

MARCH 2018
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 **April** magazine to **Jan T**

by **Friday, 23rd March 2018.**

The Magazine for **April** will be issued on **Sunday, 1st April 2018.**

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.



ARIENNIR GAN Y LOTERI
LOTTERY FUNDED



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

The Methodist Church 

Dear Friends,

In our Lent Faith and Fellowship sessions, we are looking at the question: What is God like? I can't work out whether this is the most basic of all issues relating to life and faith – or whether it's the most complex of all issues! It certainly begs the question – is the God you believe in the same as the God I believe in?

I wonder if by exploring this whole subject, we might continue to make better sense of our faith and understanding – and whether we might also begin to work out why so many people don't believe in God. After all, if our image of God remains inadequate for life today, then it's no wonder that people turn away.

Sometimes in church we have prayed that 'people may turn away from the God they don't believe in and meet the God who believes in them'. We all operate with unspoken and analysed images of God and these will have a direct impact on the way we live and what we believe. Lent is a good time to explore all this exciting stuff!

As part of the Faith and Fellowship sessions, we will be incorporating Reel to Real. During the third session we will watch the film '-----'. It's a bit of a Marmite film – most people will love it or hate it. But it will pick up on our discussions on the nature of God (and we will follow this up in our fourth session as we discuss the film).

By the way, all this is called the Doctrine of God!

With best wishes,

Leslie



Lent 2018: Who is God?

Week 1: Tues 27 Feb at 10am and Thurs 1 Mar at 7.30pm (discussion)

Week 2: Tues 6 March at 10am and Thurs 8 Mar at 7.30pm (discussion)

Week 3: Tues 13 March at 10am and Thurs 15 Mar at 7.30pm

Week 4: Tues 20 March at 10am and Thurs 22 Mar at 7.30pm (discussion)

All are welcome to come to any or all sessions! No prior knowledge is required – just your life experience. If you simply want to come to watch the film, as part of Reel to Real, that is fine.

SAMARITANS APPEAL

Samaritans is one of the charities chosen to receive money from the **£25,000** being allocated through the **CASH for COMMUNITIES** project. The percentage of their allocation will depend on how much support they receive. If you would like to support this vital charity, please will you collect the tokens that are appearing daily in the **South Wales Evening Post**.

I have put a container on the table in the porch and I will be happy to take any tokens collected and pass them on to the Samaritans. The tokens have been appearing since 8th January and will continue until 3rd March. So, if you are not supporting any other charities in this appeal, please support Samaritans. Thank you.

Joyce W

A THOUGHTFUL THANK YOU

We are very lucky that in our church, we have a band of very able “officers” who ensure that we are financially healthy and meet all our obligations, in terms of fire precautions, health and safety etc; we are all very grateful to these individuals. Also, I know that we as a church, remember to say “Thank you”, to all those people who assist our ministers in their services; the flower arrangers, organists, readers and stewards. Those who organise our posters and prepare our prayer corner, care for and hang out banners at appropriate times of the year. I think and hope that we also acknowledge all those additional people who help to make our church, a warm and welcoming place; the door stewards and coffee makers, etc.

However, I am not sure we always remember those who look after the unseen tasks. The ones who make sure that the kitchen is clean, that the bins are emptied and the rubbish is taken away. The ones who update the church notices and tidy the church, who deliver the flowers, who receive and print the notices. Also, the ones who organise the rota for the organists, the coffee makers, and the readers. Then there are those responsible for Fair Trade and those who organise the Food Bank. Furthermore, there are those who are there to meet builders and surveyors and who undertake the dozens of small maintenance jobs, to keep our church problem free, keep our gardens pretty and colourful, so that our church building always looks cherished, welcoming and a happy place to be.

Most of us know who they are and of course they themselves know, but maybe once in a while, like now, we should, as a church say a collective **“THANK YOU”**, to each and every one of you and say how much you are all appreciated.

Jan C

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE PROJECT: BANGLADESH

Thank you everyone for supporting the CforL project in Bangladesh. Between Harvest and Easter, we have pulled together in many different ways, to achieve a good donation for Christian Aid's work in Bangladesh, CforL is the URC's way of supporting Christian Aid.

We may complain about the rain in Swansea, but in Bangladesh, extreme weather events include tropical cyclones, tornadoes, cloud bursts and flash floods. Bangladesh lies less than 20 feet above sea level and there are fears that by the end of the 21st century, more than a quarter of the country will be under water.

