

CONNECT

The Magazine of the Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit

Winter 2014

In this Issue

News in Brief	2
Superintendent's Message	3
Festival of Remembrance at Murton	4
New Circuit Project	5
New Circuit Project/Safeguarding	6
Sketty Nightshelter/Gower Lost Dogs	7
Why Jesus is Better Than Santa Claus	8
Renovation and Remembrance	9
Christmas Services/Water Aid	10
Breakout Church/Murton Ladies Guild	11
Faith and Fellowship/Wesley Guild	12
Lindors Fellowship Week	13
Zambuko Ra Jehovah Trust	14
Circuit Plan	15
Circuit Churches	16

NEW CIRCUIT PROJECT 2015



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 2nd March 2015**

Editor

Mrs. Myra Maddock
Tel: 207484
email: myra43@virginmedia.com

The new circuit project for 2015 'The Amelia Trust Farm' was launched at Penlan Methodist Church on 12th October. The circuit welcomed back deacon Lorraine Brown who served in Swansea from 2003-2007 and who is now the director of the Amelia Farm in the Vale of Glamorgan. Lorraine along with her husband Andy spoke passionately in the afternoon about the work of the Farm and how it reaches out and gives hope to disadvantaged children and young people.

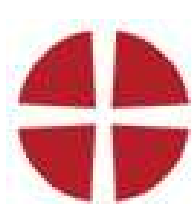
See inside on pages 5/6 for more details

In God, time and eternity are one and the same thing.

Heinrich Suso



Message from the Superintendent



Superintendent's Message

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

I begin by paying tribute to Rev Alf Austin one of our much loved Supernumerary ministers in the circuit who passed away following a short illness on Monday 24th November at Brynhyfryd Nursing Home, West Cross.

Alf trained for the Methodist ministry at Didsbury College, Bristol after which he served as a probationer minister in the Port Talbot circuit. His ordination took place in 1970 at the Methodist Conference that met that year in Manchester.

Alf served in the both the Llanelli and Carmarthen & Port Talbot Circuits where he spent many years as Superintendent minister before moving to Swansea in 1992. During his time in Swansea Alf ministered in different parts of the circuit including the Lower Swansea Valley, Gower and Central Swansea.

From 1978 to 2014 Alf served as the Methodist chaplain to RAF Pembrey Sands. Throughout his ministry Alf was ably supported by his wife Freda and they had one devoted son Iestyn.

After 46 years in the active work Alf became a Supernumerary minister in 2013 retiring to live with his family in Sketty. Alf didn't like the word 'retire' and would continue to visit the hospitals and support anyone who needed pastoral care.

I will remember Alf for his good collegueship, his wonderful sense of humour and devotion to our Lord. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

Have you considered becoming a member of the Methodist Church?

At the last count in 2013 the British Methodist Church had 208,679 members. There are over 800,000 people in Britain who have an active

connection with the Methodist Church with over 80 million such people across the world.

Most of the people who attend the Methodist Church have declared their faith in Jesus Christ by becoming members of His Church and they offer their differing gifts and abilities in His service.

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us Romans Ch 12 v 4-6

If you are not a member of His church then I would like to invite you to become one. If you have been confirmed in a different Christian tradition but now find your spiritual home in Methodism that is perfectly fine and I encourage you to have a conversation with your local minister about being a member of the Methodist church. It may be that you have never been baptised or confirmed but know in your heart that the Lord is now calling you. Rejoice! And share this news with your minister.

Please visit the following website <http://www.methodist.org.uk/who-we-are/membership> for answers to lots of questions.

Christmas Joy

As I write this message our churches will be in the process of being decorated to celebrate the wonderful season of Christmas that is only days away. Many people, even within the church, have a moan about the modern day Christmas and how it's becoming too secular and money driven. They may have a case but I choose to look at what is really going on at Christmas and see people buying gifts for the ones they love. I see the Christmas story of Jesus' birth being re-enacted by children and young people in schools and churches throughout the world. I see people travelling hundreds of miles so that families can be together. I see the churches a little fuller than usual and people making a real effort

(Continued on page 4)

Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit



MINISTERS

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

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

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

Leslie J.Noon
47 Sketty Park Road, Sketty,
Swansea SA2 9AS
Tel: 203938
email: leslienoon@hotmail.com

Siperire Mugadzaweta BA,MNSc (Zimbabwe)
5 Channel View, Sketty,
Swansea SA2 8LY
Tel: 206793
email: siperiremugadzaweta@yahoo.co.uk

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Mr.Derek Norton
Tel: 402338
e.mail: nortonderek84@hotmail.com
Mrs.Heather Coleman
Tel: 290214
e.mail: hacoleman@ntlworld.com
Mr.Bob Alderdice
Tel: 401228
e.mail:bobalderdice@btinternet.com
Mr.Martin Gregson
Tel: 843256
e.mail:martin.gregson@alumni.manchester.ac.uk

news in brief

Reynoldston

Passionate prayer and praise
every Thursday at 10 a.m.
and on Sunday evenings at
6 p.m.

Penlan

Bible Fellowship every
Tuesday evening at 7.30 p.m.

