

CONNECT

The Magazine of the Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit

Summer 2017

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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 7th August.

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One Giant Leap for Muscular Dystrophy

On Saturday 6th May Janet Neilson, a member at Uniting Church Sketty flew through the skies at 100mph to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy UK.

Janet was attached to Europe's longest zip line stretching over a mile long and 500 ft above the slate quarry and reservoir at Penrhyn, Bethesda, North Wales.

Janet completed the zip wire challenge in memory of her mother and several other relatives who lived with Facioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy. So far she has raised £4000. Read her story on page 4.



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news in brief

Uniting Church Sketty

Abby Players Concert – ‘Songs from the Shows’ Friday
30th June at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £5 at the door.
Saturday Coffee Mornings – 1st July, 5th August and
2nd September.

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 every month.

Mumbles

Theo’s Coffee Shop open daily 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Wednesday Lunchtime Worship – 12.15 p.m.

Wesley

Bible Study every Tuesday 10.00 a.m.
Lite Bites – every Thursday 12 noon – 2.00 p.m.

Clydach

“Tea and Hymns” at Capel y Nant on 19th July at
2.15 p.m. organised by Ty Croeso (tbc)
Ecumenical Service on Sunday 6th August at 2.00 p.m.
at Clydach Cricket Ground

Penlan

Special Sunday Evening services will take place on
25th June, 23rd July and 20th August.

Murton

Coffee mornings will be held at the church every
Tuesday from 10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

Horton

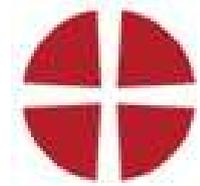
Annual Mini Market/Coffee Evening in Horton Village
Hall on Thursday 3rd August at 7.30 p.m. Entry £1
includes refreshments. Children free.

Fundraising for Zambuko Ra Jehovah

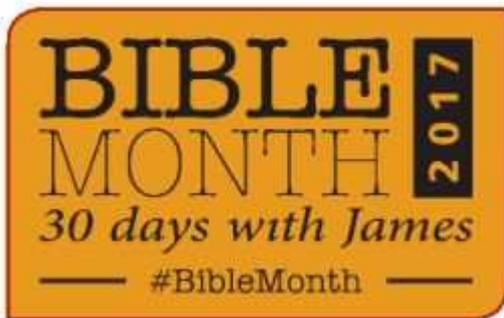
A supper and Bible quiz will be held at Murton Hall
on 22nd September. Supper tickets £10, plus £1
entry for quiz. Please put date in your diaries now -
more details to follow.



Message from the Superintendent



Welcome to the Summer edition of Connect which is full of interesting information concerning the work of the Methodist Church here in Swansea and throughout the connexion.



The Methodist Church has designated this month (June 2017) as a special Bible month when churches and circuits throughout the UK will be concentrating on the New Testament book of James.

Why James? Well it's a short, snappy and challenging book full of wisdom about how to best live as a follower of Jesus. It's also a letter that has a lot to say to us about holiness and justice which has been the theme that the President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference have promoted this past year. For the author of James, holiness without just living is an impossibility – 'faith without works is dead' (James 2 v 26).

The verse 'faith without works is dead' has sometimes been taken out of context in an attempt to create a works-based system of righteousness. James is not saying that our works make us righteous before God, but he is making it clear that real saving faith is demonstrated by good works. Works are not the cause but the evidence of salvation. James challenges us as followers of Jesus to live out our faith, demonstrating it by good deeds.

This magazine is full of stories of Christians getting involved in their local communities and going the extra mile, be that raising money for charity, supporting the homeless or digging a garden. Every day we are given the opportunity to put our faith into practice and love our neighbour. Our father in God John Wesley wrote 'Do all the good you can by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can for as long as ever you can.'

I commend Bible month to you and encourage you to get involved whenever and wherever you can. I know it will be a real blessing for us all.

I want to close my message by paying tribute to Rev Peter Dolling and Mr Bernard Gwyther who have both passed away recently and are now with the Lord.

Peter began his ministry as a missionary in the Church of South India where he was responsible for 70 churches scattered over a 30 mile radius of Tamil Nadu. He returned to the UK and served in many different circuits including Swansea and Gower in the early 80's. Ably supported by his wife Pauline, Peter had a very powerful preaching and pastoral ministry. They retired to live in Penclawdd in 1997 and played a full and active part in the life of our Reynoldston chapel.

Bernard was a member of our Mumbles church since the early 60's and was church treasurer for 30+ years as well as serving as church steward on four occasions. He served as a circuit steward in the 1980's and circuit treasurer from 2011.

The contribution that both men have made to our church has been immense. We give God thanks for their lives and ministry amongst us. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Howard

We must take the world as we find it; it is a happiness permitted to very few to choose their company.

