

CONNECT

The Magazine of the Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit

Summer 2018

GOING FOR GROWTH in PENLAN

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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 3rd September 2018

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Penlan Methodist Church is the home of a new Community Garden. Kathy Lewis and her husband Mike, along with other friends throughout the Methodist circuit are working with local people to transform unused waste space into a garden the church and community can be proud of.

Working with Action for Children and support coming from Grow Local Swansea, the Andrews Trust and friends kindly donating everything from a 25ft Polytunnel to plants and compost, the garden is really starting to take shape.

Superintendent Minister Rev Howard Long said, 'The garden is growing but so are other areas of church life as we work in partnership with others wherever possible. We hope that friends throughout the circuit will be able to come along to our garden party on Thursday 19th July at 12noon when the community garden will be officially opened.'

If anyone is interested in helping with the garden please come along on a Tuesday from 11.00 a.m. (weather permitting).

**Swansea and Gower
Methodist Circuit**



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The Swansea and Gower Methodist
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news in brief

Uniting Church Sketty

Abbey Players present 'Songs from the Shows' on
Friday 6th July 7.30pm
Coffee Mornings will take place on the first Saturday of
every month 10 a.m. – 12noon supporting charities

Brunswick

FAN 'Friends and Neighbours' every Wednesday at
10.30 a.m.
Intercessory Prayer Meeting every Wednesday at
4.00p.m
Coffee mornings on the last Saturday of every month.

Mumbles

Theo's Coffee Shop - open daily until 4.30 p.m.
Wednesday Lunchtime Worship 12.15 p.m.
Summer Book Sale – 18th to 25th August

Wesley

Bible Study every Tuesday 10.00.a.m.
Lite Bites – Every Thursday 12-2.00 p.m.
Asian Fellowship – 3.30 p.m. 1st and 3rd Sundays of
every month

Penlan

Gardening Project every Tuesday from 12 noon.
Weather permitting
Every Monday in Term Time – After School Meal and
Play 3.30 p.m. (Booking Required)

Clydach

United Service on the Village Green followed by bring
and share tea on Sunday 22nd July at 3pm organised
by CYTUN

Horton

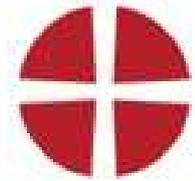
A Coffee evening and Mini-Market will be held in
Horton Village Hall on Thursday 2nd August at 7.30 pm.
All proceeds to church and other funds.

Murton

Coffee Morning every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the
Wesley Room
The weekly Summer coffee morning and Book Sale will
commence on Thursday July 12th and continue until
August 30th. Freshly made Welsh Cakes will once
again be on sale (baked while you wait!). This event will
take place at the front of the chapel, weather
permitting, otherwise in the porch, from 10.30 a.m. until
12 noon.



Message from the Superintendent



How many meetings have I been in discussing how the church can outreach in the community? There have been too many to mention. We formulate plans, discuss strategy and even attend day seminars and conferences where we hear people who are skilled in mission and outreach tell us how it's done.

It reminds me of a story told by Darrell W. Robinson, in his book 'People Sharing Jesus'

He wrote 'Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact, the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry.

Week after week, month after month, and year after year, these who called themselves fishermen met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing means, defended fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing is always to be a primary task of fishermen.

These fishermen built large, beautiful buildings called "Fishing Headquarters." The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they didn't do, however: They didn't fish'

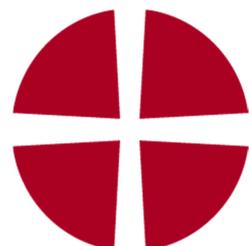
It's a very thought provoking story and one that should cause us as churches and individuals to ask Are we like that? I think that if we are honest with ourselves we would have to say that we are. Outreach doesn't come easy but something very interesting has happened at Penlan over the last few months. Instead of the church attempting to reach out to people in the community, the people in the community have reached out to the church.

In April I received a message through the Penlan Facebook site from a group of 'mams' who wanted to work with the church and offer something positive to families in the community.



A new parent and toddler group run by Action for Children has started and a Messy Church is planned for later in the year.

It seems to me that when the community reaches out to the church then the church has to be welcoming, adaptable and prepared to change. We have to have a 'can do' rather than a 'can't do' attitude.



Easter Offering 2018



Once again this year we held our annual circuit EASTER OFFERING service. This year it was at Sketty. We thank the folk at Sketty for their welcome and hospitality. Our preacher was Win Hawkins and we thank her for her clear message, based on this year's theme – SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.

The service was prepared by a team of women from MWiB, with stories from mission partners in Sri Lanka, Israel/Palestine and Japan.

We were asked to pray for the women of Sri Lanka who are mothers, daughters, breadwinners and widows because they have been left with the scars of the 30 year war between the Sinhalese and Tamils.