Brunswick

Bible Study 1st and 3rd
Thursday of the Month at
11 a.m.
Every Wednesday 10.30 a.m.
FAN 'Friends and Neighbours'
11.30 a.m. Intercessory
Prayer Meeting

Murton

Coffee Morning in the church
every Tuesday 10.00 a.m. –
11.30 a.m.

Wesley

Lite Bites & Fellowship every
Thursday at 12 noon
Bible Study every Tuesday
10 a.m.

Sketty

Coffee mornings for charities
on the 1st Saturday of each
month from 10 a.m.-12 noon.

Mumbles

Lunchtime Worship every
Wednesday at 12.15p.m
Theo's Coffee Shop - open
daily 10.00a.m – 5.00p.m



Open Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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 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

Breakout Church at Sketty

A new worship venture and adventure was started at Sketty on Advent Sunday – Breakout Church. It was church, but with a small difference. We started altogether as usual but then we had an opportunity to breakout to explore the Word, to encounter God and to journey in prayer. At the end we came back together again to pray and to sing a closing song.

We started this venture because we recognise that we all have different needs in worship. Some like to be quiet and still. Some like to engage creatively. Some like to debate. But on the whole we do the same thing – sing 5 hymns, listen to the sermon and say a few prayers. Maybe this is how we like it – and for most Sundays, this is what we will continue to do. But, we thought, maybe there are other ways. And maybe we can invite a friend or neighbour to something that offers a bit more choice. And maybe we will grow spiritually and numerically by meeting with God, by worshipping God in new ways.

There were four spaces to which people could breakout to, including one which remained in the church sanctuary itself:

- Bible study space. For those who like to discuss and debate.
- Creative space. For those who find God in creating things.
- Prayer space. For those who like to reflect, to pray and to meet God quietly.
- Words and music space.. For those who wish to remain in church as usual and listen to the organ and other music, hear spoken prayers and reflections.

As I write this for Connect, it is too early to assess how it went. But we plan to do four over the next 12 months and then have a review. We are already thinking about our next one which will be on 22nd February, which is the first Sunday in Lent.

Rev Leslie Noon

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

‘ALL ABOARD’

For the Murton Methodist Ladies’ Guild



On Monday 22nd September, 10 members of the Murton Methodist Ladies Guild boarded the Copper Jack, Swansea’s new Community Boat. You will see from our photograph that we had a new member on board that day, namely our Chairlady’s grandson, Cameron, who is 2 and a half years of age!

We met at the Swansea Marina for an afternoon trip along the River Tawe. We sailed through the lock and proceeded up river passing Swansea Yacht Club, then under the Sail bridge, past the Cambrian Pottery works and towards the scenic approach to the historic Copper Works site. We were given a very informative and interesting talk on the history of the area and as we reached the bascule bridge, just before Morfa Retail Park and Liberty Stadium, we navigated back to return to the Marina.

Our trip took us 1.5 hours and we enjoyed light refreshments on board.

A thoroughly nice way to spend an afternoon!



The morning prayer is the key that opens to us the treasures of God’s mercies and blessings; in the evening, it is the key that shuts us up under his protection and safeguard.

Jacques Ellul

New Circuit Project Launched



Rev Howard Long, Deacon Lorraine Brown and Janet Neilson

Members and friends from throughout the circuit gathered at Penlan to launch the new circuit project for 2015 The Amelia Farm Trust.

Deacon Lorraine Brown, who served in the Swansea circuit from 2003-2007 before becoming the director of the Farm, gave a presentation in the afternoon on its work and led worship at a circuit service in the evening.

The Amelia Trust is a working farm is set in 160 acres of countryside in the beautiful Vale of Glamorgan. It offers a calming and therapeutic environment. The Trusts core objective is to support and educate vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. Through fun and work based activities the young people are empowered to participate, learn new skills and develop potential. The many people that make up the daily community on the farm include skilled staff and volunteers, young people who are discovering life, adults with learning difficulties in work placements and members of the public enjoying the countryside.



Historically 'Whitton Rosser Farm' was owned by Sir Leoline Jenkins, a Cowbridge man who became Secretary of State to Charles II and principal of Jesus College, Oxford. In 1685 he bequeathed the farm to Jesus College and it was worked by tenant farmers until it officially became the home of Amelia Methodist Trust in 1991.

The blue print for the Trust began in the early autumn of 1988, with work not starting until September 1991. A process of transformation involving hundreds of volunteers and a small team of management and staff, took a site knee high in mud with part derelict buildings and turned it into what it is today.

The Amelia Trust Farm was made possible through a generous donation by local benefactors Bob and Ethel Huggard and a vision shared by founder Rev. John Stacy-Marks with a group of volunteers who formed the Council of Management.

The vision was to enable all kinds of people, young and old, to enjoy nature and learn about conservation, animals, rural craft and the countryside.

Today the Farm seeks to serve those who are disadvantaged, specifically young people aged 13-16 years who for many varied reasons struggle with their social development or cannot engage in traditional schooling pathways. They are referred to the Farm through the education system, social services, youth services and youth offending teams.



