeting earlier in the year, concerning the lack of ecumenical work in Sketty (with the exception of the Swansea Night Shelter in which a number of Sketty churches take part), a few interested UCS folk got together to think about a way forward. This led to an invitation to other church leaders to come together for a meeting in our church to discuss the way forward. I was delighted that the leaders of St Paul’s and Holy Trinity (Robert), All Soul’s (Phil), Bethel Welsh and Trinity (Jill-Hailey) and Sketty Community Church (Monty) joined me and one or two others. It was a positive meeting, with a number of events planned including a Christmas get-together, a service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Lent lunches and possibly some sort of joint church presence at one of the major festivals in Singleton Park. More details
about all these things will follow at appropriate times – but your help is sought in terms of both supporting the events and encouraging friends and neighbours who go to other churches, to attend also. At the end of the day, if there is no interest, it will fizzle out again (*from the November Magazine*)

Leslie

So, for your diaries, the next event is:

Thursday, 12 December at 7.30pm at St Paul’s Parish Centre:
A Christmas gathering to get to know one another over mince pies, hot drinks and maybe some carols!
A list will be in the porch for anyone to sign if they are willing to provide half a dozen mince pies for this exciting new venture. Please contact Janet should you require more information.

WE HAVE CHANGED OUR FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP ADVENT STUDY TO ALLOW US TO ATTEND THIS, SO PLEASE DO COME ALONG.
CHRISTMAS CARDS

A box will again be provided near the Wesley Room where you can put your Christmas cards for church friends. If you do this, remember to put the name and surname on the envelope to ensure that your card is correctly delivered. Cards will be distributed on Sundays during December. There will also be an opportunity for you to place a message on a large card and make a donation to a charity. You may wish to use one or both of these ways to send your Christmas messages.

GETTING TO KNOW PEOPLE...

This time we’re getting to know two people who have come to us during the last year or so. As you can discover here, Jean and Roy M came to us from Bradford and bring with them long and committed experience of the Methodist Church...

Roy and I have been asked to say a few words about ourselves as newcomers to Sketty Uniting Church, and to fill a bit of space in the December magazine! Most of you have come across us by now so here are a few facts about us you may not know.

Roy was born 1937, in Bradford, West Yorkshire. Educated at Bradford Grammar School. He was a classics student who then qualified as a Chartered Engineer. He was an apprentice with GPO which later became BT, only leaving for 2 years to do National Service in the Airforce.

He attended St. Andrews Methodist Church from 4 up till 81, holding many of the usual offices in church, circuit and district. Since
retirement he received a diploma in industrial chaplaincy from Luton Industrial College and helped people in some of the mills still operating in Bradford. He also volunteered at a day care centre, where he was known as the "gravy man".

Jean was born 25/12/1939 (I know! So do I! ed.). Educated at Bolling Grammar School. Left after O levels, working for 3 years before deciding to train as a primary school teacher. Taught happily until early retirement in 1991, when Roy and I both took early retirement.

I had first met Roy in the local park and he introduced me to his church (Undercliffe Methodist). We later both became members. I undertook work in the Sunday School and various jobs in church (stewarding etc.) Our interests together were walking, ballroom dancing, badminton etc.

We have a daughter, her husband and 3 granddaughters in Swansea and a son, his wife and 2 grandsons in London. Due to ill health, a stroke, operations etc. we felt the need to be nearer some family. So here we are, happily living in McCarthy and Stone retirement apartments, Sketty, where we have started a new phase of our lives, and made lots of new friends.

Before we came, we sussed out Sketty Uniting church which we have adopted as our new spiritual home, and are so pleased we have been welcomed, warts and all. We look forward to joining in your special (and ordinary) events and getting to know even more interesting people.

Jean and Roy M
GIFTS TO CHARITIES FROM COLLECTIONS AND COFFEE MORNINGS

My thanks once again to those who attend Uniting Church Sketty for your generosity over the past couple of months. We raised the following amounts at Communion collections and coffee mornings:

- Action for Children, September Communion, £490.17
- Coffee morning in September for the Discretionary Fund, £492.37
- Save the Children, coffee morning in October, £547.37
- Open Doors, October Communion, £324.97
- The collection at the Circuit Service on the evening of 13th October (Harvest) raised £340.20 which was split 50:50 between St Madoc Centre and The Environment Centre

All of these amounts include Gift Aid. That’s a total of £2196.10! There is a “thank you” letter from Action for Children in the notice wall in the vestibule at the front of the Church (top right) and further acknowledgements will be placed there as they come in or they will be included in future magazines if the format is appropriate. Thank you again on behalf of these organisations for your generosity.