In Israel/Palestine the story reminded us of the difficulties experienced by a Christian family of farmers from Bethlehem. Daoud, one of the sons of the family said, "We face many difficulties – but Jesus faced the cross for us, and then came the resurrection. We will continue our journey for justice and peace – with faith, love and hope."

Our story from Japan was about Hinako Ogawa, a third generation atomic bomb survivor. In school she has become actively involved in the Peace Studies Club. In 2015 she was selected as one of the Peace Messengers, who took 160,000 signatures to the UN headquarters in Geneva. The group's motto is: "Our efforts are humble, but we are not powerless!"

This year, the amount raised as a circuit was £2,091.71 (2017 - £2,578.77), a decrease of £487.06, however, this is without GIFT AID being claimed, as individual churches have to do this. Considering the times in which we live, this is another fantastic amount raised. Since 2000, we have raised £32,198.68 towards the work of the WORLD MISSION FUND, so a very sincere thank you to everyone who contributes year by year to EASTER OFFERING.

Rev Pam Cram has "volunteered" to take over from me when I relinquish the reins next year, so thank you, Pam.

Janet M Neilson

Refuse to be discouraged

Refuse to be discouraged when the storm clouds come your way,
But trust that in tomorrow you'll find a brighter day.
Refuse to be discouraged when you're faced with doubts and fears,
But keep on pressing onward for the joy beyond the tears.
Refuse to be discouraged, and in time you'll understand
That if you keep believing, things may work out just as planned.

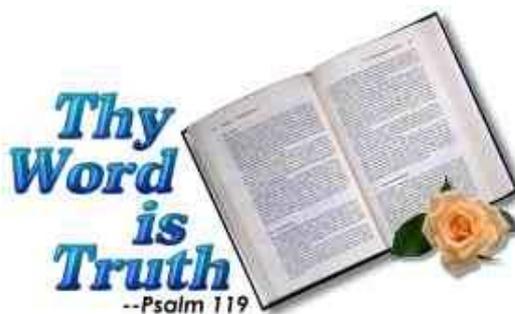
Amanda Bradley

How to use the Bible

When in sorrow, read *John 14*
When men fail you, read *Psalm 27*
When you have sinned, read *Psalm 51*
When you worry, read *Matthew 6:19-34*
When you are in danger, read *Psalm 91*
When God seems far away, read *Psalm 139*
When you are discouraged, read *Isaiah 40*
When doubt comes upon you, try *John 7:17*
When you are lonely, read *Psalm 23*
When you forget your blessings, read *Psalm 103*
When your faith needs stirring, read *Hebrews 11*
When you feel down and out, read *Romans 8:31-39*
When you want courage for your task, read *Joshua 1*
When the world seems bigger than God, read *Psalm 90*
When you want rest and peace, read *Matthew 11:25-30*
When you want Christian assurance, read *Romans 8:1-30*
When you leave home, read *Psalm 121*
When you grow bitter or critical, read *1 Corinthians 13*
When your prayers grow selfish, read *Psalm 67*
When you think of investments, read *Mark 10:17-31*
When you want to be fruitful, read *John 15*
For Paul's secret of happiness, read *Colossians 3:12-17*
For Paul's idea of Christianity, read *2 Corinthians 5:15-19*
For Paul's rules for daily life, read *Romans 12*
For a great invitation and opportunity, read *Isaiah 55*
For Jesus' idea of a Christian, read *Matthew 5*
For James' idea of religion, read *James 1:19-27*
For Jesus' idea of prayer, read *Luke 11:1-13*
For a picture of worship, read *Isaiah 58:1-12*
For the prophet's idea of religion, read *Isaiah 1:10-18*

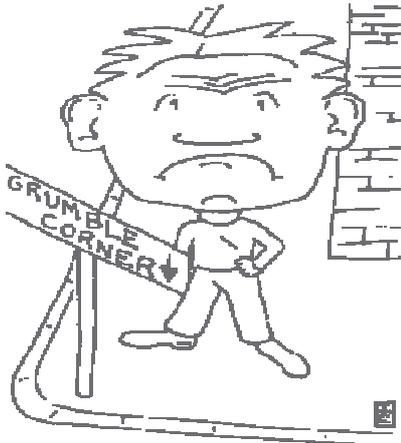


Why not follow Psalm 119:11 and hide some of these in your memory?



Submitted by Linda Gwyther

Grumble Corner



I knew a man and his name was Horner,
Who used to live at Grumble Corner;
Grumble Corner in Cross-Patch Town,
And he never was seen without a frown,
He grumbled at this; he grumbled at that;
He growled at the dog; he growled at the cat;
He grumbled at the morning; he grumbled at night;
And the grumble and growl were his chief delight.