Susanna Wesley

IT IS OVER

Just before Christmas I decided to do a tandem sky dive from Fairwood, in aid of Muscular Dystrophy UK, in memory of my mother. I set up a Just Giving page on Facebook and money started to roll in.

About six weeks before I was due to do the sky dive I phoned the airport. Strange, they had no record of me being signed in to do the sky dive on February 26th. I should have made an appointment to meet the chief flying instructor to be passed to do a safe landing before I started fund raising. Straight away I went to the airport, met the instructor and failed the safe landing test! My leg muscles were too weak for me to raise them high enough to ensure a safe landing. He gave me muscle strengthening exercises to do and asked me to return. I did the exercises for three weeks. Time was really running out by now. I returned to the airport, met the instructor and failed the test again. He told me to continue doing them and return in three months. I was absolutely gutted! I drove home in a daze. What was the point in doing the exercises for another three months if I was going to fail again?



I knew that MD UK was organising for groups to do a zip wire in North Wales in May. I had to do something as people were sponsoring me. Some had donated anonymously so I couldn't

contact them to ask if they wanted their money returned. The zip wire was for the same charity. All the people I was able to contact agreed I could keep the money. PHEW!!! I enrolled to do the zip wire. It appeared that no medical checks were necessary.

Money continued to roll in.....BUT.....

Why did I do it?

I must have been mad, because I really didn't enjoy it at all! I suppose I could have done another sponsored event, such as going to various cafes to test out their cream teas. But then I would have had to do a sponsored walk to help lose all the weight I would have gained.

I could do the zip wire, I thought, but I really didn't think it through carefully enough.

It didn't help that my harness needed adjusting. I stood on the edge of the step, my harness was adjusted. I lay horizontally, hanging in mid air....my harness wasn't right. I stood up and it was re-adjusted. This happened four times. Eventually I set off, with a man who also lived in Swansea. He had been kept waiting, hanging in mid air, whilst my harness was adjusted! And, suddenly, it was all over. The eagle had landed. I then had to be unhooked. I grabbed the pole which was held at the other end by one of the helpers, to steady me. Another helper tried to unhook me. That pole didn't work. He got a longer pole, that didn't work. He got the longest pole. That worked after some effort. All this time I was hanging horizontally!

Eventually my feet touched the ground. They unhooked me and I had to make my way down a hill of slippery pieces of old slate, back to the reception area. The camera on my helmet which filmed my descent was taken off and I was handed a memory card. I took off the harness and suit and off I set back to the car.

The following day I arrived home. Eager to see the video of my descent, I put the memory card into my computer.....nothing.....just a black screen. Oh no, I thought, the man from Swansea didn't turn on the camera properly for me. With the memory card was another tiny memory card, but it wouldn't fit any of the equipment I had at home.

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I don't think much of man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday.

Abraham Lincoln

(continued from page 4)

The next day I took both cards to Colliers photographic shop in the Uplands. If anyone could do anything Neil was the man.

When I returned the following day there was the video on his screen. The tiny memory card fitted into the larger memory/reader card! How was I to know that, without any instructions?

Anyway, all's well that ends well. I have raised nearly £4,000 for research into Facioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy thanks to the generosity of many people in Uniting Church Sketty and our circuit, my family, former pupils from Parkland, girls I was in Glanmor with and other friends. I raised about £1,000 for each 30 seconds I was in the air.

Takk, as we would say in Norway.

Now all I need to do is tend to my aching muscles.

Janet Neilson

Half Term Holiday Fun



At Mumbles Methodist Church we always look forward to our Holiday Clubs. In May half term children from our church and the local community came along to find out all about Moses through stories, games and crafts.

We had lots of fun and laughter and everybody really enjoyed themselves. We made Moses baskets, dressed up like Pharaoh's, made burning bushes and even parted the red sea!

Thank you so much to everybody who helped out and enabled the holiday club to take place.

Please can friends from the Circuit help with an event I am organising. Do you know any talented young performers who would like to take part in an informal Carnival Cabaret? On Sunday 9th July from 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. at Pennard Playing Fields Carnival Marquee.

Summer Celebration of Young Musicians and Performers

During a rolling programme starting at 1 pm, local young musicians, vocalists, poets and performers will share their talents with us. No judges or panel to impress, just an informal afternoon to showcase aspiring local talent. Refreshments available. Bring along a picnic lunch or drop in to the marquee from 1 pm to hear some talented local young people take to the stage!

To enter, or to find out more, please call Andy Walker 01792 232867 or e.mail andrew.walker@methodist.org.uk



Better the storm with Christ than smooth waters without Him.

Engaging with the Easter Story through film and play

In Sketty in the weeks just before and just after Easter, we had the opportunity to engage with the Easter Story in ways that made us think, that moved us, and brought us to discussion. It's always a positive thing, when stories which are so familiar that they can lose their impact on us, can be brought to us in new ways.

