

APRIL 2016
The Magazine
of
UNITING CHURCH SKETTY



Dillwyn Road, Sketty, Swansea SA2 9AE
www.unitingchurchsketty.org.uk

Minister: Reverend Leslie Jane Noon

Senior Elder: Pat D

Senior Steward: Gwen D

Weekly Notices by Friday morning to Lynne W

Sunday Services: 10.30am including regular All-age Worship.

Refreshments in the Wesley Room following morning worship.

Evening at 6.30pm

Adventurers: 10.30am Departments 3-15 years

Creche available on request – please speak to a Church Steward

Baptisms on Sunday mornings by arrangement with the Minister.

This Magazine is available on tape for the vision impaired.

Also, we are able to record some of our services for anyone unable to attend, whether regularly or on a particular Sunday.

Please contact **Jean K** for further details.

Please submit all items for the May magazine to Jan T by Friday 22nd April 2016

The Magazine for May will be issued on Sunday, 1st May, 2016.

Redevelopment Fund-raising

Some of the funding we have been granted to assist with the building project, in order to improve facilities for community use, require that we should show the sponsors' logos on certain documents including magazines.



The **Methodist Church** 

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

You probably won't see me for a while now! This isn't because I've done some kind of magic disappearing trick, or learnt the art of invisibility, but because from Easter Monday, I am on sabbatical.

Sabbatical – what is it? (I hear you asking – I'm sure I heard you asking!)... The Methodist Church guidelines say this:

“A sabbatical is a time away from the usual day-to-day job, for further study, reflection recreation, and some renewal. It may take the form of a retreat, a course, visiting other places and churches, reading, or a combination of these and other things. The Church believes sabbaticals are important and therefore they are compulsory for all ministers. They have to be taken in the 10th and every subsequent 7th year of travel”.

On my sabbatical I shall:

- Spend some time with family and friends who I don't see very often;
- Go on a retreat for ministers at Sheldon Retreat Centre in Devon;
- Have a holiday in Tenerife – not because we would choose to go to Tenerife, but because my nephew and his fiancé are getting married there, and I've been asked to conduct the ceremony;
- Go on a week-long course entitled 'Transforming Conflict in the Church';
- Geoff also has a work conference in Florence, so I shall be joining him for that.

On the Sundays that I am in Swansea, I shall be taking the opportunity to worship in local churches that are different from

what I am used to. And there maybe one or two occasions when, in order to get my 'fix' of UCS I come along to our church!

While I am away, Gwen and Pat D, as Senior Steward and Senior Elder are the first point of contact for any issue. I am extremely grateful to them: for the role they always play, but will particularly at this time. They will be able to decide the best course of action, and all our four retired ministers (Ivor, Noel, John and Kim) have agreed to help out if needed. Huge thank you to them as well!

I know I'll miss you all when I'm on sabbatical – but I'm looking forward to sometime of refreshment. I'll be back at Sketty on Sunday 10th July!

With love,

Leslie

THE U.R.C. SYNOD AT CARNO IN FEBRUARY

The U.R.C. Synod at Carno on the 27th February proved to be inspirational. The Moderator of General Assembly, John Ellis, who took the service at our church in July, gave an uplifting talk and also presented Ivor with a certificate marking his sixty years in the Ministry.

There were two important presentations on The Living Wage and Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk. One of the highlights of the day was "Engaging with Education". This took the form of three short talks, one on lively ways of conducting school assemblies, another on the importance of representation on the local board responsible for religious education and a moving account of how Christian Faith is lived out by a Special Needs teacher in a deprived area of Cardiff.

Delyth .

MOSQUE VISIT ON TUESDAY 1st MARCH, ST. DAVID'S DAY

At 7.30pm we arrived at the Mosque on St Helen's Road; it was very cold outside, but what a warm welcome we received on the inside! Our group of about forty, removed footwear and were gently escorted to a reception room, where a gentleman with beautiful English and manners made an eloquent presentation of "Islam In A Nutshell". We were then invited to the prayer room to watch and listen to evening prayers. Muslims are required to pray five times a day. Their daily disciplines and gracious kindness to guests was impressive. When we returned to the reception room, a generous variety of food was offered and we also enjoyed an interesting questions and answers time. I think we all left our meeting, feeling that we had far more in common with our Muslim friends than perhaps we had realised. Certainly we took away a lot of food for thought, including lots of literature to read. Without doubt, a fascinating evening, so many thanks to all who organised a truly enriching experience.

Rev. Leslie presented our hosts with a basket of tete a tete daffodils. As we know, daffodils are a symbol for St David's Day, and tete a tetes suggest people in head to head conversation. According to Welsh history, St David, the Archbishop of Wales in the 6th century, always encouraged talking to people to improve relationships.

