



MAGAZINE OF UNITING CHURCH SKETTY NOVEMBER 2024



Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them.

May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world. Amen.
(from CAFOD)

Give peace in our time, O Lord, give peace.

Pray not for Arab or Jew,
for Palestinian or Israeli,
but pray rather for ourselves,
that we might not
divide them in our prayers
but keep them both together
in our hearts. Amen.
(from Christian Aid)



Uniting together - Caring for all - Seeking God

Minister: The Revd Louise Gough

Senior Elder: Pat D

Senior Steward: Jan C

Church-Related Community Worker: Adella P
(Swansea Region of URC Churches)

DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025 MAGAZINE: All items for inclusion in the DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025 edition of the Magazine to be sent to Noel D by November 12, at the latest, but sooner if possible. Issue date: Sunday, 24 November.

NB We have stopped producing audio recordings of this church magazine due to a lack of demand. This is under continuous appraisal and if you think such recordings could benefit you, please let Les W know. If you would like to receive the weekly notices and/or monthly magazine via email (.pdf file) please contact Lynne W.

Contacting us: Uniting Church Sketty, Dillwyn Road, Sketty, Swansea SA2 9AH. Website: www.unitingchurchsketty.org.uk

The building development was funded by the following



The refurbished hall was funded from the sale of the Bethel building

LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Dear friends

I hope you are well.

Perhaps you are spending your Autumnal Saturday evenings engrossed in Strictly Come Dancing – or perhaps you are not!

Regardless, there is something so authentic about dancing, and so naturally human. The ‘artificial intelligence’ on my computer tells me that babies dance, and often start to respond to music as early as six months old.

(Sometimes before they're born? ed) Dancing is very beneficial to physical and mental health – and also, I believe, to spiritual health.

Being a dance enthusiast, I wrote this reflection some years ago, and thought I would share it here:

Dance me, God –
dance me
until I'm giddy with grace,
until I'm lit up with love
until I tingle with the exhilaration of your Spirit.

Dance me, God -
let me feel your life
flow through me,
the energy of your being
revitalising me,
the movement of your presence
holding me.

Gift me, God,
the joy of freedom,
that I might
lose myself in the dance.
As I give expression
to all that is unique within me,
may I find you.

God
you *are* the Dance.

You are all that is:

life

hope

love.

You are the endless beauty

in all that surrounds us;

you sing to us

in the wonders

we take for granted,

in the silence

and the spaces in between,

in the ordinary blessings

of daily encounters.

So dance me God,

that I may forever

place my hands in yours,

set my feet on yours,

give my heart to yours,

and know the routines

of your tenderness,

the completeness

of your partnership.

Dance me, God -

dance me gently,

and show me the steps of love;

then spin me outwards

to convey your care and compassion

to those too shy or stubborn to move,

to those who are never invited,

to those who thirst for the rhythm of kindness.

Dance me, God,

for you are the Dance,

in and among us,

beside us,

now,

and for the measure
of eternity.
Amen.

May you know God's leading and partnership through each day as you follow
Jesus, our true "Lord of the Dance."

With blessings and love

Louise

WORSHIP SERVICES IN UCS IN NOVEMBER

November 3 rd	Revd Louise Gough (Communion)
10 th	Revd Louise Gough (Remembrance Sunday)
17 th	Revd John Atkinson
24 th	Revd Noel Davies

All at 10.30am unless otherwise stated.

There will be Evening Prayer every Sunday evening on Zoom at 7pm

COMMUNION COLLECTION FOR NOVEMBER

Commitment
for Life



Commitment for Life is the URC's global justice programme in partnership with Christian Aid. It works in three regions – Bangladesh, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and Zimbabwe. In the past year it has helped to provide food amongst the chaos in Gaza, encouraged crop diversification in Zimbabwe

and taught skills to women in refugee camps in Bangladesh. We are all encouraged to pray for these regions.

Susan G

Jesus said: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God

SWANSEA URC REGION CRCW CELEBRATION SERVICE ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2024 (submitted by Adella; photos by Janet)

Members of the CRCW Steering Group and CRCW Adella P invited members of Christ Well URC Manselton; Hall Street, Llanelli; Uniting Church Sketty and Trustees and volunteers from asylum seeker & refugee charity Unity in Diversity (UiD) to attend a service of celebration and thanksgiving on 21st September, hosted at UCS.

