

# CONNECT

The Magazine of the Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit

Spring 2018

leuencid Methodistiaidd Cymru

## momentwm

Methodist Youth Wales



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### Tell us all your news

Keep us informed with news of people, activities and special events by sending your contribution to the Editor or sending her an email.

**Deadline for the next issue is Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

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On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February Momentwm (Methodist Youth Wales) held its second BIG DAY OUT in Swansea. Many young people drawn from many Churches and Circuits across the region joined together for, what turned out to be, a fantastic day of faith, fun and fellowship.

The theme of the day followed that of 3 Generate and was 'Wonderfully Prophetic'. We began at Mumbles Methodist Church with a time of worship and then we were swiftly into workshops looking at:

- The Church of Tomorrow – how young people can use their influence
- Under Pressure – how to stay mentally healthy
- Children's Rights – Kath Mattingly who works with the Children's Commissioner for Wales led this session.

(read more about the BIG DAY OUT on page 5)

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**news in brief**

**Uniting Church Sketty**

19<sup>th</sup> March 7.30 p.m. Mumbai Indian Restaurant, Mill Lane,  
Mayals, Swansea Curry and Quiz night Tickets £15 from  
Uniting Church Sketty, Proceeds for Commitment for Life  
Project.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm)

The Vigil - An Easter Play by Fforestfach Drama Group  
Entry: free of charge (retiring collection for Ogof Adullam)

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 10.00 a.m.-12noon. Coffee morning.  
Proceeds for Petifor Trust

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 a.m.-12noon Coffee Morning.  
Proceeds for Christian Aid

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May Murder Mystery Play at Bethel Building. time  
and ticket price t.b.c.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 10.00 a.m.-12noon Coffee Morning.  
Proceeds for Marie Curie.

**Brunswick**

FAN 'Friends and Neighbours' every Wednesday at 10.30  
a.m.

Intercessory Prayer Meeting every Wednesday at  
4.00 p.m.

Coffee mornings on the last Saturday of the every month.

**Mumbles**

Theo's Coffee Shop - open daily 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Wednesday Lunchtime Worship 12.15 p.m.

Book Sale – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April

**Wesley**

Bible Study every Tuesday 10.00 a.m.

Lite Bites – Every Thursday 12 noon - 2.00 p.m.

**Penlan**

Gardening project every Tuesday from 12 noon. Weather  
permitting

**Clydach**

"Exploring our Faith" April 9<sup>th</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup> (tbc) at 11am: Capel y  
Nant Hall

Weekly Lent Lunches (for Christian Aid) at 12pm: various  
venues

Weekly Lent Course (arranged by CYTUN) from Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>  
Feb at 7pm: various venues

Afternoon tea (for Christian Aid) featuring pupils from Ysgol

Gellionnen Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm: Capel y Nant Hall

Christian Aid Service May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm: St Mary's Church

**Murton**

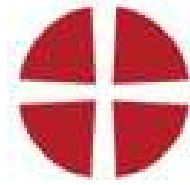
Coffee Mornings every Tuesday at 10.00 a.m. in the  
Wesley Room, all welcome.

**Morrison**

Plant sale of Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 a.m.



## Message from the Superintendent



Albert McMakin was a 24 year old farm labourer who worked long hours on a dairy farm in Charlotte, North Carolina. It was September 1934 and Albert was excited because there was an evangelistic meeting taking place in the local town and the evangelist Mordecai Ham was due to speak.

Albert had recently come to faith in Jesus and wanted as many of his family and friends to go to the meeting as possible and so he arranged some transport – an old farm truck.

Albert asked the farmer's son if he wanted to go but he was reluctant. The farmer's boy was 16 years old and far more interested in going out with girls than he was going to hear a preacher speaking in a tent.

Eventually Albert managed to persuade the boy to go and said that once they were there if he didn't want to go in then he could stay outside with the truck. To Albert's surprise the young lad did go into the meeting and enjoyed it so much he went back every night and on the last night when the preacher invited people to give their lives to Jesus Christ he got up out of his seat and went forward. The young man was Billy Graham who went on to lead millions of people throughout the world to faith in Jesus Christ and who died last month at the grand old age of 99.



Former American President Bill Clinton described Billy Graham as one of the most important religious leaders in American history. He said, 'His powerful words and the conviction

They carried touched countless hearts and minds.

"I will never forget the first time I saw him, 60 years ago in Little Rock, during the school integration struggle. He filled a football stadium with a fully integrated audience, reminding them that we all come before God as equals, both in our imperfection and our absolute claim to amazing grace.

Billy has finished his long good race, leaving our world a better place and claiming his place in glory."

The President of the Methodist Conference Lorraine N Mellor described him as 'one of the greatest evangelists of the last century. He shared the love of Jesus Christ to millions around the world.'

I too had the privilege of seeing Billy Graham in the 1980's during Mission England at the Old Roker Park stadium in Sunderland and the Bramell Lane Stadium in Sheffield and remember my amazement at seeing one preacher fill an entire football stadium. I know that many people in our churches here in Swansea came to faith through his ministry.

Billy Graham lived a remarkable life and we have all heard about him but how many I wonder have heard about the farm labourer Albert McMakin, the man who offered a simple invitation to Billy Graham to meet Jesus?

