

JULY & AUGUST 2017

**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: Jan C

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 Memory Stick for the vision 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 **Jean K** for further details.

Please submit all items for the September magazine to Jan T by

Friday, 25th August 2017.

The Magazine for September will be issued on Sunday, 3rd September 2017.

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.



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

The **Methodist Church** 

FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

We've just got back from a very enjoyable week in Innsbruck. The weather was (too) hot but fortunately the mountains were majestic (and cool). I put my German into action, which is nowhere near as good as it used to be, but I was pleased I was able to speak a little. Mind you, the Tyrolean accent was often quite hard to understand!

Language... it's something we so often take for granted. Communicating what we want or what we need, being able to express our thoughts is a basic human necessity – and when we can't (for whatever reason) we are often left feeling frustrated and isolated.

And language isn't always as obvious as it seems. Take this true record from a court hearing:

Lawyer: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your lawyer?

Witness: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

Words and language are not always clear. And especially in church, we must take care to talk in words and language that actually make sense. Religious platitudes (the Lord never gives someone more than they can handle) and religious phrases (Jesus died to save us from our sins) simply are not good enough.

In a society in which the Christian faith is so often irrelevant, it is vital that we can share what we believe in ways that make sense, in ways that connect with others. You have permission to kick me (not too hard please!) if you ever hear me use religious claptrap!

And I urge you also, to find words and language that express your faith in ways that others can understand. Think things through for yourself – don't repeat religious jargon, but really think about how to talk about God.

Talking about God, or in other words evangelism. It's often something we shy away from, for we've probably witnessed or experienced cringe worthy attempts. But putting our faith into action, talking about God in ways that make sense, is actually something all of us can do. Over the summer, give it a try!

Lawyer: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

Witness: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

With love, *Leslie*

OUR SHARED PENTECOST SERVICE

What a delight it was to worship together on Pentecost Sunday with our friends from the Asian Christian Fellowship. Rev Irfan and his congregation added so much to our worship, as did our own Atif, Elizabeth and Ivor when they read the Bible in Punjabi, Amharic and Welsh. At Pentecost the spirit broke down barriers between peoples. There was something of that going on in our worship too – and we pray that God will bless us as we seek to break down barriers of all kinds.

PRAYER GROUP

Our joint prayer group with our friends at the Seventh Day Adventist Church has now taken place twice – once when we hosted and once when they hosted. It has been a really good experience to share fellowship together and to pray together.

We will be hosting the next prayer group, which will be in the Wesley Room on Thursday 13th July from 6pm to 7pm. Home-made cakes will start us off, and then we will spend time in prayer. All are welcome – if you've not been before, come along and experience it for yourself.

NEW MEMBERS

What a delight it was to baptise Mandy J! One Monday evening, before Wesley Club, friends from church and from Wesley Club joined for a simple but meaningful service, in which Mandy was baptised. This was a precursor to the Membership Service when Mandy, along with Amy W were confirmed. And in addition, Atif and Saima, Ceri P, Anthony T and John D (having already been confirmed in a variety of places and times) were brought into membership. We welcome them – and thank God for the gift of them into our membership. And as the people of God in Uniting Church Sketty, let us affirm the following from one of Charles Wesley's hymns (Singing the Faith 608):

*“He bids us build each other up;
And gathered into one,
To our high calling's glorious hope
We hand in hand go on”*

FROM THE EDITOR

Over the last year, we have been experiencing many unexpected political and social surprises such as the Brexit saga, the new Prime Minister in the United Kingdom, and the new President in America. June 2017 has been a month of unbelievable extremes. We will never forget the horrific scenes in London as mindless extremists took their hatred out on innocent victims. Then the fire that swept through Grenfell Tower, killing many and leaving many injured and homeless.

Yet, we also saw the very best of humanity as brave individuals stood up for justice and liberty. Fire Fighters, the Police and all Emergency Services courageously fought to save lives by putting their own lives at risk. Whole communities came together with compassion and love to comfort and support people in crisis; regardless of the posh words of politics and the sluggish attempts of bureaucrats. Compassion, generosity and love, from all walks of life, religions and cultures flooded in and came together to help. One amazing act of heroism and sense of decency was seen when the Imam from Finsbury Park mosque, calmed the crowds who surrounded the van driver who had senselessly driven into a group of innocent people. The wise and calming words of the Imam helped avoid further bloodshed and mounting civil unrest. These are unsettling times, but they can also be healing times. Ken Allison reminded us on Sunday of the words of James 3: 17-18 “... the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.”