Listening to Deacon Lorraine speaking at Penlan

Growing up is different for everyone, it is rarely easy and some will have a tougher time than others. The lives of young people may be affected by drug and alcohol use; their own or that of their carers. They may have a transient home life or be looked after in the care system. Some of the young people may have

(Continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

criminal records, a medical diagnosis that affects their behaviour, be mistreated, bullied or abused. Others may be so painfully shy that they are unable to integrate. All of the young people who use the Farm, like so many adolescents are experiencing difficulties in life and the staff at the farm aim to support and value them through those difficulties whether they are feeling threatened, vulnerable, anxious or disadvantaged.

Deacon Lorriane said 'We see each young person as a valuable individual; working closely with the referrers we create an appropriate program of support and development that is specific to their needs. This may include learning a new skill, such as animal care and farming techniques, horse care or woodland management, construction, music, pottery or I.T. and they may go on to gain recognised qualifications in these areas. It may include learning life skills such as cooking and shopping or maybe communication skills and anger management.

The building of self-esteem and value is important if young people are to be pro-active in making good life choices therefore we aim for our young people to recognise themselves as valuable, as people with something positive to offer to society. Our hope is to provide a caring and supportive environment so young people will grow during their time with us and discover a future they can look forward to and enjoy.



The Amelia Trust Farm is a registered charity but does not receive any core funding. All the funds raised by the circuit over the next 12 months will go directly to supporting this wonderful Methodist charity here in South Wales. Please support the various events as they are announced.



Contact details

Tel: 01446 782030

e-mail general@ameliastrust.org.uk

Address Five Mile Lane Barry CF62 3AS

www.ameliatrust.org.uk

Open to the public

Summer Hours 10a.m – 6.00p.m

Winter Hours 10.a.m – 4.30p.m

Safeguarding

Dear Sisters and Brothers

There has been much in the news recently (and no doubt for the foreseeable future) concerning the terrible child abuse situations that are coming to light. This is a concern for the whole of society. The Methodist Church, as part of its commitment to creating safer spaces has been undertaking a 'past case review' to look at any safeguarding cases connected to the Methodist Church over the last 60 years involving children or vulnerable adults. The perspective of lay people within the Church is crucial to this process, as they often carry information which may not be passed on to ministers. If anyone in the Circuit has anything to contribute to this Review, a form and information is available on www.methodist.org.uk. The deadline for contributing to this is 24th December 2014. Alternatively you may like to speak to your minister who will be able to offer practical advice on reporting your concern as well as supporting anyone who is reliving painful experiences.

Yours in Christ

The Circuit Staff Team
(Howard, Andy, Leslie, Pam, Siperire)

CONNECT

Winter 2014

Night Shelter @ Sketty

The Circuit is once again taking part in the Swansea Night Shelter scheme. Like last year, the scheme will run from January to March but this year it will take place in Sketty. However people from a number of different churches in the Circuit have offered to volunteer – demonstrating the strength of the circuit system.

Sketty	50
Mumbles	12
Brunswick	2
Clydach	1
Murton	2
Wesley	2
Total	69

Our oldest volunteer is 92 – so if you think you're too old, think again! Our youngest and newest volunteer is a PhD student who has been attending Sketty only since September. So you see, it really is something that a wide range of people can help with – because you are always part of a team.

Gwen Dumelow from Sketty is our night shelter co-ordinator and is generally keeping on top of everything so that it will be well organised.

The night shelter really does make a difference to people's lives. It gives them an opportunity to spend the night in warm, dry and safe surroundings, with a hot meal and people to talk to. It allows them space to access the support that they need.

Please pray for the night shelter this year – for all the guests and the volunteers. Even if you can't be one of the volunteers, praying is something you can do!

Rev Leslie Noon



Mumbles Half Term Holiday Club



I just wanted to let you know about a new website which I have set up to deal with lost pets in Gower. It has been something which I have been meaning to do for quite a long time, having met a number of visitors whose dog has run off and they don't know what to do or how to spread the word. But similarly, locals can also find themselves separated from their furry companions and need to get the message out there.

It's a very simple site and FREE to use. It gives a place where anyone can post a notice about a pet that is missing or a pet which has been found.

Please remember www.gowerlostdogs.org.uk

or Google: *Gower lost dogs*

Please spread the word to anyone who you think may be interested.

Selina Taylor



Brunswick Alpha Banner

I tell you whenever a man stands by God, God will stand by him.

Dwight L. Moody

CONNECT

Winter 2014

Why Jesus is Better Than Santa Claus

Santa lives at the North Pole...

JESUS is everywhere

Santa rides in a sleigh...

JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year...

JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies...

JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited...

JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your life when invited.

You have to wait to see Santa...

JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa doesn't know your name. All he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"...

JESUS knew our name before we were born. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO...

JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry"...

JESUS says "cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys...

JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but...

JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree...

JESUS became our gift and dies on a tree...the cross.

We need to put Christ back into CHRISTmas. Jesus is still the reason for the season.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life".

(John 3:16).

On Monday 15th December at 7.30 p.m. Brunswick Methodist Church will be holding an Evening of Carols and Christmas music from Medieval times to the present day, presented by Hemiola and Young Musicians. The concert is free but donations are welcome as we are supporting Zambuko ra Jehovah Trust. This is a Charity formed by our minister and her former churches in Coventry to care for HIV AIDS Orphans in Zimbabwe.

