

UNITING CHURCH SKETTY

SEPTEMBER 2026



**Uniting together – Caring for all –
Seeking God**

**150TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND -
19TH & 20TH SEPTEMBER**



This year we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Wesley Chapel, the building that is the focus of our worship, our activities and our service to the community. To mark the occasion there will be a special weekend of events:

Saturday 19th September 2pm until 4.30pm:

Anniversary Celebration Open Afternoon - cake and company...

Sunday 20th September at 10.30am: Celebration Service

Sunday 20th September at 6pm: Cymanfa Ganu

THE STORY

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, visited Swansea nine times from 1758 to 1790 and the first Wesleyan chapel in Swansea was built in 1789.

From about 1832 a small Wesleyan society met in Sketty to worship and from 1858 leased 'The old chapel on the hill' on Gower Road. The foundation stone for 'Wesley Chapel' was laid in 1875 and our chapel was opened in 1876, followed by the hall at the back. The freehold was acquired in 1908 and the two-storey red-brick extension added in 1911. From 1932 Methodist Union the chapel became Sketty Methodist Church. The interior was redesigned in 1928 and renovated in 1954. Electricity had been installed in 1925. Heating with a coal-fired boiler was replaced with oil and then in 1987 by gas. Choir pews were removed in 1991. In 2011 a major redevelopment to improve the building for community use added the Wesley Room and new kitchen, opened the original stone building to the new part, and replaced internal steps with ramps providing disabled access. From 2019 the Hall was completely refurbished to modern standards of insulation and solar panels installed.

The Church that now worships and lives out its Christian life and service in and through this building, is a Uniting Church. It was established in 2015, during the Revd Leslie Noon's ministry, following thoughtful and detailed conversations between Sketty Methodist Church and Bethel United Reformed Church, and between our two denominations. We are one fellowship uniting together in the service of the Kingdom of God, in Sketty and more widely. The building has been extended, modernised and restored extensively over recent years. It is used regularly for church activities, for activities that the church, through its members, offers to the community (such as Sunbeams, for tots and their parents or carers, and a Clothing Bank) and as a venue for groups from the community (such as the Croeso Choir, and the Carers group [that offers care and support for those who care for loved ones]). We hope that in these partnerships in worship, mission and service to the community, we continue to reflect the vision of those who felt called to build Wesley Chapel 150 years ago to be a place of worship in Sketty and a witness to the Good News of Jesus in this community.

We praise God that this building has served us well, for 150 years, and we pray for God's guiding Spirit as we face the future together.

Jeff C & Noel D

Dear friends

What a summer! I've never known such a long dry spell, and have been in Swansea (frequently cited one of the wettest cities in the UK) long enough to realise that it is not at all characteristic! The wildfires and the drought are deeply concerning, and the hot climate has affected us all. (I hope this, and similar situations world-wide, will serve as a prompt towards global meaningful action for climate justice.)

Crunchy, yellowed grass, parched dried-up gardens, the shrivelled plants and leaves depict a lack of essential sustenance. Jeremiah's words sprang to mind: "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord... They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

Even though even the trees are struggling in the current heatwaves, they have remained green longer than the grass because they have drawn on their incredible root systems which can tap into deep underground water tables that surface plants cannot reach.

This September, we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the building which houses us. It's amazing to think about the changes that have happened locally and in the world during that time, and yet Christians have faithfully been drawn to worship and service, inside and outside those walls we know so well.

What sustained the earlier generations of Christians in Sketty? What sustains us, as individuals and as a church? What will sustain us as we look to the future? Our roots – roots that are deeply embedded in God's love, in the life of Christ, in the Holy Spirit, in all that we discover in the gospels, in God's word, in our personal relationships with God, and our grappling with faith in the challenges that come daily and from living in the world. That tremendous prayer in Ephesians 3 tells us that "Christ dwells in our hearts as we are being rooted and grounded in love", that we might know the immeasurable love of Christ and be "filled with all the fullness of God".

As we celebrate the anniversary, may we be conscious of our roots deep in God's love. May we be sustained by that love as we seek, together, to be faithful to God's call and live lives of faith. May we flourish, that others too might discover their roots in God's deep sustaining love.

With blessings and love

Louise

Worship Services in UCS September 2026

September	6 th	Revd Louise Gough (Communion)
	13 th	Sue Raad
	17 th	Revd Louise Gough (Thursday
Communion)		
	20 th	10.30am Revd Louise Gough (Anniversary
Celebration Service)		
		6.00pm Cymanfa Ganu (Revds Gough &
Davies)		
	27 th	Revd Linda Woollacott

COMMUNION COLLECTION



The communion collection for September will be for Action for Children. Amongst other work the charity helps children in poverty, runs children's homes, and mental health services for young people.

PASTORAL CONCERNS

- We remember those who are in hospital, in care homes and nursing homes, those who are being cared for at home, those who are awaiting treatment and those who are convalescing. We pray that they will know God's strength and peace, and be able to trust in God's presence with them.
 - We pray for those who are recently bereaved. May they know 'the peace of God that passes all understanding', through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.
- Congratulations and best wishes to Barbara and Robert G who are celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.
- Congratulations also to those who have recently accomplished academic achievements: Anne and Mike's grandchildren: Esther on her 1st Class Master's Degree (soon she will be moving on to Cambridge to study for an M.Phil/Ph.D. in Pharmacology), Rhodri, who's going to study Business & Sports Coaching at Birmingham, and Imogen, who is going to Nottingham to study Physiotherapy; Pauline L's granddaughter, Jessica, who has achieved a 1st Class Degree in Maths; Jeanette S's granddaughter, Mia, who has achieved a 2:1 Degree in Illustration and Design; Sandra P's

grand-daughter, Caroline, who's going to Cambridge to study Theology; Rosemary and John's grandson, Ryan, had 3 Distinctions in BTEC. in Sports Management. and will go to University next year.