He grumbled so much at his wife that she
Began to grumble as well as he;
And all the children, wherever they went,
Reflected their parents' discontent.
If the sky was dark and betokened rain,
Then Mr.Horner was sure to complain;
And if there was never a cloud about,
He'd grumble because of a threatened drought.

His meals were never to suit his taste;
He grumbled slow, and he grumbled in haste;
Or else he hadn't had half enough.
No matter how hard his wife might try
To please her husband with scornful eye
He'd look around and then, begin to growl.

One day as I loitered along the street,
My old acquaintance I chanced to meet,
Whose face was without the look of care
At the ugly frown it used to wear.
'I may be mistaken, perhaps,' I said,
As, after saluting, I turned my head;
'But it is, and it isn't, the Mr.Horner
Who lived for so long at Grumble Corner.'

I met him next day, and I met him again,
In melting weather, in pouring rain,
When stocks were up and when stocks were down,

But a smile somehow had replaced the frown.
It puzzled me much; and so, one day,
I seized his hand in a friendly way,
And said 'Mr.Horner, I'd like to know
What can have happened to change you so?'

He laughed a laugh that was good to hear;
For it told of conscience calm and clear,
And he said, with none of his old time drawl;
'Why, I've changed my residence: that is all!
'Changed your residence?' 'Yes,' said
Horner;
'It wasn't healthy at Grumble Corner,
And so I moved; 'twas a change complete;
And you'll find me now in Thanksgiving Street.'

Now, every day, as I move along
The streets so filled with the busy throng,
I watch each face, and can always tell
Where men and women and children dwell;
And many a discontented mourner
Is spending his days at Grumble Corner,
Sour and sad, whom I long to entreat
To take a house in Thanksgiving Street.



**Submitted by Jean Long and taken from
the Church Magazine of Bollington
Methodist Church, Cheshire**

John Wesley was once asked how he managed to attract the crowds when he was preaching. He replied, "I set myself on fire with the Gospel and the people come to see me burn."

Do you REALLY want to publicise your event?

Like all of you, I get many, many emails in my inbox each day. The most frustrating of all of them are where I have to click through to an attachments to find out more. We all know that clicking through attachments can sometimes be harmful.

Out of courtesy to everyone, please can I ask all Circuit Colleagues, Secretaries, Event organisers, to PLEASE INCLUDE A SUMMARY IN WRITING of the event.

Why is a text summary so useful?

1. Those receiving know immediately what it is about and how relevant it is to their congregations, and whether or not the date clashes with other events the church may already be committed to.
2. You are confident that this is more likely to be a genuine email and not malicious
3. The email can immediately be forwarded on to newsletter editors etc, with text ready prepared for them to insert into weekly notice sheets etc.
4. A text summary can be easily cut and pasted into websites and social Media - Facebook etc.#

Here is an example of a useful text summary for a recent poster we have received:

"There will be a Plant Sale and Spring Fayre at Morrision Methodist Church on Saturday 12th May. Many bargains, cake stall, raffle and refreshments. 10:30 am to 12 Noon. All welcome. Admission £1. (*NOTE: Please be inclusive of all ages and mention whether children are free - as a family with four boys, would it cost us £2 to get in or £6??*).

I do not mean to pick on Morrision in this respect - nearly all our congregations make the same mistakes!

I do not mean to pick on Morrision in this respect - nearly all our congregations make the same mistakes!

The aim of this is not to criticise but to give our events and fundraising efforts their very best shot!

Andy Walker

Dr.Clive Jones

On Thursday 3rd May our dearly loved friend and long-serving Local Preacher, Dr. Clive Jones, went to be with the Lord. The Thanksgiving Service for his life was held in Murton Church on 24th May and was led by his minister Rev.Andrew Walker.

The church was full as Andy spoke passionately about Clive's faithful ministry among us, for his friendship, his wide knowledge, for his strength of faith and love of his family.

It was very appropriate that the funeral service was held on Wesley Day, a day when the worldwide Methodist Church celebrated John Wesley's conversion at Aldersgate Street on 24th May 1738.

Clive was one of Mr Wesley's preachers and we thank God for his ministry and continue to remember his wife Rosemarie and all in the family in our prayers.

Pause to Ponder

The cross is a picture of violence, yet the key to peace; a picture of suffering, yet the key to healing; a picture of death, yet the key to life.

David Watson



A message from Brigitte Gater, National Director, Action for Children, Wales



George Thomas House, Killay

National Children's Home acquired the site of Killay House in 1948 after it was handed over to us by a group of philanthropic trustees. Killay House then housed 30 boys and girls. In the grounds of Killay House, George Thomas House was built around the 1950's as a hostel for young people leaving care. This closed in 1985 due to a lack of demand for this service as the number of children in care had reduced and alternative provision was preferred.

Killay House was sold in 1988 and the houses now known as Millwood Gardens were built.