- A group of us went to see the *Son of Man* play at the Dylan Thomas theatre. When this was first released on the BBC many many years ago, it was, we learnt, very controversial. So we took the opportunity to go to the play and make up our own minds! In the group, there were mixed reactions: although we all enjoyed it, some found it more moving and stimulating than others. Certainly the dialogues given by Jesus were powerful (if somewhat long!). Generally however, we failed to see why it was so controversial – we were told that some churches in Swansea had been told by their leaders not to go and see it. This we failed to understand!
- A group of us watched the film *Risen*, and then had an opportunity to discuss it in our Reel to Real group. The film, released last year, was made from the point of view of a Roman soldier, and shot in locations to make it look like first century Palestine. Again, as you would expect, there were mixed reactions to the film, but as always, the discussion that followed helped us to consider more closely how we view the life and ministry of Jesus, and in particular his life and death.



Rev Leslie

Caring for Ourselves and for Others

A Quiz and Curry Evening was supported by over 70 people of varying ages and equally importantly, a variety of interests. The professional but fun quiz was provided by Ian and Judith McCloy and the yummy food by the Mumbai restaurant. A lovely evening was had by all and we raised **£500 for our church funds**.



A concert given by the **Gwalia Singers**, with **organ entertainment by Alan Sykes**, (both of whom gave their services free) proved to be a very happy and enjoyable evening. Sincere thanks to those from the circuit who joined us to support **Hands Up For Downs**. The latter is a local charity which supports families who have children with Down's Syndrome in the Swansea Area. The charity was delighted to receive the **£1400** profit from this event.

Jan Chaplin

News from our Clydach Chapel

We may have one of the smallest memberships in the Circuit (14), but our impact is out of all proportion to our size. For instance, the Wesley Guild under Marilyn Harry's leadership, recently held their annual Spring Fair, and raised over £750. This is just one of the Guild's many fund-raising activities during the year, and all the money is used to buy toys for the Mr X appeal. Thanks to all who supported.

Incidentally, our services are at 3pm, so if you are free Sunday afternoons, and don't have an evening service, why not come out and spend the afternoon in the Swansea Valley: join us for worship, and then enjoy a walk along the Swansea canal. The sun is always shining up here!

Alan Cram

You need not cry very loud; He is nearer to us than we think.

Brother Lawrence

Easter Garden

At Sketty this Easter, some very talented people created a very large Easter Garden at the front of the Church. This really added to the atmosphere and emotion of our Holy Week and Easter services.

When we came to church on Good Friday, the garden was bare, with three simple wooded crosses. During a moving service, we were invited to come to the front with a twig we had all been given. As a symbol of our penitence, and acknowledging our part in the way Jesus is still crucified daily, we broke our twig into pieces onto the garden.



However, by Easter morning, when we came to church, the garden had been transformed! Alleluia, Christ is risen! Although the broken twigs were still there, the flowers and the pathway to the empty tomb (which was lit with nightlights) reminded us of new life. When we came up for communion – and the bread and the wine were incorporated into the garden, we each took a flower and we decorated a large cross, as a symbol that we also are offered new life in Christ.

Rev Leslie

Schools mark the 70th Anniversary of the SS Samtampa & Mumbles Lifeboat Disaster

This year saw the 70th Anniversary of a tragedy which took place on the rocks at Sker Point Porthcawl when the 39 crew of the SS Samtampa and the eight men of the Mumbles Lifeboat 'Edward Prince of Wales' lost their lives.

