Ash Wednesday [February 26th] begins the season of Lent: a time of spiritual retreat for the whole Church... In communion with Christ in the desert, the church is invited to forty days of purification, of stripping down to bare essentials, of discipline, meditation and prayer before the Festival of Easter.  
(from Taizé)
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
Ref refreshments in the Wesley Room following morning worship

6.00 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 Want.

APRIL MAGAZINE
All items for inclusion in the April Magazine to be sent to Noel D
by 20th March 2020 at the latest.
Issue date: Sunday, 29th March.

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,

Phew! It’s been windy recently. Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis have swept the UK, creating havoc in many places. The forces of nature at this time of year are both exhilarating but also destructive. Last February a storm prevented me from getting to the Methodist Synod Policy Committee in Newtown because roads were closed due to flooding (what a shame!!) and the year before a fence panel was blown down in our garden. All effects of February storms!

I recently came across this poem by Christina Rosetti

Who has seen the wind? Neither I nor you:
But when the leaves hang trembling, the wind is passing through.
Who has seen the wind? Neither you nor I:
But when the leaves bow down their head, the wind is passing by.

In Scripture the wind has both positive and negative connotations – just like in real life. But in the New Testament, it is associated with the Holy Spirit. As a symbol of the Spirit of God it is effective. It cannot be seen, only felt, just like Rosetti’s poem suggests.

The challenging question for us is, what can the world see of how God’s Spirit is working in our lives? What evidence is there that we are followers of Jesus? As individuals, and as a church, how would people know that we are Christians? My prayer is that with Adella’s guidance as we seek to connect in new ways to our community, may the wind of the Spirit inspire and guide us!

With love

Leslie
COMMUNION COLLECTIONS IN MARCH will be for the Tŷ Ogof project which aims to provide recovery housing for people with drug and alcohol problems. It is linked to Ogof Adullam. Many of you will remember Huw Davies' moving talk about it in church recently.

Susan G

READERS FOR SERVICES: The list I have of readers for services is quite out of date. If you are willing to continue or to be included could you please sign the list in the porch? Obviously the more there are the less often I will ask you! It would help if you could indicate if you are available for evening services and whether you prefer to be contacted by email or phone.

Many thanks
Christine L

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING PRAY - MARCH 2020

WEEK ONE – we pray for all those living in The Ridge, Ridge Acre, King George Court, Meadow Rise, Coed Celyn Road, Harford Court, The Bryn, Golwg Hafren and Rhyd yr Helyg.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

WEEK TWO – We pray for the churches in Sketty who will be hosting Lent lunches. We pray that the time of worship before each lunch will help us to reach out to each other and our wider neighbourhood.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

WEEK THREE – We give thanks for projects throughout Swansea which reach out to the lonely, homeless and vulnerable, such as Zac’s Place, Matt’s and the asylum seekers and refugee groups.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

WEEK FOUR – We pray for the forthcoming events at St Paul’s, Sketty where exciting new ideas are starting to unfold in conjunction with Eco Church and the planting of fruit trees to start an orchard in which UCS will be involved.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
Commitment for Life is the United Reform- ed Church's way of supporting Christian Aid. Our project this spring at UCS is Central America. Christian Aid works in four coun- ries in Central America - Guatemala, Hon- duras, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

We work with around 30 partner organisations, from community-based groups to larger organisations operating across the region and beyond. Despite being considered a middle-income country, and the fifth largest exporter of coffee and sugar in the world, many people in Guatemala are suffering horrific poverty. It is a country of contrasts: flooding and drought, wealth and poverty, agricultural exports and food shortages.

Half of all children under five are malnourished, which permanently affects physical and mental development. The levels of maternal mortality are among the highest in the region and haven’t dropped in the last 15 years. Twenty-five years on from the Central American Peace Accords, poverty, violence, environmental vulnerability and widespread inequality remain. Our aims are:

- To help build a fair and equal society, free from violence, achieved through democratic and accountable institutions.
- To build more resilient communities based on a fairer economic model.
- To help marginalised groups, especially women, youth, LGTBI, disabled and the indigenous population to take advantage of development.
- To build the capacity of partners and communities so they have a better understanding of fiscal, resilience and violence prevention issues and how they apply directly to people’s lives. (Text taken from Christian Aid website, Central America)

Our UCS project launch is at the Commitment for Life coffee morning on March 7th.

