

# CONNECT

**The Magazine of the Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit**

**Autumn 2013**

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## Welcome To Swansea



Left to right – Rev Leslie Noon, Rev Stephen Wigley (Chair of Wales Synod) & Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta

**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 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

**Editor**

Mrs. Myra Maddock  
Tel: 207484  
email: [myra43@virginmedia.com](mailto:myra43@virginmedia.com)

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August the Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit officially welcomed two new ministers to the area. The Methodist Conference stationed Rev. Leslie Noon and Rev. Siperire Mugadzaweta to serve in the circuit from September 1<sup>st</sup> after formerly serving in Huddersfield and Coventry respectively.

The Circuit Superintendent, Rev Howard Long, welcomed family members and friends especially Leslie's husband Geoff and Siperire's husband Julius. Rev. Noel Davies gave a word of welcome on behalf of colleagues from other churches and denominations in Swansea.

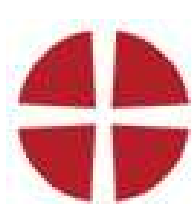
The sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Stephen Wigley, chair of Wales Methodist Synod who, along with Mr. Derek Norton, one of the circuit stewards gave the official welcome to the circuit and the Synod.

*More pictures inside*

**The person who bears and suffers evils with meekness and silence, is the sum of a Christian.**  
**Charles Wesley**



## Message from the Superintendent



Welcome to the Autumn edition of Connect which is full of interesting information concerning the work of the Methodist Church not only here in Swansea but throughout the connexion.

Front page news of course is the arrival of Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta and Rev Leslie Noon who joined the circuit staff in August. Thank you to all those members and friends who attended the welcome service at Brunswick that was led by Rev Dr Stephen Wigley, chair of Wales Synod.

Siperire has joined us from the Coventry and Nuneaton Circuit and has pastoral responsibility for our Brunswick Church. Through Siperire's ministry we will continue to develop our city centre presence.

Leslie has joined us from the Huddersfield Circuit and has pastoral responsibility for our Sketty and Penlan churches as well as working as part of the chaplaincy team at the university.

At the end of August, Rev Alf Austin retired from the full time active work and became a Supernumerary minister. I am delighted that Alf and Freda have stayed with us in Swansea and the circuit wishes them well as they settle into their new home in Sketty. We are very fortunate to have such a good group of Supernumerary ministers who continue to offer so much to the ministry of our churches and the life of our circuit.

I am writing this message following the local preachers and worship leaders meeting that took place at our Clydach church. The highlight of the meeting was to see the progress being made by our local preachers in training. After four years of study Win Hawkins has now completed the Faith and Worship Course and will be fully accredited as a local preacher in the Methodist Church on Thursday 25th September at Sketty. Selina Taylor moved from 'on note' and joined Caroline Buckler and Cynthia Mumford as a preacher 'on trial'. We are thankful to God for our new preachers in training. The Gospel is needed to be heard more than ever today and I challenge you to ask yourself, to pray and discern whether God is calling you to be a preacher. If you feel that he is

then I encourage you to speak to your minister about it. Always remember that when God calls, he equips.

We look forward at this time of the year to celebrating harvest in our churches and are thankful to God for his many blessings to us. At the same time we are mindful of those for whom life is a struggle at home and overseas. As well as our usual harvest displays I would like each member of the circuit to contribute some non-perishable items that can be used to support local food banks.

Rising costs of living, static incomes, changes to benefits, underemployment and unemployment have meant increasing numbers of people in Wales have hit a crisis that forces them to go hungry.

It is a startling fact that 35,919 people received a minimum of three days emergency food from Trussell Trust foodbanks in Wales in 2012-13, compared to 16,204 in 2011-12.

We can help by donating items such as UHT milk, cereals, packet soups and tinned goods.

As for your perishable goods used at Harvest, why not auction them off and send the proceeds to Christian Aid or MRDF.

Following on from harvest we will gather for the Mission Day at Sketty on Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup> for the launch of the new Circuit project 'Water Aid'. Safe, clean water is something that we all use and often take for granted and yet 768 million people in the world are without it. Water Aid promises to be an exciting circuit project that all ages in our churches can engage with and support.

May God's blessing be upon you and the churches as we all work together to proclaim the good news of Jesus to the world.

**Howard**

## Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit



### MINISTERS

Superintendent: Rev.Howard Long  
12 Worcester Drive, Langland,  
Swansea SA3 4HL  
Tel: 366712  
email: [hdlong@btinternet.com](mailto:hdlong@btinternet.com)

Rev.Pamela M.Cram BA, MA,  
DipCouns  
86 Pontardawe Road, Clydach,  
Swansea SA6 8PA  
Tel: 845942  
email: [pcram@headweb.co.uk](mailto:pcram@headweb.co.uk)

Rev.Andrew Walker BTh, BA  
28 Linkside Drive, Southgate,  
Swansea SA3 2BR  
Tel: 232867  
email: [andrew.walker@methodist.org.uk](mailto:andrew.walker@methodist.org.uk)

Leslie J.Noon  
47 Sketty Park Road, Sketty,  
Swansea SA2 9AS  
Tel: 203938  
email: [leslienoan@hotmail.com](mailto:leslienoan@hotmail.com)  
Siperire Mugadzaweta BA,MNSc (Zimbabwe)  
5 Channel View, Sketty,  
Swansea SA2 8LY  
Tel: 206793  
email: [siperiremugadzaweta@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:siperiremugadzaweta@yahoo.co.uk)

### CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Mr.Ian Campbell  
Tel: 391132  
Email: [ian.campbell@reynoldston.com](mailto:ian.campbell@reynoldston.com)  
Mrs.Gwen Dumelow  
Tel: 539328  
e.mail: [g.dumelow@ntlworld.com](mailto:g.dumelow@ntlworld.com)  
Mr.Derek Norton  
Tel: 402338  
e.mail: [nortonderek84@hotmail.com](mailto:nortonderek84@hotmail.com)  
Mrs.Heather Coleman  
Tel: 290214  
e.mail: [hacoleman@ntlworld.com](mailto:hacoleman@ntlworld.com)

## news in brief

### Morrison

October 26th - 2-4 pm  
A 'High Tea' served in our  
renewed downstairs rooms.  
November 30th - 10.30-12  
At St. David's Parish  
Church - Christmas Fair in  
aid of our Morrison Church  
developments

### Clydach

November 16th 2-4 p.m.  
Wesley Guild Christmas  
Craft Fair

### Brynhyfryd

Lite Bites served at Wesley  
Methodist Church,  
Brynhyfryd – every  
Thursday from 12noon-  
1.30p.m. There is a wide  
selection of meals at the  
very reasonable price of £6  
for three courses.