The occasion was:

- To give thanks for the 10 years of the project: Rosie Buxton served as the CRCW for the first 5 years and Adella has served for the last 5 years.
- To pray for the next 5 years of the project with Adella continuing in post.
- To acknowledge the involvement of all the volunteers that are connected to the CRCW project in one way or another

The service was led by Rev Louise Gough from UCS. Rev Simon Walkling, as Chair of the Steering Group and Regional URC Minister, described and explained the stands of work and themes of the Project. By introducing the hymns and



bible readings that she had chosen, Adella was able to share community work principles and discipleship action. Prayers were led by different church members and a volunteer from UiD – Pat led the prayers for UCS. Stephen

Richardson, Trustee from Swansea City of Sanctuary (SCoS) shared current

initiatives being led by SCoS and invited the churches to work with SCoS in relation to their community cohesion events. T-Break Drumming Group began and ended the occasion. Thanks go to Gwen, Janet, Les & Lynne for their support on the day.

As 'next steps' from this service, Adella will be exploring with the Leadership Team how UCS can work with Swansea City of Sanctuary to hold a Community Cohesion Event.

IN MEMORIAM: JEAN MARY E

Gwen D writes for herself and John: Compared to many at UCS, we knew Jean and Denis for a relatively short time. When they moved to Gowerton, around the time our two churches joined together, it was natural for us, as close neighbours, to get to know them and offer support where needed; and that was the beginning of quite a journey. We did our best to support them both through health challenges and some of life's practicalities. It was always interesting to hear tales of travels far and wide, loving accounts of news and experiences with family and friends and often hilarious accounts of Denis's adventures and mishaps alongside his many professional achievements, strong faith and active participation in church business.

Jean presented as a happy and gregarious person, always smiling and always pleased to see people and welcome them into her home. Coming relatively soon after losing Denis, Covid was a particularly difficult time for Jean, as it was for many, but throughout all the health challenges and chronic and severe pain, she always put on her make up, dressed immaculately, smiled and said she was fine; that is how she would want to be remembered. We will miss her.

Pat D writes: For nearly all the time that I knew Jean she suffered from a number of painful conditions, and cancers requiring treatment, but she never complained other than to say it was a nuisance. She always put on a brave face, was cheerful, upbeat and good company someone with whom you could share a confidence.

Denis (Bethel's Treasurer amongst other commitments in the URC) was a highly skilled water engineer someone called abroad to sort out work on dams. When this happened, Jean used to say. "It's one damn dam after

another!" But together they travelled all over the world, including to Denis's son David's charity Shuktara in Calcutta, of which they were both very proud. Jean loved dogs (not only cats!) and whenever I took Emma to Gowerton to be trimmed we would call into see Jean and they both loved one another. "How is my little girl?" Jean would ask me every Sunday morning. I cannot believe it was such a short time before Jean's final fall that she insisted on helping me to move the settee because Emma was refusing to come out to go home. Jean was always so determined, in spite of all her pain. The time I spent with Jean over the last few months was a very special time for me, probably spending more time with her than ever before, often with her much loved daughter, Nicky, or with Angie, who was a special friend. It was no wonder that the staff in Gorseinon Hospital came to love her, as she was always thankful, uncomplaining and patient in all that she had to suffer. I miss her greatly.

Revd. Louise writes: I remember having one of my earliest, if not my first, conversations with Jean at Wesley Club in September 2023, not long after I arrived in Sketty – I think I sat near to Jean and Myrna that night. Shortly afterwards, Jean landed in Morriston Hospital, and Pat kindly took me to visit her. Despite being in pain, Jean expressed so much delight when she saw me, and I was struck again by the warmth of her personality. As I got to know her better, I realised that she always gave enthusiastic greetings and had a special ability to make you feel like you were the person she most wanted to see.

Jean thrived on company and loved being part of the church, wherever she lived. Originating in Bushey, Hertfordshire (with her lovely accent there was no way she could pass as a Swansea native!), she moved to Swansea with her beloved husband Denis, and retired and resettled in Swansea after spells in Brecon and Chester.

Chatting with Jean was always a pleasure, and since we shared an interest in ballroom dancing and both loved cats, there was always a lot to say. We'd often giggle, as Jean had a great sense of humour. When she was enduring her long spells in hospital she always wanted to know if everyone in church was alright, and to hear about what was going on.

