

MAY 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 June magazine to Jan T by

Friday, 20th May 2016.

The Magazine for June will be issued on **Sunday, 29th 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.



From the Editor

Dear Friends,

Whilst Rev. Leslie is away on sabbatical, it has been agreed that the editor of our monthly magazine, should prepare the opening letter. I often wondered where inspiration for the letter From the Manse came from and now I have had the opportunity to find out! Themes present themselves. It is from all the contributions made from our church, that certain ideas and similar thoughts gently meld together.

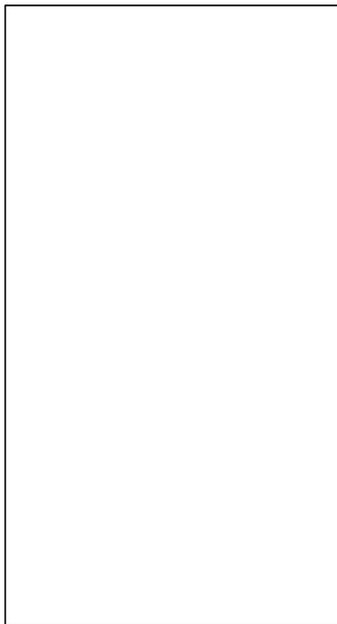
Therefore, I was unable to complete this short epistle until right up to “go to print time”; no pressure! Yet, from the start of April, when Jan C’s item on the League of Light arrived, a little seed of thought began to emerge. Many years ago, I read and remembered the slogan, “Let go and let God.” That is not to say, sit back do nothing and wait for God to give directions. But, with a little patience, prayer, hope and love, a little light will always shine and encourage the right pathway and the correct course of action to take. So, when I read the item regarding the League of Light, perhaps a little ray of reasoning was planted then.

Of course, April/May time is the glorious time of light in our part of the world. Those delightful mornings when the birds or the sun wake us up before the alarm clock. Nature is reaching top gear with budding blossoms and tulips sporting brightly coloured turbans. The whole animal kingdom seems to be starting a massive tidy up operation following the winter winds and everywhere we feel more energy and hope, because we have more light.

Last Sunday, we were privileged to hear the beautiful service presented to us by our Rev. Ivor Rees, who talked about light and The Light of The World. I beamed up a huge big thank you to our

Lord, for putting me on the right track in more ways than one. I later asked Rev. Ivor for a copy of his opening prayer, to repeat just a small part of it in our magazine, to echo the joys of springtime and the light in our world.

“We come here today amazed by your creation and all that you provide for us. From the detail of a small insect and the beauty of a flower to the power of an ocean and the drama of a mountain; your presence surrounds us. Your knowledge of us, your generosity to us and your care over us is simply beyond our understanding. The wonder of the love you have shown us in Jesus Christ is overwhelming and far above our comprehension. Grant us the courage to action your call. And guide us along the way.”



The beautiful painting housed within St Paul’s Cathedral in London, The Light of the World, by William Holman Hunt, illustrates this sentiment.

We are the fortunate ones, we have seen the light and we follow the light. It is also our duty to share the light.

According to recent medical research, Angela Rippon and our very own Rosemary B, dancing is good for your health and helps to keep you young! There is dancing on a Monday afternoon in Bethel Church Hall and everyone is invited.

On Tuesday mornings, at Bethel Church Hall, there is a thriving Keep Fit class. Then, at the end of the month we can all walk for this year's Circuit Project, Zambuko ra Jehovah.

So, in the merry month of May, we can dance and keep young, exercise and keep fit and walk, talk and smile as we work to help others far less fortunate than ourselves. We have a busy month to enjoy and lots of opportunities to share and shine the light.

Sunny days,

Jan T

LEAGUE of LIGHT – ACTION for CHILDREN BOXES

Yippee, my band of 16 box holders has increased to 20! A huge welcome to Linda A, Julie G, Barbara G and Liz R. But the good news doesn't stop there.....! This month I banked **£460.83** which is a £100 more than last year. At a time when there are so many "good causes", I am really grateful to my collectors who continue to support the work with more than 300, 000 children, young people, parents and carers. Their stories, a few of which are included in the "Thanks To You" booklet in the walkway, show how important our contributions are. So, a big thank you from me but more importantly from them. P.S. I do have some empty boxes if anyone would like a little container in which to put change. We empty our boxes once a year and as the advert says, "Every little counts!"

Jan C

COFFEE MORNING FOR SWANSEA & GOWER TALKING MAGAZINE

The Swansea and Gower Talking Magazine thanks its many friends who so generously supported the Coffee Morning at the church on 2nd April. Not only did we raise £347 but the event prompted other donations. Thank you.