Mumbles Lifeboat Crew who lost their lives in the 1947 disaster



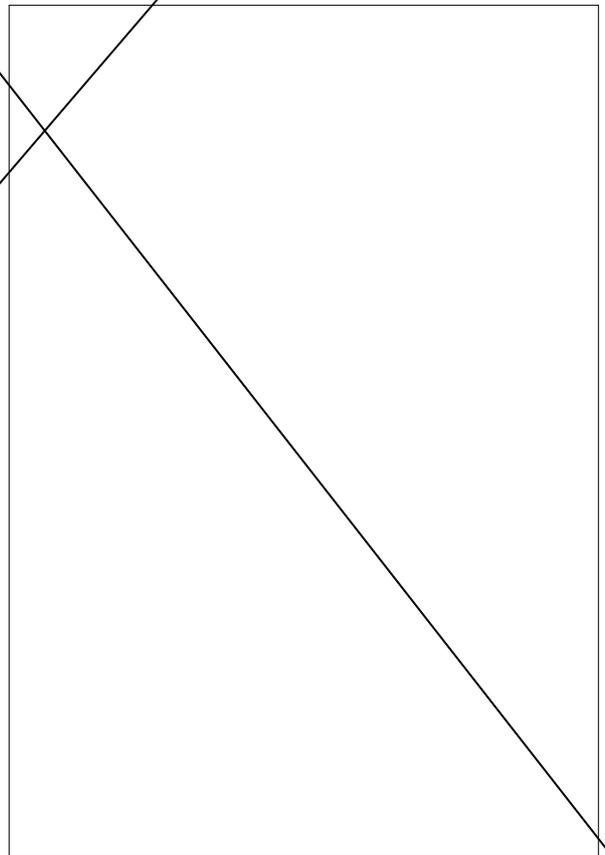
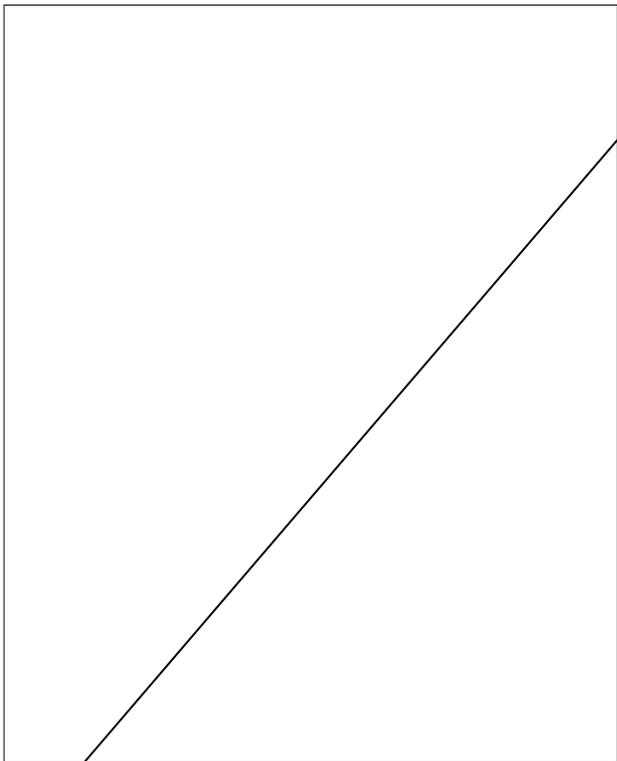
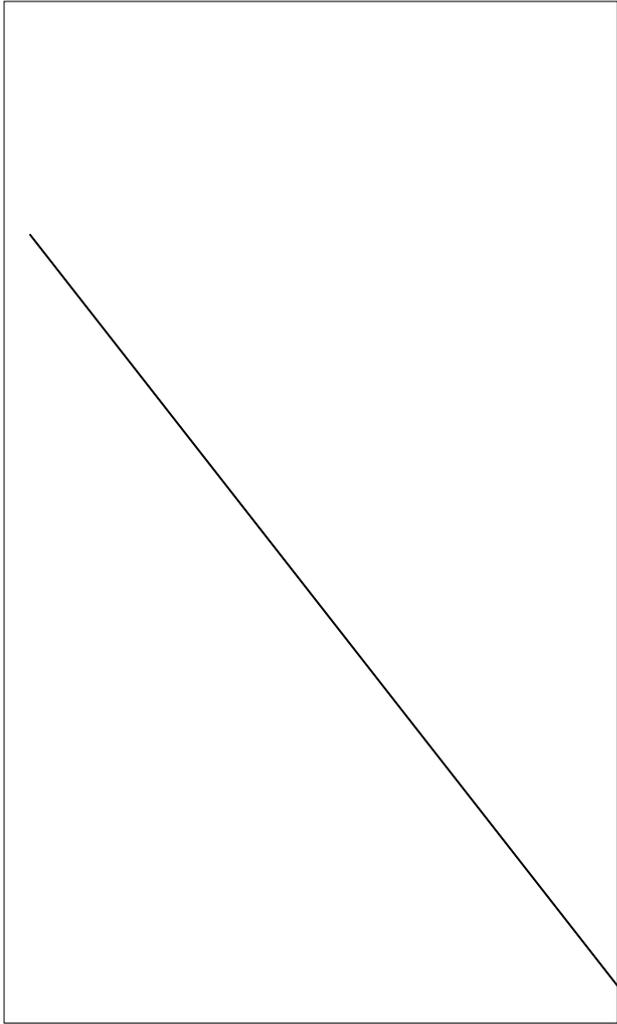
Coxwain William J Gammon, 2nd Coxwain, William Noel, 1st mechanic Gilbert Davies, 2nd Mechanic Ernest Griffin, Bowman William Thomas, William Howell, Ronald Thomas, Richard Smith

For the last year, Rev Jean Humpreys, a Methodist Supernumerary minister in Porthcawl, has been working with teachers in Oystermouth Primary School and Whitestone Primary School, West Cross, Swansea not only to commemorate the disaster but also to make it known in the areas involved; Mumbles, Porthcawl and Middlesbrough, where the majority of the crew were from.