One of the key themes of the Bangladesh project is, "Disaster Preparedness". After cyclone Aila in 2012, the Christian Aid partner, Shushilan, a Bengali word meaning, endeavours for a better future, formed a youth group, to be able to offer help in a co-ordinated way. The youngsters:

1. Tell locals that a disaster is coming; they listen for meteorological offices alerts.
2. Raise a red flag saying, **DISASTER**.
3. Start moving people into the shelter.
4. Use their boats to help the vulnerable.
5. Rescue trapped people; they use long ropes that CforL provide.
6. Distribute relief.

Our UCS young people gave a moving demonstration of this at our Harvest service! Thank you for every effort.

Mary J

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS FOR MARCH

Communion collections for March will be for the Leprosy Mission, suggested by Myrddin. The Leprosy Mission is a Christian organisation offering specialist care, including reconstructive surgery to leprosy sufferers. Untreated leprosy can lead to permanent disability including blindness. Leprosy is a disease of poverty. The charity also helps with education, housing, sanitation and fresh water. They concentrate on eleven affected countries in Asia and Africa including India, Nigeria, Sudan and Ethiopia.

Susan G

ACTION FOR CHILDREN – LEAGUE OF LIGHT BOXES

Well my little band of supporters, another year has passed and it is time once again for me to ask for your boxes, so that they can be emptied and counted. If you are able to bring them to church over the next week or so, that would be perfect. However, if you need to have them collected it is no problem. Give me a call or an email and I will be happy to pop in and collect them. My thanks as always for your quiet ongoing support for these children.

Jan C

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Women's World Day of Prayer is on **Friday 2nd March**. This year, the service has been written by women of Suriname in South America. We will be celebrating at **St Hilary's Church, Killay at 10.30 am**. The title is, "All God's Creation is Very Good". All are welcome to join in worship, women, men and children.

We will join worshipers from Killay, Sketty, Tycoch and Uplands.



FAN MAIL FOR PANTO 2018: DREAMS

THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL NIGHT OF MAGICAL DREAMS

What a night of wonderful, magical dreams we were presented with by ALL the cast of “Dreams”. One was spellbound into the land of dreams, recalling so many of life’s past and present moments, the looking forward of all the changing seasons, the joy of creation and love of family and friends.

May I take this opportunity of expressing sincere thanks and gratitude, to the skill and thought of Jan C the producer and writer, all the cast, the pianist, the technicians, the stage manager, the F.O.H volunteers, the prompt and all the willing helpers in so many ways back stage. The costumes, the make-up, the scenery and various effects, were all out of this world.

Congratulations to one and all for your dedication of time and sharing of your talents, giving enjoyment to so many in aid of such a wonderful charity, “Hands Up For Downs”. Now we are all looking forward, oh yes we are, to the next great Panto! Thank you.

Jean E

SPECIAL THANKS TO ELEANOR

On behalf of Olivietta and Maud, in fact the whole cast and crew, I must give a huge vote of thanks to Eleanor, our musical director. She not only turned up to full rehearsals, but also to the Brownie rehearsals. It gave us such a lot of confidence to “go” for our songs having practiced them with you, especially Diva’s Lament. Mind you, Olive still insists you played a few wrong notes in Over the Rainbow! Don’t take any notice of her! Do hope we see you again for another panto. Love and thanks from all the Madcaps team.

Pam T

WHAT A HAPPY AND THOROUGHLY ENTERTAINING PRODUCTION

Dreams –written and produced by the indefatigable Jan C! What a happy and thoroughly entertaining production from 15th to 17th February. First of all, the children danced and sang like real troupers, the costumes, by wardrobe mistress Linda J, were superb and the back-drops were lovely. It would be invidious to mention the actors and supporting team by name, because all pulled their weight and did so well, so thank you to them all for entertaining us. How worthwhile too that a handsome donation should go to “Hands Up For Downs”.

Jean K

THE WHOLE SHOW WAS SPECTACULAR

The whole show was spectacular; the colour, pomp and ceremony of the ‘Royal Wedding’ was nothing short of ‘Dreamy’. Kudos to all who took part, especially the children and the Producer Jan C. Who is your couturier? All the costumes were wonderful.

Pat ‘B’ D



MONEY RAISED FOR HANDS UP FOR DOWNS

We are pleased to announce that the total amount of money raised by the panto for **Hands Up For Downs** was **£1700**.

Well done to everyone. Dreams really can come true.

Jan C

COVER TO COVER

Our next meeting will be at **10.30am** on **Thursday, 1st March** in the Bethel Room. **Peggy will lead our discussion on Kazuo Ishiguro's, The Remains of The Day.** We will then decide the date of our next meeting in April. **It was suggested that we read Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine, by Gail Honeyman.** All are welcome.