Jesus' last command on earth to go and 'make disciples'. How do we do that? Well it begins with an invitation.

The Methodist Church is promoting The National Weekend of Invitation which is taking place on 15-17 June this year. Held in association with HOPE 2018, The National Weekend of Invitation encourages Christians to invite friends, neighbours and work colleagues to church, and is also an opportunity for churches to develop a culture of invitation.

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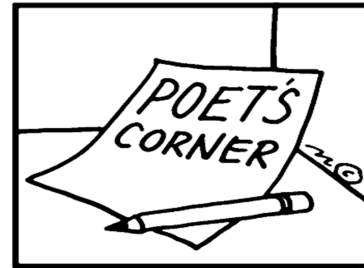
There was also a prayer room with prayer stations available throughout the morning and we were delighted that this remained full of young people engaging with the prayers. Next stop was LC2 for an afternoon of the ever popular swimming, slides and waves. The day finished with a bite to eat and some time of reflection and worship. I can say most definitely that everyone had a great time. Friendships were strengthened, faith was deepened and fun was had. Roll on next year!

The trustees of Zambuko Ra Jehovah are extremely grateful to everyone in the circuit for their kindness and generosity in terms of time and donations for the two years during which ZRJ has been the circuit overseas mission project.

When responsibility for the charity transferred to the Swansea circuit, the balance handed over was £4,332. At the end of 2017 we had a balance of some £23,000. We are currently supporting 30 children in primary school and five boys in secondary school. Our current funds allow us to support all 35 to the end of their secondary school education at 16.

However we shall continue to fund raise and we are looking to develop the support available for the children and young people, working with other charities which operate in Zimbabwe.

Once again thank you for your support



### Solitary Flower

Until today,  
one peach rose  
clung to the leafless branch,  
its first blush long gone,  
but still it hung bravely on,  
despite the cold winter winds,  
the frost, the hail and sleet.

A tiny flower,  
brown at its edge,  
not close to the hedge,  
but facing the storms  
upright and strong.

Each morning,  
the sight of the solitary bud  
made me smile and ponder  
on its strength.  
Then today, it was gone,  
and although I searched the length  
of the garden,  
there was no sign of its little body.

Nothing to lie in the ground  
and no Goodbye.

Just a sigh.

Diane Norton© 2018

Circuit Missions Meeting  
at Murton on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30p.m

Circuit Finance/Budget Meeting  
at Sketty on Monday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30p.m

## Reminiscences Of “Going For The Messages”

Here in the UK we must always be very thankful that we don't have any restrictions placed on us when it comes to Worshipping God. We know that in certain other countries of the World, lives are even “put in danger” when it comes to gathering together either in a church building, or elsewhere!

On the practical side of life, there are certain things we all have to do in order to live our daily lives. For example, shopping may be a real chore to some, while others relish the idea of “getting out there” and spending some money, whether it be on necessities like food, or other items. Nowadays, of course, you don't even have to leave your home to have food shopping done, because all you have to do is “press certain buttons on your computer (if you have one), and “hey presto”, your goods are delivered right to your door, probably by one of the main supermarkets in the area, e.g. Tesco, Sainsbury, Asda, Morrison's, to name but a few. Tesco's “slogan”, to be seen on the side of their vans, is “You Shop, We drop”! If “clothes shopping”, this is usually delivered by a Courier company.

This got me on the train of thought of when I was “growing up” in the village of Dreghorn, Ayrshire, Scotland. There wasn't such a facility as a supermarket in those far-off days, or any other kind of delivery, and I was often found “going up the street for the messages”, not only for my Mum, but also for my two aunts who lived nearby!



(Main Street, Dreghorn)

After World War 2, as you probably know, goods were still rationed. Even after nearly 60 years, I remember my Mum's Dividend Number in the Co-op – 1498! The numbers of my two Aunts were 1693 (Auntie Jet), and 825 (Auntie Lil). I must have traversed that road to the shops

many times for me to remember with clarity these particular very important numbers!

I vividly remember the Baker's Shop in particular, where the Assistant, called Cinders, used to hand out free “broken biscuits” in a poke (white paper bag). How delicious they were!

Moving along the road – next door actually – was the good old Co-op, with the Cashier, called Jenny, in her wee “Box Office” at the top of the shop, waiting patiently for the Ration Book containing the customer's Dividend Number!

No, I haven't forgotten the all important Chemist Shop. It wasn't very big, but proudly stood next to the Co-op Store, dispensing potions and pills to “the sick”! You could also, of course, purchase nice toiletries in there too!

Further up the Main Street was one of the two Butcher's shops in the village at that time. This shop was still “opened for business” many years later, well into the 1970s, 80s and 90s! The Butcher, Jimmy Quinn, produced scrumptious steak pies, a real treat in our household for “special events”, and perhaps even for Sunday Dinner on rare occasions! No frozen food in sight in Jimmy's shop!

The Post Office cum Grocer's was nearby, another favourite place for me. Betty Howieson, the Postmistress, was heard to say at various times (especially at Christmas), that Irene Harvey was the best “parcel-wrapper” in the village! What praise indeed! One of my memories of the Post Office was to see Betty “patting the butter into shape” before it was wrapped up ready for the customer! What patience was displayed in those days in all of these “one-to-one” personal service shops!