Geoff N, UCS Treasurer

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: PACKING PARTIES

A very big thank you to all who contributed in any way to our OCC Packing Parties. We were so grateful for the generous donations of
wonderful fillers and refreshments and of course a huge thank you to those who came and helped packed boxes.

As a result of the packing parties we have 330 boxes packed and ready for collection. All these boxes are bursting with items to wear, things to play with, hygiene items, stationery and, of course, a cuddly toy. We also have a further 20 equally full boxes filled by friends, with that total possibly rising before their delivery to Cardiff Warehouse.

All our boxes will be blessed during the evening service in church on Sunday 17th November before their transfer to Cardiff on Tuesday 19th November. Our information at present is that our boxes will be part of a delivery to Liberia but circumstances sometimes cause a change to those arrangements.

Once again, we extend our thanks to you that the generous nature of members and friends of UCS means that over 350 needy children will receive a shoebox this year. We couldn’t have done this without your help. Many, many thanks

Linda, Alan and Jan

GO ORANGE QUIZ

Thanks to all those who attended the quiz on November 8th and helped in any way. Your help and support were much appreciated. A total of £660 was raised. This money will be given, through our local fundraising manager, to MD U.K. towards research and funding equipment for sufferers with Muscular Dystrophy.

Janet N
With December upon us we will probably all begin our count down to Christmas. Often this is via an advent calendar. It's fun opening a window to reveal a picture or maybe even better a chocolate.

But have you thought that instead of taking out, Advent might be a good time to put something in? An Advent bag or box ready at hand would be a welcome depositary for a daily gift as we count down towards Christmas. Gifts don’t have to be fancy, large or expensive. A bar of chocolate or a packet of sweets, a tin or a packet of food, an item of toiletry or something similar. By the 24th December what a lovely gift we would have to give to a homeless or needy person as a message of hope to start 2020.

I do appreciate that at this time of year there are very many "good causes" all in need of our support so this is an invitation not a request. However, anyone who feels they would like to share an Advent Count Down in this way - please join me. After Christmas I will be happy to collect the bags or boxes (smaller or larger) and pass on to a charity. Thank you and happy count down.

Jan C
WHY NOT GIVE A CHURCH MUG AS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

We still have thirty of these mugs left. This is your chance to snap one up before they all go! Act now! They would make ideal Christmas presents for church people past and present, and others, who just like mugs - price £10. They are attractive, light, china, dishwasher proof and microwave proof. And there’s a brilliant drawing of our church printed on them. What more do you want as we approach our fifth anniversary as a uniting church? Contact Alan S.

JUST DESSERTS

As is the usual custom, we are having 'Just Desserts' after the carol service on Sunday 22nd December. Forget the calories and enjoy the delights of delicious desserts (seconds allowed!). We couldn't have this event if it weren't for the generous contributions of lovely mouth-watering culinary dishes by church members! Please sign the list in the front porch if you are able to make or provide a dessert again this year.

No tickets as usual, but donations this year will go to Tŷ Ogof Recovery Housing, which is the mission plan to provide a new home to help the broken lives of those recovering from drug and alcohol abuse and an extension of the work done by Ogof Adullam.

Any queries, please contact Pauline.

REMEMBER: Following a poll among those who come regularly and occasionally to our evening service, church meeting decided to change the time of our evening service to 6.00pm from 1st December 2019. PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME!
The Sketty churches will hold a united service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Uniting Church Sketty on Sunday Evening, 19th January 2020 at 6.00pm. The resources for this Octave of Prayer have been prepared by the churches in Malta and feature Luke’s account in Acts of the shipwreck off the coast of Malta that endangered Paul’s life. How incredible that our shared Christian experience can span two thousand years in this way and that the Mediterranean is still a place of danger for those on life-risking journeys! Those of us who came together from UCS and also met with friends from other churches, were really enthusiastic about renewing our friendship and partnership as churches in Sketty. The Christmas gathering on December 12th will be the beginning of our new venture. Hopefully the shared act of worship on January 19th will encourage us all to a new commitment to seek deeper unity and so strengthen our shared witness to our community. Please make a note of the date and time. We look forward to an inspiring occasion!

Noel
SWANSEA NIGHT SHELTER

Thank you, thank you, thank you! To all those who have volunteering to serve in the Swansea Night Shelter at our church. Once again I have been delighted that so many have come forward, and we have some new volunteers this year as well. A final rota will be sent to all volunteers in the next couple of weeks.