Pat D

THURSDAY CIRCLE

Our next meeting is at **2pm** on **Thursday, 1st March**, in Bethel Hall. The afternoon will be a members' meeting, when prayers, poems, readings and various items will be contributed by all. Why not pop in and join us? A warm welcome awaits you.

Pat B D

FOLK DANCING ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS

We meet on Mondays 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 us?

Rosemary B

CRAFT GROUP

We 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 who would like to join us. Please feel free to pop in for a tea or coffee and find out more about the work we do. Anyone who would prefer to bring knitting or their own project would also be very welcome to join our very friendly group.

Kath D

FORTHCOMING TRAIDCRAFT DATES

The **Fair Trade Fortnight** this year is, **26th Feb to 11th March**.

On **Saturday, 3rd March**, there will be a Traidcraft stall in Sketty Local Produce Market, St Paul's Church Hall.

Our future dates for Traidcraft at our church will be:

Sunday, 18th March, Sunday, 15th April and Sunday, 20th May.

If you need specific items speak to Jackie and Gary who can order them for you when they submit the monthly order.

With Easter fast approaching, it is advisable to order any specific Easter Eggs early. Please see the website for details of what is available: www.traidcraftshop.co.uk. There may be a couple of Easter Eggs on the March stall, but numbers are likely to be low so ordering is advisable.

Many thanks to those who brought jewellery along to the coffee morning in December. We now have 10kg in weight of jewellery which is fantastic. We will let you know how much that raises.

Jackie and Gary C

QUOTES' CORNER

Just a little something to make us think:

“To believe in something, and not live it, is dishonest.”

“An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind”.

Mahatma Gandhi

REEL TO REAL

Due to copyright issues we are unable to display any information regarding film chosen in this online version of the church magazine. For details please see posters in the church or the paper copy of the church magazine.

The discussions will be in the Wesley Room on Tuesday, 20th March at 10.00am and on Thursday, 22nd March at 7.30pm.

Sandra C

QUIZ AND CURRY NIGHT AT THE MUMBAI!

Quiz and Curry night at the **Mumbai Restaurant** on **Monday, 19th March at 7.30pm**. This is a chance to socialise while raising money for our current project, **Commitment for Life**. As we are focusing on Bangladesh, it will be good to enjoy food from the region while Ian M exercises our brains in his inimitable style. Tickets are £15 from the Mission and Outreach team.

Susan G

THE VIGIL

SUNDAY, 25th MARCH 2018 at 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm)

Start Holy Week immersed in the story of Jesus' last days. What could be better? Instead of our usual evening service, the Fforestfach Drama Group will be performing, in church, the play The Vigil by Ladislav Fodor.

The dramatic Easter story is translated into a modern setting in a small town American courtroom and the action occurs between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. A man known as the Gardener is on trial, charged with having moved Christ's body from the tomb after the crucifixion. The characters involved in the great drama are called to the stand.

Each tells in everyday language what he saw and the way he reacted. As each in his fashion contributes evidence for the defence or the prosecution, the familiar story achieves stirring suspense.

It promises to be a moving and powerful experience. Do come along – and bring a friend.

No tickets required – a retiring collection will be made for Ogof Addullam.

HOLY WEEK

Easter Sunday is the most important day in the whole of the Christian calendar – and our church is usually packed, which is brilliant. However, if we only attend Easter Sunday, and



miss out on the services of Holy Week, then we only have half the story. In order to fully realise the depth of the good news of the resurrection, we need to fully realise the depth of the agony of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

If you've not attended a Holy Week service before, why not make the effort this year? I don't think you'll be disappointed. The services aren't like 'normal' Sunday services – for a start, there will be no sermon! But there will be symbolism, story and a connection to those events that happened so long ago.

Maundy Thursday (29th March) at 7.30pm

We gather on this night to recall the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. This will be a tenebrae service - an ancient service of light and darkness.

Good Friday (30th March) at 2.30pm

The gospels recall that it was at 3 o'clock that Jesus died. And so we meet over this time – to watch and wait. The world may go on as if this is just another day. We know it is not.

ALL ARE VERY WELCOME.

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR EASTER

This year we shall be decorating the church for Easter with daffodils. We invite you to bring a bunch of daffodils to church on **Saturday, 31st March between 10am and 11am** when the flower arrangers will be there to receive them. They will be put in vases and on Easter Sunday you will be invited to give a vase of flowers to friends who may be lonely, ill or housebound, showing that we care.

Rosemary B



URC NEWS, ALL ARE WELCOME

1. Farewell Tea at 4pm on Saturday, 31st March at Christwell URC.

This is for our Church Related Community Worker Rosie B, before she takes up a new post in Huddersfield.