Across the road from Jimmy Quinn's, the Butcher, stood Lizzie Thomson's Sweetie Shop which, as you can imagine, was very busy at lunch-time, when the children from the local School tumbled in to buy the inevitable sweeties of all descriptions, or even an ice lolly or pokey hat, (ice cream cone)!

I always visited the Fruit and Vegetable shop for my Mum and Aunties, but never bought

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**Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.**

**Col.3:23**

(continued from page 16)

any vegetables for my Mum , because Dad had a wonderful vegetable patch of his own, producing potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, onions, etc. etc. Mum and I always used to try and encourage Dad to "show his produce" in the various vegetable competitions in the village, but I remember he always "gave away" any excess vegetables he grew! I'm very proud to say that my Dad had two Trades, i.e. that of Gardener, and also a Joiner (Carpenter). Very handy indeed as a "D.I.Y. person!

Another wee shop further down Main Street also sold fruit and vegetables, and groceries – plenty for all!

Next door was the second Butcher's shop in the village, David Adrain's, where my Mum bought most of her butcher meat. That was the Co-op Butcher, with a cashier in there too, ready to deal with Ration Books. I recall her name was Mrs. Bell, who had two daughters, Margaret and Mary, both pupils at the village school.

Dreghorn was also blessed with a Draper's Shop and Shoe Shop, not forgetting the very important Newsagents, (two of these).

Townfoot was where Fanny's Chip Shop was situated, always a very popular venue at tea time – crowded out – queues on the pavement most times, waiting to buy her most delicious fish and chips! Happy days!

Right at the bottom of the village was a Dairy, selling of course milk, bread and some groceries. This shop was particularly handy for those residents living on the outskirts.

So it was always most interesting, and a pleasure, to "go for the messages" in the village. Do any other readers have such wonderful memories of their childhood "Village Shops", I wonder?

**Mrs.Irene Dendle  
Morrison Methodist Church**

## **Murton Methodist Ladies Tuesday Guild Christmas Celebrations 'Posh Frocks and Afternoon Tea'**



On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017, the Ladies Tuesday Guild Committee organised a Posh Frocks and Afternoon Tea event. It was very well attended and members enjoyed a generous supply of home baked cakes and sandwiches along with a plentiful supply of freshly brewed tea.

The celebrations included live music and singing of Christmas carols. Margaret Bizzell, a former member who emigrated to Australia some years ago, made a surprise visit and gave an informative and humorous talk/slide show all about her life in Oz. The Guild members have already raised £450 for their chosen charity, Hands Up for Downs.

A Christmas hamper raffled among all the Church groups has raised an additional sum of £200 and these monies will be equally shared between the Church and Hands Up for Downs.

**In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.**

**Prov. 3:6**

## Books for individual or group study during Lent

(All of these books are available from Amazon)

### Friday's Child

by Brian Mountford

Thirty five poems which explore the human experience of suffering and redemption, accompanied by his own thoughtful and witty commentary. The collection contains secular and sacred pieces in equal measure and came into being as part of a programme to bring a sense of seriousness, in a non prescriptive, open-ended way to the Easter holiday crowds in the University Church, Oxford, where the poems were read on Good Friday with dignity and panache by senior school children

ISBN: 978-1-78535-741-1 (Paperback) £8.99

### The Lives Around Us,

by Dan Papworth

The Lives Around Us is a series of short meditations for individuals or groups. It can serve as a Lent book or at any time of the year. Each chapter begins with descriptive reflection on a specific creature (animal, plant, fungus, mineral) followed by one or two thoughts about what we can do for them practically. There is a Bible reading and then a section that encourages prayer and sometimes a prayerful activity.

ISBN: 978-1-78535-256-0 (Paperback) £12.99

### The Long Road to Heaven,

by Tim Heaton

This Lent resource explores Christian understandings of "salvation" in a five-part study course based on the film *The Way*. Starring Martin Sheen as a bereaved father, this soulful and uplifting film observes a group of pilgrims walking the Way of St James to Santiago de Compostela. As it follows their journey of inner transformation, the course examines biblical accounts and images of salvation – past, present and future – and addresses the questions: What are we saved from? What are we saved for? Who can be saved? What do we have to do to be saved? How are we saved?

ISBN: 978-1-78279-274-1 £7.99

### The Naturalist and the Christ,

by Tim Heaton

This five-part Lent course draws on the life, work and religious struggles of Charles Darwin as depicted in the 2009 film *Creation*, a film based on the book *Annie's Box* by Darwin's great-great-grandson Randal Keynes.

This compelling and accessible Lent course looks at questions of great importance to all Christians. Can God and evolution co-exist? Why did the Victorian Church find it so hard to accept Darwin's theory? Why do some Christians today find it difficult? What implications does evolution have for the Church and her doctrine? What is the authority or reliability of scripture? To what extent were Darwin's own Christian beliefs shaped by the theology of his day, and how did this lead to his loss of faith after the death of his daughter Annie in 1851? Where is God in all the suffering of his creation?