Jesus is not looking for fans. He is looking for followers.

Tony Evans

Renovation and Remembrance

When is the right time to renovate a plaque which is in your church? Sometime in the future or perhaps is it just best to leave it as it is?

We have a WORLD WAR ONE plaque in Sketty, which commemorates ten men who died during that war. It was looking in a sorry state and needed some TLC. Many years ago we were told not to clean it, but I didn't know why, at the time. When it was made, the "good idea" at the time, or so they thought, was to varnish it! Of course, over time, the varnish ate into the metals (brass and bronze).

Bob Cuthill, Jeff Coleman and I had researched the men listed on the plaque and produced a folder about their war service and the history of their families, to remember the start of WW1 in August. Bob and I thought that this was the right time to have the plaque cleaned, to honour these men.



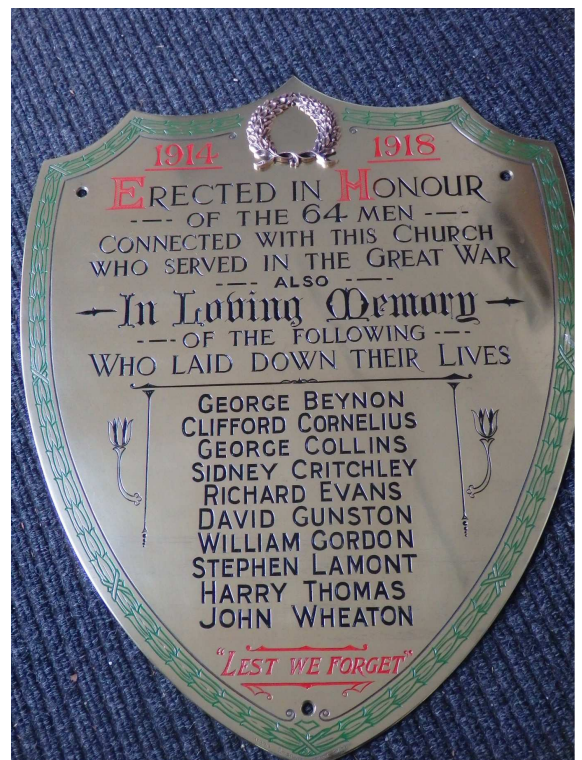
It didn't take me long to realise that finding a craftsman in Swansea who could do the necessary work was not going to be easy. I searched Yellow Pages and saw that Trevor Lewis Signs was listed. I phoned the number and spoke to the owner, Mike Grant. Great news, Mike could undertake this kind of work. Now, all of you know, that Methodism works in mysterious ways. I had to explain to Mike that any decision to clean the plaque needed to be ratified by the Property and Finance Team! Eventually the decision was made to go ahead with the renovation. I phoned Mike on and off for a

week, but there was no answer. By this time Remembrance Day was getting nearer and nearer. Eventually Mike phoned me. The reason he had not replied before was that he had had a heart attack! However, it was only a slight scare and he had returned to work.

About a week later he phoned to say that he was worried that he hadn't been able to rub away all the marks and asked us to come and see the work he had done so far. To the untrained eye i.e. most people reading this, the transformation was astounding. But Mike is a perfectionist and he knew that it wasn't 100% as he wished, but to do any more rubbing would probably not improve the situation. So we told him to complete the work by re-painting the lettering.

A few days later it was back on the wall in the church entrance. When you saw it in situ it sent a shiver down your spine and made you say "WOW".

Sadly Mike is one of the only people in Swansea who can do this work. He has no apprentice to enable him to retire. Mike is a craftsman of the highest calibre and we thank him for all his hard work.



(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 3)

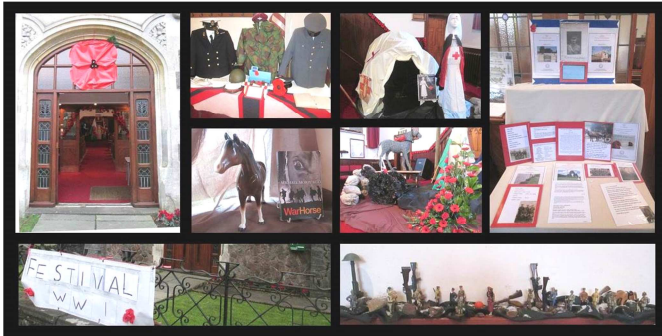
effort in their relationships. We can all give gifts that are beyond monetary value such as telling those closest to us that we love them, helping those in need and being kind to those we work with.

Christmas is a time, be it only briefly when we are reminded of what life can be like if we try.

I hope that Christmas is a blessed time for you and your loved ones as we all hear again the wonderful good news of the birth of Jesus.

Behold I bring good tidings of great joy which shall be for all generations. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a saviour who is Christ the Lord.

Howard



1914 - 2014 Festival of Remembrance Murton Methodist Church

Around 200 visitors and 70 school pupils visited Murton Chapel during the Remembrance Festival held to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of the Great war. From uniforms worn by locals serving their country to moving profiles of those who lost their lives, there was plenty to see and plenty to learn and reflect upon.