At this time George Thomas House became the central hub for our West Wales services and an administrative base, the West Wales Assistant Director and several projects were based there. After a re-organisation the Assistant Director role was replaced and in 2010 the new Operational Director post which covered a larger geographical area was re-located to our central Wales office in Cardiff.

The services that were based in George Thomas House have declined over the last few years, due to closures, budget constraints and more recently the impact of austerity. The Swansea Short Breaks service amalgamated with its sister service in Neath Port Talbot in 2014, which left two services, Swansea Young Families and Stepping Stones in the building.

These remaining services have also been impacted by budget cuts and the cost of maintaining the building became prohibitive. The age of the building and the necessary upkeep was becoming very expensive, new windows and a new roof was required, utility bills for the building were large due to its age and size and the two remaining services were unable to cover these rising costs.

As a consequence a decision was made in 2016 to sell the building and to move the services to more affordable and appropriate buildings in the Swansea area.

Swansea Young families is now based in Henley House in Swansea and Stepping Stones at the Mayhill Family Centre. These venues are more suitable for the services as they are fit for purpose and closer to the families we work with, being based in or near Flying Start areas of Swansea.

Action for Children is committed to having a physical and operational presence in Swansea and appreciates the generosity and support it receives from the Methodist community who have always supported us and the children and families we support, for which we are grateful.

**Best Wishes
Brigitte Gater
National Director – Wales/Cyfarwyddwr
Cenedlaethol - Cymru**

Penlan Methodist Church

A **garden party** will take place on Thursday 19th July from 12 noon to 4.30 p.m. and will include the official opening of the new community garden.

Come and enjoy afternoon teas, BBQ, stalls selling locally grown produce, bouncy castle, balloon modelling.

Supported by Action for Children, MumsWith Passion, Interplay, Local Councillors and AM's.

Congratulations to Mumbles on celebrating their 140th Church Anniversary



On Pentecost Sunday May 20th Mumbles Methodist celebrated their 140th Church Anniversary.

Methodism in the Mumbles dates back to the 18th century when John Wesley and other Methodist leaders visited the area on a number of occasions.

It was in 1814 that the first Wesleyan 'preaching house' was built very near to the site of the present church. It was built on land belonging to members of the Tucker family of Oxwich and it was they who built the small chapel and others on Gower. A second church was built in 1861 but only three years later plans were put in place to build a new church to comfortably accommodate larger congregations.

The official opening took place on 23rd May 1878 and was reported in The Cambrian newspaper.

'The 2 o'clock Oystermouth tramcars from Swansea were heavily freighted with passengers whose sober Sabbatic attire betokened their place of destination. The village did honour to the occasion by displaying a quantity of bunting. The President of the Methodist Conference preached at the opening service and there was a declaration that the new building, named Victoria Chapel, was registered as a place for religious worship.'

It has been an incredible journey of faith over the year that has seen the extensive refurbishment of both the Victoria Hall in 1994 and the main church building in 2003. Alongside this rebuilding programme there has been spiritual and numerical growth that has enabled the church to provide a positive Christian presence at the heart of the community.

As well as a special worship service to honour the occasion, bunting adorned the church and a special cake was prepared and shared to all who came into Theo's Coffee Shop on May 23rd.

The Asian Christian Fellowship move to Brynhyfryd

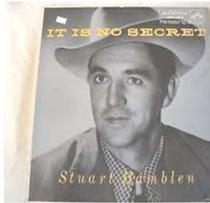
Following the sale of the Bethel URC building in Sketty, the Asian Christian fellowship led by Methodist minister, Rev Irfan John have moved to worship at Wesley Methodist in Brynhyfryd.

The fellowship (Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi) will continue to meet on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of every month but at a new time – 3.30 p.m. Please contact Rev.Irfan John for more information 07796 494035.



The picture shows the fellowship holding candles as a sign of support for the thousands of refugees fleeing war and persecution. Rev.John said, 'We lit these candles of peace, not only physically but also in our hearts to signify that we stand with our fellow humans'.

Billy Graham and Stuart Hamblen



John Wayne said, "You should write a song by that title" (Hamblen also composed of the song This Ole House)

Robert Allender

Billy Graham recently passed on, but it is interesting to look at how Stuart Hamblen came to help Billy Graham in his early years. Hamblen (1908 to 1989) became one of radio's first singing cowboys in 1926, going on to become a singer, radio show host, and songwriter, later undergoing a Christian conversion and becoming a Temperance movement supporter.. Hamblens' dad was a Methodist Minister in Texas, who founded the Evangelical Methodist Church in Abilene, Texas.