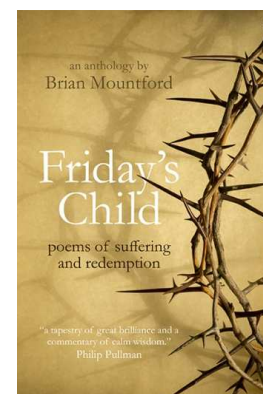
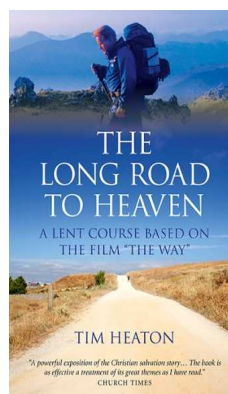
ISBN: 978-1-84694-762-9 £7.99

### Will You Join in Our Crusade?

by Steve Mann

In this seven-week course, suitable for group use or personal reflection, Steve Mann skillfully interweaves the Gospel narrative with the story of *Les Miserables*. Daily devotional readings are built around seven key spiritual themes - Grace, responsibility, truth, compassion, fellowship, darkness and reconciliation. These are complemented by weekly study material tied in to the 2012 movie release. This is an ideal resource for those looking for a Lent study but works equally well at any time of year.

ISBN: 978-1-78279-384-7 £8.99



Rev. John Atkinson

The entire law is summed up in a single command: Love your neighbour as yourself.

Gal. 5:14





**The Vigil – Palm Sunday  
25<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

- A special play for Holy Week and Easter, performed by the Fforestfach Drama Group
- Uniting Church Sketty (in the Sanctuary)
- Play starts at 7.00 p.m. (doors open at 6.30 p.m.)
- Entrance is free – a retiring collection will go to Gof Addullam

The dramatic Easter story translated into a modern setting in a small-town American courtroom. 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 contributes evidence for the defence or the prosecution, the familiar story achieves stirring suspense. In an electrifying scene, Mary Magdalene steps down from the stand and re-enacts her meeting with Jesus in the garden.

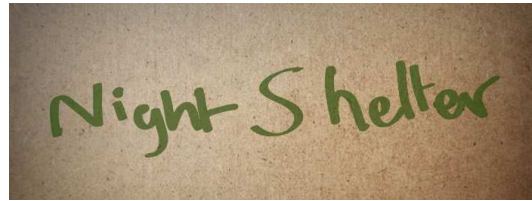
Come along and mark the start of Holy Week and Easter in a very meaningful way. Why not bring a friend or a neighbour so that they can hear the story too.

**Rev. Leslie**

Do not pray for easy lives;  
Pray to be stronger people!  
Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers;  
Pray for power equal to your tasks,

**Phillips Brooks**

**Swansea Night Shelter 2018**



A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped in anyway with the Swansea Night Shelter this year. We had volunteers from six churches in our circuit (as well as others whom we got to know) and for each night we offered shelter there were about 20 people behind the scenes.

- Opening up the church in the early morning to receive the bedding.
- Shopping for all that was needed to feed the guests.
- Making a main course or the deserts and dropping them off at the church.
- Tidying up the church and putting it back together ready for Sunday morning.
- Dilly's Kitchen in Sketty who made a beef stew each week.
- And then of course the volunteers who came in and spent time with the guests – who cooked, chatted, laughed and played table tennis.

It's true that the numbers were lower than in previous years (although as Sketty's stint came to an end after six weeks, the numbers were climbing), so in some cases this meant last minute phone calls to people to cancel their offer of help. We don't yet fully know all the reasons behind the lower numbers, but it looks as if there will be a review before next year.

The reasons behind homelessness are complex – there is no one route. It's true that some live chaotic lives, with drugs and alcohol playing a major factor and the route out of homelessness is an uphill struggle. But there are many others, whom we got to know this year whose lives seem very ordinary, just like ours, people who make us think that in different circumstances, that could be us 'out there'.

*(continued on page 7)*

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The Night Shelter helps us to see those living on the streets not as 'a problem' to be solved but as individuals who need to be known and loved. Of course, this is how God sees them and this is why being involved in the night shelter is so worthwhile.

In particular this year, there was one young man – he could have been your son or grandson. He was ordinary – and nice! He'd been working and living with his girlfriend – until the company he worked for closed, his relationship broke down and he suddenly found himself with nowhere to live. The night shelter meant that during this difficult time in his life, he didn't have to be on the streets. He was given assistance to access the help he needed – and on the last night shelter that we did in Sketty, I found out that he had been offered a job. He was over the moon about it – and was so grateful to everyone who had given up their time in the night shelter. He had no idea that people cared so much for those they didn't know.

For him – and all the others, we give God thanks and pray that there will be other good outcomes.



Rev Leslie

### Dreams

February was panto time again at UCS and with our minister Leslie leading the way we joined Gwenny as she dreamed about her wonderful childhood memories. As with all good pantos we had a lovely children's singing and dancing chorus, a baddie, 2 outrageous dames, 2 Problem Solvers and a lord Chamberlain who managed to have his say, despite the Stage Managers attempts to

silence him.



A Dream maker and handsome hero Dylan guided us as we travelled through Gwenny's childhood, bringing to life nursery rhymes and important characters from the different seasons, all of course dressed in wonderful costumes. With special lighting, wonderful backdrops, superb musical accompaniment and lots of audience participation we naturally finished with a very happy finale. A cast of over 30, with an age range of 6 – 80 meant that we really did encompass all ages and talents. Of course it was hard work but we enjoyed much fun and fellowship and, as always four performances, meant that we opened our church to so many people who would otherwise not have joined us.