Mary J
The World Day of Prayer service will be held this year in St Benedict’s Roman Catholic Church on Friday, 6th March at 11.00am. The material has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe on the theme, ‘Rise, take up your mat and walk’.

John and I came to Swansea in 1977 when his job moved here. We had lived in Windsor where the Methodist church is on the other side of the road from the Catholic Church and we had virtually nothing to do with each other. However, in the 1960s, sometime, I was asked to read a lesson at the World Day of Prayer Service being held at the Catholic Church. Several of us went to the service and we agreed that we should all wear hats, as a sign of respect for the Catholic tradition. When we turned up, we found that none of the Catholic ladies were so clad! They had wanted us to feel at home! That service made a great impression on me because I felt that, as Christians, we should be able to worship together. I still feel that. Please join with us at 11am on Friday 6th March at St Benedict’s for this year’s service.

Jean K

The following prayer comes from the World Day of Prayer resources for 2020

Dear God:
Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life.
Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots that I have in my mind.
Erase the will nots, may nots, might nots that may find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots that obstruct my life.
And most of all, Dear God, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life all of the ‘am nots’ that I have allowed to hold me back, especially the thought that I am not good enough.

AMEN
PASTORAL CONCERNS

We were very sad to hear of Barbara P’s death in hospital on February 12th. She was gentle, faithful and deeply committed. She would always attend worship with David up to the end if she possibly could. She lived through her last years with grace and dignity. We will all miss her. But most especially, we remember David who has been her strength and support over these last years. We pray for God’s peace on him and their family.

We remember Joan P following the death of Eric, and the family of Averil L following her death. We pray they will find comfort in their faith and in the love and support of family and friends.

We acknowledge that grief is not overcome easily, or quickly, and hold in our prayers all those who have lost a partner or loved one.

We remember Mike W who is now receiving radiotherapy treatment and Barbara G following a recent fall.

We were delighted to hear that Una G has now returned home from hospital and is gradually recovering. But we were sad to hear that her husband, Ron, is now in hospital. We wish him well.

Joan P and family wish to thank the Revd Leslie Noon and members and friends at UCS for their care and support during Eric’s last illness and after his death. They have found comfort in the cards they have received and the thoughts and prayers that they expressed. The funeral service, led by the Revd Leslie, was a very fitting tribute to a fellow member we loved and cherished. As Leslie said in her tribute, Eric had, unsurprisingly, planned the service himself and had even provided notes about his life to be read at the service, including an outline of a distinguished (our word, not his!) police career that saw him progress from a police cadet to a chief superintendent. Typical of his thoughtful and caring approach to his life and to his death! We give thanks to God for all he was by nature and by God’s grace to his family and to all of us who knew him and loved him.
CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Elizabeth E, one of our stewards, on being awarded her PhD by Swansea University for a thesis on ‘The structure and displacement of tephra deposits using X-ray microtomography.’ What is tephra? I hear you ask! The best way to find out is to ask Elizabeth herself – who’ll give you the short or the long definition – but in the meantime, here is one definition: ‘Tephra is the fragmental bits of materials that are produced and flung out by a volcanic eruption. They come in many sizes and range from minuscule ash particles to large pieces of rocks that can weigh up to 30 tons’ (from the WorldAtlas website). In her acknowledgements page, Elizabeth specifically thanks her many friends in UCS for their friendship and support during the research and writing.

To celebrate this achievement, Amy W, another of our stewards, made a cake in the shape of a replica of Elizabeth’s thesis. It was so authentic that someone tried to open it, thinking it was the thesis! Such talent among the leadership team!

Well done, Elizabeth; we’re all very proud of you!

Postscript to February magazine article “Life of a Senior Steward – Down Under”.

I am pleased to report that during a short spell of fine weather the harvest of about 450 bales of hay has been safely gathered in.