May we all receive great comfort from that message and pass it on in our lives, to all that we come into contact with.

AFTERNOON HOUSE GROUP

The group, which started this year, began by discussing the Methodist Church booklet, Holiness and Justice, which briefly raised issues in a biblical context relating to Wonder and Amazement, A sense of holiness and Holiness and Justice. We also tried to decipher the rather unusual and ambiguous pictures included in each section! The booklet gave us plenty of scope to explore areas of injustice, which members had personal experience of as well as exploring our ideas of holiness. I particularly liked the quotation from Elizabeth Barratt Browning's Aurora Leigh,

"Earth's crammed with heaven
and every common bush aflame with fire,
but only he who sees takes off his shoes,
the rest sit around and eat blackberries."

We spent a few meetings discussing some of the harder parables of The kingdom, stories relating to tenants, servants and landowners. While recognising that there are various interpretations, we felt free to share our own interpretations and what the stories mean to us now.

We prayed, read biblical passages, read poetry by R S Thomas and the Welsh poet Euros Bowen as well as sharing some of our favourite hymns. It was a good time together, trying to tackle difficult and challenging issues, sharing experiences and knowledge and learning from one another.

Next term, when our travelers return, some more challenges, companionship and, I hope, time to learn more.

Pat D

MARIE CURIE COFFEE MORNING

I am delighted to be able to tell you that we raised nearly £350 at our June Coffee Morning. What an amazing team of people we had. To everyone who provided cakes, items for the table, raffle prizes, help in the kitchen etc, may I say a huge THANK YOU. We also need to mention the support we had from those of you who came to make it such a successful event. I must pass on the thanks of the Marie Curie team. Shaz, who came to represent the team, thoroughly enjoyed meeting you all.

Kath D

REV JOHN WISEMAN IS WALKING THE CAMINO

Many of us will remember watching and then discussing at Reel to Reals, that amazing film, The Way. Our minister at that time was the unforgettable Rev John Wiseman, who always generated great enthusiasm, energy and humour; nothing was impossible. It proved to be one of our favourite films and many of us said that we felt inspired to go on the traditional pilgrimage. Well Rev John is now doing it!

As part of his Sabbatical, Rev John is determined to walk nearly 500 miles across Northern Spain from Roncevalles to Santiago De Compostella. Wow, what courage and determination Rev John has. To follow his progress go to: www.shufflingtosantiago.blogspot.com

METHODIST CONFERENCE ELECTIONS

The Methodist Conference has elected the Rev Lorraine Mellor to be President and Jill Baker to be Vice-President. They started their year of office when the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference met in Birmingham on 24th June 2017. They succeed the President and Vice-President, the Rev Dr Roger Walton and Rachel Lampard respectively.

TRAIN JOURNEY TO LEIPZIG

On 28th June, I shall begin a 13 hour train journey to Leipzig. I will be among many hundreds gathered there from around the world for the 26th General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). We'll be in Leipzig because it is near Wittenberg, where Luther, the Catholic monk-priest, was instrumental in the beginning of what came to be the Protestant Reformation. That was in 1517, 500 years ago. I shall represent the Union of Welsh Independents, which, like the URC, is a member denomination of WCRC.

The theme will be, Living God, Renew and Transform Us. There will be ecumenical celebrations, some of them televised, theological addresses, including one from one of the foremost theologians of our time, Jurgen Moltmann, bible studies and reflections on the theme. We will affirm and celebrate a new ecumenical commitment by Reformed Churches around the world.

There will be visits too. To Berlin, starting out at 5.30am! There we will be greeted by the State President of Germany. To Wittenberg, where it all began when Luther nailed 95 theses or propositions to the castle door, though historians now question whether that's what actually happened! And, of course, there's Leipzig itself. This is where Bach was Kapellmeister and Mendelssohn was musical director of the Gewandhaus Orchestra. This was also Wagner's home. His Ring Cycle is being performed in the new Gewandhaus while we're there. Alas, we cannot attend.

However, we shall attend some special concerts, including an organ

recital, and I've downloaded an app for a musical walk around the city. So watch this space! It should be a challenging and inspiring event for the worldwide reformed and ecumenical family, of which we in Uniting Church Sketty are members. You will be hearing about it.