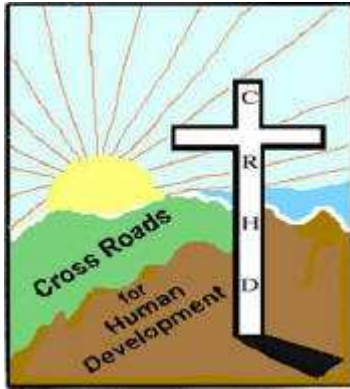


But the good news doesn't end there because we have raised £1,700 for the special local charity Hands Up For Downs. So to everyone who supported us in any way, especially our own church family, a huge **Thank you from UCS Dreams and Hands Up for Downs**

Jan Chaplin

**Man has not invented God; he has developed faith, to meet a God already there.**

Edna St.Vincent Millay



A letter from the Revd Gill Evans

### Cross Roads for Human Development

Dear Friends,

I think it was seven years ago that I held a fund raising event in aid of **CRHD** at Riverside, Rhossili. Since then it has become an annual happening, wonderfully supported by members of the circuit and friends from far and wide, not to mention the village itself.

Last year, you may remember, thanks to generous donations and the day itself we raised over £4000.

CRHD was founded by myself and the Revd Dr Joseph Suray (now a Superintendent Minister In Birmingham) while I was working in The South Bristol Circuit. Joseph comes from what is called a Dalit or in the caste ridden society of India an Outcaste ie wasn't born into a Hindu 'caste'. Outcaste people are still viewed as inferior and in village areas there is segregation, children not allowed to play, eat or sit together etc.

Joseph, one of 8 children was chosen along with 3 of his siblings to attend the Mission School in the nearby city of Raichur, South India. The four remaining children grew up illiterate. Being a highly intelligent student, Joseph was able to further his studies, gaining eventually a PhD at Manchester University. His dream was to establish in his native village a school which would benefit the Dalit children. Together in 2002 we founded Kids Paradise School. Initially we had only a dozen or so pre-school children, meeting in two concrete rooms built on to the side of the village church. With the purchase of land, we were able to build an

L-shaped building; 3 classrooms, a hall and kitchen: (our children are often undernourished and we provide a midday meal). Later we added another storey and last year a separate Assembly Hall/ Dining Hall again with a kitchen. Toilets are being added over the coming summer.

We now have just under 200 children receiving a Primary education of a high standard. Children from a Muslim or Hindu caste background can join the school provided the parents agree to the school's ethical stance, that all children are equal and therefore they will eat, play, and sit together and participate in assemblies. Results are excellent and pupils who graduate and move into the city for secondary education have performed well and some have gone on to further training as teachers, nurses etc.

The Nutan sewing project, to help women become more independent, was started in the city at the same time as the school, and this has been a great success. Many young Muslim women are able to learn basic sewing skills and issued with certificates at the end of courses they are able to earn money for their poverty stricken families.



*(clothing made by the young Muslim women)*

CRHD is a registered charity both in the UK and India. We have no employed staff in this country and all monies raised are destined for India. Every year we need to raise £23,000 to keep things running and of course extra for repairs, building etc. All of this comes from donations, regular by STO or by one off. Gift Aid is a great help or of course by fund-raising events.

Well, as many of you know, by the time you read this article I shall have moved to Scotland to live

*(continued on page 12)*

**God's way may be harder for you, but it will be easier on you.**

**H.Hanson**

(continued from page 11)

near to my second daughter and not far from my son. It is not a final move and I shall be back when the house sells **AND for a very important event**. Donna Isherwood, a recently appointed Circuit Steward has very kindly agreed to organise the annual CRHD day. It will take place on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June in a most beautiful setting, the garden of Robin's Rest**. Robin's Rest is the home of Ann Taylor who very kindly indeed has offered her garden which overlooks the sea at Horton as our venue.

I intend to be there and it would be wonderful to meet up with old friends and supporters at that time (more details will follow).

Thank you to the circuit for supporting CRHD as its charity four years ago and thank you all for your generous and prayerful support over the years which I hope will continue.

God bless you all.

**With love, Gill.**

**Faith is a**  
**Fantastic**  
**Adventure**  
**In**  
**Trusting**  
**Him**

**Corrie ten Boom**

### Time for a smile

A vicar was given a lovely toy by one of his parishioners and on arriving home he gathered his three children together. He told them about the gift and he said he had to decide who most deserved it. "Who is the most obedient one here," he asked; "who never talks back to mummy and who always does everything she says without arguing?" After a few moments of silence and a few glances at each other, the children said in unison, "You play with it Daddy!"

### Easter Offering Service 2018



The EASTER OFFERING 2018 dedication service, Seek Peace and Pursue It (Psalm 34:14) features stories from Mission Partners in Sri Lanka, Japan and Israel/Palestine supported by the World Mission Fund. Each one is working towards peace and reconciliation in their own situations.

The worship will encourage us to consider how we might learn from these situations and find ways to 'seek peace and pursue it', in our individual lives, churches and communities.

This service provides an opportunity for our circuit to gather and celebrate God's mission activity in the wider world. It includes the dedication of the Easter Offering – all of which goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland, supporting 65 Partner Churches overseas. Leader's notes give valuable guidance to assist local organisers in the preparation of the service.