Alan J
Thank you to the church members who attended this event in January to begin to discuss the community work/projects in which members of the church family would like to see the church get involved. It was also a time for me to continue to get to know people and vice versa. Tara Hughes, the Local Area Coordinator for the neighbourhood, attended and we were able to learn from her too.

Setting a number of questions helped me get a feel for things:

• how long had people lived in the area?
• what are its positive and negative features?
• any connections with other organisations in the area
• mapping activities people knew take place in other churches or community centres
• what other activities this church might organise for the community in the future?

As part of Community Matters initiative, I took the questionnaire to the Sunbeams Parent & Toddler group and was pleased to receive some responses from the parents. The Brownie leader is happy for me to take the questionnaire to the Brownie parents too in the near future.

When we explored what is the area of benefit for our community outreach the area of postcode SA2 8 (i.e. Sketty Park and Sketty/Derwen Fawr) emerged as a priority.

For the future, I need to

• help the community to know what already takes place in the church;
• visit the other churches and places that already offer community activity to try to avoid duplication.

Then come back with suggestions for the next 12 months.

I’ve discovered that quite a few of you are already involved in community-related activity either within UCS or in related organisations. The Church Health Check and the 2015 Community Audit will provide a good foundation for future planning and the ‘Pray without Ceasing’ feature connects the action with our prayer life.

Please talk to me over coffee after worship to share any thoughts or news you have or to offer any help.

Every blessing, Adella
FOR ST DAVID’S DAY
A light hearted Quiz to test your knowledge of “All Things Welsh”

1. When a bard is crowned in an eisteddfod which word is repeated 3 times?
2. Who sang “Lost in France”?
3. Name the Swansea star in “Love Actually”.
4. In which year did Pope John Paul II visit Cardiff?
5. What is the Welsh name for Gowerton
6. Where might you find a statue called Musical Osprey?
7. Name the daughter of Michael and Catherine Douglas.
8. Who was the first Prince of Wales?
9. Who wrote the Welsh National Anthem?
10. Name the cartoon character whose enemies include Texas Sam.
11. Whose song includes the line “Every morning I wake up I thank the Lord I’m Welsh”.
12. What is ‘Llwybr Cyhoeddus’?
13. Why is Sir Benjamin Hall of Abergavenny still remembered?
14. Name the first airship to fly across the English Channel in 1910.
15. Name the Swansea City manager.
16. Name the cottage in Oxwich where John Wesley stayed.
17. How long is Wales at its longest point: 140, 190, or 230 miles?
18. Name the Swansea junior team that Wales captain Alan Wyn Jones started with.
19. What other saint shares the day with that of the conversion of St Paul?
20. Where in Wales did the last public execution take place?

Alan and Linda J
Let’s do Lunch in Lent

@ 12.15pm

Come and join us for a light soup lunch on:

Thursday 5th March at Uniting Church Sketty, Dillwyn Road
Monday 16th March at Sketty Community Church, Carnglas Road
Wednesday 25th March at St Paul’s, De-La-Beche Road

Enjoy lunch with sister and brother Christians in Sketty
Get to find out about the church providing the lunch
Deepen inter-church relationships

All welcome!
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

As we begin our Lenten journey, as Christians, we already look toward Holy Week and Easter. So here is advanced notice of services:

During Holy Week, the week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, we go on a journey. On the way we recall the journey that Jesus made to the cross. It is a journey of highs and lows, of pain and sorrow, of waiting and failing. If we arrive at Easter Sunday without having travelled the way, then somehow we fail to experience the fullness of the event that changes us. So you are all invited to join with us during Holy Week. The services are reflective, creative and offer meaning – not just to the crucifixion but to our lives as well. And then, by the time we reach Resurrection Sunday, we can say with hearts full of joy, “Alleluia! He is risen!”