### Murton

October 26 from 10.30 am  
– Autumn Fair

### Mumbles

31<sup>st</sup> October 5-6:30pm.  
Light Party in the Victoria Hall.  
This is a positive alternative to  
a Halloween party for 5-11  
year olds. There will be  
games, food and stories and a  
fancy dress theme of  
Superheroes! This is a free  
event for the community so  
please invite your friends and  
their families! Children must  
come with a supervising adult.

### Horton

The **Celebrations at Horton**  
continue with a Special  
Service of Communion and  
dedication of the new Organ  
and the outside Cross at 10:30  
am on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October**  
2013. The Chair of the Wales  
Synod, Rev. Dr. Stephen  
Wigley, will be the guest  
preacher. The service will be  
followed with a Harvest lunch.



Open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm  
for Morning Coffee, Hot and Cold Light Meals,  
Daily Specials and Afternoon Teas  
Theo's Coffee Shop is at Mumbles Methodist Church  
(01792 363803)

**The Alpha Course** is for everyone who wants to explore the  
big questions. The next course at Mumbles Methodist will start  
on **Wednesday 18 September 2013**. [www.alpha.org](http://www.alpha.org)

**Swansea Samaritans** are available 24 hours a day  
providing confidential emotional support for people who are  
experiencing feelings of distress, despair or suicidal thoughts.  
Their phone number: 01792 655999

## The Church of God is Always Slow

(Tune: Melcombe)

The church of God is always slow  
to follow where the Spirit leads;  
a pilgrim people on the go,  
yet hesitant to move at speed.

We meet in councils and debate,  
we keep the church in good repair,  
we manage and administrate,  
but have no time to dream and dare.

We sit in buildings all aloof,  
remembering the days of yore;  
we're more concerned about the roof  
than hunger, justice, peace and war.

And why begrudge the Spirit's work  
outside the church, among the throng?  
Or is it only Christian folk  
Who speak the truth and right the wrong?

Confess, the church is out of touch,  
we're all at sea becalmed, marooned.  
Repent, for God is not a crutch,  
and not a bandage but the wound.

O Holy Spirit, burn and blow,  
and drive us on, full steam ahead;  
no turning back, no contraflow,  
but constant rising from the dead.

*A Hymn by Rev. Kim Fabricius*

**Proclaiming 'Jesus Is Lord!'  
for 200 years  
Horton Methodist Chapel  
Bicentenary Celebrations 1813-2013**

## Did You Know

That you can sign up for a number of e-newsletters from the Methodist church. Just visit the website [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

## Who's in the House? J E S U S !

'Rock the House 2' was the name of the Holiday Club at Reynoldston this summer. Around 20 young people joined in with lots of gluing, colouring, jar decorating, fudge making, Hama bead constructing, table football playing, parachute gaming and 'teapot challenging'. It was a particular answer to prayer this year, as a few weeks before it looked as if some genuine pastoral concerns with the regular team meant that we wouldn't have sufficient leaders to run the club. But thanks to all who stepped in, and with some compelling Bible stories based on trust ably led by Gower Youth Worker, Dave Bowkett, the love of Christ was shared and many seeds of faith were sown.



## Sharing good news stories around the Methodist Church

The Buzz is a monthly e-mail that goes out to subscribers throughout the Methodist Church (and beyond).

It tells inspiring, challenging and encouraging stories submitted by local churches, circuits and districts. The stories are grouped around the themes of **Our Calling** -Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism. Every story has contact information so that you can find out more. Share your own stories too.

For more information visit [www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/the-buzz](http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/the-buzz)

If you have a story that you think is suitable for The Buzz please contact Karen Burke at: [burkek@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:burkek@methodistchurch.org.uk)



### Welcome to Swansea (continued)



On behalf of the circuit stewards Mr Derek Norton welcomes Leslie and Siperire and introduces them to the congregation



Siperire along with her husband Julius and family friend perform a Shona song from Zimbabwe



**COGS spin into action!** Christians on Gower, COG, is an umbrella name for a Facebook group to connect the churches and individual Christians serving the peninsula. But more significantly, the Gower churches have also combined resources under the COG name and logo to publish a Gower-wide map and information leaflet specifically aimed at visitors, campsites, holiday parks, hotels, guesthouses and private lettings. The original vision of our Gower Minister, Rev. Andy Walker, the contemporary leaflet was produced in partnership with Churches Together colleagues and the logo and printing procured and funded by Martin Holland and St. Madoc Christian Camp. It has been very favourably received in its first season.



### Messy Church returns!

The Gower churches are set for another season of outreach to children and families with Messy Church.

The term began in early September at Murton. The following dates take us to the end of the year. If you want to come along and see what its all about, please get in touch with rev. Andy Walker, ... or just turn up!

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Horton Village Hall. 3 pm to 5 pm.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Pennard Community Centre. 3 pm to 5 pm.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December. "The Stable Trail" through Reynoldston Village! (\*)

Set off in small groups between 2 pm - 4:30 pm from the Village Hall.

(\*) A different sort of Messy Church to usual!