2. Regional Meeting at 7pm on Monday, April 16th at Christwell

URC.

Former Moderators, Revs John Morgan and Peter Noble will speak about their book, "On Holy Ground; The Welsh Christian Experience". This will be very interesting, so please attend if you can.

Pat D

URC SWANSEA REGION CRCW PROJECT

Rosie B, was appointed as the Church Related Community Minister for the URC Swansea Region, “Churches-in-Community Project” in September 2011. She is now taking up another CRCW appointment in Huddersfield, starting in April 2018. Consequently, URC churches in the Swansea Region are planning to hold a collection and then make a presentation at Rosie’s Leaving Do at **ChristWell**, on **Saturday, 31st March**, details of which are posted in the church foyer.

I appreciate that Rosie has not been involved in UCS activities but, as the only professional URC Community Development worker in the Swansea Bay area, she has been the driving force in many community development activities, particularly at ChristWell, Carmarthen Road and Gowerton URC churches. Such activities include a Memories Choir, for Alzheimer sufferers and their carers; Church-based playgroup and Children’s Club for toddlers; Coffee Shop; Welsh Cafe; Time to Meet Group, for people with learning difficulties; Unity in Diversity, a network and support group for refugees and asylum seekers; etc.

If anyone at UCS would like to make a donation towards Rosie’s presentation, then please contact me.

Gwyn B

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Our next lunch together will be at **12.30pm on Sunday, 22nd April at the Hen Dderwen**. Reminders will be in the newsletters in April. If anyone needs a lift or any further information, please contact Pauline. We are not lunching together in March, because of all the other events.

Pauline L

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

NEWS FROM JOHN AND SUE FROM DUDLEY

Our good friends from Dudley, John and Sue, recently phoned to update us on John's health. John has been undergoing various tests and has been informed that he has an underactive thyroid, with the possibility of kidney problems as well. They wish to be remembered to all their friends at our church, and I am sure you would wish to send them all good wishes in return.

Jean & Paul E

WE SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS IN MARCH TO:

Sophie on the 1st

Ezra on the 7th

Olivia on the 8th

Sara on the 15th

Anwen on the 21st

Caitlin on the 26th

Luke on the 26th

Mason on the 28th



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

MARCH 2018 DIARY

- 3rd Sat 10-12noon Coffee Morning for Benevolent Fund
- 4th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**
6.30pm Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta
- 5th Mon 6.15pm Local Preachers Meeting at Horton Methodist
Church
- 5th Mon Wesley Club: Stickler Syndrome with Fay Killa
- 6th Tues 7.30pm Tuesday Monthly House Group
studying Gospel of John Chapter 6
- 11th Sun 10.30am Mr Jeff Coleman
6.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: **Communion**
- 12th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: The Amish Community with Janet Hams
- 18th Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon
6.30pm Rev John Jones
- 19th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: NO MEETING (Quiz and Curry night)
7.30pm Curry and Quiz Night at the Mumbai Indian Restaurant
- 25th Sun 10.30am Rev Noel Davies
6.30pm The Vigil' Play by Fforestfach Players. Retiring
Collection; proceeds for Ogof Adullam
- 26th Mon 7pm Wesley Club: Easter Devotions with Linda Woollacott
- 29th Thurs 7.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: Maundy Thursday Service
- 30th Fri 2.30pm Rev Leslie Noon: Good Friday Service
- 31st Sat 4pm Farewell Tea followed by Leaving Do for Rosie Buxton,
at ChristWell
-

Start of APRIL DIARY

- 1st Sun 10.30am Rev Leslie Noon: Communion Easter Sunday
6.30pm Mr Ken Allison

MARCH 2018 ROTAS:

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

Welcome Teams: Myrddin

4 MARCH

David K
Leighton
Jan T

11 MARCH

Ian & Susan
Shirley J
Grosvenor

18 MARCH

Ian & Judith
Sonia
Alan & Liz

25 MARCH

Harry,
Graham
David P

Sound

Myrddin

Gary

Harry

Bill

Evening

Myrddin

Keith

Anne V

Jeff

Flowers: Rosemary B

Giver:

Pat

Jean & Paul E

Lynne W

Barbara G

Arranger:

Rosemary

Una

Lynne

Rosemary

Distribution of the Flowers: Anne W

Gaynor B

Sonia

Gwen

Janet

Sunday Morning Coffee: Paul H E

Jackie & Gary

Kath & Bill

Margaret Williams

Jon & Sandra

Lynne W

Una

Pat D