I am extremely grateful to Dilly's, just down the road from the church. As in previous years, they are willing to make a hearty beef stew every Saturday for the guests and volunteers. When I went in to ask them about this possibility, they were so glad to help. So next time you go in for a coffee, please tell them you're from UCS and thank them!

What we need now is:

- Someone who will come in every Saturday morning (around 8.30am) to receive the bedding into the back of the church.
- Some people who would be willing to make a dessert.
- Some people who would be willing to do the shopping.

One or two have already come forward, but if you are able to help out as well, could you let me or Gwen know.

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. Matthew 25:40

Leslie

ECO NEWS

In our ongoing work to make our church more eco friendly, please note that in future there will be no free-standing hand wash in the toilets and kitchen. Please use the dispensers on the wall. You will also notice that new waste bins have been placed in the downstairs rooms. These do not require plastic liners but please, therefore, have a thought to what you place in them, remembering that waste food should be placed in the kitchen food bins. Thank you, folks. Hopefully, every time we make a little difference. Together we are working towards our "no plan B"

Alan J
The Gower Chorale
Handel’s MESSIAH
at
UNITING CHURCH SKETTY
at 7.15pm
on
January 23rd 2020
FOR YOUR DIARY

COFFEE MORNINGS:
Saturday, 7th December 10am-12noon Proceeds for Refugee Funds
Saturday, 4th January 10.00am-1.00noon Leslie’s Open House at The Manse
Saturday, 1st February 10.00am-12noon Go Orange - for Muscular Dystrophy

WESLEY CLUB PROGRAMME
Monday Dec 2nd Rosemary B: Christmas Decorations
“ 9th Gary Gregor: Seven Swansea Statues (OPEN MEETING)
“ 16th Linda Woollacott: Christmas Devotions (Carols and mince pies)
“ 23rd and 30th No meetings
Jan 6th No meeting but New Year lunch (Norton House)
“ 13th Bev Gulley: The many faces of Agatha Christie
“ 20th John Powell: Mumbles Railway (OPEN MEETING - 60th anniversary of closure)
“ 27th Members evening: Treasured Memories

SUNDAY LUNCH: The December lunch will be held on Sunday 15th and the January lunch will be on Sunday 19th. These lunches are an opportunity for any church members and friends to get together over a meal in a social and relaxed atmosphere. Please sign the list which will be on the notice board in the front porch if you are interested. Contact Pauline for information

COVER TO COVER: For December, instead of bringing selections on poetry or prose apposite to the season, John A will take us through “The Christmas Mystery” by the Norwegian author, Jostein Gardner - a tale of a journey back in time to Bethlehem to see the Christ-child.

Our book for January 2nd will be “Orlando” by Virginia Woolf.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS: As is now our custom at Christmas we invite you to bring a poinsettia to church in memory of a loved one. Please bring them to church on Saturday 21st December at 10am when I will be there to receive them. If you would like to give a poinsettia and
are unable to get to buy one yourself please let me know and I will be pleased to get one for you. Thankyou. Rosemary.

**FOLK DANCING** will finish for the Christmas break on Monday 9th December and classes will resume on Monday 13th January when we will have our New Year lunch. This will be a bring and share lunch in Wesley Room before some dancing. We look forward to welcoming all members, past, present and future, to join us on this occasion.

**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 will have their laptops at the Coffee Mornings in October, November and December and will be happy to help.

**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.
WEEKLY PROGRAMME

- **Sunday services:**
  10.30am (including Adventurers for children)

  **6.00 pm Evening service:** PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME OF EVENING SERVICE FROM DECEMBER 1ST 2019: 6.00pm