### Pippa's Progress

You've heard of Pilgrim's Progress, but a recent book out is Pippa's Progress by Simon Parke. Simon is an ordained priest who turned to writing after 20 years in ministry. He has had a regular column in the Daily Mail and now writes for the Church Times. He's also written many books, on faith, spirituality, psychology etc., and has recently turned his hand to crime fiction. Pippa's Progress is a contemporary look at the journey to 'heaven' in the style of John Bunyan, though quite a bit shorter than that classic.

Pippa's challenges along the way include the Rock of Subconscious, the Cliff of Hopelessness, Headspin's Hallucinatory Mental Circus, The Garden of Sadness, the City of Socialmeja, and the Fabulous Fame Game. It is, as Simon says "very 21<sup>st</sup> century to be on a journey", and he draws on contemporary psychology, philosophy, and social observation in developing the story of this modern pilgrim. It is satirical, cutting through all the 'trappings' of both society and religion; it is deeply human with Pippa experiencing all kinds of experience and emotion; it is also thought-provoking and deeply spiritual. I suspect that, like 'The Shack', it may not appeal to some, but will inspire many.

Pam Cram

## Jim Hudson from Brunswick is 100



Jim Hudson being presented with a commemorative centenary plate by the Lord May, June Stanton.

Jim Hudson, of Crofty, Swansea celebrated his 100th birthday recently. Jim was born in August 1913 to James and Elizabeth Hudson at Leeds, Yorkshire. At the age of 16 he left school and followed his father to work at William Paul's Tannery in Kirkstall Road, Leeds.

Jim served in the R.A.F. during World War II. He was stationed near Rome. Whilst there, he attended an audience with Pope Pius. During this audience Jim says "Pope Pius blessed a brooch", which he then gave to Mary, whom he married in 1947.

He left the Tannery in the late 1960s and bought Candy Corner Newsagents in Headingley, which he ran with Mary until 1978. In 1979 he fulfilled his dream by moving with Mary to live in Swansea. He made many friends at Brunswick Church, where he continues to be one of the most senior members of the congregation. He has been very active in his time at Brunswick, along with Mary. He has made scenery for plays, helped with maintenance of the property, made handrails leading to the choir stalls and also made a Prayer Board.

Jim celebrated his 100th birthday with his family and friends, who came from far and wide to offer their best wishes on this very special occasion. He

was presented with a commemorative centenary plate at his home, by the Lord Mayor, June Stanton. When the Lord Mayor asked Jim for the secret of his long life his reply was "No smoking or alcohol since my days in the RAF, and it's in my genes!" Jim's mother Elizabeth lived into her 102nd year.

We wish Jim health and happiness for the future.

## Churches provide Gower Show warmth!

A place of welcome and hospitality, a place of prayer, a place of worship, is what the Churches Tent at the Gower Show aims to be. Offering live music provided by 'Un Corff', free children's craft, story-telling, activities, exhibition space, a Fair Trade stall courtesy of the Lamplighter, and a chance for prayer and reflection, the Churches Together Tent aims to take the love of Christ to the people.

The Show itself can be an expensive day out, especially for families, so the Churches Tent aims to 'give away' with free resources, complimentary squash and biscuits, and activities for children, providing a welcome resting place for parents and guardians, and all with tired feet or aching souls!

In 2014 the hope is to reach a wider audience by having different churches offer free 'games' and 'side shows' to draw more people in, and share the free gift of Christ's love. Each year, as the day draws to a close, the show ground is bathed in the sounds of praise and worship as we gather to celebrate God's love with the accompaniment of the Swansea Citadel Salvation Army Band.

Rev. Andy Walker chairs the Gower Show Churches group and would welcome your involvement.



Gower Show Churches Together Tent 2013



### AN ORGAN TRANSFORMED



The restored Speechley Organ

When the redevelopment project at Mumbles Church was being undertaken one of the conditions of the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund was that the Speechley pipe organ be either restored and reinstated in the new building or that a good home be found for it.

The expert advice received was that restoring the organ and rebuilding it in the new worship area would not be satisfactory so the work began to find a new owner. Advertisements were placed in all the appropriate journals to no effect. Just when it seemed that the organ would have to be dismantled and put into storage, by sheer chance, a retired American accountant, Steve Viger, who had moved to live in a chateau in the Loire Valley in France and who wanted to build an organ in his home, heard about the Speechley organ in Mumbles. He came over and with a friend, dismantled the organ pipe by pipe and transported it back to his home. The following message has now been received from him.

"Hi!! Remember me? I am one of the 700 pipes that served you so well for nearly one hundred years as a part of the Speechley Organ in the downstairs sanctuary in Mumbles. A decision was made, and wisely too, by the elders to retire all of us and replace us with a lower cost digital model. While we were not happy about this, we did have an interesting turn of events.

We were packed up by an American chap, pushed into a truck and brought to central France. Soon thereafter, some 900 others joined us from Billesley, Manchester from an organ of about our age. So for some eight long years did we sit alone but together, all 2000 of us, in a storage building here at the chateau, waiting, waiting. You can imagine how difficult it must be to find an organ builder who was willing to work with used blokes like us and construct something of musical value and merit. One fine day we heard Dutch voices and then felt hands measuring each one of us. We were then presented to some American and German pipes and all of a sudden our language skills improved! Luckily we knew the same songs so no problem there. Then it all began to happen last September. The Dutch firm began to clean us, put us in our new racks and windchests and tune and voice us like we were before but in a fashion to sing with a great chorus of others.

Friday, the 26<sup>th</sup> July was the icing on the cake. A Dutch organist, Arjen Leistre, (check You Tube for him) came and did us proud. With 75 + invited guests for the dedication concert, we did our level best to make Steve Viger proud and we accomplished our task. So we are now part of an organ of 1132 pipes plus 9 facade or non-speaking decorative pipes on two manuals with a German trumpet and an American clarinet. We are in small dependency compared to the Mumbles church but we have been toned down to fill the space. Still, we make a lot of noise and we are happy!