Hundreds of Crochet poppies decorated the Chapel amidst moving displays encouraging people to reflect on the sacrifice of war and the toll it took on ordinary life. The exhibition included comprehensive details of all those remembered on the war memorial in the Church, thanks to in-depth research undertaken by members of the congregation.

Among the items on display was a Certificate of Honorary Discharge signed by King George in 1919 and awarded to Private Thomas H. Prosser. Underneath was a picture of Thomas Prosser's great grandson, James Prosser, who was killed in active service in Afghanistan with the Royal Welsh Regiment in 2009. A

poignant reminder of the on-going state of war and conflict in which parts of our world still languish.

Recordings of interviews and war time music helped to set the tone of the display. One recording gave an account of the Christmas Truce when the guns fell silent on Christmas Day 1914, and troops sung carols, exchanged gifts and played football together. This was played alongside a montage of model soldiers re-enacting the football match, complete with upright guns for goal posts!

The exhibition co-incided with the annual Remembrance Service on Murton Green organised by Murton Community Council, and many visitors came across to the Chapel for refreshments afterwards and to view the exhibition.

On the Sunday afternoon of Remembrance weekend a special 'wartime lunch' was served. The sausage and mash followed by bread and butter pudding was polished off by a grateful crowd in the impromptu NAAFI (Murton Hall)!

Two classes of Year 5 and 6 pupils from Bishopston Primary School visited on the final day and completed a comprehensive 'photo trail' and answered questions about different aspects of war and conflict.

It was a real team effort with many people involved in different ways, and a great form of gentle outreach; opening up the Church with a deliberate focus and inviting the community in.



Visiting pupils from Bishopston Primary School.

Rev.Andy Walker

Faith and Fellowship at Sketty

At Sketty, we call our Bible Study sessions 'Faith and Fellowship', because through each session we hope to grow in both. Our last series was entitled 'Jesus Rediscovered' and we looked at different aspects of Jesus' life and ministry, allowing the Bible and one another's insights to stimulate and renew our own thinking. As part of the series, a number of us went to the Gwyn Hall in Neath to see Simon Callow perform *The Man Jesus*, in which, alone on stage he takes on a number of different characters from the pages of the Bible (Mary, Peter, John the Baptist, Judas, Herod to name a few) and with almost no props, brings each encounter alive. The following evening many of us met together to discuss the play and our reactions to it. We found that by not only reading the Bible, but by engaging with this performance, we really did rediscover Jesus!

Rev Leslie Noon

Wesley Guild



This year Wesley Guild celebrated its Centenary. The service was taken by the Rev. Howard Long, our Superintendent Minister. We were pleased to welcome members from some of the other Methodist churches from the Swansea and Gower circuit. A banner to mark the Centenary had been made by Mrs Gillian Mylan and Mrs Marilyn Harry and this was unveiled during the service by the Rev Howard Long. The service was enjoyed by all and afterwards we joined together for the presentation of gifts for the Guild members, the Minister Rev. Pam Cram, Rev. Howard Long and Dr. Alan Cram, our pianist. This was followed with tea and a slice of celebration cake.



On 1st November we held our Christmas Fair at the Clydach Community Centre due to the renovation work on our own building, and again this year we went from strength to strength. The hall was filled with tables such as tree decoration, Christmas trees, cushions, hats such as spiderman, hello kitty, Mickey mouse and many more, not forgetting the cake stall which had a number of delicious things to eat. All homemade by the Ladies of the Guild and friends. Then tea and chat along with a homemade mince pie. The money we made all goes towards buying new gifts for the Mr X Appeal which we have supported for over 25 years. 100 gifts have been bought this year for ages 2 weeks up to 16 years all packed and ready to go.

The Christmas fair raised the staggering amount of £1000 which is safely in the bank account. All ready to start again next year.

We would like to thank those people who came along and supported us without you we may not have been able to raise so much. Many Thanks and hope to see you next year God willing.

Marilyn Harry

Ogof Adullum officially opens



The New Drop-In Centre at our Brunswick Church 'Ogof Adullum' opened its doors in October and is open three nights a week. A full report on this brand new Methodist Project will be included in the next edition of Connect.

Every experience God gives us, every person He puts into our lives, is the perfect preparation for a future only He can see.

Corrie ten Boom

Continued from page 9

The plaque was originally dedicated on Empire Day, 24th May, 1921. The plaque was re-dedicated on Sunday 9th November, 2014.

The ten men who died were – George Beynon; Clifford Cornelius; George Collins; Sidney Critchley; Richard Evans; William Gordon; David Gunston; Stephen Lamont; Harry Thomas and John Wheaton. The fifty four who returned included Harry Muxworthy, Idris Vaughan, Harry, Walter and William Edwards and John, William and Harry Lamont.

Janet Neilson

Circuit Project raises record amount for Water Aid



Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta (Chair of the Circuit Missions Group) presenting a cheque for £8320 to Mr David Padfield from Water Aid

On Saturday 6th December, members and friends throughout the circuit gathered at Sketty Methodist for a coffee morning during which a presentation was made to Mr David Padfield from Water Aid. The circuit churches raised £8320 for the Water Aid charity which was the chosen circuit project for 2013/14.