Jan T

COFFEE MORNING FOR PETTIFOR TRUST HELD ON 5th MARCH

The coffee morning raised £334.46 which was all profit as Sainsbury's sponsored the cost of refreshments and the table tops sales and raffle prizes were all donated. It was also a good opportunity of raising the profile of the charity locally.

The Trustees and Volunteers of the Pettifor Trust were so grateful for the support and welcome received during the preparation and at the event and have therefore asked me to express their thanks. So a huge big thank you to everyone from Pettifor Trust.

Jon D

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

It is sometime since I wrote for the magazine, for which I apologise – while I can't promise something every month, I will try to do better in future.

I want to start by updating you on the funds that have been raised for various good causes through our communion collections. Since the start of our financial year last September, the following amounts have been raised and sent to the various charities (at the time of writing, I don't have the final figures for the March collections for Ty Olwen, so will include those next time):

September	Action for Children	£350.82
October	Samaritans Purse (Operation Christmas Child)	£245.82
November	Hands for Alan	£377.09
December	Stepping Stones	£310.62
January	Shelterbox	£417.65
February	Oguf Addulum	£285.17

In addition, we sent £600 to the special appeal for the Cumbria Floods and the Christmas service collections raised £663.10 for the Circuit Project (the Zimbabwe Orphans project set-up by Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta).

In all cases, these figures include Gift Aid on your donations.

This brings me neatly to the next topic; I think most people are aware that we have had to renew all of the Gift Aid declarations as they are now for Uniting Church Sketty rather than one of the two former churches. If you have not yet renewed your Gift Aid declaration, there are some forms in the vestibule or you can ask

me or Les W for a form.

Please remember that if you are a UK tax payer, we can reclaim an additional 25p for every £1 that you give to the Church (or to the various charities through the communion collections). However, if you have previously signed a form and have since stopped paying tax, please make sure you let us know as, unfortunately, we have to stop claiming this.

As well as this edition of the magazine, those of you who use the weekly envelopes for your giving should find the new supply of these somewhere in the vestibule of the Church. We are grateful for all of your donations which enable the work of Uniting Church Sketty, the Swansea & Gower Methodist Circuit and the URC Synod to continue.

If you would find it easier, it is possible to make your regular donations by standing order directly from your Bank to ours. If you would like to make your donations in this way rather than by the weekly envelopes, please let me know and I will let you have a form to complete.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to any or all of these collections over the past few months, to all those who have helped in counting these collections and, as always, to Jeff C for his weekly trips to the bank to pay it all in.

Geoff N - Treasurer

COFFEE MORNING FOR SWANSEA & GOWER TALKING MAGAZINE

The coffee morning will be held on **Saturday, 2nd April from 10am**. As well as refreshments, there will be a table top sale and a raffle. The Talking Magazine is issued free to blind and partially sighted people. Local history books have also been recorded. For further information please contact Jean K.

Jean K

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS IN APRIL

Communion collections for April, Easter Sunday and 10th April, will be the Easter Offering for Methodist World Mission. This works mainly through partner churches supporting a wide range of mission activities. Some current examples include work with Pakistani asylum seekers in Sri Lanka, funding a translator for a hospital in Benin which improves communication and patient care and a grant to support the All India Council of Christian Women. There will be an Easter Offering service at Mumbles on 24th April.

Susan G

ALL WE CAN (METHODIST RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT)

WALKING IN PARTNERSHIP – REPORT FOR 2014-2015

All We Can has its roots in the Methodist Church and is based upon Christian principles. All We Can uses the local knowledge of its partners to help people find solutions to poverty and become all that they can be, by investing in partnerships that improve quality of life and create positive long term change in some of the world's poorest communities.

During 2014-15, All We Can, enabled its partners to develop their mission to improve the quality of life of poor and marginalised people in resource-limited places. It also enabled its partners in relief, to respond to humanitarian crises, with an emphasis on forgotten emergencies. Through ongoing education and advocacy in the UK and internationally, it challenged the causes of poverty, inequality and injustice. It also supported 27 long-term local development partner organisations in 11 countries. Community focused work, helped more than 343,000 people to improve their quality of life, through access to education, improved agriculture, healthcare, water, sanitation and employment. 9 partner organisations in 7 countries responded to 6 different humanitarian crises and 73,000 men, women and children received essential emergency assistance.

In Haiti and Uganda, two community action programmes were

piloted. In the UK, 5,000 school pupils and thousands more church members were engaged in advocacy and education work on debt and climate change.

All We Can supports communities in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali, Togo, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Jordan, India, Nepal, Philippines and Vanuatu.