With her big smile and her smart and co-ordinated appearance, together with her optimistic outlook (despite years of very serious health problems), Jean always brightened everything up. She remained positive and courageous even in her last days. Unsurprisingly, the staff at Gorseinon

Hospital thought the world of her – it seems to me that most people did! Our thoughts and prayers are with Jean’s family, of whom she was extremely proud.

A REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR



I appreciate that it is still early to be talking of Advent – but if we want to support this venture, by the time you read this notice, December 1st will be creeping quite close.

Those of you who have a good memory will remember that for the last two years we organised a REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR for the food bank.

We did this by remembering the excitement we had opening a daily door on an advent calendar and taking

our chocolate. Or if not us personally, maybe watching a child smile as they did this. We then suggested the pleasure we might all have, not taking something out, but putting something in. Putting in something for the Food Bank. The result was that just after Christmas when the food bank stocks were very depleted, Ian Glen was able to deliver a wonderful supply of boxes and bags from our church.

So, Mission team are asking that we try this for another year. Please don't feel that you have to put in an item every day. However, if you do fancy having an Advent Box (or bag) and popping things in when you can, our Sketty Food Bank would be very grateful.

Your box, bags or whatever use, can be brought into church anytime from 25th December - 8th January. (This is the time we anticipate the food bank may be really in need of extra contributions) If you are unable to bring your Advent contribution to church, just let me know and we can arrange to collect.

Thank you everyone and happy collecting. **Jan C**

UCS CHRISTMAS BAGS UPDATE

A huge thank you to those friends who have helped sew the number of bags ready for filling with items for Swansea asylum seekers and refugees. The photo shows a small selection of the bags for adults.

I am also grateful to those who have already given me money to bulk purchase items. Our store of toiletries, socks and stationery is growing.

I will be available at church with bags on Tuesday October 29th from 11:30 till 2pm and again on Thursday 31st October between 9:30 and 11am.

I am also happy to bring ordered bags to church on Sundays, but it would be helpful if you stated which sort of bag you wished to fill.

The labelled bags (all colour coded) come in different categories

- Family: that is, one for 2 adults as children have their own bags,
- single men,
- single women
- children of different ages (0 to 3 years, 4 to 8, 9 to 12, 13 to 16)



The bags will be blessed in church on Sunday 15th December before being distributed the following week.

The latest date for returning bags is Tuesday 10th December but I will be happy to receive filled bags before that date.

I am happy to answer any further queries you may have regarding bag contents but as I have stated in other years – your ideas are often far better than mine!!

Many thanks again, anticipating that with the generosity of UCS members and friends, we will meet the target of a Christmas bag for all Swansea refugees and asylum seekers.

Linda J

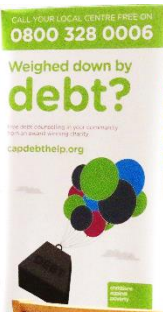
CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

Sixteen organisations, including churches, have joined Christians Against Poverty (CAP) in calling for adequate incomes, in a letter sent to Government Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions.

CAP's latest policy report stated that 22% of adults in the UK are living with a deficit budget, meaning that they do not have enough income to cover their basic needs. "It is evident that the cost of living has become untenable for many, leading to severe consequences such as deteriorating mental health and physical health, strained relationships and increased isolation" stated the briefing paper.

Rachel Lampard (Director of Social Justice and Social Action for the British Methodist Church) believes "that churches have a role in bringing people

together to take action around common concerns and create changes for good”, but also added that “we are all at full stretch.” Gareth McNab (CAP) reiterated the sentiment that faith charities were being overstretched.



At our annual Circuit Missions Service on October 13th, we learned more about CAP, which helps all people who are struggling, who can, when desperate, phone CAP for help and advice. At the end of the conversation, when clients have been reassured that something can be done for them, staff on the phone lines offer to pray with their clients, as CAP believes that there are three types of poverty – financial, relational and spiritual. Very few clients decline the offer of prayer. CAP staff also encourage their clients to attend

church.

We heard a heart-rending story of a woman who had become a recluse, in her own home. She considered suicide. She wouldn't open letters which she received, knowing that most of them were about her financial situation. At her wits end, someone phoned CAP for her and thanks to that phone call she has turned her life around. She is now an active worker in a local food bank and attends church regularly. A true story of HOPE.