All of us who got the nod thank all of you for finding us a new home, albeit in France. The wine and the cheese are good but the language - well you know!! Our new organist loves French Romantic music as well as Bach, so we are in our glory. Hope that when you are in the neighbourhood you will visit us one day as we'd love to see you and sing to you, all of us, even our new friends. By the by, most of the BIG yellow and reddish banded pipes exposed have been used in one fashion or another. Even the oboe sings a prettier song. We are alive and well deep in France, making one organist the happiest of chaps in the region. Thanks for thinking of us, we think of you often."

Though we claim to believe the whole of scripture, in practice we frequently deny much of it by ignoring it.

D.Martyn Lloyd-Jones

## The Door

I admire the people who go way in, but I wish they would not forget how it was before they got in. Then they would be able to help the people who have not yet even found the door.

Or the people who want to run away again from God. You can go in too deeply, and stay in too long, and forget the people outside the door.

As for me, I shall take my accustomed place, near enough to God to hear Him, and know He is there, but not so far from men as not to hear them and remember they are there, too.

Where? Outside the door – thousands of them, millions of them, but – more important for me – one of them, two of them, ten of them. Whose hands I am intended to put on the latch.

So I shall stay by the door and wait for those who seek it.

"I had rather be a door-keeper...." So I stay near the door.

Sam Shoemaker

## Brunswick's 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Over the weekend of August 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> the members of Brunswick Methodist Church celebrated their 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Situated on St. Helens Road, it was built in 1873, opposite what was then the new General Hospital site. It was part of the church building boom, in this case to serve the rising population of the new housing developments in the Sandfields area. At a building cost of £3250, it emerged as a focal point for Methodism in Swansea.

Over the years, many changes have taken place, one being as a result of the wartime air raids. Due to the destruction of other Methodist churches, Brunswick remains the only one surviving in the city centre.

It is also part of 'Unitas' a collaboration of churches within central Swansea, which meets on a regular basis.

Despite the loss of many faithful, older members, the numbers in the congregation are fairly constant. In the past, it has been host to many Circuit services and when the Salvation Army Citadel was being refurbished, their members joined in worship with Brunswick.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> August, a 'special' coffee morning was held in the 'Welcome Room' where members and visitors enjoyed a time of fellowship.

Revd. Malcolm Guest gave an interesting sermon at the service on Sunday morning the 25<sup>th</sup> August, comparing the birth of Brunswick with the founding of the first church at Philippi.

We pray for God's guidance as we look forward to the future and the many changes that are likely to take place.



## LOCAL PREACHER

**The Accreditation Service for Mrs Win Hawkins as a Local Preacher within the Methodist Church will take place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at Sketty Methodist Church 7.00p.m.**

**All Welcome**

**"I know God won't give me anything I can't handle. I just wish he didn't trust me so much."  
Mother Theresa**



## Surfers not Street Children

We may have had a relatively good summer, but temperatures here in early late June /early July were still rather cool for the three South African surfers visiting our shores to promote the charity Surfers not Street Children. The three young men were accompanied by Tom Hewitt, MBE, one of the founders of the street child projects in Durban and of the Street Child World Cup which took place there in 2010.

Having tested the waters in Devon, and surfed the Severn bore twice, the group arrived in Wales on June 29<sup>th</sup>, stopping on the way to Swansea to meet a group of Christian surfers in Porthcawl who work with disadvantaged children there. Sadly the weather wasn't good enough for the proposed surf and barbecue at Caswell on the Sunday, but meals were shared with local organisers of the visit at lunchtime, and with young people at Red Café in Mumbles in the evening.

The main event of the visit was on the Monday evening at our Mumbles church. An audience of surfers, church people, and other supporters heard Tom and the visitors speak about the surf project and how it changes lives. All three of the surfers had been street children, but surfing helped them gain self esteem and motivated them to come off the streets. One told how he had been in a car crash as a young child. His parents were killed and he spent a long period in hospital. When came out he had nowhere to go. Another had been orphaned but was looked after by his grandmother, until he decided to leave because his bad behaviour was upsetting her so much. Having turned his life around, he made an emotional visit back to his grandma, who is now a keen supporter of the Umthombo project where he had been introduced to surfing.



All three young men are now expert surfers and great role models for children still on the streets. They say that when they surf they feel they are flying way above street life, though they also admit they have exchanged one addiction (glue sniffing) for another (surfing)!



## CIRCUIT MISSION SUNDAY

Including the launch of the new circuit project for 2013/14 – **WATER AID**

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at Sketty Methodist Church

3.30 p.m. presentation on Water Aid by Mr David Padfield followed by a faith tea at 4.30 p.m.

6.00 p.m. – Circuit Worship, preacher – Rev. Dr Stephen Wigley

Please contact Mrs Sybil Smith Tel: 456962 e-mail: [sybilsmith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sybilsmith@hotmail.co.uk) for further details

***Can you imagine life without safe, clean water? For 768 million people it's a daily reality.***

### How beautiful are your feet?

The Circuit Outreach Group has resolved to form a Team to be available to deliver leaflets around each of our churches.

If you feel that you could help in this way please give your name to your minister, to Howard Long, or to Quentin Hawkins.

Isaiah 52v7 and Romans 10v15 remind us "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news".



### Words from the heart of a Syrian pastor

108,602 people have now signed the Save Syria petition. Amidst all the sorrow surrounding Syria we give praise for this incredible response. These signatures add weight to the voice of the church and bring us closer to the vision of our Syria team: to see 500,000 voices raised worldwide. Thank you.