Mr Padfield said, "This money will make a life-changing difference to people living in poor communities and for that, we at WaterAid, on their behalf, are extremely grateful. Many thanks to all those who were involved in the fundraising, especially, of course, the Missions Committee who clearly worked very hard throughout the year. It's gratifying to see churches in which people are so committed to helping those in need, whether it be in this country or elsewhere.....that is to the immense credit of the Swansea & Gower Circuit.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a successful 2015".

Christmas Eve/Day Services 2014

Church	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Sketty	Rev.Leslie Noon 11.30 p.m. S	Rev.Leslie Noon 10.30 a.m.
Penlan	At Wesley	At Sketty/Morrison
Brunswick	Rev.Siperire Mugadzaweta 7.00 p.m. S	Rev.Siperire Mugadzaweta 10.30 a.m.
Pitton & Horton	At Murton	Selina Taylor 10.30 a.m. at Pitton
Clydach	At Wesley	At Morrison
Mumbles	Rev.Howard Long 6.00 p.m. S	Rev.Howard Long 10.00 a.m.
Wesley	Rev.Howard Long 4.00 p.m. S	At Morrison
Murton	Rev.Andrew Walker 11.30 p.m. S	Rev.Andrew Walker 9.30 a.m.
Reynoldston	At Murton	Rev.Peter Dolling 10.30 a.m.
Morrison	At Wesley	Rev.Pam Cram 9.30 a.m.

We should live our lives as though Christ was coming this afternoon.

Jimmy Carter



Lindors Fellowship Week

Lindors Country House Hotel in the Wye Valley was the setting for the Fellowship week organised by Jean Long, a former Wesley Guild Connexional Secretary.

A full house, every room and lodge taken, beautiful weather and Rev. The Lord Griffiths as the Guest Speaker, whose theme for the Devotional Session was:

"A personal look at faith, vocation, witness and proclamation."

Two coach outings were organised; one to the Bristol Docks and a tour around the S.S. Great Britain, followed by a river cruise and a visit to Wesley's new room.

The second, much enjoyed, outing in glorious sunshine was a boat trip on the Brecon Monmouthshire Canal, with lunch on board, only to see the Lindors manager, Neil Heaven, flying past in a motor launch (very James Bond style), which caused a lot of laughter.

Neil had a meeting earlier in the day and was supposed to be catching up with the canal boat.

Who said Christians are miserable?

A varied programme was organised for the evenings.

Swansea street pastors, Win and Quentin Hawkins, spoke about their work; Rev. Leslie Griffiths gave a fascinating talk with his usual wisdom and humour (whoever tires of London tires of life); Jemima Phillips, former harpist to H.R.H. Prince of Wales entertained with a feast of music.

The Chepstow Male Voice Choir was in excellent voice and presented a great repertoire of songs.

Diane and Derek Norton delighted everyone with a selection of poetry and verse.

There were morning and evening devotions and lots of fellowship, so much so that only three rooms are left for next year's Fellowship Week – 27th September to 2nd October with Guest Speaker Rev. David King.

Jean Long

Zambuko Ra Jehovah Trust

What does Zambuko ra Jehovah mean? It means "Bridging the gap with Christ." (The Love of Christ crossing the bridge to help those in great need). It was while I was in Zimbabwe in 2002 that I saw the plight of the HIV/AIDS Orphans. I found out children under 8 years of age had to do all the household chores and care for siblings because both parents had died. This was 15 years after I had had a vision that there was going to be a need to care for HIV Orphans and I was to be involved in the execution of the programme.

When I told the members of Earlsdon Methodist Church Council, they immediately accepted taking up responsibility for this Overseas Mission. This led to the formation of the Zambuko ra Jehovah Trust that they registered as a Charity whose function was to care for 30 HIV Orphans. Earlsdon Church promised to educate these children, provide stationary, buy them school uniforms, school shoes, and food as often as possible on an annual basis.

The church promised to carry out fundraising activities in order to reach their target. They however promised to carry out this task for 5 years only. Therefore in 2015, Earlsdon church will hand over Zambuko ra Jehovah to the Churches where I will be ministering.

Every year since the registration of this Charity, I had the responsibility of going to Zimbabwe to execute the plan of care. After which, I would then bring the receipts of all activities undertaken for the Charity to the treasurer. This has been working well.

This year in September, I returned to Zimbabwe for the same reason and I have provided pictures of the children and items bought for them.

It rained so much the day we arrived. It was during the school holidays and so the distribution was not done at school but at the village. As it was raining, the children were packed like sardines in small bedrooms.

Our lorry had a puncture, which caused a delay. The children were quickly becoming hungry and restless. We then decided to give them bread and a drink before sharing the items we brought.

They were very happy to receive two pairs of pants and socks each. We gave books and extra pants to those who were in the top 4 in their classes as an incentive for everyone to work hard.