From 1931 Hamblen began hosting a popular radio program in California, composing music and acting with cowboy stars including Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, and John Wayne. He didn't cope well with the pressures of his career and sought relief in alcohol. Inevitably, Hamblen's drinking and gambling problems severely affected his life and career, until in 1949 after years of struggle with alcohol, **Hamblen underwent a religious conversion at a Billy Graham crusade in Los Angeles!** He was soon fired from his radio program after refusing to do beer commercials. He subsequently entered Christian broadcasting with his radio show The Cowboy Church of the Air, which ran until 1952. During a 1963 crusade in Los Angeles, Graham called Hamblen's conversion "the turning point" in the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's ministry, where before Hamblen accepted Christ the crowds were rather small. Graham said Hamblen was the No. 1 radio personality in Los Angeles, which drew in crowds. **That evening, also Graham's first coast-to-coast television broadcast, Hamblen shared about his faith and sang his signature hymn "It Is No Secret (What God Can Do)"**

"It Is No Secret" was written following his acceptance of Christ and a spiritual conversation with John Wayne. After accepting the Lord, Hamblen was fired from his position as disc jockey because he refused to do alcohol commercials. John Wayne offered him a drink shortly thereafter, Hamblen refused saying "It is no secret what the Lord can do."



**CELEBRATION
'OG ROAST**

For Ogof Adullam

**At the home of Ken & Julia Allison
2 Westport Avenue, Mayals,
Swansea SA3 5EA
Tel: 401620**

**from 5 pm until late
Friday 13 July 2018**

**All proceeds in aid of the Ogof Adullam
drop-in centre**



The Methodist Conference 2018



The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world. The 2018 Conference will take place from 28th June to 5th July in Nottingham.

The 2018 Methodist Conference: Interim Report on marriage and relationships



Rev. Kenneth G. Howcroft

The Marriage and Relationships Task Group has explained in its Interim Report that it will not be presenting a draft Statement to the 2018 Methodist Conference, as it had previously hoped. The draft will instead be presented to the 2019 Conference and the Task Group proposes that this be followed by a consultation lasting until the end of January 2020, enabling a vote on the Statement at the 2020 Conference, in line with the original timetable.

The draft Statement could potentially include a revised definition of marriage.

The Interim Report is included in *Agenda Volume 2* which has been distributed to members of the 2018 Methodist Conference, the governing body of the Methodist Church which meets in Nottingham from June 28 – July 5.

The Marriage and Relationships Task Group was established by the 2016 Conference to

prepare a new Statement of the judgment of the Conference on marriage and relationships, and, as part of that process, to revisit the definition of marriage.

The task group consists of six ordained and two lay people and reflects the diversity of experience and range of views and beliefs among Methodists.

Although the group has made considerable headway, the complexity of the task and a number of unforeseen circumstances have prevented it from bringing the draft Statement to the 2018 Conference.

Workshops at the Conference will discuss sexual intimacy and cohabitation, marriage under the law and in the Church, heterosexual marriage and same-sex marriage.

The Conference will be asked to direct the consultation period for study, discussion and responses from the wider Church to run from the end of the 2019 Conference to the end of January 2020. This will allow time for the Faith and Order Committee to be fully consulted and for revisions before final submission to the 2020 Conference.

Chair of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group, and former President of the Conference the Revd Kenneth G Howcroft, said: "The group's task is great while its timetable is short. The group has worked with commitment since the 2016 Conference and has engaged in a lot of thinking, praying, research and writing.

"However, the issues that we have to address have proved to be many, varied and highly complex. The Task Group has also contended with a change of Chair due to unforeseen circumstances, several bouts of significant ill-health and disruption caused by members changing posts. Therefore, it is with regret that we have been unable to bring a draft Statement to the 2018 Conference.

"We are aware that for some, the Church's current exclusion of same-sex marriage and general reticence about sexual relationships, both same-sex and heterosexual, and also cohabitation, can be demeaning and excluding.

(continued on page 12)

To Facebook or Not to Facebook, That is the Question?

You might not know that Uniting Church Sketty as well as Mumbles, Brunswick, Penlan and Eaton Road have **FACEBOOK** pages. You might not be interested that some of our churches have **FACEBOOK** pages. You might actually be anti-**FACEBOOK**.

However, FB has its uses, as long as you are selective with the pages and people with whom you link and engage.

One positive use of FB is, for example, when a page acts as a forum for discussion with people who have the same illness, problems or interests etc., which you have. You can use it to ask for advice, keep abreast of events, meetings etc., which may interest you or with which you can help.

A church FB page, as I envisage it, is to inform people about weekly services and church events. In other words, it shows the wider community what is happening in our churches and circuit. Uniting Church Sketty's FB page is linked to many Methodist churches throughout the Connexion and several in other parts of the world so it is a way of purloining ideas. The Methodist Church (UK) is very active through FB on a daily basis and by e mail on a weekly basis. You can subscribe to its different e mail lists. Methodist FB pages which may be of interest include Methodists Online, Methodist Women in Britain, UK Methodists and ArtServe. Weekly e mails from the Methodist Church, which are great for updates in Methodism and the wider world, include The Buzz, The Week Ahead and the Methodist Church in Britain. The e mail address for subscribing is info@methodist-news.org.uk. Subscribing is free and can be done through the Methodist Church website.