9 April at 7.30pm: Maundy Thursday Communion
10 April at 2.30pm: Good Friday Vigil at 2.30pm
12 April at 10.30am: Easter Sunday Celebration and Communion
12 April at 6.00pm: Easter Sunday Evening Service

Eileen P has shared the words of a poster found in a church in France that we might want to keep in mind as we come to worship:

“When you enter the church, it may be possible that you hear ‘the call of God’. However, it is unlikely that God will call you on your mobile phone. So thank you for turning it off. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to God”
Save the date: Sunday 31 May 2020

10.30am: Morning Celebration Service ‘The Tree of Life’
4.00pm: Afternoon Tea
6.00pm: Evening Worship with Communion

Other events to help us celebrate our UCS 5th anniversary:

- Sunday 29 March: Rev Dr Stephen Wigley, Chair of Wales Methodist Synod will lead our morning worship and begin the lead up to the celebrations.
- Thursday 21 – Saturday 23 May: Not a Panto!
- Wednesday 27 May: Special 5th birthday party for children!
- Sunday 7 June: Rev Simon Walkling, Moderator of the URC Wales Synod will lead our morning worship.

Come and join the celebration, it’s a very special day!
Come and share our jubilation, for today’s our 5th birthday!

That’s an invitation to you all – but it’s also an opportunity for budding hymn writers! We are looking for specially written verses to go with this hymn (see 196 in the hymnbook for the metre). If the urge takes you, please submit a verse that we can use – we hope to be able to put a number of verses together written by different church members and sing them on 31st May! So get your creative juices flowing..... A box will be available in the entrance from the beginning of April for your submissions.

Leslie
STATEMENT AS THE UK LEAVES THE EUROPEAN UNION

As chair of the Cytûn: Churches Together in Wales Working Party on Wales and Europe, I was privileged to be one of the signatories of a statement by church leaders that was made public on January 31, the day that the Brexit legislation was enacted. Revd Dr Barbara Glasson and Professor Clive Marsh, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, and Revd Nigel Uden and Mr Derek Estill, Moderators of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church were also signatories. The following extracts from the statement remind us of our continuing Christian responsibilities, whatever our views on Brexit itself:

‘As the UK leaves the EU there are important choices to be made about the values that we as a country live out. As Christians, we affirm our belief that all people are equally created in God’s image. Our country should be one that offers sanctuary to refugees and is intolerant of those who hate because of a person’s race or nationality. Both Leave and Remain campaigns agreed on this – we must now make it a reality.

...We will only be able to move towards having a sense of common purpose, despite our differences, when we choose to act with kindness, humility and respect towards those with whom we disagree. We call on our political leaders to set an example over the next weeks and months as we move towards negotiations which will require further decisions about priorities for the nations of the UK.

For our part, our Churches will be working and praying for:
- a society where the poorest and most marginalised are at the centre
- a society that welcomes the stranger
- a just economy that enables the flourishing of all life
- a planet where the environment is renewed
- a world which actively works for peace
- a politics characterised by listening, kindness and truthfulness.

We pray for the people of the UK, for our leaders, and for the whole of Europe, as we mark this significant moment together.’

Noel D
Further to the article in our February magazine, here is a little more information on the conversations taking place in the Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit about marriage and relationships.

We have now arranged three conversations to take place in various venues around the Circuit. Anyone may go to any of the conversations, depending on which is most convenient for you.

**Monday 2\textsuperscript{nd} March 10am-12:** Wesley Methodist, Brynhyfryd  
**Thursday 12\textsuperscript{th} March 2pm-4pm:** Murton Methodist Church Hall  
**Wednesday 1\textsuperscript{st} April 7pm-9pm:** Uniting Church Sketty

A purple coloured booklet has been produced in order to inform and prepare anyone attending one of the sessions. If you have not already taken a copy, please do so, and read beforehand. The resolutions that the Methodist Church is considering (following on from similar decisions already made by the United Reformed Church) go to the heart of our varied understandings about love and relationships.

I very much hope that UCS folk will want to participate in these conversations, not necessarily to change our own or others’ views, but to help all of us in our understanding and ability to exist well together within Christ’s Church. And, as always, we must remember and be sensitive to how any conversation about relationships can be fraught with emotions and hurts.