Jean K

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS IN MAY

Communion collections in May will be for Livability, which is a national Christian disability charity. It runs residential homes and community projects aimed at removing barriers for the disabled and improving their quality of life. As their website states "People shouldn't just exist or survive. They should thrive".

Susan G

COME DANCING

It's official! Dancing is good for your health and helps to keep you young! Why not come and join us on a **Monday** afternoon in **Bethel Church Hall at 2pm** and join in some folk dances? Everyone is welcome and there are dances to suit all ages and abilities. We even find time for a cuppa and a chat! A warm welcome awaits you!

Rosemary B

LADIES' KEEP FIT

Come and join us on **Tuesdays at 10 to 11am in Bethel Church Hall**. We do gentle standing and floor exercises, so please bring a mat and a sense of humour. The exercises are suitable for all ages and it just costs £2 per session. New members always welcome.

Maisie H

CRAFT GROUP

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

Kath D

THURSDAY CIRCLE

There will be **NO meeting of the Thursday Circle on the 12th May as planned**. Regrettably, and with apologies, a number of our members have holidays or other commitments on the revised date, as shown in the April Magazine. We hope to be 'back on track' for **Thursday, 2nd June** at 2.30pm in Bethel Hall for our next meeting. We are awaiting confirmation of a speaker. As always, all are welcome to join us.

Pat B. D

COVER TO COVER

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, May 12th**, when Janet N will lead our discussion of "The Taliban Cricket Club " by Timeri N Murari. We meet in the **Bethel Room** of the **Wesley** building at **10:30** and all are welcome to join us.

Mike W

TRADCRAFT

The next Traidcraft date is **Sunday, 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

REEL TO REAL

Last month's film was "**The Good Lie**" - a very topical film about refugees, based on the true story of **The Lost Boys of Sudan** - the name given to the groups of over 20,000 boys of the Nuer and Dinka ethnic tribes who were displaced and/or orphaned during the Second Sudanese Civil War (1983–2005); about 2.5 million were killed and millions were displaced. In the film Theo and his siblings, and other survivors, make a difficult journey to a refugee camp in Kenya. Thirteen years later the group gets the chance to settle in the U.S.A.

It is a compelling, well acted and moving drama about the hardship suffered by refugees the world over. We talked about human resilience and friendship; the relationships between the three boys; about how this changed when they encountered the totally different culture of the U.S., but how ultimately it was their loyalty, humanity and the deepest meaning of family and friendship which upheld them in the end.

This month's film is "**O Brother Where Art Thou?**" a comedy drama about three escaped convicts who embark on the adventure of a lifetime as they make a hasty run for their freedom. They end up on an incredible journey filled with challenging experiences and colourful characters.

The review dates for this film will be in the week beginning 16th May. All are welcome to join us. If you'd like to see this film please let me know.

Sandra C

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – May 15th - 22nd

This is the week when all we at UCS are given the opportunity to demonstrate to our community, that we are Christians and that we are concerned for those less fortunate than ourselves.

This year, as in the past, we will be collecting money in a variety of ways, including our **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday, 7th May** and pew envelopes. However, it is through our envelope collection that we are really able to publicise our cause. A list of streets is available in the porch and I would be grateful to anyone who can assist. Even if you can only do a few houses, every contribution is welcome. Maybe you could team up with a friend and catch up with the news while you walk and exercise! Most people are very pleasant and it really is a chance to show what our new UCS church is all about. Thank you in advance.

Jan C

ONE MORE STEP.....

We sing Hymn No.476 to ask God to help and guide us on our journey in the world. At the end of this month Uniting Church Sketty, and members of the Circuit churches, will be taking “*steps*” to help the 30 Zimbabwean orphans who are supported by our Circuit project “Zambuko ra Jehovah” on their journey in the world. We will raise money for their food, clothes, school uniforms, school fees, shoes and other essentials by walking around the Swansea Marina – just that –walking! Not a lot to ask, is it?

Our sponsored walk will take place on **Bank Holiday Monday 30th May, any time between 1.30pm - 3.30pm**. Start in the tunnel between LC car park and the Marina – there will be badges, a raffle and a quiz for children. A choice of distances means (hopefully) all abilities catered for:

- a short stroll around the main basin, with possibly a café stop on the way.
- a longer route taking in the Sail Bridge and the Barrage Bridgeor

for the very fit

· both short and long routes.

It's up to you to choose – let's make it a very sociable afternoon, but raise money at the same time!