Janet N

For extracts from the talk given at the Circuit Service by Karen Homans, CAP's Area Manager for Wales, see pp19 & 20.

**LET'S END
POVERTY**



During the service we were invited to sign cards to the prime minister, Sir Keir Starmer, asking him and other key leaders to meet with people with lived experience of poverty (such as the person

who shared her experience with us) to consider how lived experience can be embedded in decision making from the outset, and built into any new strategies, reviews and legislation.

The organisation's web site is at capuk.org and the link to get help, or to find out what help might be available to someone you know with debt problems, is <https://capuk.org/get-help>

There is also a page about 'How your church can be involved' at <https://capuk.org/get-involved/how-your-church-can-be-involved> .



THE FLOWER ROTA FOR 2025 is now on the notice board in the vestibule. If you would like to give flowers one Sunday, please sign your name against your preferred date and if you would like to arrange them yourself, and you are more than welcome to do so, please sign in the arrangers' column. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Rosemary

(Photo: Janet Neilson)

Faith and Fellowship

O Come, Emmanuel: Words and Music for Advent

Led by the Revd Noel Davies

Four Sessions will be held on Tuesdays, from 10.00am until 11.30am, in the Wesley Room, as follows:

November 19th: 'O come, O come, Emmanuel' and 'The Call' (George Herbert - music by R. Vaughan Williams)

November 26th: 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme' (Sleepers! Awake! - Music by J.S. Bach)

December 3rd: 'Sing we a song of high revolt' (Fred Kaan, music - 'The Red Flag')

December 10th: Discussions are ongoing....,you might be surprised!!



OUR NOVEMBER COFFEE MORNING will be held on Saturday, 2nd November, from 10.00 to 12.00noon. Proceeds for our church funds.

Jeff has sent a small correction to his article about Sunbeams. Sunbeams contributed £485 to Church funds in 2023-2024, not £355 which I quoted from faulty memory. Attendances since the article have been 17, 16, 17 & 16 children.

ECO {EARTH CRIES OUT} MATTERS

HOUSEHOLD USES FOR VINEGAR

White Vinegar has many household uses, including:

Cleaning: Vinegar can be used to clean a variety of surfaces, including countertops, glassware, shower heads, and toilets. It can also be used to clean windows, removing water stains, streaks, dirt, and grime.

Deodorizing: Vinegar can eliminate odours from your home, such as cigarette smoke and pet smells. You can leave a cup of vinegar sitting around to get rid of nasty smells in a room.

Clogged drains: A nontoxic solution to unclog a drain is to pour a cup of baking soda down the drain, followed by a cup of white vinegar. After five minutes, flush the drain with eight cups of near-boiling water.

Dishwashers: Vinegar can be used to clean dishwashers because its acidity cuts through buildup and its natural deodorizing capabilities take care of smells.

Microwaves: To clean a microwave, fill a bowl with equal parts water and white vinegar and microwave on high for five minutes. The steam will help dissolve grease and grime.

Brightening laundry: Vinegar can be used to brighten laundry.

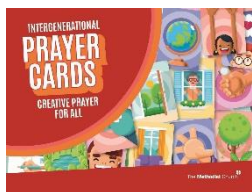
Deterring pests: Vinegar can deter pests, like ants.

Grills: to clean a grill use a solution of half hot vinegar and half hot water.

Carpets: to clean spots on carpets spray on white vinegar and rub with a clean cloth. Be sure to do a colour test first!

Liz R (a member of the ECO Group)

PRAYER PROMPT CARDS



Jeff C. sent the following information: Methodist Publishing House has produced a set of 52 'Intergenerational Prayer Cards' which can be used in group situations or individually, perhaps if our prayer life becomes stereotyped, unadventurous or difficult. They are available at £4.99 from

<https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/books/EGIPC22/intergenerational-prayer-cards> . If you prefer to look before you buy, they are viewable in pdf or PowerPoint format at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/the-prayer-hub/prayer-cards/>

URC NATIONAL SYNOD OF WALES, 12 October 2024

I attended on zoom the meeting held in Abergavenny as the representative for UCS.