The service will take place at Uniting Church Sketty on Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6.30 p.m. – preacher Mrs Win Hawkins

### Pause to Ponder

If there is man anywhere who is not hungering for God and is not filled, then the word of God is broken. We are as full as we want to be.

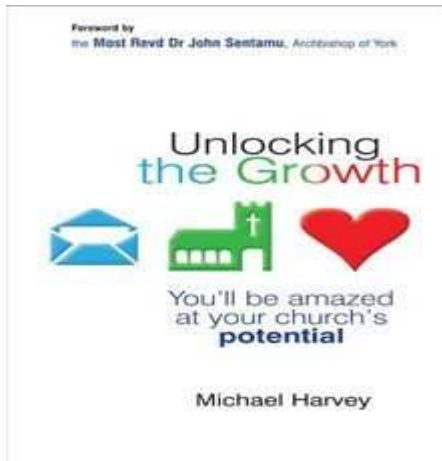
**Aiden Wilson (A W ) Tozer**

**In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without heart.**

**John Bunyan**

(continued from page 3)

Michael Harvey, coordinator of the weekend said, 'Our church is good at being 'welcoming'. But, if we are honest, not as good as we could be at 'inviting'.



Michael Harvey

In his book 'Unlocking the Growth' the message is a simple one – If everyone in the church invites someone, the churches congregation would double in a day. The more he explored that thought and the more research he conducted he discovered that between 80 – 95% of people in the church will never make a personal invitation to anyone and one of the main reasons we find it difficult is because we fear rejection.

No-one wants to be rejected in fact we spend our lives doing all that we can to avoid it.

Michael Harvey then asks – 'Who do we know who was rejected, and not just rejected but scorned, beaten and shamed?' Jesus suffered all these things and if we are following him then at times we too will be rejected.

If we think that people will say 'no' to us then the chances are that we won't even bother asking the question but there's also a chance that they will say 'yes'.

All we have to do is to make the invitation. We cannot influence the answer because people are free to choose but it may be that God has been working in a person's heart over a long period of time and they are just waiting for someone to ask them. Who knows. And the truth is we will never know unless we do it.



When it comes to living the Christian life, we cannot all be like Billy Graham, but we can all be like Albert McMakin and simply invite others to hear about Jesus. When we do that who knows what impact it might have.

Howard

### Quotes by Billy Graham

"Someone asked me recently if I thought God was unfair, allowing me to have Parkinson's and other medical problems when I have tried to serve him faithfully. I replied that I did not see it that way at all. Suffering is part of the human condition, and it comes to us all. The key is how we react to it, either turning away from God in anger and bitterness or growing closer to him in trust and confidence."

The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.'

**There is only one limit to what prayer can do; that is what God can do.**

**R.A.Torrey**

## News from Ogof Adullam



Ogof Adullam was excited to welcome back one of its former guests for a weekend visit from Betel UK. In June 2016 Luke was addicted to drugs and alcohol and was living on the streets of Swansea. When he walked through the doors of the Ogof Adullam Drop-in Centre based at Brunswick Methodist Church he was at rock bottom and desperate for help.

Luke was helped through Ogof Adullam to apply to several rehab centres but was turned down by them all. One last application was made to Betel UK based in Birmingham and thankfully he was accepted. He left Swansea for Birmingham the next day knowing that this was his last chance to get clean.

He sent Huw and Cerys a letter four weeks after he arrived and in it he wrote:

'I really feel different. I only came here to get clean not to find God, but here I am at the start of my walk and loving it and am blessed to learn more and more. I just feel blessed and hopeful that this is my path to follow Jesus. I know that if I trust completely in Him then my life will be so much more worthwhile. I'm so thankful to Him for using you to get me to Betel, I now know it really was the big man upstairs'.

On Father's Day 2017 Huw and another volunteer travelled to Betel to see Luke getting baptised. Luke's son was also there that day, Luke hadn't seen his son for a number of years so it was very fitting and moving that they were reunited on Father's Day, God is good! It's now

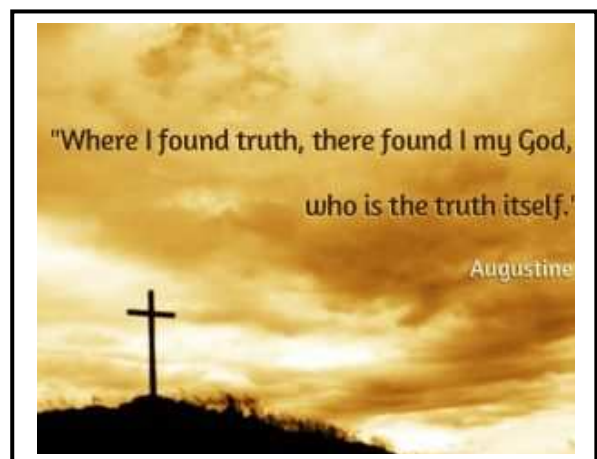
February 2018 and Luke is still at Betel and is doing amazingly well.

Luke came to Swansea with another person from Betel (Sergei) and we were extremely grateful to Ken Allison for hosting them. Luke came to Ogof Adullam on the Saturday evening as he wanted to see the guests and volunteers. He was able to chat with people he used to associate with and was able to tell them his story and how his life has changed beyond recognition.