In India, where a third of the world's poorest people live, women are particularly marginalised. 1,230 women were supported and more than 950 were able to have 3 meals per day.

At our **Easter Offering service on April 24th at 6pm at Mumbles**, the theme will be, **"Child, get up"**. The service will include stories about empowering Dalit women, educating Dalit girls and tackling caste-based abuse of young women. These programmes are all supported by the WORLD MISSION FUND and ALL WE CAN. Please put your donation towards this year's Easter Offering in the envelopes provided, in our collection plates prior to April 17th.

Janet N

THEOLOGY PUBLIC LECTURE

Diplomacy and Dialogue amidst Conflict, by Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for the Holy See's Relations with States (The Vatican's Foreign Minister) with entertainment to celebrate the 100th lecture starring Don Maclean MBE, KSS, KCHS and the Gwalia Singers. On **Thursday, 7th April at 6.00 pm** in The Great Hall, Swansea University Bay Campus, Fabian Way, Swansea, SA1 8EN.

Everybody Welcome - Admission Free. For further information contact the Reverend Nigel John, Swansea University.

CRAFT GROUP

We will meet in the Wesley Room every **Tuesday, from 2pm till 4pm** during term time. We look forward to seeing everyone and extend a warm welcome to any newcomers.

Kath D

THURSDAY CIRCLE

There will be **NO** meeting of the Thursday Circle at Bethel Hall for the 7th April 2016, as we have been kindly invited to tea at a member's home on this occasion.

It has been decided to revert to **2.30pm** for the rest of the summer meetings. The next meeting will be held on **12th May** and will take place as usual in **Bethel Hall at 2.30pm**. This is a week later than usual, due to Bethel Hall being used as a polling station for voting.

Pat 'B' D

LADIES' KEEP FIT

This will resume on **Tuesday 12th April at 10 to 11am in Bethel Church Hall**, following our Easter holiday. We do gentle standing and floor exercises, so please bring a mat. The exercises are suitable for all ages and it just costs £2 per session. New members always welcome.

Maisie H.

TRAI DCRAFT

The next **Traidcraft dates are 17th April and 15th May**. The new catalogue is out, so please ask Jackie or Gary if you want to see it; we have some spare copies. If there is anything you would like us to order for you we can do so, there are a few new products available. We usually order our stock around ten days before the Traidcraft stall date, so please let us know in plenty of time.

Jackie & Gary C

COVER TO COVER

Our next meeting will be on **April 14th at 10.30am** in the Bethel Room of the Wesley Building. We will be discussing, "The Year of the Runaways" by Sunjeev Sahota. Do join us for conversation and coffee.

Mike W

BREAKOUT SERVICE PLANNING MEETING ON 19th APRIL

Breakout Service Planning Meeting will be on the 19th April at 7.30pm in the Wesley Room. The next Breakout Service will be held on 15th May and the theme will be Pentecost. If you would like to help plan this service, please join us at the Planning Meeting.

Gwen D

BEST FOOT FORWARD

I am sure you all remember the magnificent response we had two years ago in the Sponsored Swim when we raised money for the Circuit Project for Water Aid. Sketty Outreach Team are asking you to support us again by raising money in a Sponsored Walk for this year's Circuit Project, Zambuko ra Jehovah (or Zimbabwean Orphans). You can read more about this charity in the Spring Connect magazine.

A **Sponsored Walk**, accessible to everyone, will take place on the afternoon of **Monday 30th May** (Spring Bank Holiday) around Swansea Marina. There will be a choice of three distances - Mini stroll (approx. 1 mile), Mini Sprint (approx. 2 miles) and Mini Marathon (approx. 3 miles). It will all be on public footpaths and roads and is aimed at everyone in the Circuit; adults, children and dogs! Start times are flexible, there are plenty of coffee stops and we can only pray for good weather. You know your own limitations but you could push yourself and treat it as a challenge! Please keep a lookout for Posters, and the Notices in April/May, for information as to when entry forms, sponsor forms and maps will be available. If you are here on Bank Holiday weekend and would like a sociable afternoon stroll and raise money for this worthwhile charity at the same time, please consider taking a sponsor form and ask relatives, friends and neighbours to sponsor you; or you could even ask them to take part as well!

Sandra C

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

I would like to thank my friends in Uniting Church Sketty for their cards, kind thoughts and expressions of sympathy following my father's recent death.

Margaret W

Many Methodist friends will have been saddened to learn of the passing of Maidee on 12th March. The funeral will be held on 8th April at 12noon at Margam Crematorium and there will then be a service of thanksgiving at Sketty at 1.30pm.