Rev. David Salsbury, chairing the meeting for the first time as Moderator, opened the meeting with worship focussing on peace and more particularly those who work for peace citing the recent Nobel prize for the Japanese survivors of the nuclear attacks. We live with a constant state of armed conflicts of which there were 59 separate situations in 2023. Peace making implies activity for justice, equality, human dignity that all may have enough and experience life in all its fulness. We sang Fred Kaan's great hymn "For the healing of the nations"

1 Commemorations and anniversaries

Ivor Rees was remembered and the 25th anniversary of Adella's becoming a CRCW were recorded

2 Report of the Finance and Property Board

The URC is now financially in a more positive position than in the previous year and has disinvested in historic investments to now have a bespoke portfolio of carbon neutral investments.

3 Eileen Newington, the Green Advocate highlighted churches which had obtained A Rocha bronze and Silver awards since the last Synod and listed Eco Roadshows which are taking place including one at Christ Well URC on 29th March 2025

4 Safeguarding

There are now national safeguarding standards for Wales which will apply to all relevant professionals as well as all churches. These will now need to be reflected in the training provided by the denominations

5 Christian Aid report by Mari McNeil, Head of Christian Aid in Wales

She reminded us that Christian Aid was the response to the effects of WW2 and the refugee crisis. CA works in solidarity with the most marginalised of all faiths and none and works with many partners throughout the world. In 2023 CA worked with 260 local partners around the world; for example, in Burundi, in community health, nutrition and HIV, and in Zimbabwe, challenging gender inequality and gender-based violence.

Commitment for Life is the URC's "corporate" world church programme and works with Christian Aid and the World Development Movement. Currently it supports work in Bangladesh, Israel and the Occupied Territories and Zimbabwe.

6 The Legacy of Slavery: Karen Campbell, the URC Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries, gave an excellent presentation on this key topic. She began by quoting some well-known Bible passages e.g. "Wash me and make me whiter than snow" which in today's eyes cause legitimate concerns for black people and yet, she demonstrated in a moving poem she had written, black is necessary too and essential to let light shine.

The Council for World Mission (CWM) grew out of the London Missionary Society which did much good work but also colluded with enslavement and told people to accept their situation. A CWM task force set up in 2019 identified a number of issues and concerns, including apology, reparation and the issue of white privilege.

At National level, the URC has made anti-racism training mandatory for those in leadership positions. At a Regional level, there have been mentoring schemes for young black men who repeatedly fall foul of our systems. On a Global level, the URC is working with many partners who identify with the same issues.

A project on the legacy of slavery will be developed in Wales, through the Synod, working with grassroots groups, through local URC churches.

Hopefully, we can be involved in this project. Working with others will be enriching. Karen challenged us to remember that 'No one is trying to make us feel guilty. We all are what we are, and we are what God made us. We may be small, but we can be the change we want to be.'

I end with one of the memorable quotes from the Synod: 'If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together' (Mari McNeil). Do you agree?