On the Sunday morning Luke spoke at Grace and Truth Church based in Penlan Methodist Church where he was able to share his testimony and talk about the work God is doing in his life. He then came to Sofa Fellowship at Ogof Adullam on the Sunday afternoon where he shared his testimony with volunteers and guests. Paul Cole, one of the Ogof volunteers led the worship and also shared some of his poetry. A wonderful afternoon was had by all. Following on from Luke's testimony we have now started an Alpha course every Sunday afternoon 2-4pm at Ogof and everyone is welcome to attend.

It was hugely encouraging to see the difference that knowing Jesus has made in Luke's life. Everyone is thrilled that he is doing so well and excited to see how God is going to continue working in his life.

'For I know the plans I have for you' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. You will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart'. Jeremiah 29:11-13.



Christianity is a battle, not a dream.

Wendell Phillips

## Methodist young people launch manifesto



The need for the Methodist Church to keep God at its centre and to be brave, inclusive and dynamic has been expressed by young Methodists as part of their manifesto to the Church.

The manifesto was published following the 3Generate event last November, where more than 1,000 young people aged 8-23 and their leaders discussed the issues concerning them in relation to the Church and society.

The manifesto is a resource for local churches and forms part of the ongoing engagement with churches and groups to encourage discussion and action across generations.

Penny Fuller, Church and Community Development Co-ordinator, said: "At 3Generate last November we considered the theme of Hearing the prophetic voice of children and young people. They expressed the opinion that they want a Church that is not just relevant but calls for God to be at its heart, is proactive in tackling social issues and is a listening Church that values its young members where all are welcomed.

"We are seeing growing numbers of young people participating in the life of the Methodist Church, so much that last year we had to seek a bigger venue to accommodate them. Listening to, and serving alongside, our younger members is vital for the Church now and in the future. As we prepare a strategic response to the Statistics for Mission report presented at the Conference last year, we are looking to those of all ages to consider how we can use our calling to be increasingly adventurous in our mission."

Michael Pryke, Youth President of the Methodist Church, said: "Within this manifesto we hear the combined voice of the Methodist young people. This is a call to grow the work of the Church and to develop even more church communities that are accessible, inclusive and working to challenge injustice."

3Generate 2018 is going to be held at Pontins, Southport, on November 23 - 25.

*3Generate, the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly, is a weekend for Methodist children and young people. Speaking out to the church, the young people engage with issues that are relevant to the whole people of God.*

## Open Doors 'Serving the Persecuted Church'

In January, Open Doors, the charity that supports the persecuted church worldwide organised a meeting in Swansea where Professor Yusufu Turaki, a pastor in Northern Nigeria addressed local church leaders about the situation in northern Nigeria.

Nigeria has been one of the most difficult and dangerous places to be a Christian in recent years. Many of our brothers and sisters have suffered terribly at the hands of Boko Haram and millions of people have been forced to leave their homes.

In the southern part of Nigeria, Christians experience religious freedom. However, in the northern regions, they suffer greatly. Death, physical injury and loss of property are commonplace, as well as loss of land and livelihood. In northern Nigeria, society as a whole treats Christians as second-class citizens who deserve to be discriminated against and excluded. To make matters worse, corruption has made the government ill-equipped to protect Christians from violent attack.



*Prof Yusufu Turaki with Mrs Chris Capel*

*(continued on page 14)*

**He gives power to the tired and worn out, and strength to the weak.**

**Is. 40:29**

## Thinking about Hope

In the autumn we saw Mugabe peacefully removed from power in Zimbabwe, the people rejoicing, and a new regime promising many changes. This is one of those occasional events that take us completely by surprise and give us hope. Siperire, Grace and Sarah have all told me of their amazement and hope at what has happened.

The last Sunday in November was 15 years exactly since we first welcomed Grace and Sarah at Morriston. The Gospel reading that morning was 'The Sheep and the Goats', and very quickly Morriston found themselves putting the message of that story into action. Grace, Sarah, and a friend from the group of 10 unaccompanied young asylum seeker women, arrived at Morriston to find that the preacher that day was Alice Rutter. As Alice used to be a missionary in Zimbabwe, she was immediately able to welcome them with some words in Shona, and with a knowledge of their homeland. She invited them to lunch and then phoned me to tell of their plight – having more or less only the clothes they stood up in, and no money yet to buy food and other essentials. Within a few hours we had gathered together two boxes of store cupboard foods, one for each of the houses the 10 had been allocated to. During the following week, I took Grace and Sarah down to OXFAM in town, where the manager told them to help themselves to whatever warm clothes they needed – and enough for all 10 young women! You can imagine the buzz of excitement and laughter as items were tried on and some selected for their friends.

Some of the group, including Sarah and Grace, very quickly got refugee status and were allocated permanent accommodation. Many of you around the Circuit helped get furniture and small household items together for them. They were able to start work and thus save up for their children (two boys each) to be brought across some months later. I drove Sarah across to the airport to meet her boys – the plane was delayed for hours and they were the last off as they had to be escorted by the air stewards. Terry chatted incessantly the whole way back, mostly in Shona, and then fell asleep ten minutes from Swanséal!