Maidee's family were all members at the Oxford Street chapel which was bombed during the war. Maidee and Reg were married in Sketty in 1947. They lived abroad in the early part of their marriage when Reg was in the Colonial service, but then returned to Sketty where Jane, Rob and Maggie were born. They moved to Murton in the late 1970s. Reg had been taught to play the organ by Mildred Edwards (at the same time as Eleanor P) and, when an organist was needed at Murton, they attended the chapel there. Maidee is remembered as a warm, loving person who took an active part in our church life, she was a good friend and was very proud of her grandchildren and great-grandchild.

Jean K

A BABY GRANDDAUGHTER!

Congratulations to Harry and Marilyn O on the birth of their first grandchild, Seren, born to Gareth and Gurwinder at Billericay. We give thanks for her safe arrival and send our love to them all.

A BABY GRANDSON!

Congratulations to Chris and Ian H on the birth of their new grandson, born to David and Sarah on 24th March; a baby brother for Bethan. Our love to them all.

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN APRIL TO:

Alex on the 1st

Catrin & Heidi on the 4th

Hannah on the 21st

Elodie on the 24th

George on the 26th

Paige on the 30th

OUR SCOUT GROUP

Our Scout Group will again be collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers and the box for them will be at the hall end of the church corridor. They say thank you for your support.

THE FLOWER ROTA FOR 2016

There are still a few vacancies on the flower rota, particularly towards the end of the year. If you would like to give flowers one Sunday, please sign your name on the rota in the vestibule in church against your chosen date. If you would like to arrange your own flowers, please sign your name in the arrangers column. New flower arrangers are always welcome! Many thanks.

Rosemary B

FOOD BANK

Items currently in short supply:

Long life milk, sugar – and sweet treats for children. If you have a surplus of chocolate after Easter, perhaps you could consider donating that to the Food Bank. Many thanks for your continued support.

Gwen D

COMING EVENTS

Services: 10.30am & 6.30pm **Adventurers: 10.30am**

On Sundays a Steward will introduce the preacher and ask the congregation to stand as the Bible is brought in.

Please stay and have refreshments with us after the morning service in the Wesley Room.

There is an induction loop for those with hearing aids.

There are large print versions of hymns in the pews and large print notices at the door.

For evening services the offerings plate is placed at the entrance.

Weekly in term-time:

Monday	2pm Folk-dancing
	7pm Wesley Club
Tuesday	2-4pm Craft Group
	4.30-5.30 Beavers
	5.45-7 Cubs
	7.15-8.30 Scouts
Wednesday	10-11.30 Sunbeams Play Group
	6.15-7.30 Brownies
	7.30 Sketty Madcaps
Thursday	7.30-9.30 Explorers

Uniting Church Sketty weekly notices: Lynne W
(Please send to Lynne by Friday morning)

Property Stewards:

Alan J,

Keith M

Gwyn B (Bethel property)

Booking enquiries and heating requirements:

Kath & Bill D

Bethel booking and heating requirements:

Sonia B

APRIL DIARY

2nd Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for The Swansea & Gower
Talking Magazine.

3rd Sun 10.30am Miss Sue Raad
6.30pm Rev John Jones

4th Mon 7pm Wesley Club, Gary Gregor, Spiritual Lessons From
Gower.

5th Tues 7.30pm Killay/Dunvant House Group.

10th Sun 10.30am Mr Ken Allison
6.30pm Rev Noel Davies: Communion

11th Mon 7pm Wesley Club, Members' Evening.

17th Sun 10.30am Rev John Atkinson
6.30pm Mrs Heather Coleman

18th Mon 7pm Wesley Club, Judith Smith, What Kind of Christian?

19th Tues 7.30pm Wesley Room, Breakout Service Planning Meeting.

24th Sun 10.30am Rev Ivor Rees
6.30pm Easter Offering Service at Mumbles

25th Mon 7pm Wesley Club, Viv Phillips, Anecdotes.

30th Sat Book Fayre at Brunswick Methodist Church.

Quotes' Corner: Just a little something to make us think.

“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.”

John Wesley

APRIL ROTAS:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin

3 April	10 April	17 April	24 April
Enid & Myrddin	Ian & Judith	Harry	Allan & Joe
David K	Alan & Liz	Graham	Caroline
Jan T	Sonia	David	Tina
Sound			Paul E
Pat T	Harry O	Bill	Elizabeth
Evening			
Paul S	Keith M	Anne V	AT MUMBLES

Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Liane F	Una G	Lynne W	Anne C
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Arranger:

Rosemary	Una	Lynne	Anne
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Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Jan T	Mary J	Margaret W	----
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Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

John & Sandra	Susan & Ian	Pam E	Judith & Ian
Ruth A	Una G	Pauline L	Clare K
		Jean	