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God made you as you are in order to use you as He planned.

S.C.McAuley



Closer is He than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Sing To Your Heart's Content

How do we relate to "singing"? Some folks may answer, "I can't sing for toffee", or perhaps, "I'm not able to sing even one note", or maybe "I can't keep in tune"!

All of these comments may be true, but what a delight to hear someone who can really sing! It uplifts the spirit, can be soothing to the ear, a real spiritual blessing to the soul, or really very evocative, bringing back many memories! A "trained singer" can be just wonderful to listen to, but even if not "trained", music can come "straight from the heart", and "touch" people in so many ways! We mustn't forget venues the World over who hold concerts, etc. and the singing just "raises the roof" at times (not literally of course)!

Unaccompanied singing can be very enthralling, and of course, accompanied by a musical instrument or even an orchestra can be equally overwhelmingly beautiful to listen to!



How about "Birdsong". Surely there can be nothing sweeter ever heard than that of the "Nightingale's song"? Or waking up in the morning to garden birds trilling out their tunes! Our God of miracles not only formed us humans, but also surrounded us with such marvellous nature!

And what about the "skirl of the pipes" in a "Pipe Band", with kilts swinging as they march along. Wonderful! At least to some ears! Then there's The Salvation Army Bands! Amazing music sounds forth from their instruments! Also, lots of folks enjoy listening to "Brass Bands". They always create such a stirring sound to the ear! I could go on and on about all types of music – not enough space here, I'm afraid!



I'm sure there will have been thousands, if not millions of "music scores" produced by composers, etc. over the centuries. However, I would just like to comment here about "Hymn Books" in particular, containing so many wonderful hymns, written by some equally wonderful hymn-writers, not forgetting "composers of the tunes"! I've come to love and respect many of these well-loved hymns over the years! As in concert halls, etc. congregations in churches the World over also "make a joyful noise to the Lord" through their wonderful singing!

The first Hymn book I ever sung from in the congregation of the Church of Scotland, situated in the village of Dreghorn, Ayrshire, where I grew up, was "The Church of Scotland Hymn Book". I don't know when this was first published, but definitely very many years ago, before the 1940s.

When I became a member of the Church of the Nazarene in Irvine, Ayrshire, in 1960, their current hymn book was "Redemption Hymnal, published 1951, revised 1955, and re-printed in 1958, and again as recently as 2015. I was very impressed by this hymn book, so much so that the Pastor at that time went to the trouble of going to Glasgow to procure a "music edition" for me! How I loved to play hymns from that hymn book, and to this day, still do! The "flyleaf" states: *"To Irene on her 17th birthday, 19th August 1951, From Mum and Dad with love!"* What a precious possession of mine, along of course with my "upright" piano, sacrificially purchased for me by my parents when I was just 10 years old, brand new from the "Co-op"! When I came to live in Wales in 1970, after my marriage to Doug (my Welsh Husband) on 4th July 1970, I was eventually able to have my piano transported to my home here in Morrision, Swansea. What an exciting and wonderful occasion that was!

Am I digressing? Perhaps so, and I apologise, but let me just tell you a bit about some more wonderful hymn books in my possession. I have a copy of "Glorious Gospel Hymns, published 1931 by Nazarene Publishing House, Kansas City, U.S.A. Also, "Sacred Songs and Solos"

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The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

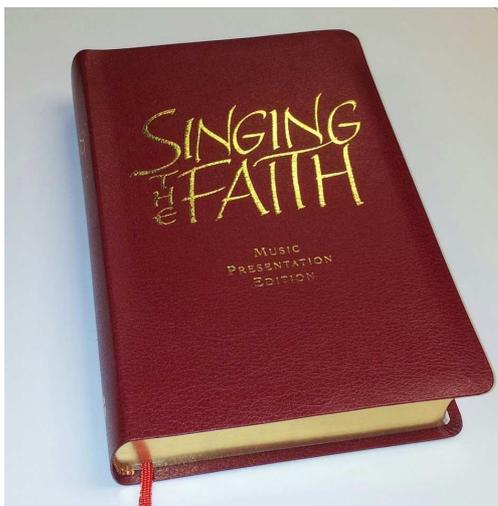
Romans 6:23

(continued from page 7)

compiled under the direction of Ira D. Sankey, the one-time great sacred songs' singer. Mr. Sankey would sing all the "old time favourites", while his friend D.L. Moody would preach at all their wonderful conventions, etc. On the flyleaf of this particular hymn book are the words "May The Giver And The Receiver Meet in Heaven". What a beautiful inscription, don't you think? This book was given to my Mum by my lovely Uncle Joe in 1956. Uncle Joe was at that time the organist of the Baptist Church in Irvine, who taught me the "rudiments of music"! He was a qualified music teacher, but not as an "examiner". I therefore never sat any examinations in music. Although regretting this, "never say never"!