### A pastor's prayer

"I weep for my country! I am so sad and speechless. They advise me to leave my country. To emigrate. I respond saying I'm staying:

- For the church of Jesus – that the message of Jesus may remain a light, guiding those who are lost and afraid
- Because the harvest is plentiful and the suffering is huge, a deep wound, a sense of despair
- To follow in the footsteps of my Master who went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil
- Because I'm busy in the ministry of saving souls
- "O Lord, hear and answer my prayers."

SIGN THE PETITION AT [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org)

### Hear his prayers – and add yours too

- That the cup of war be taken away from our country, Syria
- That the Lord may send the power of His Holy Spirit on His church, that it may reach out to the suffering souls who - harassed and helpless - are like sheep without a shepherd: that He may help us to speak with great boldness and that many wonders and signs be performed, souls return to Christ, and there be singing and praises
- That the Lord may send more help: that the house of the Lord may have food to satisfy the needs of the internally displaced; that there be support for the wounded and the sick who need surgery, medication, and healing; that He may send those who can help us build a centre for children affected by the war – especially those children who are now disabled, and have special needs.

**Final thought:** Give thanks for the church in Syria and encourage your own church to pray for Syria on 3 November as part of the International Day of Prayer for the persecuted church.



### Café Youth Kicks Off!

Take a willing Coffee Shop, add some wi-fi, obtain a music licence and combine them with a top-notch 'Milkshake Machine', sprinkle in some source funding from a generous benefactor and lashings of passion for young people and faith in Jesus with the vision of committed volunteers, and you have the makings of 'Cafe Youth'. This will be a drop-in for pupils of Bishopston Comp., and from early September will run after school every Monday and Friday from 3 p.m. at the Lamplighter Christian Coffee Shop in Bishopston.

## Life Begins...

Once more Alan and I set off for a Bank Holiday weekend soaking up the atmosphere and content of the Greenbelt Festival at Cheltenham Race Course. This year is the 40<sup>th</sup> Greenbelt Festival, so there was a lot of celebration and quite a bit of looking back. On the other hand there's much discussion going on about the future and how the Greenbelt model can continue to develop, not just at the main festival. There are already 'offspring' festivals in Scotland, USA, and Bethlehem; and occasional special day or evening events around the UK.

This year's Festival was thankfully almost rain free, which was a huge relief after the rain and quagmire of 2012. 'Big name' speakers included Jim Wallis, writer and activist from the Sojourners Community in the U.S., who talked about the 'Common Good'; Steve Chalke, of Oasis Trust, who spoke very passionately about church community engagement, as well as doing a Q & A session on his views on same sex relationships; and Barbara Brown Taylor, 'one of the best known preachers in the U.S.', who focussed on the language with which we speak of God/faith. But the 'big names' are only one part of this festival, which is about music, comedy, film, theatre, art, debate, story-telling, creativity, worship, spirituality, and, of course, meeting and 'networking'.

Sunday morning communion focussed on the three main campaigning strands of Greenbelt through the years, i.e. women's rights; fair trade; and environment. Each theme was reflected on, very briefly, by one of the Festival speakers. We sang hymns from different periods of the Festival, led by John Bell from Iona. I have no idea how many were there, but the collection amounted to £70,000!

At the moment, because of major building developments at Cheltenham it's not 100% certain the Festival will take place there in 2014. Wherever it is, we'll be there, and we'd encourage any of you to come and give it a try. Ask us for more information or go to [www.greenbelt.org.uk](http://www.greenbelt.org.uk)

A DVD is available telling the story of the highs and lows of 40 years of Greenbelt, and can be borrowed from the Crams. We also have a selection of CDs of past and recent speeches from Greenbelt, and of this year's Communion service.



*Pam and Alan in front of the huge inflatable 40<sup>th</sup> birthday present, to which Greenbelters attached birthday messages!*

### Announcements which have allegedly appeared in church bulletins

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be auditions for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.



## A Kairos Moment – Time for Action



Pictured at the launch before a packed audience of 500 are, from left to right, Sami Awad, Director of the Holy Land Trust in Bethlehem and one of the writers of Kairos Palestine; Warren Beardsley, a supernumerary Methodist Minister and co-ordinator of Kairos Britain; Ann Farr of Pax Christi; Mark Braverman; and Jeremy Moodey, Executive Officer of Embrace (formerly Biblelands).

In 2009 the churches of Palestine – ALL of them, incredibly, from Orthodox to Pentecostal – agreed the wording of the Kairos Palestine Document, a call to Christians across the world to take action in support of them, at a time when their numbers are dwindling and they face constant hardships, whether Palestinian Christians living in Israel, or those in the West Bank and Gaza. This Kairos document is modelled on the similar Kairos call from South African churches before Apartheid ended.

Responses to the Kairos Palestine document have been launched in many nations including South Africa (of course!), Korea, Brazil, and USA. Here in the UK we were a little slow. In May 2012 a group of around 60 people met on Iona to study Kairos Palestine under the guidance of Naim Ateek, a Palestinian theologian from Jerusalem, and Mark Braverman, an American Jew. At the end of their stay they issued the 'Iona Call' to UK churches.

During Greenbelt Festival, 'Time for Action' the UK response to Kairos Palestine was launched, the next stage in the process. This includes chapters on the ways in which we have historically been complicit in the current situation, and calls to specific practical actions. It's now possible for individuals and churches to read the document and sign up their support on the website [www.kairosbritain.org.uk](http://www.kairosbritain.org.uk)

A worldwide grassroots movement is rapidly developing, and its principles are these:

- We seek a just and lasting peace in Israel/Palestine based on the realisation of full human and political rights for all.
- We call for an end to oppression and injustice.
- We realise the urgency of the situation and stress that the time to act is NOW.

I have a few hard-copy versions of 'Time for Action' - first come first served. Otherwise they are available from Amos Trust, 4th Floor, Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London EC2A 4LT Tel 020 7588 2638

Pam Cram

### A Guide to Life

(seen on a headstone in a Boston cemetery)

Be cheerful, loving and helpful....  
people will pay you in kind.