You can also keep abreast of news from other denominations through their FB pages.

I also envisage our FB page as a "community" page, informing people about events in Swansea, and bringing to people's attention the concerns of the wider world – climate change; news of atrocities around the world; litter on our beaches, in our seas and oceans; encouraging people to use local independent shops etc., etc.,

Some people make vile comments on FB, and this is where it can be a very negative and dangerous means of sharing views. It has been, and will be used to post events which people (usually young people) share on the spur of the

moment and regret for the rest of their lives, because once they are in the ether they cannot actually be removed. And this, sadly, is why many people decry it. I can understand and appreciate this, so it comes with a warning – be very careful who you "friend" and which pages you "like". And not everyone shares the same sense of humour!

FB can also be used positively as a vehicle for **PRAYER**. So many people post and share their genuine personal concerns and their concerns for the wider world. You may or may not know these people (they are like virtual friends!), but so many share our concerns and as we pray at different times the prayer becomes continuous.

Will you join our churches FB family? Please consider it. If you need help setting up an account there are many people who can help you.

Janet M Neilson

PS But, we don't have a churches TWITTER account! The beginning of the word – TWIT (not thinking of anyone in particular, in the wider world!), says it all, really.



Rev Bruce Sawyer on a recent visit back to Swansea from where he candidated for the ministry in 2011. Bruce is pictured with his wife Caroline and children Esther, Rebekah and Malachi.

Murder Mystery on Calypso Island

As a fitting end to our use of Bethel Church, In May, 72 people sat down to a three course dinner in Bethel hall, renamed for the evening "Calypso Island."



The entrance hall, dining room and tables were all decorated as befitted Calypso Island and the music enhanced the island theme. The weather smiled on us and guests came suitably attired for an evening of fun in the Caribbean.



During the evening it was discovered that a murder had been committed and guest were then set the task of finding the villain! A good time was had by all and the church benefitted from a donation of £600 to our Discretionary Fund.



Thank you everyone for your support and joining in the fun.

Jan Chaplin

Precious Memories Never Fade

I expect all of you out there have precious memories of one sort or another. I'd like to refer to my dear Parents, with particular emphasis on my Mum in this article who, in my eyes, was a very saintly soul, only ever wanting to help, not hinder.

One of my precious possessions is my upright piano, proudly standing in our front room here in Swansea, and whenever I look at this lovely piece of furniture, or extract a tune from it, I think of the sacrifice Mum made to obtain the piano for me, when I was just 10 years of age. It was bought at the sum of £120.00 from the furniture department of Irvine Co-op. in Irvine, Ayrshire. No, she didn't have the whole amount to pay "up front" as we would say in modern terms, but it was paid for by instalments. She even had a remuneration fee returned to her because it was fully paid before the allotted timescale!

My dear Mum was always very resourceful – ever looking for ways to raise funds for the Church, and in particular for The Womens' Guild of Perceton and Dreghorn Parish Church, of which she was an ardent Member. She was married there on New Year's Eve (Hogmanay) in the Year 1936.

One day, she decided to try her hand at making toffee apples. This turned out to be very successful. When the local children heard that Mrs. Harvey was selling toffee apples, they were very excited. Along they came, clattering up and down the stairs of No. 12 Mount View to eagerly make their purchase!

On a more serious note, my Mum, who was the Foreign Mission Delegate for 4 years on behalf of the Women's Guild, wanted to raise some money, not specifically for the Guild this time, but for hospital work in Nyasaland, Africa! She did this by collecting silver paper, milk tops, "bun" pennies, and ship half-pennies. The princely sum of £5.00 was handed in by Mum during October 1961. Not satisfied entirely, another £10.00 was then raised and handed in later, to endow a bed in the Ekwendeni Hospital, Nyasaland. This bed was named after Perceton and Dreghorn Parish Church. What an honour and privilege that was, to be able to help those needy folks thousands of miles away!

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Mum was converted by the influence of her Sunday-School Teacher, away back when she was a teenager. She also became a Sunday-School Teacher for a number of years.

When Dr. Billy Graham (sadly recently deceased), had his "All Scotland Crusade" in 1955, Mum took me to hear him at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. I was only 11 years old, but quite vividly recall being in that wonderful auditorium, and hearing the marvellous choir conducted by Cliff Barrows. I don't know if Cliff is still living, but I do know that George Beverley Shea, Billy's wonderful soloist, was about 103 when he died! The second time Mum and I went to hear Billy in Glasgow we were in the "overflow hall", not quite the same atmosphere, but still wonderful nevertheless. I was introduced to the Church of the Nazarene in Irvine, Ayrshire, when a Evangelistic Campaign was being conducted there, which my Mum and I attended. I subsequently became a member of that evangelical church. This eventually led to becoming the wife of Doug in July 1970 and moving to Swansea.