I was thrilled to see that some of the children had changed, and their ability to reason had developed. Price aged 10 years said to me, "Reverend if it was not of God's people in Earlsdon, I do not know where I would be right now." He continued, "My father died first then my mother who was left to look after me alone also died when I was still young. None of my parent's relatives would have managed to send me to school. I had never worn a pair of pants or a pair of shoes, but God's people at Earlsdon Methodist Church made sure I got these." As he held them, beaming, he said, "I am grateful. The other children won't laugh at me any more because I also have school shoes and a uniform."

He says he wants to be a doctor when he grows up, if funds permit.

To me, Earlsdon bridged the gap with Christ and I am very thankful to God.

Yours in Christ.

Reverend Siperire Mugadzaweta



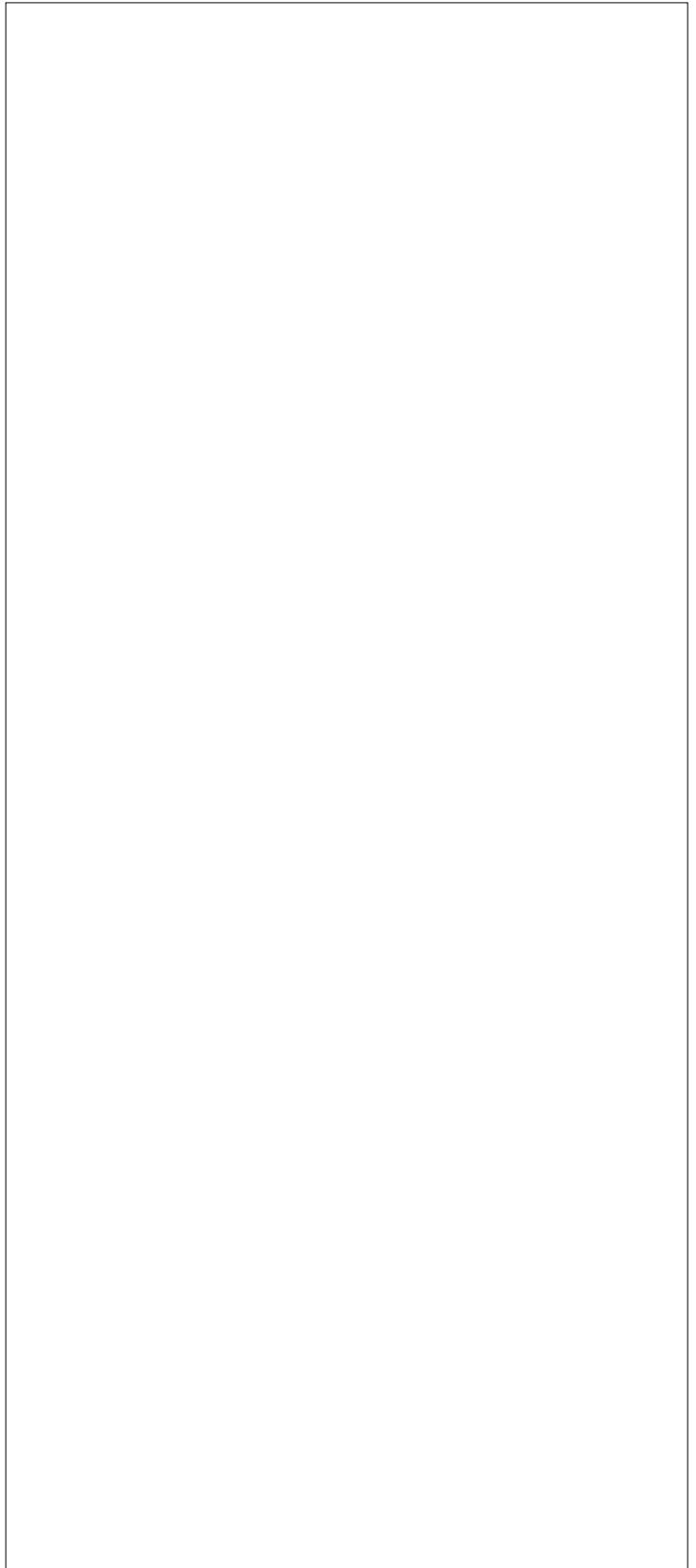
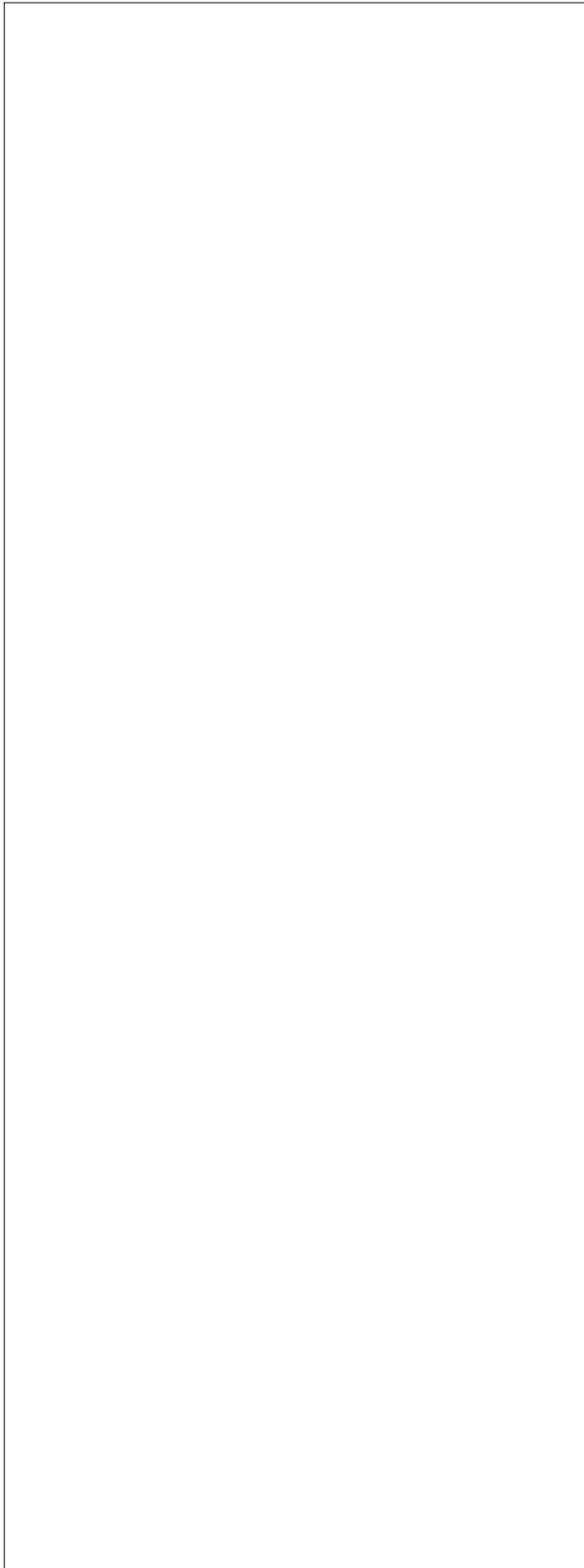
30 Zambuko ra Jehovah Orphans