- **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:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<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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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>2.00-4.00pm</td>
<td>Craft Group</td>
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<td>5.00-6.00pm</td>
<td>Rainbows</td>
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<td></td>
<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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<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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- **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**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Sun</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>The Revd Leslie Noon</td>
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<td>6.00 (NB)</td>
<td>Heather Coleman</td>
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<td>2 Mon</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Wesley Club: Rosemary Blythe: Christmas Decorations</td>
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<td>3 Tues</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>House Group Maccabees</td>
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<td>7 Sat</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Coffee Morning in aid of Refugees</td>
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<td>8 Sun</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>The Revd Ivor Rees</td>
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<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Sue Raad</td>
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<td>9 Mon</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Wesley Club: Gary Gregory: Seven Swansea Statues (Open Meeting)</td>
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<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Methodist Circuit Meeting (Murton)</td>
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<td>12 Thurs</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>A Christmas Gathering with Christians in Sketty at St Paul’s Parish Centre</td>
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<td>15 Sun</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>The Revd Leslie Noon: The Christmas Story</td>
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<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>The Revd Leslie Noon: “Blue” Christmas</td>
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<td>16 Mon</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Wesley Club: Linda Woollacott: Christmas Devotions (with carols and mince pies)</td>
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<td>22 Sun</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>The Rev Leslie Noon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Carol Service followed by Just Desserts</td>
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<td>23 and 30</td>
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<td>NO WESLEY CLUB MEETINGS</td>
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<td>24 Tues</td>
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<td>Christmas Eve: 3.00pm Christingle Service; 11.30pm Communion</td>
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<td>25 Wed</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Christmas Day Family Service</td>
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<td>29 Sun</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>The Revd Neil Riches  <strong>NB NO EVENING SERVICE</strong></td>
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<td>4 Sat</td>
<td>10.00-1.00</td>
<td>Leslie’s At Home at the Manse</td>
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<td>5 Sun</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>The Revd Leslie Noon</td>
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<td>6.00</td>
<td>The Revd John Atkinson</td>
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<td>6 Mon</td>
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<td>WESLEY CLUB: NEW YEAR LUNCH AT NORTON HOUSE</td>
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<td>7 Tues</td>
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<td>House Group</td>
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<td>12 Sun</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>The Revd Margaret Adams</td>
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<td>Rev Leslie Noon</td>
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<td>13 Mon</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Wesley Club: Bev Gulley: The Many Faces of Agatha Christie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Methodist Circuit Meeting (Murton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Sun</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>The Revd Leslie Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Mon</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Wesley Club: John Powell: Mumbles Railway (Open Meeting – 60th Anniversary of closure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Tues</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Mission and Events Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Thurs</td>
<td>7.15pm</td>
<td>Handel’s Messiah The Gower Chorale at UCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Sun</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>The Revd Alan Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Dr Alan Cram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Mon</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Wesley Club: Members’ Evening: Treasured Memories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Thurs</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Church Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Go Orange Coffee Morning for Muscular Dystrophy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ROTAS FOR DECEMBER 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>Dec 1st</th>
<th>Dec 8th</th>
<th>Dec 15th</th>
<th>Dec 22nd</th>
<th>Dec 29th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ian &amp; Susan G</td>
<td>Sonia B</td>
<td>Harry O</td>
<td>Allan &amp; Joe Archer</td>
<td><strong>Dec 24th, 25th and 29th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirley J</td>
<td>John N</td>
<td>David P</td>
<td>Caroline C.</td>
<td>Grosvenor H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John P</td>
<td>Grosvenor H.</td>
<td>Hilary E</td>
<td>Tina L</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Graham B.</td>
<td>Paul E</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Welcome Teams and Sound: Myrddin P**

**Morning**

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ian &amp; Susan G</td>
<td>Sonia B</td>
<td>Harry O</td>
<td>Allan &amp; Joe Archer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirley J</td>
<td>John N</td>
<td>David P</td>
<td>Caroline C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John P</td>
<td>Grosvenor H.</td>
<td>Hilary E</td>
<td>Tina L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Graham B.</td>
<td>Paul E</td>
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**Sound**

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Myrddin P.</td>
<td>Harry O</td>
<td>Gary C</td>
<td>Bill D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Evening**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pat D</td>
<td>Myrddin P.</td>
<td>Keith M</td>
<td>Anne V.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Flowers: Rosemary B**

**Giver:**

| Gaynor B | - | Jan C | Clare K | - |

**Arranger:**

| Gaynor B | Rosemary B | Pam E | Rosemary B | - |

**Distribution: Anne W**

| Sonia B. | Mary J. | Gwen D. | Poinsettias | Poinsettias |

**Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H Evans 01792 207506**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anne &amp; Mike</th>
<th>Pat D</th>
<th>Lynne W</th>
<th>Jackie and Gary C</th>
<th>Myrna C Liz R Julie G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maggie C.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kath &amp; Bill D.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### ROTAS FOR JANUARY 2020