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP : WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

During September and October, we will continue to think about the Bible as a whole, its origins, its structure and the way the various books relate to each other. Who are some of its key characters? What does the Bible mean for us today and how does it speak to us now?

Five sessions were arranged – all on Tuesdays. There are two sessions remaining, as follows (please note that the topic of the last session has been changed) and in each session we will look at the Hebrew Scriptures of the Old Testament and the Christian witness of the New Testament to Jesus as Lord and Saviour:

September 1st: The Bible as a guide to moral living, to living out the love, justice and peace of God, as seen in Jesus.

October 4th: How do different Church traditions view the Bible?

COFFEE MORNINGS

Saturday 5th September 2026

10am-12 noon Proceeds for Macmillan Cancer Support

Saturday 1st October 2026

10am-12 noon Proceeds for Save the Children



FEAST OF CREATION IN CHRIST : 6TH SEPTEMBER

URC General Assembly this year commended the observance of the new *Feast of Creation in Christ* to be observed on the first Sunday of September each year and to create and curate resources. You can find resources at URC [Worship Notes](#) page. Grounded in an ancient, 5th Century, liturgical tradition of the Orthodox Church, the Feast of Creation in Christ is a day to praise God as creator and ponder the great mystery that everything was created in and through Christ. In response we

are inspired to care for the created world in these times of ecological crises. In 1989 the Ecumenical Patriarch, His All-Holiness Dimitrios I, invited churches around the world to join in prayer for Creation – many churches responded leading to this new Feast being adopted. New readings for the Lectionary have been offered too.

We're not used to hearing the term "Feast" in the URC in relation to church events. Yet the major celebrations of the Church's year – Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Trinity are all "feasts". We probably only feast now at Christmas but there's no reason why we can't have a feast on the other celebrations too. For early September crisp varieties of apples and pears have started to appear, blackberries and autumn raspberries are at their peak, and plums, damsons and figs are abundant. Cakes, crumbles, homemade ice cream and yoghurt and leak - and you might just have some pumpkins and winter squash in the south of the UK.

From the URC Daily Devotions



PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION 2026

God of Living Water, whose Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning, we gather as part of your community of all creation, thirsty for your grace. We give thanks for the gift of water, the veins of our common home, that sustains the cedar and the whale, the pasture and the city. We are grateful for the local waters that nourish our homelands and our fellow creatures. We give thanks that in your well-watered garden, every drop is a sacred testament to your love. Yet, we confess that we have treated this gift as a mere

commodity. We have choked the seas with our waste and watched the warming tides rise in judgment. We lament the cracked earth of the drought-stricken and the salty tears of the climate refugee. Melt our frozen hearts, O God, and let the waters of repentance flow. Lord of all Life, you promised that wherever the river flows, everything shall live. Stir in us a calling to care for the waters — to protect the watershed, defend the rights of water, and honour the dignity of the thirsty. May your Word be a spring within us, gushing forth for the healing of the nations. May God our Father who brought water from the rock sustain us in the desert. May Christ our Lord who is Living Water refresh us for the work of restoration. And may the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.



ANSWERS TO THE CULTURAL SUMMER QUIZ:

1. SYMPHONIES

- a. *How many symphonies did Beethoven compose – 9*
- b. *How many symphonies did Haydn compose – 104*
- c. *How many symphonies did Mozart compose – 41*

2. PIANO CONCERTOS

- a. *How many piano concertos did Beethoven compose – 5*
- b. *How many piano concertos did Haydn compose – 0*
- c. *How many piano concertos did Mozart compose – 27*

3. OPERAS

- a. *Who composed Madame Butterfly – Puccini*

- b. *Who composed Aida – Verdi*
- c. *Who composed Tristan and Isolde – Wagner*
- d. *Complete the following Mozart opera*
 - *The Magic Flute*
 - *The Marriage of Figaro*
 - *Così fan tutte*
 - *Don Giovanni*

4. **SHAKESPEARE PLAYS**

Complete the following titles:

- *The Taming of the Shrew*
- *Troilus and Cressida*
- *Much ado about nothing*
- *As you like it*
- *Richard 2 or 3*
- *Shakespeare wrote seven history plays about kings named Henry: Henry IV Part 1, Henry IV Part 2, Henry V, Henry VI Parts 1, 2, and 3, plus the late single play Henry VIII*

5. **POETRY**

Who wrote the poems that begin with these words?

- *'I wandered lonely as a cloud...' Wordsworth*
- *'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?' Shakespeare*
- *'Oh to be in England, now that April's there' Browning*
- *'There was a Saviour rarer than radium' Dylan Thomas*
- *'Do not go gentle into that good night' Dylan Thomas*

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www.unitingchurchsketty.org.uk

Minister: The Revd Louise Gough.

Senior Elder: Pat D,

Senior Steward: Maggie C

Church Related Community Worker: Adella P
 (Swansea Region of URC Ch