More recent editions of certain Hymn Books still in circulation are "Mission Praise" and "Songs of Fellowship", which some readers may already know of, or even possess.

In the Methodist Church of which I'm a member here in Morriston (and by the way, the current church organist), we had at the time of my arrival in 1970, "The Methodist Hymn Book", published in the year 1933. This was followed by "Hymns and Psalms" in 1984. The latest hymn book we're using is "Singing the Faith", published in 2011. I just love the "new tunes" and "new words" throughout this recent hymn book, e.g. Scottish Tunes, i.e. "The Eriskay Love Lilt", "The Skye Boat Song", "Ye Banks and Braes", and "Kelvingrove" to name but a few! As a Scots Lass, I'm naturally biased!



Nowadays, overhead screens are seen in many churches – not ours as yet! Hence no hymn books are needed – just look up!

Let me finish this account by mentioning that my "all time favourite" hymn book has to be "The Billy Graham Song Book" compiled by Cliff Barrows for the "All-Scotland Dr. Billy Graham Crusade" in Glasgow, 1955! I was very privileged to attend two of Dr. Graham's Crusade Meetings in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, with my Mum, during his 1955 crusade. What a very far-reaching effect Dr. Graham's Crusades have had all over the World. I'm sure many of you will recall these wonderful, uplifting and challenging meetings, and perhaps have even been present on one or more occasion.

I'd urge you to seek out some of the foregoing hymn books if possible. I'm sure some of them are still in circulation, or obtainable through "Archives".

I'd like to leave you by quoting the lines of the first verse of that awe-inspiring and very challenging words of Dr. Graham's famous "Altar-call hymn":

*Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me;
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee.
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

My prayer is that we will "answer the call" and give our lives to the One who gave His life for us!

"KEEP SINGING"!

**Irene Dendle, Morriston, Swansea
4th May 2017**



Staying calm is the best way to take the wind out of an angry person's sails.

PwC Community Day supporting Swansea Sail at Penlan



The Swansea branch of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) accounting/consulting firm have chosen Action For Children project Swansea Sail as their charity for 2017.

One day a year PwC employees leave their desks and computers and provide practical help to their chosen charity. Last year they laid a path in Penllergare Valley Woods and in 2015 raised awareness of Maggie's Cancer Centre by delivering leaflets in the community.

On Friday 19th May, twenty PwC employees helped transform the grounds at our Penlan church where the Action For Children Swansea Sail project is based. The outside children's play area fence was painted and the flowerbeds and borders were tidied up. Everyone worked really hard and did a great job.

In order to keep the grounds and garden looking nice at Penlan Rev Howard Long is organising regular gardening days. If you would like to help please let him know. (Tel 366712)



The desire to fulfil the purpose for which we were created is a gift from God.

A.W.Tozer

The Methodist Conference



The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church under God. It has responsibility for the government, discipline, management and administration of the life of the Church. Members of the Conference hold a trustee responsibility. The Conference is also a place for worship, thanksgiving, ordination and celebration.

The business of the Conference is done by seeking the will of God through conferring together. Members of the Conference are representatives, not delegates.

The 2017 Conference will take place from Thursday 22 June - Thursday 29 June at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole at the National Exhibition Centre, Pendigo Way, Birmingham

The President and Vice-President

Each year at the Methodist Conference, the following year's President (always an ordained presbyter) and Vice-President (always a lay person or deacon) are elected.

John Wesley himself was the original President of the Methodist Conference, but after his death it was agreed that in future, so much authority would not be placed in the hands of one person. Instead, the President would be elected for one year only, to sit in Wesley's chair.

When lay people were admitted to the Conference in 1878, a lay Vice-President was also elected, and the two now serve in partnership.

The President and Vice-President follow Wesley's example in travelling the length and breadth of Great Britain. They preach widely and contribute articles to the Methodist press, often choosing a particular emphasis or theme for their year. They represent Methodism in the wider world.

Former Presidents and Vice-Presidents often

continue to exercise influence in senior Methodist committees and decision making bodies.



Outgoing Vice President Rachel Lampard and President Rev Roger Walton



President and Vice President designate Rev Loraine Mellor and Jill Baker

Open Day at Riverside Middleton Rhossili

Saturday 24th June 2017

Supporting a Women's Sewing Project and a Village Primary School in South India (charity no 111652)

Coffee and teas from 10.30am
Wonderful lunches 12-2.30pm
Afternoon teas 3-4.30pm

Raffle, Cake stall, Plants, Books.
All are welcome! as are donations for all the stalls.