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

#### January 5th | January 12th | January 19th | January 26th
---|---|---|---
**Welcome Teams and Sound: Myrddin**

**Morning**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harry O</td>
<td>Allan &amp; Joe A</td>
<td>David K</td>
<td>Ian &amp; Susan G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David P</td>
<td>Caroline C</td>
<td>Leighton J</td>
<td>Shirley J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilary E</td>
<td>Tina L</td>
<td></td>
<td>John P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graham B</td>
<td>Paul E</td>
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**Sound**

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>Elisha G</td>
<td>Myrddin</td>
<td>Gary C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Evening**

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<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pat D</td>
<td>Myrddin</td>
<td>Keith</td>
<td>Anne V</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Flowers: Rosemary**

**Giver:**

<p>| | | | |</p>
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<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Pam T</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Lynne &amp; Les W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Arranger:**

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chris H</td>
<td>Pam T</td>
<td>Chris H</td>
<td>Lynne W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Distribution: Anne W**

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margaret W.</td>
<td>Maggie C.</td>
<td>Gaynor B.</td>
<td>Anne W.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E**

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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margaret W</td>
<td>Gwen D</td>
<td>Susan &amp; Ian G</td>
<td>Linda W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat B. D</td>
<td>Sandra C</td>
<td></td>
<td>Una G</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The view from space

“The earth reminded us of a Christmas tree ornament hanging in the blackness of space. As we got farther and farther away it diminished in size. Finally, it shrank to the size of a marble, the most beautiful marble you can imagine. That beautiful, warm, living object looked so fragile, so delicate, that if you touched it with a finger it would crumble and fall apart. Seeing this has to change a man, has to make a man appreciate the creation of God and the love of God.”

James Irwin, US Astronaut (shared by Linda)
ADVENT, ELECTION AND PROMISE

Those of you with long memories will know that the last time you’re likely to have seen this headline was in 1923 when we last had a December election. For many people, this is a bad time for election campaigning. But for Christians, there’s something positive about an Advent election. For one thing, Advent – like elections – is about promises. Candidates and parties make all kinds of promises and we sense that many of these won’t be kept. God’s Advent promises are different! For God is true and faithful. Despite all appearances, God is creating a ‘world restored’ and at the heart of that promise is Jesus, the same – loving, reliable, truthful, just - yesterday, today and for ever, born at Christmas.

Another positive about an Advent election is that it reminds us of the values that really matter as we make decisions about the future of our society. ‘God has shown us what is good: To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God’ (Micah 6.8) These must be the criteria by which we should decide where to place our cross on December 12th: What political policies are most likely to create a society and a world governed by justice and mercy for all peoples in these nations? How do we shape education policy, the future of the NHS, social care policies rooted in justice and mercy? How do we develop immigration policies and approaches to refugees and asylum seekers that show openness, hospitality and welcome to the marginalized of our world? How can humility be built into the ways in which we are governed and led?

Naturally, a church community like ours will have mixed views on the key issue that forced this election, Brexit. Some of us would want the UK to remain within the European Union, others will want us to leave. Whatever happens after the election, we must act and pray together so that we will find ways of acting justly and mercifully, and human rights, equality, freedom and hospitality for all remain as the fundamental principles that shape our society in Wales and within these nations.

So let’s vote and so help shape the future on Advent Gospel values!

Noel
During coming months, we are going to explore some of the key aspects of our own mission statement that you can find on the UCS website (or in the October magazine) so that we can learn more about who we are and who we are called to be as God’s people. It continues: "We bring together the Methodist and United Reformed traditions as we seek to deepen our unity and strengthen our witness."

Two traditions, one church. What do we bring to each other?

1. **The Methodist tradition** is rooted in the formative influence of John and Charles Wesley in the 18th century. The website offers the following headlines: all can be saved; an assurance of God’s love; living a holy life; a grassroots movement; a covenant with God; born in song; small groups; reading the Bible. Some of this is gathered up in the summary of what Methodist churches are called to be: The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

2. **The United Reformed tradition:** The URC website sets out the key aspects of the church as follows:

   - 'Reformed' means that we delight in the Bible, we do not fear change, and we try to run our churches in ways that take everyone's insight and contribution seriously.

   - 'United' is an important part of our story. We started when English Presbyterians merged with English and Welsh Congregationalists in 1972. Churches of Christ joined in 1981 and Scottish Congregationalists in 2000. We still work as closely as we can with Christians of all traditions and styles.

   - And we are one 'Church'. We aim to grow through supporting one another and taking decisions together.

**TWO TRADITIONS UNITED TO STRENGTHEN WITNESS.**

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**Our building development programme was funded by the following:**

[Images of funding sponsors]