Noel D

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

Playgrounds for Palestine will receive our **July Communion Collections**. "We believe that all children have the right to play irrespective of where they live". This charity installs playgrounds to give children a safe and stimulating place to play, particularly important in Palestine where life is difficult for children. Their website is, <https://www.playgroundsforpalestineuk.org>.

The **August Communion Collections** will be for **Ogof Adullam**, which is a drop in project for the homeless run by our Methodist circuit in Swansea. It caters for those with drug and alcohol addiction, prison leavers and is also a point of contact for asylum seekers.

Susan G

METHODIST PRAYER HANDBOOK 2017/18

It will soon be time to order these useful resource books for the coming year. A volunteer to coordinate this is needed to take over from Pat Thomas. If anyone is able to do this, please contact Pat for details.

Pat T

OPEN THE BOOK

A group of people from Sketty's churches regularly visit schools to **Open The Book** and tell the children Bible stories during worship. The group needs more volunteers, especially if you speak Welsh. If you are able to help or would like more information please contact Elaine Gale on 01792 290473 or Clive Williams on 01792 587775.

FOLK DANCING ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS

Every **Monday at 2pm in Bethel Hall** (entrance via back door). We are a friendly group who always welcome new members of any age and ability. Why not come and join them? We look forward to welcoming you.

Rosemary B

WESLEY CLUB MEETINGS

There will be **no evening meetings** in July and August. On **Monday, 3rd July at Parc Le Breos, Parkmill**, we will enjoy our Afternoon Tea **at 3pm**. Evening meetings will resume on **Monday, 11th September**.
Pauline L

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

COVER TO COVER

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, 6th July at 10.30am**, in the **Bethel Room, UCS**, when we will discuss, Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout. All are welcome to join us.

Mike W

THURSDAY CIRCLE

No meetings in July and August, as so many will be away on holidays, so wishing all an enjoyable and safe holiday. Our meetings will resume in September.

Pat 'B' D

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP SPONSORED BIKE RIDE

On **Friday, 7th July** the YPF are doing a sponsored bike ride from The Railway Inn, in Upper Killay to Mumbles, a distance of just over 4 miles. This is yet another way in which we are continuing to raise funds for Toilet Twinning. Please support us by sponsoring us.

Thank you.

Isabel, Maresha, Elisha, Ronia and Jacob

TRADCRAFT NEWS

The next Traidcraft stall date is **Sunday, 16th July**. There will be no stall in August. We want to keep orders in July to a minimum, to allow us to empty the cupboard as much as possible. Please let us know if there is something you definitely want so we can order specifically for you. The Traidcraft stalls are getting very busy and we will be having three people on every stall as from September, so if anyone else would like to volunteer, please let us know. Just another three people and the volunteers would only have to do one duty every three months. It does require arriving early and leaving late on the day of duty and there is a fair bit of fetching, carrying and bending. However there is no ordering or pricing to do, as Gary and I do all that. A huge big thank you to our current, hardworking volunteers, Paul, Shirley, Lynne, Anne and Sandra. With a few extra people, this would make everything easier for everyone.

Jackie & Gary C

AN ILLUSTRATED TALK ON A TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

On **Monday, 17th July at 7pm** in the Wesley Room, Ian Ledgard will present an illustrated talk on his trip to the Holy Land. Ian Ledgard is the Treasurer of the URC Community Development Project and his illustrated talk is about his visit to Jerusalem and the Holy Land. He does not charge a fee, but we are hoping that attendees will make a donation towards the Project. All are welcome.

Gwyn B

Quotes' Corner

Just a little something to make us think:

"Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding."

Albert Einstein

TEISEN LAP

Ingredients:

6 ozs. marg. (170g)

6 ozs.(170g) **Fair Trade** caster sugar

8 ozs. (227g) self raising flour

4 ozs.(114g) **Fair Trade** sultanas

Half teaspoon nutmeg

2 eggs beaten, made up to 8 fluid ozs.
(227 ml) with milk.

Set oven to Gas mark 5/ 190°C / 375 °F.

Method:

Rub in dry ingredients.

Pour in egg mixture.

Beat well.

Place in a 7 by 11 inches tin.

Either grease or line this with grease proof paper.

Sprinkle sugar on top.

Bake for 30 minutes.

If necessary, turn and leave in for a further 10 minutes.

This delicious recipe was sent in by Delyth R.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

To help us to contact one another, we hope to compile a consolidated list of contact details of all members and adherents of Uniting Church Sketty; copies will be held in the Vestry for members to request, via a Steward or Elder.