Contact: Rev Gill Evans 01792 390527

God won't send us where He is unable to sustain us!

One More Step



It's five years now since a group of us in Clydach received the offer of a shop on the High Street, initially rent free and then on a very reasonable rent, to start an outreach project in the village. This became Ty Croeso, a small cafe-style venue which hosts a variety of activities and services, including branches of the Swansea Foodbank and the Neath Port Talbot Credit Union.

We're currently looking at registering as a charity, a significant step forward for us after very small steps forward and at least one period of uncertainty as to whether we'd be able to continue. We rely on a group of about 20 volunteers (mainly Christians from local churches, but also a few of other faiths/no faith). It costs us around £4,500 per annum to keep going. We've been very fortunate in receiving a number of very good grants lately, but always need to keep checking out new sources, some of whom only give to registered charities.

A new project that attracted a special grant is a seated exercise class. That may sound easy but it's quite a 'workout', strengthening just about every muscle in the body, but accessible to those with, for example, knee problems or MS.



The vocal chords are exercised at the bi-monthly 'Tea and Hymns' sessions which have become popular with the local care home residents and others: last month around 20 residents were brought in by staff from 3 care homes. "Tea and Hymns" involves about half an hour of hymns, sometimes with a reading from Scripture or poetry, and then tea and cakes provided by one or other of the local congregations. It's held in the newly refurbished hall of Capel y Nant, where our small "Wesley" congregation meets on Sunday afternoons. The next one on Wednesday June 14th at 2.15 p.m.: do come and join us!

Thanks to all the groups and individuals who continue to support this small venture. Please pray for us as we continue to take steps forward in service to the Clydach area.

Pam Cram (Chair, Ty Croeso)

Easter Celebration Cream Tea



On Wednesday 29th March the Lamplighter Community Café in Bishopston hosted members of the Murton Methodist Ladies, Tuesday Guild where they enjoyed a cream tea and a cuppa. Not only did we have a good natter, but we also enjoyed the opportunity to do a little retail therapy too! The Lamplighter is a non-profit making café, book shop and meeting place and retailer of local and fair trade gifts and produce.

For knowledge to become wisdom and for the soul to grow, the soul must be rooted in God.

Mountford

Chirp for Joy



Methodist relief and development

As this magazine goes to print everything's growing in the garden and baby birds are chirping for food from their worn out looking parents. In no time at all it'll be our harvest celebrations, and this year All We Can are inviting us to 'Chirp for Joy' at God's creation. The resources will focus on a community in Zimbabwe, once the 'bread basket of Africa, but where people now struggle to survive. The contrast between the lush green of South Wales and some of the pictures coming out of drought stricken African nations is very stark at the moment. As you make your preparations for Harvest please consider helping All We Can to make a difference to families in Zimbabwe.

All We Can has launched a new church partner scheme, which in 2017-18 will also involve communities in Zimbabwe. You could continue to think and pray about this nation in this way, committing to support them throughout next year and receiving news and messages every quarter. All We Can have produced a film and resources to inspire you and you could ask for a speaker to visit your church.

The appeal launched in February for the victims of the famine in East Africa raised an amazing £345,000 in two months. This has been used in South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia and Ethiopia to treat those who are already severely malnourished; to distribute nutritional food such as sorghum, beans and cooking oil; and to help prepare communities for future food insecurity. Thank you to those who responded to that appeal.

All We Can (formerly Methodist Relief and Development Fund) is a pioneering international development, relief and advocacy organisation that believes in the power of partnership. Their stated purpose is to help people to find solutions to poverty and become

all that they can, by investing in partnerships that improve quality of life and create positive, long-term change in some of the world's poorest communities.



Pam (All We Can Circuit Representative) and Alan Cram (an All We Can Speaker)

Morrison Plant Sale on May 27th raised over £500 for church funds



(left to right) Malcolm selling a hanging basket to Mrs Win Hawkins

Thank you

In mid May, Rev Andy Walker completed a challenging but exhilarating ride from Holyhead to Chester along the North Wales coast, with Snowdonia as a breathtaking backdrop for much of the way. In doing so he raised around £600 to be split between Christian Aid and Ogof Adullum. A detailed account will appear in the September edition of Connect, but Rev Andy would like to express his sincere thanks and gratitude to all who supported him with generous sponsorship!

Without doubt the mightiest thought the mind can entertain is the thought of God.

A.W.Tozer

Renewing the Covenant



left to right, Robat Powell, Austin Bradley, Alan Cram, Rev. Leslie Noon, Martin Gregson, Rev. Jenny Hurd and Rev. Dewi Hughes.

The annual service to renew the Covenant agreement between Wesley at Clydach and Capel y Nant was held on Sunday 28th May.