Pat D

UPDATE ON CHAGALL AND THE BIBLE

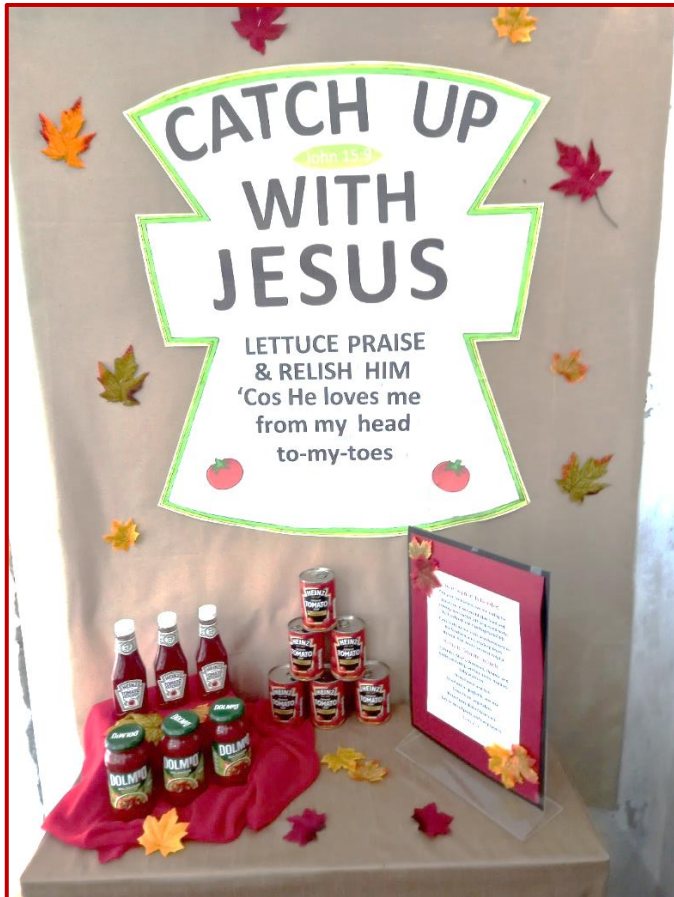


During our two Bible Studies on Chagall and the Bible, we learned – through Janet N. – that the above colours feature in very significant ways in Chagall's painting and coloured window designs. We learned, too, that as a Jew, he told, through his art, not only the Hebrew story and the

suffering of Jews during the 1930s and 1940s, but also struggled to explore the significance of the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus for our modern world in the context of Jewish experience. What would he have made of the current conflicts in the Middle East, I wonder?

At the end of the Bible Studies, we conducted a straw poll. The question was simple: Do you like Chagall's art or not. Only a 'Yes' or 'No' vote was allowed. There were 16 present. 9 voted 'yes', and 6 voted 'no', and one had to leave before the vote was taken! Most wanted to give a more thoughtful and complicated answer than a simple 'Yes' or 'No' – but they weren't allowed to! Chagall made us think. The sessions ended with two wonderfully moving reflections written by Revd Louise.

Noel



Thanks to Chris H for designing and constructing this imaginative invitation to 'Catch up with Jesus'. See the real thing in the entrance area.

GOWER CHORALE CONCERT

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

BRANGWYN HALL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th at 7pm

Soprano. Claire Watkins

Mezzo. Stephanie Windsor-Lewis

Tenor Robyn Lyn Evans

Bass. Meilir Jones



Dr David Ponsford.

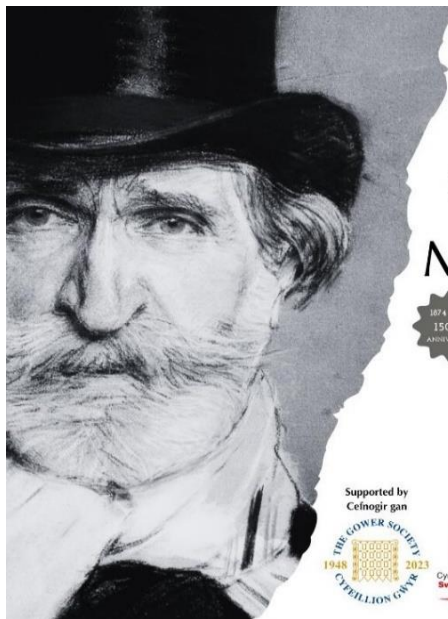
Harpichord

David Geoffrey Thomas

Organ

British Sinfonietta

For tickets contact Anne Whitehead



PHILHARMONIC
SWANSEA PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

BRITISH SINFONIETTA / SINFONIETTA PRYDAIN
ARWEINYDD / CONDUCTOR: JONATHAN ROGERS

GIUSEPPE VERDI MESSA DI REQUIEM



Soloists / Unawdwyr

Angharad Morgan, Sian Meinir
Joe Morgan & Thomas Humphreys

Saturday / Sadwrn - 7:30pm

23 November / Tachwedd 2024

NEUADD Y BRANGWYN HALL

Supported by
Cefnogr gan



Tickets / Tocynnau £25 / £18 / £10
Ticket Secretary / Ysgrifennydd Tocynnau 01792 299443
On the door / Wrth y drws / swanseaphilchoir.org

If you'd like tickets for this concert to mark the 150th Anniversary of the first performance of Verdi's Requiem, please contact Noel.

ADVANCE NOTICE



- The Gower Chorale -

THE GOWER CHORALE in UCS

At 7.00pm on Saturday, January 25th 2025, the Gower Chorale will give a concert in UCS.

Their musical director, Dr William Reynolds, writes, 'The Gower Chorale, who in 2025 celebrate their 30th anniversary year, will perform a selection of much-loved choral classics, including music by Handel, Fauré, and Verdi.'

Tickets: £10.00. Proceeds will be shared between UCS and the choir.

URGENT – MEN (STILL) REQUIRED!