**Leslie**
WHAT IT IS TO BE HUMAN

In the morning service on Racial Justice Sunday, I shared what I believe to be the Biblical understanding of what it is to be human. It is this vision that drives us to seek racial justice within our own community and worldwide. But it occurred to me that this perspective is also the basis for all human relationships. So we might want to reflect on these as we share in the conversations The Methodist Church has initiated about the report ‘God in love unites us’ (see notice on previous page about the discussion on April 1st):

There are four key aspects of a Biblical vision of humanity and of the Gospel imperative that springs from that vision:

1. We are all individual persons created by God in God’s image (Genesis 1.27)
   - We are treasured by God
   - We are celebrated by God
   - We are intended by God to be ourselves
   - Above all, we are loved by God

2. We are created as persons in community (“It is not good for humans to be alone” Genesis 2.18)
   - We belong to one another
   - We care for one another
   - We treasure one another
   - Above all, we are called to love one another

3. Because we are individuals, we are all different (see 1 Cor 12.12-14) and so
   - We celebrate our diversity
   - We are enriched through our diversity
   - Our diversity deepens our humanity
   - We are called to love all people in all their diversity

4. We are called to compose a richer harmony from the individual melodies of our lives, so that this deeper harmony
   - creates deeper unity and deeper love
   - encourages us to greater justice
   - inspires us to reconciliation and peace

At the heart of all this is what Dr Martin Luther King Jnr called ‘cosmic companionship’: the love, compassion, belonging, caring and faithfulness that are the fruits of the Spirit in our lives.

Noel
THE ONENESS OF ONE

In my 30’s I attended an evening worship which was so exclusively about family that I felt totally excluded and returned home boiling in anger. What now follows is my written outburst/prayer from the same evening.

Thoughts on the oneness of one

Lord, I am so angry because the world today seemed peopled by couples and small family groups and I have come home to my family of one. I know that the pressures of demanding children are far from me, but the silence I live in tonight seems to scream as loud as the latest head-banging rock music. The freedom of choice to come or go, eat or not eat, do what I like when I like, has seemed a burden instead of a blessing because it is not shared. Today, I have felt like the odd piece of a jigsaw whose colour and form just does not fit.

And yet as angry and hurt as I feel, to be looked at with sympathy or pity would hurt even more, but a little understanding would go a long way. Perhaps I need to show more understanding too.

Lord, I am sorry that my hurt and anger has blocked my understanding of others today, made me ungrateful for the gifts and graces you have freely given me, and made me forget your love and the love of others around me. Forgive me that living alone so long has made it harder for me to share, easier to feel my way is always right and has made me blind to the demands of close family living.

Lord, I know that wherever I may be, you are there with me, sharing the joy and pain. My relationship with you matters above all else, and especially above my oneness in the world. With your love and care the challenge of tomorrow’s twosomes seems less painful.

Amen.

Looking back over the 30+ years since I am deeply thankful for God’s constant love and guidance. I am also aware that my singleness is also a gift of God. I share this reflection only because singleness is part of the debate in God in Love Unites Us – Conversations about marriage and relationships which the circuit will have during March and April.

Linda W
In the Storms of Life
An Evening with Garth Hewitt

Songs and stories
for these difficult and restless times
with a much-needed spirituality of hope

I see darkness rising - I see bad politicians
Like strong-armed dictators trying to silence the poor
But they have forgotten that you can't kill the spirit
In the valley of despair turns out we're not alone

In the storms of life we are not alone
In the storms of life we are not alone
Though the wind may howl and the waves may overwhelm
Even in the darkest times we are not alone

Saturday 14th March 2020 7.30pm

Uniting Church Sketty, Dillwyn Road, Sketty, Swansea SA2 9AQ

Tickets booked in advance £7 (Concessions £6) or £8 at the door

To book or for further information email
unitingchrchsketty@gmail.com
Liszt - Missa Choralis
Rachmaninov - Vespers

SATURDAY APRIL 4TH 2020 - 7:30PM
ST MARY’S CHURCH, SWANSEA

TICKETS: £15 (FULL TIME STUDENTS £7.50)
Ticket Secretary - 01792 299443
Choir Members / On the door

(If you would like tickets, please contact Noel)
SWANSEA AND GOWER TALKING MAGAZINE

This is a charity run entirely by volunteers and based at our church. It serves some 170 visually impaired listeners, mainly in the Swansea and Gower area but with a few further afield. We produce a monthly Talking Magazine and recordings of Local History Books (there would be no sense in us producing novels and nationally published materials because the National Organisations do this). Could you consider volunteering to help with this work. We need Office Staff who are prepared to come in once a week to spend an hour or so handling the post. We need people who are prepared to read the Local History Books – this is usually done from home, reading the book into an easy to operate voice recorder. Usually a book is shared between a few readers so that the listener has some variation in the voice. Once a month we record the monthly magazine itself. We do this sitting round a table together and passing the microphone around which can also be a bit of a social occasion. You probably would not be needed every month but sometimes we need people to come in at short notice. This is always done on the afternoon of the last Tuesday of the previous month. Please see me if you are interested.