Listen more and talk less.....  
no one learns anything while talking.

Be wary of giving advice.....  
the wise don't need it and fools won't heed it.

Do not equate money with success....  
what counts most about success is how it is achieved.

Be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and wrong.....

***sometime in life you will have been all of these.***

### Pause to Ponder

What our Lord said about crossbearing and obedience is not in fine type. It is in bold print on the face of the contract.

Vince Hayner

## The Word on Water

A Methodist welcomes everyone to the Morning Service. A Roman Catholic will deliver the Bible readings, a card carrying Charismatic has picked the hymns and a Quaker is on tea duty. The Chapel floor pitches and rolls under the rubber soled boots of the congregation and the first hymn is sung against the backdrop of a helicopter landing on the roof.

Welcome, to church on board a Royal Navy destroyer at sea.

The Royal Navy has a very strong Christian heritage and worship has been conducted on board His and Her Majesty's Ships for over 400 years. Naval Chaplains from a variety of denominations are dedicated to providing pastoral care, spiritual well being and moral leadership to sailors of all faiths and their families. Supporting ordinary people in often extraordinary circumstances and places they are a 'friend and advisor' to those of all faiths and those of none.

While the Chaplains work tirelessly, they cannot be on every Ship all of the time. Where a Ship does not have a Chaplain embarked a member of the Ships Company will take the lead on worship and fellowship. He or she is supported in this by correspondence from Chaplains ashore and from the Ship's Church Resource Pack, a collection of various hymn books, bibles, devotionals and a hymnal music player, affectionately known as the "Bish in a Box". And so it is that 24 hours after leaving Morning Worship in Mumbles I am sat, the Good Book in hand, planning HMS DUNCAN's next Sunday service as the Ship ploughs south through the Atlantic.



HMS DUNCAN (D37)

I am perfectly placed for inspiration. As a lifelong sailor I can think of no other place where God's power and glory is better demonstrated than at sea. With 191 people onboard, privacy and quiet reflection are often in short supply. However, step up on deck and it is impossible not to feel God's presence. *'They saw what the Lord can do, his wonderful acts on the seas. He commanded, and a mighty wind began to blow and stirred up the waves... He calmed the raging storm, and the waves became quiet.'* Psalm 107: v24, 25 & 29.

Our services range in style from traditional to contemporary and the congregation mimic's those found ashore, we have our regulars, visitors and the curious. Services have to fit within the Ships operational programme which means worship can take place at odd hours and just like churches on land we compete against all the same distractions of work, sport etc. On a routine sailing some services may only have a dozen or so people; conversely, prior to an Operation it is 'standing room only' as we all come together to pray for courage, that the Lord will keep us safe and that His Grace will comfort our families.



Sunday Worship at Sea (stock photo)

If time allows, we try to continue fellowship after the service over a cup of tea, and more often than not someone has managed to 'borrow' a packet of biscuits from the galley. This is regularly the most challenging part of my witness. Sailors can be very direct, love a healthy debate and have a reputation for using an 'exotic' vocabulary. They have listened patiently to the Word and now they have questions.

(continued on page 13)

## The Word on Water (continued)

As a Christian, they expect me to have all the answers, which of course I do not. But what I do have is the Bible, which I encourage them to study. I tell them all the answers are in there and that I am still looking for some of them myself. *'For everyone who asks will receive, and anyone who seeks will find, and the door will be opened to those who knock.'* Matthew 7: v8

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace, strengthen them in their trials and temptations, give them courage to face the perils which beset them, and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lee Wilcock



CPO Lee Wilcock on board HMS Duncan

## 10 Reasons Not to Reach Out

1. If people start becoming Christians, we'll need a bigger room to meet in.
2. Praying for two friends to come to know Jesus isn't in my job description.
3. If everyone in my small group wants to go to India this summer, I'll have to go too.
4. Taking risks isn't good for my disposition.
5. If we become known as Christians in our dorm, people might start asking us questions about our faith.
6. Revival isn't in my one-year plan.
7. Serving the poor might make me uncomfortable with my lifestyle.
8. If our group stays small, everything will be under control.
9. Telling people about Jesus isn't politically correct.
10. Trusting God to use our small group to make a difference on campus, in the community and in the world is too much to ask.

## Time for a smile

"I'm afraid I must ask for an increase," the young curate said to his mentor. "Three other people are interested in me." "That sounds encouraging for you" said the mentor, "may I ask who they are?" "Yes," said the curate, "it's the gas people, the telephone people and the electricity people".

A young couple were delighted when their four year-old son was given a place at the local church school. They told him how good it would be, bought him new school clothes and were pleased when he went through the gates with no fuss. The next morning his mum woke him and told him it was time to get ready for school. "What?" he said, "again?"



### “Forget Me Not”

The idea for clubs for people with dementia and their carers was born around August 2011. The clubs are meant to give people an opportunity for friendship continued access to a social life in order that they receive enjoyment through the clubs.

There are 4 clubs now running, including ours in the Victoria Hall, Mumbles. Our aim is for these clubs to grow so that there is cover in all areas of Swansea for the benefit of people suffering from all types of dementia and their families, friends and carers. So far a number of churches have been happy to 'donate' their halls in order that this worthwhile club can exist. At the end of the year we were able to make a donation to the church in appreciation for the use of the hall, for which we are very grateful. All the clubs are run by volunteers, most of whom have had some experience of a loved one with dementia - this helps when trying to understand the feelings of the carers of people with dementia. Often they are cut off from friends who, perhaps, are not able to come to terms with the repetitive or, in some cases, inappropriate behaviour.

Because we are a club, we are not tied by a lot of the legislation that involves expensive training or irrelevant paper filling. We are simply a club who enjoy each other's company.