Are you male and have you a good reading voice. If so, would you be prepared to read a few articles each month and record them for the “Swansea and Gower Talking Magazine”. We aren’t sexist, it’s just that listeners need to hear a variety of voices, and we already have several female readers. If so, discuss it with Les.

PASTORAL UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER (from Gwen D)

- We send our love and prayers to Trevor who is now being cared for in April Court Nursing Home where he is peaceful; to Sue J who is still in hospital and would welcome visitors; and also to Graham B who has now moved to Bloomfield, where we hope he will soon feel settled. Please also pray for those who are anxiously awaiting test results, either for themselves or for family and those who have succumbed to the usual Autumn/Winter illnesses that interrupt our lives.
- Our thoughts are with the families who are bereaved and grieving; we pray they will find peace and comfort in happy memories and the love and support of family and friends.
- Congratulations and best wishes to Alan S who celebrates a milestone birthday in November. We hope Alan will enjoy his special day, and a later celebration with family.

COP29



From November 11 to November 21, the COP29 summit meeting of world leaders, activists and delegates which will address climate change is being convened in Baku, Azerbaijan. These regular meetings have the opportunity to

address a range of key issues from the point of view of climate change and its consequences. The summit will consider: finance, investment and trade; peace, relief and recovery; science, technology and innovation; children, youth, and education; food, agriculture and water; urbanization, transport and tourism; nature and biodiversity; and indigenous peoples...

All of these impinge on all of us and on the world community in so many ways. The question before each COP summit is: how can the nations reduce the impact of climate change in these areas and how can they make real commitments to implement and fund the agreements they made in 1994?

Note: COP29 means the 29th Annual Summit Conference of the Parties (198 countries) that, in 1994, signed up to the UN Convention aimed at preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system. However, a recent report shows that 80% of these countries have failed to fulfil their commitments. Go to UN: Climate Change at [What is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change? | UNFCCC](#) for more information.

A Prayer: Merciful God, we commend into your hands ourselves, the leaders of COP29, and the work of people across the world, of all nations and faiths. Strengthen our action and forgive our inaction. Forgive our greed, exploitation, carelessness that injures your world, your people and ourselves. Bind us in unity towards a common goal – the healing of the world, and your kingdom come. Amen. (from USPG)

‘THE FULNESS OF LIFE’: EXTRACTS FROM THE TALK BY KAREN HOMANS

The reality of poverty today: Images of full life bookend the entire biblical story (from Eden in Genesis to ‘the new heaven and new earth’ of Revelation) but we know that a lot has happened – and continues to happen – in-between. As we look around today, we see a very different world to the one that God desires. There are parents struggling to feed their children.

According to the Trussell Trust, which provide food banks, more than half of those receiving Universal Credit simply ran out of food in January 2024 and couldn't afford more. Elderly people are living in damp, cold houses, unable to afford heating. A YouGov poll commissioned by CAP found that 4 in 10 UK adults have limited their electricity or gas use as often as once a month, to cope with the rising cost of living.

But poverty... also robs us emotionally, spiritually and socially. A person having 'just enough' to live on shouldn't satisfy our hunger for justice. A family living in miserable social isolation, a parent unable to clothe or bathe their children, a couple separated by suicide as the pressure of poverty claims another victim. Poverty is robbing people of dignity, joy and all too often, life itself.

Christians against Poverty: Thousands of churches across the UK have demonstrated their heart to see an end to UK poverty by running a Christians against Poverty (CAP) Sunday service. Together they explore what God says about poverty and how God's people can respond, and congregations everywhere are becoming part of this movement.

And every church is a crucial part. Despite the current economic climate and the challenges that so many of us are facing, CAP and our partner churches see lives transformed and hope restored every day. That's how we know that God's people have an extraordinary power to fight UK poverty and the destruction it brings.

**LET'S END
POVERTY**



We're also seeing change happen in the business and political realm. At Christians against Poverty, we're determined to see deep, lasting change in the systems and structures that push people into

poverty and keep them trapped there. We're involved in various campaigns, carry out research, publish reports and input into consultations on lots of different policies, including social security, wages and energy costs.

We're also passionate about providing a platform for those who have lived through debt and poverty to share their experiences and call for urgently needed change.

Our commitment

We're committed to facing, fighting and ending UK poverty. But here's the thing – we can't do it alone. It will take collaborative, coordinated action from all of us. Churches, individuals, local and central government, businesses. All of us.