To enable us to comply with Data Protection Law you are asked to consider whether or not you are happy for your contact details to be published in this list or whether you would prefer to 'opt out'. If you wish to 'opt out' of one or more of the following details being included in the list, please contact Gwen D

I wish to inform you that I am opting out of having the following information published in the Uniting Church Sketty Directory:-

Name [_____]

Address [_____]

Tel. No. [_____]

E-mail [_____]

This notice will also be published in Weekly Church Notices on the last Sunday in July. The deadline to 'opt out' is the end of July, thereafter, the contact details of all those who have not 'opted out', will be included in the printed list.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

IN MEMORY OF GLADYS R

The funeral took place on Wednesday, 14th June for Gladys R
This was followed by a service of celebration in church for all family and friends. A book of special messages and lovely photographs of Gladys through her life, can be found in the foyer.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Claire and Alan S will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 5th July. Church Family and friends send all their best wishes and congratulations for such a lovely occasion.

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN JULY TO:

Indie on the 4th
Evan on the 6th
Lucas on the 16th
Jessie on the 21st
Thea on the 21st
Eva on the 26th
Ben on the 27th
Zoe on the 31st

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN AUGUST TO:

Joel on the 5th
Marlie Grace on the 22nd
Zach on the 30th

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 4.30-5.45pm Beavers 6.15-7-30pm Cubs 6.15-7.30pm Brownies
Wednesday	10-11.30am Sunbeams Play Group 7.30pm Sketty Madcaps

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

JULY DIARY

2nd Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

6.30pm Rev John Jones

3rd Mon **3pm** Wesley Club: Afternoon Tea at Parc Le Breos, Parkmill.

NO EVENING MEETING

4th Tues 7.30pm Tuesday House Group, studying, John 4:

43-54, Psalm 30 and Hymn, Christians awake,

7th Fri YPF Sponsored Bike Ride

9th Sun 10.30am Mrs Win Hawkins

6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon

16th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon

6.30pm Rev Pam Cram

17th Mon 7pm Illustrated talk on The Holy Land with Ian Ledgard

23rd Sun 10.30am Rev Kim Fabricius

6.30pm Rev Andrew Walker

30th Sun 10.30am Dr Alan Cram

6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

AUGUST DIARY

1st Tues 7.30pm, Tuesday House Group. study John 10:1-10, Psalm

46 & hymn The Lord's my shepherd I'll not want

5th Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning

6th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**

6.30pm Mrs Ann Gregson

13th Sun 10.30am Rev John Jones

6.30pm Rev Gillian Evans

20th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon

6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon

27th Sun 10.30am Rev Noel Davies

6.30pm Miss Sue Raad

START OF SEPTEMBER DIARY

2nd Sat 10am-12noon Coffee Morning for Save the Children

JULY ROTAS:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin P

2 JULY	9 JULY	16 JULY	23 JULY	30 JULY
Ian & Susan	Leighton	Ian & Judith	Harry O	Alan & Jo
Shirley J	Jan T	Sonia B	Graham B	Caroline C
Grosvenor H	David K	Alan & Liz R	David P	Tina L Paul E

Sound

Myrddin	Gary	Harry	Bill	Elizabeth
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Evening

Anne	Jeff	Pat	Myrddin	Keith
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Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Rosemary B	Shirley J	Janet N	Eileen P	Sue G
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Arranger:

Rosemary	Una	Pam T	Lynne	Rosemary
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Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Sonia B	Anne W	Maggie C	Gaynor B	Mary J
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Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

Jackie & Gary C	Julie G	Jane & Laurie	Judith & Ian	Margaret W
	Liz R	Paul E		Una
	Myrna C			Pat D

AUGUST ROTAS

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin P

6 AUGUST	13 AUGUST	20 AUGUST	27 AUGUST
Ian & Susan	Leighton J	Ian & Judith Mc	Harry O
Shirley J	Jan T	Sonia B	Graham B
Grosvenor	David K	Alan & Liz R	David P

Sound

Myrddin	Gary	Harry	Bill
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Evening

Anne	Jeff	Pat	Myrddin
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Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Jennifer R	Sandra C	Mandy J	Jean K
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Arranger:

Una	Rosemary	Pam T	Pam E
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Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Shirley J	Pat B D	Gwen D	Janet N
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Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

Please see notice board for coffee duties during August. August is a very busy month for many of our volunteers and therefore it proved difficult to organise a rota in advance. I am sure it will all work out well on the day!

Many thanks to everyone who lends a helping hand.