As club members, we pay £1 a week which covers the cost of tea, coffee, milk and toast and biscuits for our break time. Any other funding may come from donations (we do have some collection boxes!) contributions and bequests which mainly go into the general fund at our Head Office which is based at Siloam Baptist Church at Killay.



In order to provide the fun and relief that are so badly needed for the carers and social interaction for the person with a dementia, we try to get out in a small bus to interesting places such as Aberglasne, Cardiff, Tenby, National Botanical Gardens and most recently the Tawe Boat Trip and Swansea Marina. We had a wonderful morning and the weather was very good for us. The trip took 2 hours and we were given a very interesting history of the river and the copper industry. We were able to buy drinks and home-made cakes and other goodies and the volunteers on the boat were very attentive.



These trips clearly come at a cost, but as far as possible our aim is not to add to the burden of care by passing that cost on to club members. So far all costs have been covered and we were also able to buy a new toaster for our 11 o'clock coffee break and were donated a brand new radio with an iplayer docking system so that we can enjoy music with our games.

We play a variety of games (no obligation) such as bowls, skittles, darts (no sharp ends), table tennis and various table games. We often have a quiz with a small prize, usually chocolates, and what club would survive without a Christmas lunch?

We already have a waiting list for members which is troubling, so if you know of a church hall that is going free we would be glad to know and then, of course, we would need some volunteers who enjoy a bit of fun .... how about it?!

**Chris Capel (Club leader)**

### The Methodist Conference (continued from page 17)

#### Working party to consider Church's position on marriage

The Conference voted to appoint a working group to consider whether the Methodist Church's position on marriage needs revising in light of changes in society. It also agreed that the membership of the working group should take account of the Methodist Church's breadth of theology, age, ethnicity, gender and experience.

A report submitted to the Conference by the Methodist Council asked for a working group to undertake this consideration with reference to "scripture, tradition, reason and experience". The working group will be tasked with considering the implications of any change in legislation with reference to the Church as a consequence of the Marriages (Same Sex Couples) Bill. Recommendations for any changes in the Church's practice or polity will also be made by the working party.

The Secretary of the Conference and General Secretary of the Methodist Church, the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, gave a response to the Government's proposals on same-sex marriage in December last year.

*"Within the Methodist Church there is a spectrum of belief about sexuality; however the Church has explicitly recognised, affirmed and celebrated the participation and ministry of lesbians and gay men," he said. "The Government has indicated that Churches which do not wish to marry same-sex couples will have the protection of law. This is important. However, in our response to the consultation we also stated that, while in the future we may or may not choose to affirm same-sex marriage, it would be unwarranted interference for the State to make that decision for us."*

In April this year, the Methodist Council made proposals for the way in which the Methodist Church might want to respond to the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Bill. The Council noted that the Assistant Secretary of the Conference had given evidence to the House of Commons Bill Committee on 14 February 2013 in respect of the Bill. This evidence, given on behalf of the Methodist Church, stated that the Methodist Church considers marriage to be a life-long union in body, mind and spirit of one man and one woman.

### Archbishop of Canterbury addresses Methodist Conference



The Rt Hon and Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, urged the Church to become a "footwashing Church" in his address on resourcing the common good.

The Archbishop said there was a "gross imbalance in the allocation of resources" in society. He drew on the North/South economic divide, pointing out that the spending per head on infrastructure in the North East was £5 compared to more than £2,000 in the South.

"There is a danger of the radical individualisation of our society, meaning whole sectors dismiss others sectors," he said. "Economics has to be our servant; not our master."

Archbishop Justin said that Churches should stand alongside the poor; not just talk to them, as he expressed concern about the rise of foodbanks in the UK and made the argument that inflation was a tax on the poor.

Before taking questions from members of the Methodist Conference, the Archbishop said that Churches should unlock the wealth that God offers through God's spirit. "The common good is resourced in the generosity of God and nowhere else," he said.

**The Conference elected the Revd Kenneth Howcroft to be President of the Conference in 2014/15, and Mrs Gill Dascombe to be Vice-President. Both will start their year of office when the Conference meets in Birmingham on 28 June 2014.**

These are just a few of the things that happened at Conference this year. To find out more please visit [www.methodistconference.org.uk](http://www.methodistconference.org.uk)

# CONNECT

Autumn 2013

## Circuit Preaching Plan for October and November 2013

		October				November			
2013		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24
			Mission			All Saints	Remembrance	Prisons	Christ The King
Sketty	10.30 6.30	Austin S Mugadzaweta	Noon Wigley 6p.m	P Cram Beynon	Noon F Long S	J Jones S Austin	Noon Shingleton	Mumford P Cram S	Allison F Noon
Penlan	10.30	J Jones S	C Jones	3p.m Noon HF	Q Hawkins	Noon S	J Coleman	Austin	Noon
Brunswick	10.30 6.30	Mugadzaweta S Noon	Shingleton Sketty 6p.m	J Jones A Cram	Thomas CA Mugadzaweta CA/S	Mugadzaweta S W Hawkins	Mugadzaweta M Gregson	McNiven Mugadzaweta	Mugadzaweta Long S
Pitton	10.30	J Coleman HF	At Horton	Evans S	At Horton	H Coleman	At Horton	P Cram	At Horton
Horton	10.30	At Pitton	Walker/Wigley HF	At Pitton	SA	At Pitton	Walker S	At Pitton	Buckler
Clydach	3.00	P Cram S	Hughes	Long	Noon	Davies	P Cram S	Mugadzaweta	Walker
Mumbles	8.45 10.30	Guest S	Long S Mugadzaweta	Long	J Coleman	Allison	Long S	Long S A Cram F	SA
Wesley	10.30 6.00	Long HF P Cram HF/S	P Jones Sketty 6p.m	Allison Long US	Long S Christwell	A Cram Evans S	P Jones Mt Calvary	Q Hawkins J Jones US	Long S Christwell
Murton	10.30 5.30	W Hawkins Walker S	Austin S Sketty 6p.m	Noon Walker	Walker F A Gregson	Mumford Guest S	Allison Walker	Long S H Coleman	Walker F P Cram
AIB	7.00	Walker	Walker	Walker	-----	-----	Walker	Walker	Walker
Reynoldston	10.30	Dolling	RWG	Walker S	Guest	Beynon	RWG	Walker F	Dolling S
Morrison	10.45	Noon S	Long	H Coleman	Shingleton	P Cram S	A Gregson	Mugadzaweta	Guest