In my possession is a notebook containing "words of wisdom" in my Mum's lovely handwriting, taken from various sources, and some from her own experience. Here are a few lines she penned:

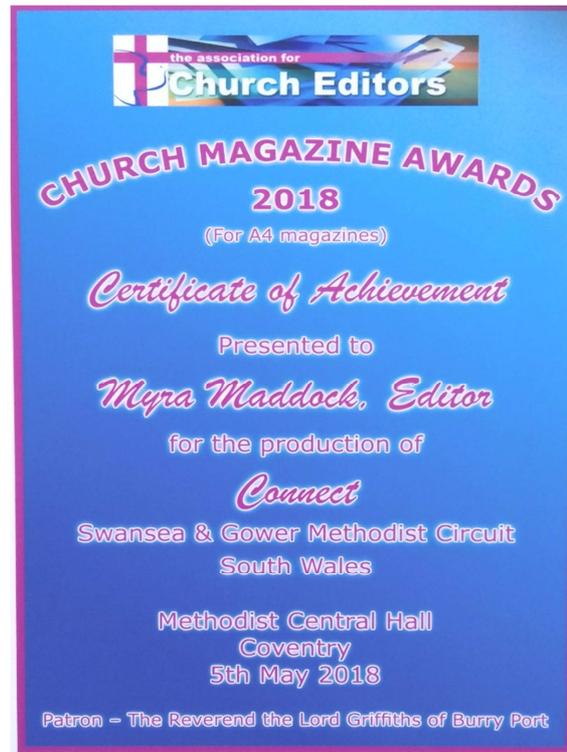
Paul's future looked dark,
but he went with head held high.

Don't let the future get you down,
But face it with a smile,
And God Will Face it With You.

So I'm sure you will have gathered from the foregoing that not only was Mum's Sunday-School Teacher a big influence on her, but Mum was a huge influence on my life, and I have very precious memories of her which will never fade!

Submitted by Mrs.Irene Dendle
Morrison Methodist Church

CONNECT wins another award



In 2015, the National Association of Church Editors awarded our editor, Mrs Myra Maddock, an award for the content of the Christian message in the magazine. Last month she received a certificate of Achievement for the Production of Connect at an awards ceremony at Methodist Central Hall, Coventry. Well done Myra!

Howard

It Is A Time For Anniversaries

We recently marked Christ's death and resurrection over Easter.

It is also the anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King Jr. who was shot and died 50 years ago. Born in 1929 Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.

Dr Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister. He is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights based on his Christian beliefs. In his sermons he had these things to say about Jesus.

"The great military leaders of the past have gone, their empires have crumbled and burned to ashes. But the empire of Jesus, built solidly and majestically on the foundation of love, is still growing."

'Evil may so shape events that Caesar will occupy a palace and Christ a cross, but one day that same Christ will rise up and split history into A.D. and B.C., so that even the life of Caesar must be dated by his name.'



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By the way, the terms AD" and "BC" are used to number years in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. The term Anno Domini is Medieval Latin and means "in the year of the Lord" taken from the full original phrase "anno Domini nostri Jesu Christi", which translates to "in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ". This calendar era is based on the traditionally reckoned year of the **conception or birth** of Jesus of Nazareth, with AD counting years from this and BC denoting years before the start of the era. There is no year zero in this scheme, **so the year AD 1 immediately follows the year 1 BC.**

Robert Allender

If we don't hear crying, the church is dying

There you are, sitting in a worship service and your child - baby or toddler - is restless. Perhaps they're even a little boisterous. You try to silence them and you try to pacify them with food or toys, but nothing works. Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do - you pick them up and, before many watching eyes, you make the march out of the service. All the while, you're a little embarrassed and maybe a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself, "There's no point in coming to church. I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly see to my child."

But wait! I want you, mothers and fathers, to know just how encouraging you are to so many. The little elderly woman who often feels alone beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She's been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because it brings back precious memories. To see young parents and their small children brightens her day. She may have just received bad news this week about her health, but seeing the vitality of young ones removes her fears - even if it's for just a moment.

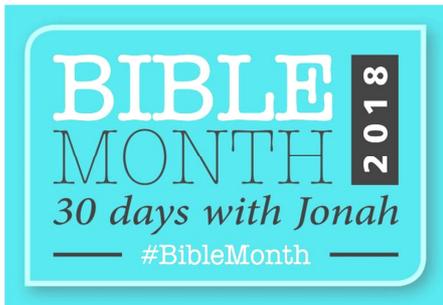
Then the older man, who always seems to be grouchy, notices you too. He's always talking about how children today have no respect or sense of good, but, he sees you and your young family in church regularly. Like clockwork, he can depend on seeing you there with your young family. You give him hope that maybe the church isn't doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to worship.