Les W

PLEASE NOTE: Swansea and Gower Talking Magazine has a number of cassette tape recorders which are no longer required. If anyone has a use for one or more of these please contact Les W

COFFEE MORNING FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY UK

Many thanks to all those who supported the February Coffee Morning in aid of Muscular Dystrophy UK. There seemed to be more people attending than usual. I was told that people came because I was organising it and they were too afraid not to come!!! Whether that is true or not, it resulted in the amazing total of over £700 towards research into MD and equipment for sufferers and their families. Your support was much appreciated.

Janet N
FOR YOUR DIARY:

SINGING OUR FAITH

Every week in church we sing our faith. Indeed, for many the hymns chosen (and their tunes) will impact on how they feel they have worshipped or come close to God during that time together. But we rarely, if ever, have time to properly explore the words that we sing. What bible references do they reflect? What theology do they offer? What do the words actually mean?

In our Lent Faith and Fellowship series we will look more closely at four different hymns stretching from the baptism of Jesus, to his time in the wilderness, to his passion and cross, as we explore how the words and images speak into our lives and our faith today.

**Session 1:** Tuesday 3 March at 10am and Thursday 5 March at 7.30pm

**Session 2:** Tuesday 10 March at 10am and Thursday 7 March at 7.30pm

**One week’s break**

**Session 3:** Tuesday 24 March at 10am and Thursday 26 March at 7.30pm

**Session 4:** Tuesday 31 March at 10am and Thursday 2 April at 7.30pm

All are VERY welcome to come – the sessions are informal and lead us on to talking about our own life and faith experiences.
WESLEY CLUB, MARCH 2020

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<th>Monday 2(^{nd}) Mar</th>
<th>Janet Neilson</th>
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<tr>
<td>- 9(^{th})</td>
<td>John Atkinson</td>
<td>Desert Island Discs</td>
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<td>- 16(^{th})</td>
<td>Peter Robinson</td>
<td>Colour in the Garden</td>
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<td>- 23(^{rd})</td>
<td>John Sheen</td>
<td>5 Boys and a Party</td>
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<td>- 30(^{th})</td>
<td>Georgina Scammel</td>
<td>A surprise</td>
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COVER TO COVER

The next meeting will be in the Bethel room at 10am on March 5th when we will be discussing "Circe" by Madelaine Miller.
The following meeting will be on 2nd April to discuss "Haven from Hitler" by Heini Gruffudd. This book tells the story of Heini's Mother Kate Bosse -Griffiths who was of German Jewish descent. She fled from Germany and became one of Wales' leading academic and literary figures.
All welcome to join us. We read a variety of books and welcome suggestions for future months.

COFFEE MORNING: The Pettifor Trust (a Registered Charity devoted to the welfare of animals) is hosting a coffee morning at UCS on Saturday 4th April 2020, commencing at 10 am. This will give the Trust Volunteers and Officers the opportunity to raise awareness of the Trust, its activities and an update on its "Kind Hands To All Animals " project. There will be the usual Refreshments, Raffle and Table Top Sales to raise funds on the day. Your continued support for this event will be appreciated - for further information please contact Jon D
NOT A PANTOMIME: As you read this, I am sure I heard you say "What no pantomime this year?" - in a very sad voice, of course. I am sure I did not hear you say "Thank goodness for that!" Anyway, for those of you in the former group, I should explain that for various reasons, MADCAPs have not been able to put on our usual February pantomime. But, so as to completely break with tradition, we will be offering you

Not A Panto - A Show  
Thurs 21st, Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd May.