The Covenant was first signed in 2010 and each year we have a bilingual service at which we commit ourselves afresh to the central commitment.

This year the invited preacher was the Rev. Jenny Hurd, Chair of Synod Cymru, the Welsh language district covering the whole of Wales in parallel with our English language Wales Synod.

The service was led jointly by Rev. Leslie Noon and Mr Robat Powell. Austin Bradley, our oldest member, read an account of the Ascension of Christ and Rev Dewi Hughes read Jesus' prayer for the unity of his disciples from John's Gospel. Jenny reflected on: 'Who am I? Who are you? and Who is Jesus'.

Everyone took home with them a friendship bracelet with the name of someone present attached so that we can pray for that person during the coming year.

Alan Cram

Walk of Witness in Swansea City Centre by UNITAS

On the 14 April 2017 members of UNITAS Churches Together in Central Swansea came together for their Good Friday walk of witness.

The walk was from St Mary's Church Swansea

to Oxford Street with a few stops in between where appropriate Bible passages were read. Members of the public were encouraged to join the walk as we held up a banner that read 'Come and join fellow Christians in a walk of witness - Follow the Cross'.

When we arrived at Oxford Street we joined the Salvation Army band for a short act of worship that included singing some traditional Good Friday hymns. It was good to see a good number of people in the city centre stop and join us.



After the worship we walked back to St Marys Church where we were dismissed with a word of prayer and a blessing.

It was really good Christian witness.

Siperire Mugadzaweta

Visit to Brunswick by Mr Charles Palmer, Secretary of the Connexional Property Team



(left to right) Andrew Phillips, Charles Palmer, Huw Davies and Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta

Sin never stands still – it always continues to grow.

Pentecost in the Park



On a beautiful sunny afternoon, after a morning of rain, 60 Christians from many of the churches and chapels in Clydach met to celebrate Pentecost Sunday in Coedgwilym Park. A short, interactive, bilingual service was led this year by members of the RC Church, St Benedicts, who through the effective use of images, as well as word, engaged the “congregation” and challenged us all with the re-telling of the life-changing events for Peter and the other disciples 2000 years ago. The Priest, Father Henry, gave a short address, reflecting on Pentecost but also the recent terrorist attacks in Manchester and London. The service, organised by CYTUN (Churches Together) Clydach, concluded with a bring and share picnic.



Alan Cram

Faith is the inborn capacity to see God behind everything.

Oswald Chambers

Ogof Adullam Update

As many of you will know, there are some structural problems at Brunswick Methodist Church where Ogof Adullam is based. When these problems were first discovered some of our volunteers got together and decided they wanted to raise some money to help with the repair work. In December they did a sponsored walk up Penyfan and raised over £500!



Sadly one of those volunteers, Owain Davies, passed away suddenly in March of this year. Owain was a much loved member of our team at Ogof, he always had a smile on his face and was always ready to help out in any way he could. He is greatly missed by us all and leaves a big hole in the hearts of everybody at the project. We remember him with much love and fondness and are grateful for the many happy memories we have of him. In honour of Owain's memory the volunteers organised another sponsored walk up Penyfan and again raised over £500 for the project, bringing the total to over £1,000. What an amazing effort, thank you all!



We are continuing to see the number of guests grow and we now have between 40-50 people accessing the project each evening we are open. All are given a hot meal and refreshments and there is always a great family atmosphere there.



Unfortunately, we are unable to accept any clothing donations at the moment (other than clean underwear) due to storage issues.

We are also recruiting more volunteers and comprehensive volunteer training will be carried out in September. If you would like to find out more information please telephone us on 07919 053732 or email ogofadullam@gmail.com.

If anybody would like to visit the project to see the work that goes on there we are open Mon, Wed and Sat from 5pm-9pm. You would be most welcome and we would love to see you.

Huw and Cerys Davies

Bernard Gwyther

We would like to thank everyone for your loving support and prayers throughout Bernard's illness and our recent bereavement. Thank you for your cards and donations to SPICE and to all who came to the Crematorium and Church Services on 5th May.

With our love, **Linda, Andrew, James and family.**

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It has been an exciting year as the children from the three areas have worked on the project, especially when they came together at the Senedd on May 3rd to share what they had learned with the families of those who had lost their lives, people who were eye-witnesses and those who were hearing of the tragedy for the first time.



Children from Oystermouth School with their teacher Mrs Caroline Morgan (also a member at Mumbles) and Rev Howard Long

The Samtampa and Edward Prince of Wales tragedy on April 23, 1947, was the greatest loss of civilian life off the Welsh coast in modern times.



The wreck of the Samtampa and the Edward Price of Wales Lifeboat

Never confuse the will of the majority with the will of God.

Charles Colson