### Key To Abbreviations On The Preaching Plan

F – Family Service S – Sacrament of the Lord's Supper RWG – Reynoldston Worship Group CWG – Clydach Worship Group SA – Superintendent's Arrangement  
CA – Church Anniversary AIB – Am I Bovered (Murton Sunday Youth Group)

Materials for 'Special Sundays' may be found on the Methodist Church website – [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

Would preachers please note that dates for the next plan should be with the Superintendent Minister by  
Monday 14th October 2013



### Methodist Conference (continued from page 16)

The new president described Rublev's illustration of the Trinity - a fifteenth century Russian icon of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit - which features in the new booklet, *Glimpses of Glory*. "Our belief in God as trinity means that we believe that God is dynamically relational," she said. "As you look at the icon, you are drawn into that space and into a dynamic relationship with God. God moves ceaselessly into the depths, reaching out to us in love and drawing us close."

At the end of her address she emphasised that the calling of a Church to wait expectantly for glimpses of God's glory was no easy calling.

"Let me be clear," she pointed out, "recognising the presence of Christ does not deny the harsh reality of suffering and the existence of evil, of those things that are clearly contrary to the will of a loving God. This is the calling to stand alongside people in pain and suffering and to offer something of the love of Christ even there. This is the calling to recognise the presence of God in the mundane and the ordinary and to help others to find God there as well. Many Methodist people respond to this calling day by day in their communities and places of work."

Her address also emphasised the importance of ensuring that Church spaces are safe places for children and the vulnerable, and that the Church should challenge cruelty, indifference and violence as contrary to the will of God.

### The Vice President of the Conference 2013/14 is Dr Daleep Mukarji OBE



Dr Daleep Mukarji OBE was born and raised in India, where he trained as a medical doctor. He recently retired as director of Christian Aid. Daleep lives in North Finchley, London, with his wife Azra, where they attend Muswell Hill Methodist Church. They have

three grown-up children. He is passionate about international development, ecumenism and the Gospel.

"I am overwhelmed and very humbled to have been elected Vice-President of the Methodist Conference," said Daleep. "It is a huge privilege and a great challenge and opportunity, and one has to prepare spiritually and personally to make the most of it. I am passionately committed to the Methodist Church and am very excited about this possibility. I believe the Church has so much potential to reach out to people here and overseas; it needs to be spiritually alive and socially relevant - that is the part of the Church that I want to be associated with."

### Learning Network

The Methodist Conference received an update on the creation of the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network. The new Network will draw together all of the Church's learning training and development activities in a new structure.

The creation of the Network was agreed by the Conference in 2012. This year the Conference heard how that decision has been implemented, including how the plans have changed over the year.

Jude Levermore, Head of Discipleship and Ministries for the Methodist Connexional Team, said: "In implementing the Conference's decisions of 2012, we've been forced to change in some areas and spotted ways to improve on the original ideas in others. But the core remains the same: a learning network for the whole of the Methodist people."

The Network will be supported by two centres: Cliff College in Derbyshire and the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, an ecumenical venture with the Church of England. Most of the 55 new staff posts will be based in regions to be able to better serve local church needs. They will work with national staff and with the staff at both Queen's and Cliff.



(continued on page 18)

### Methodist Conference London 2013



The Methodist Conference this year was held at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, London from 4-11<sup>th</sup> July.

The conference first met in 1744 under John Wesley, who gathered together his assistants (both ordained ministers and itinerant lay preachers) to confer together about 'what to teach, how to teach, and what to do, i.e. how to regulate our doctrine, discipline and practice.'

The contemporary Conference is a gathering of 306 representatives along with a number of associate and ecumenical members. Each Methodist district is represented, along with some who have been elected by the Conference and some ex officio members and representatives of the Youth Assembly.

There is a mixture of lay people, ordained presbyters and deacons. Presbyters and deacons also have their own separate gatherings before the main, decision-making session.

The Conference is the body that agrees policy for the Methodist Church.

Business for the Conference to decide upon is prepared by the Methodist Council, an elected body that meets regularly. Memorials to Conference may be sent by districts ahead of

time, and representatives to Conference may introduce Notices of Motion.

Each year the conference welcomes the new president and vice president who were elected at the previous year's conference and the ordinations of new presbyters and deacons take place on the Sunday.

**The President of the Conference 2013/14 is  
Rev Ruth Gee**



Ruth is the Chair of the Darlington Methodist District, and represents the Church on Churches Together in England, the Free Churches Group and the Joint Implementation Commission, which supports the Anglican Methodist Covenant. She is passionate about sharing the Gospel and enabling people to grow in their discipleship. She lives in Darlington, with her husband Robert, who is a Methodist minister. Ruth has two grown-up children: Andrew and Rachel.

In her inaugural address to the Conference, Ruth spoke of a Church waiting expectantly for glimpses of God's glory.

"Waiting expectantly to glimpse the glory of God means waiting expectantly wherever we are and whatever the circumstances. This recognition of the presence of God is at the heart of mission and of evangelism which are surely about enabling people to recognise God already present with them, about introducing them to Jesus, about being the hands and feet of Christ in the world."

But she added that this recognition was a challenge. "At other times it is not so easy and we need to know God well to glimpse the glory. We have to learn to expect to see God in the ordinary, in the mundane, because that is the meaning of incarnation; that is the consequence of God's ceaseless movement into the depths."

(continued on page 17)