So please put at least one of these dates in your diaries. For those of you who were in the latter group, perhaps you too will put the date in your diary, or at least buy a ticket, when I tell you that all the proceeds, not simply the profits, will go towards our church fund raising for Tŷ Ogof. Oh yes they will!

LEAGUE OF LIGHT - We're Still Growing!

Those of you with really good memories may recall that this time last year I said how delighted I was that my band of League of Light collectors was growing. Well, despite the many, many worthy causes, last year we grew both in numbers and the amount we were able to contribute to Action For Children. League of Light is one of Action for Children (National Children's Homes as it once was) earliest collecting schemes and I know they value every pound we collect and put it to such good use.

This is the time of year when I ask for collecting boxes to come in for emptying. So please can my collectors bring them in when it is convenient, or if necessary, contact me and I will happily collect them. Anyone who does not have a box and fancies a little red adult money box, I have a supply and would be delighted to pass one to you, ready for this time next year. My thanks and good wishes, Jan C

CIRCUIT DATES:
Monday 2nd March, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting, 6.15pm tea, 7pm meeting, Morriston Methodist Church  
Thursday 19th March, Methodist Circuit Meeting, 7.30pm, Penlan Methodist Church
 Tradition holds that Dewi Sant - St David - died on 1 March, the date now marked as **Saint David's Day**. The two most common years given for his death are 601 and 589. The monastery is said to have been "filled with angels as Christ received his soul". His last words to his followers were in a sermon on the previous Sunday: "Lords, brothers and sisters, Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed, and do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about. And as for me, I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us" (originally spoken in Welsh, of course!)

**WEEKLY PROGRAMME**

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

- **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:**
  **Monday**
  2.00pm Folk dancing  
  7.00pm Wesley Club
  **Tuesday**
  2.00-4.00pm Craft Group  
  5.00-6.00pm Rainbows  
  6.15-7.30pm Brownies
  **Wednesday**
  10.00-11.30am Sunbeams: Play Group  
  7.30pm Sketty Madcaps

- **House Groups, Faith and Fellowship, Cover to Cover and Reel to Real Groups** are held on a monthly basis 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>The Revd Leslie Noon</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>Wesley Club: Janet Neilson – Noson Lawen</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Tues</td>
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<td>Faith and Fellowship: Singing our Faith</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>7.30</td>
<td>Leadership Team meeting</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>7.30</td>
<td>House Group</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>Cover to Cover</td>
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<td>Faith and Fellowship: Singing our Faith</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>World Day of Prayer service: St Benedict’s RC Church</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Coffee morning for URC Commitment for Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>The Revd Linda Woollacott</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>The Revd Leslie Noon</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>Wesley Club: John Atkinson – Desert Island Discs</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Tues</td>
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<td>Faith and Fellowship: Singing our Faith</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>Faith and Fellowship: Singing our Faith</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Sun</td>
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<td>The Revd Leslie Noon</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>Dr Alan Cram</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>Wesley Club: Peter Robinson – Colour the Garden</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>Ken Allison</td>
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<td>The Revd Siperire Mugadzaweta</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Mon</td>
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<td>Wesley Club: John Sheen – 5 Boys and a Party</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Tues</td>
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<td>Faith and Fellowship: Singing our Faith</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
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<td>Faith and Fellowship: Singing our Faith</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>The Revd Dr Stephen Wigley, Chair of Wales Synod</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Sun</td>
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<td>The Revd Leslie Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>Wesley Club: Georgina Scammel – A Surprise</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>Faith and Fellowship: Singing our Faith</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>April Wed</td>
<td>7.30</td>
<td>Discussion on ‘God in love unites us’</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>7.30</td>
<td>Faith and Fellowship: Singing our Faith</td>
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ROTAS FOR MARCH 2020