If you are unable to walk far, you can still help in other ways - speak to one of the Outreach Team (see below).

Pick up your sponsor forms this or any Sunday in May and ask family, friends and neighbours to sponsor you. If you have any questions please see any member of the Outreach Team:

Susan G, Paul E, Anne B, Mary J, Anne W, Sandra C.

REMEMBER BEST FOOT FORWARD

Sandra C

LINDORS 31 MARCH – 2 APRIL 2017

We have a provisional booking for a church weekend away in 2017.

The cost will be £152 per adult for the weekend, based on a full board basis. The cost for children and young people in full time education will be on a sliding discounted rate according to age.

If you would like to go to Lindors, could you please sign the sheet on the Information Notice Board in the Vestibule. A non-refundable deposit of £30 will be due at the end of September 2016; final balance will be due first week in February 2017. For more information regarding the cost, venue and format of the weekend, please contact Gwen D

Gwen D

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

A LITTLE POEM WITH A BIG MESSAGE

A little more kindness and a little less creed,
A little more giving and a little less greed;
A little more smile and a little less frown,
A little less kicking a man when he's down;
A little more "we" and a little less "I",
A little more laugh and a little less cry;
A few more flowers on the pathway of life,
And fewer on graves at the end of the strife.

Anonymous

A QUIZ FULL OF CONUNDRUMS

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What colour is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane?

Compiled by Laurie H

Please turn to Page 13 to shine some light on the correct answers!

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

MISSING OUR MINISTER

We are all missing our Rev. Leslie with her sunny smile and warm words. However, we understand that she needs her well earned rest and hope that she enjoys her sabbatical time. We look forward to her safe return on Sunday, 10th July.

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN MAY TO:

Vlad on the 2nd

Oscar on the 12th

Heidi on the 15th

William on the 21st

Eve on the 24th

Jacob on the 26th

Jessica on the 29th

OUR SCOUT GROUP

Our Scout Group continues to collect Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers and the box for them is at the hall end of the church corridor. They thank you for your continued support.

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ:

1. 116 years.
2. Ecuador.
3. Sheep and Horses.
4. November.
5. Squirrel fur.
6. Dogs.
7. Albert.
8. Crimson.
9. New Zealand
10. Orange, of Course!

Supplied by Jane Higgs

KEYS FOR BETHEL PROPERTY

Please would all those who still hold, but no longer require Bethel keys, please return them. The keys can then be given to the new users. Many thanks.

Sonia B

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

MAY DIARY

1st Sun 10.30am Rev Kim Fabricius: Communion
6.30pm Rev Andrew Walker

2nd Mon **MAY BANK HOLIDAY**, No meeting for Wesley Club,

7th Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for Christian Aid

8th Sun 10.30am Mrs Ann Beynon
6.30pm Rev Pam Cram: Communion

9th Mon 7pm Wesley Club, A Story of Gowerton Soldiers from
World War 1, Pamela Morgan (Local Historian)

10th Tues 7.30pm Killay/Dunvant House Group

15^h Sun 10.30am BREAKOUT CHURCH (Traidcraft after service)
6.30pm Mrs Cynthia Mumford

16th Mon 7pm Wesley Club, China, Part 1 with Jan and Chris

22nd Sun 10.30am Mrs Myra Thomas
6.30pm Rev John Dews

23rd Mon 7pm Wesley Club, Handel with Clive Williams

29th Sun 10.30am Rev Betty McNiven
6.30pm Rev Noel Davies

30th Mon **SPRING BANK HOLIDAY**, 1.30pm - 3.30pm, One More Step
starts walking

No meeting for Wesley Club

MAY ROTAS:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin P

1 May

Ian & Susan G
Shirley J

8 May

Enid P, David K
Jacqueline B
Jan T

15 May

Ian & Judith
Sonia B
Alan & Liz R

22 May

Harry O
Graham B
David P

29 May

Allan & Joe
Caroline C
Tina L, Paul E

Sound

Myrddin P

Harry O

Bill D

Elizabeth E

Gary C

Evening

Pat D

Jeff C

Myrddin P

Paul S

Keith M

Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Jean K

Caroline & Susan C

Shirley

Sonia B

Gaynor B

Arranger:

Enid

Chris

Rosemary

Pam T

Gaynor

Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Gwen D

Janet N

Gaynor B

Shirley J

Mary J

Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

Bill & Kath D

Pat D,

Julie G

Jane & Laurie H

Jackie & Gary C

Sandra C

Mary J

Liz R

Paul E

Elizabeth E

Myrna C