So, parents, bring your children to church. If we don't hear crying, the church is dying. As hard as it might be for you as a parent who may be half-asleep, keep on doing what you're doing. You are an encouragement, and you're starting off your children's lives just as you should.

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“At the same time, some who cherish the traditional views and practices taught by the Church feel that their efforts in keeping to them are demeaned by suggestions that fresh understandings might be brought alongside them, and fear that they might be excluded by particular potential developments.”

The report observes that: “As with all matters of policy, any recommendations should be based on prayerful discernment; careful reading, interpretation and application of the Scriptures; and rigorous thinking. We have come to see that the key aspect in all relationships is the Christ-like quality of the way in which people relate.”



The Methodist Bible Month Initiative, provides churches and circuits with an opportunity to focus on one book of the Bible for an entire month. Last year it was the New Testament book of James and this year it's the Old Testament book of Jonah.

Sunday worship throughout the month of June has included sermons on Jonah and Bible studies have looked at the different chapters week by week.

Focusing on a single biblical book means that participants gain a greater sense of the importance of context, both literary and historical. It encourages readers to explore how a book develops, and to identify links between different passages. Rather than just focusing on favourite passages within a book, Bible Month encourages readers to engage with *all* of it and helps to develop greater biblical literacy.



Wesley Brynhyfryd - Bible Study Meeting

Throughout the book of Jonah, God keeps demonstrating his almighty power but God's power is not malign. It is, in the words of Paul, 'the power of God for salvation to everyone' (Rom 1:16). God pursues Jonah, not to punish him, but to save him from himself. God's anger is not linked with retributive justice but with restorative justice. Rev Tom Stuckey

Jonah is not a book about a mighty fish. It is primarily a book about an almighty God and how through various trials and tribulations, one man came to discover the true character of his God' Christopher Brearley

Wesley Brynhyfryd - Bible Study Meeting

'Why do people in church seem like cheerful brainless tourists on a package tour of the Absolute? Does anyone have the foggiest idea of what sort of power we blithely invoke? It is madness for ladies to wear straw hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Stewards should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews.'

Annie Dillard



Did You Know?

The **METHODIST CHURCH ACT 1976** transferred ownership of most Methodist Church Property and declared new Model Trusts upon which such property would in future be held. “**Property**” included stocks, shares, unit trust investments and all other securities as well as land, buildings and chattels.



The ownership of the vast majority of Methodist property in England, Wales and Scotland was **automatically** transferred to the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (“**the Board**”) – a Trust Corporation constituted by the Methodist Church Act 1939.

TMCP holds such property as Custodian Trustees but its management is vested in the relevant Managing Trustees who must act in accordance with the Model Trusts and the Standing Orders made under them.

- (1) **Local Property** (eg a Methodist Chapel) the Managing Trustees will be the adult members of the appropriate **Church Council**.
- (2) **Circuit Property** (eg a Manse) the Managing Trustees will be the adult members of the appropriate **Circuit Meeting**.
- (3) **District Property** (eg Chair’s Manse) the Managing Trustees will be the appropriate District Trustees.

Morrison Spring Fayre



Morrison Spring Fayre raised over £750 for church funds. £527 of that figure came from the sale of plants by Malcolm and Hilary Price. Malcolm and Hilary are pictured at the plant stall with the Rev Siperire.

Hospital Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care



Rev. Lance Sharpe is the Head of Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care Department for the ABM University Health Board. This includes all the acute hospitals, mental health and primary and community care.

If you find yourself in hospital for a short stay or a longer stay; you and the family can have access to the Chaplaincy & Spiritual care service. The Chaplains are available to you and are willing to come alongside you as you journey through this period. They are there for those of faith and those of no particular faith. All that is shared will be in a quiet and confidential manner.

The Chaplaincy team are there to support both the patient and family and are always more than willing to befriend and walk the path with people.

There is also a dedicated team of lay Chaplains and Lay Visitors that are a valued part of the Chaplaincy team who are there to befriend and journey with patients and family members and friends alike.

There is also access to leaders of different faith groups. All you have to do is ask and the chaplains will do all that they can to make contact for you.

If you would like a listening ear, or simply a friendly face to support you during your stay in hospital then the chaplaincy team are there for you. As well as offering prayer support to patients they will also arrange the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The team's aim is to support and to provide pastoral care and support in a non-judgmental manner and to walk with patients through their journey in hospital.



*Rev Jason Tugwell
(Deputy Lead, Swansea)*



*Rev Hillary Jardine
(Deputy Lead Bridgend)*