If you are unable to fulfil your place on the rota, please rearrange with someone else or contact the organiser:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>March 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>March 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>March 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>March 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome teams and sound: Myrddin P</td>
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<td><strong>Morning</strong></td>
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<td>Ian &amp; Susan G</td>
<td>Sonia B</td>
<td>Harry O</td>
<td>Alan &amp; Joe A</td>
<td>David K</td>
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<td>Shirley J</td>
<td>John N</td>
<td>David P</td>
<td>Caroline C</td>
<td>Leighton J</td>
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<td>Hilary E</td>
<td>Grosvenor H</td>
<td>Graham B</td>
<td>Tina L</td>
<td>John P</td>
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<td>Paul E</td>
<td>Jean R</td>
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<td><strong>Evening</strong></td>
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<td>Jeff C</td>
<td>Pat D</td>
<td>Myrddin P</td>
<td>Keith M</td>
<td>Anne V</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sound</strong></td>
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<td>am Gary C</td>
<td>Harry O</td>
<td>Bill D</td>
<td>Elizabeth E</td>
<td>Elisha G</td>
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<td><strong>Flowers: Rosemary B</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Giver:</strong></td>
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<td>Pat G</td>
<td>Pat T</td>
<td>Sandra C</td>
<td>Gwen D</td>
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<td><strong>Arranger:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pam T</td>
<td>Rosemary B</td>
<td>Rosemary B</td>
<td>Pam E</td>
<td>Lynne W</td>
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<td><strong>Distribution: Anne W</strong></td>
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<td>Margaret</td>
<td>Mary J</td>
<td>Gwen D</td>
<td>Maggie C.</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday morning coffee: Paul E</strong></td>
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<td>Ann &amp; Mike W</td>
<td>Pat D</td>
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<td>Maggie C</td>
<td>Kath &amp; Bill D</td>
<td>Liz R</td>
<td>Laura H</td>
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**PLEASE NOTE:** Anne W is still looking for volunteers to distribute flowers. Please contact Anne if you can help.
The theme for this year’s Lent course from Churches Together for Britain and Ireland is ‘Opening the Scriptures: Setting our hearts on fire’. Some of you will recognise this from the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus after the resurrection of Jesus. They told of how their hearts were burning within them when he opened or interpreted the Scriptures to them. Claire Amos has written a really excellent series of reflections to help us walk through Lent. She says of the Emmaus story: “It speaks to us in so many ways: about joy and grief, exhilaration and weariness, failure and success; about memory of the past and hope for the future.”

But she also directs our imagination to the burning bush in which God speaks to Moses and reminds us of the words of R.S.Thomas:

Life is not hurrying
on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.
(from A Bright Field by R.S.Thomas)

In Teilhard de Chardin’s words: ‘Some day, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then for the second time in the history of the world we shall have discovered fire’

And a prayer by Ann Lewin: Lord Christ, set me on fire, burn from me all that dims your light. Kindle an answering flame in lives around: that darkness may be driven back and glory stream into the world, transforming it with love. Amen.
We’re currently exploring some of the key aspects of our own mission statement that you can find on the UCS website (or in the October 2019 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 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.”

This is at the heart of the Christian faith: we do not find God: God finds us!

The Bible constantly reminds us of this:

- God finds Adam and Eve in the garden: Human beings evolved ‘in the image of God’, God’s love and life and light gave us meaning and purpose from the beginning. and holds us to account (see Genesis, chapters 2 & 3)
- The Psalmist praises the God ‘who has searched us and known us’ (‘found us’) so that there is nowhere in the universe where we can be separated from God (see Psalm 139)
- When Job is tested through his suffering he is challenged to reflect on this question:
  ‘Canst thou by searching find out God?
  canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? (Job 11.7 AV)
  At the end of his testing Job understands that he cannot find God but God has revealed himself to him and he has seen and known God for himself: ‘...now my eyes have seen you’ (Job 42.5)
- Jesus tells the parables of the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son (see Luke, chapter 15). The coin, the sheep and the son are found, loved and cherished. None is lost, all are restored, all are found – by God in Jesus.

In Jesus, born among us, who follows the pathways of our lives, who died for love of us, and was raised for the life of humanity, God has searched us out in love and constantly finds us in Jesus. ‘It’s just that sometimes, somehow, we fail to notice and grasp this!’ Searching Lord, open our eyes to see you!

Our building development programme was funded by the following:

- Ariannir gan y Loteri Lottery Funded
- The Methodist Church
- Welsh Assembly Government