I had the privilege of welcoming both Sarah and Grace as members of our Morriston church, and they and their new families are very much part of the congregation to this day. Welcoming and supporting them was a significant experience not just for me, but for the whole church – and the wider Circuit. It's great now to hear of their hopes for Zimbabwe.

I recently attended a talk on 'hope' and here are a few of the quotes we were given, which I think are very relevant to Zimbabwe and her exiles here. Perhaps these thoughts will help us to reflect on hope and to continue to pray for Zimbabwe.

Hope is much like a cat in the dark – you only know it's there by the reflection of its eyes – which means there is light nearby. (Terri Guillemets)

Hope, paradoxically comes into awareness when it is absent in adversity and has antecedents of loss, threat, uncertainty of outcome, acute and chronic suffering. It also sustains and supports when no action is possible. (John Prysor-Jones)

Hope is a state of mind, not of the world. Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are heading for success, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good. (Vaclav Havel)

Pam Cram



**Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him to help you do it and he will.**

**Ps. 37:5**



(continued from page 13)

### How Open Doors Helps

Open Doors partners with the local church to strengthen and equip persecuted believers in northern Nigeria through the following activities:

- Training to strengthen believers facing persecution
- Helping children to receive a Christian education
- Providing care and discipleship training for new believers
- Servant leadership and theological training for church leaders
- Community development projects
- Legal assistance
- Emergency relief and trauma counselling.

Professor Turaki was visiting the UK to take part in the parliamentary launch of the 2018 World Watch List, a list produced annually that ranks the 50 countries where Christians face extreme persecution.

97 Parliamentarians attended or were represented at the launch event in Parliament, which was hosted by Theresa Villiers MP.

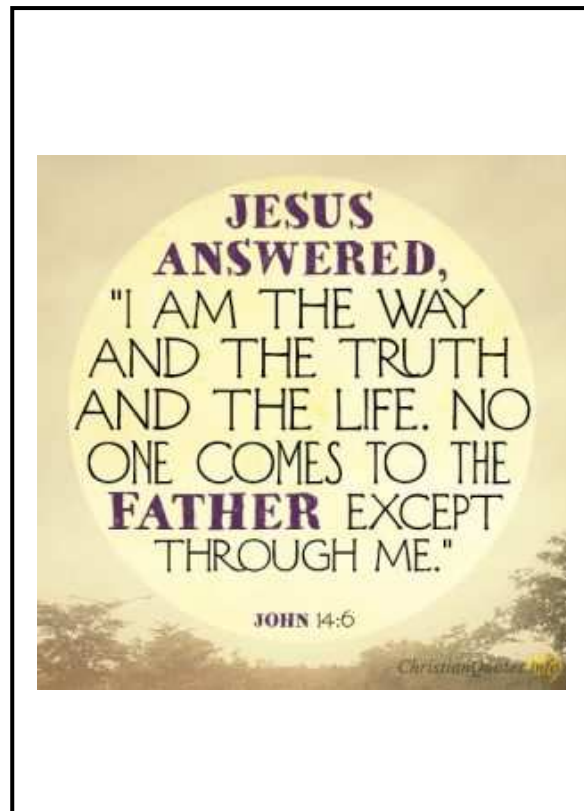
The launch was attended by church leaders, journalists, Peers and 87 MPs, including Vince Cable MP, leader of the Liberal Democrats, Liam Fox MP, Secretary of State for International Trade, and Owen Smith MP, amongst others.

Stephen Timms MP says, "What's striking about Open Doors and the World Watch List initiative is just how much support there is for it from our constituents."



*Lisa Pearce CEO of Open Doors and Theresa Villiers MP at the launch of the World Watch List in Parliament*

If you want to find out more about Open Doors and the World Watch List <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/stories/wwl-180105/>



**To quarrel with a neighbour is foolish; a man with good sense holds his tongue.**

**Prov.11:12**

### Easter Morning Sunrise Service

The Easter Morning Sunrise service will take place on the beach by the 360 cafe opposite St. Helens at 6 am. The service will last 45 mins ( approx.) All are welcome to join with Christians throughout our city and celebrate our risen Lord.

After the service Zacs place off St Helens road provide breakfast for any who wish to go there. It's a great event that usually draws over 100 from many different churches across the city.

### Holy Week and Easter Services 2018

Church	Maundy Thursday March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday March 30 <sup>th</sup>
Sketty	Rev Leslie Noon S 7.30p.m	Rev Leslie Noon 2.30p.m
Brunswick	Rev S Mugadzaweta S 7.00p.m inc. Foot/Hand Washing	Rev S Mugadzaweta 10.30am 1pm Churches Together Walk of Witness in the City
Pitton & Horton	at Murton	at Murton or Reynoldston
Clydach	at Sketty/Wesley	at Morriston
Mumbles	Rev Howard Long S 7.45p.m	Rev Howard Long 10.00a.m followed by 11.00a.m Open Air Witness on Mumbles Green (Oystermouth Square)
Wesley	Rev Howard Long S 6.00p.m	Christwell URC at 10.30a.m
Murton	Rev Andrew Walker 5.00p.m S 6.15p.m Fellowship Meal	Rev Andrew Walker 9.30a.m
Reynoldston	at Murton	11a.m Churches Together Walk of Witness to Cefn Bryn
Morriston	at Brunswick	9 am Churches Together Walk of Witness

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path

Ps.119:105