You were made by God and for God and until you understand that, life will never make sense.

Rick Warren

CONNECT

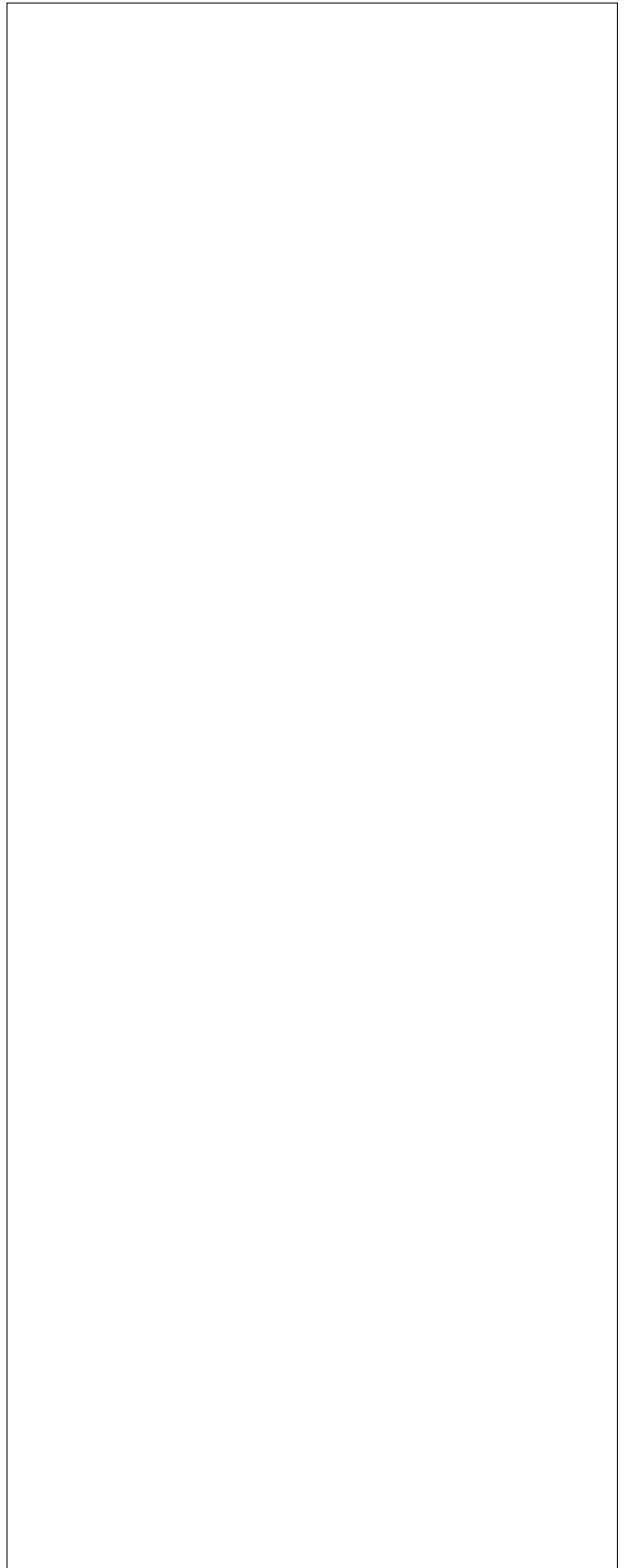
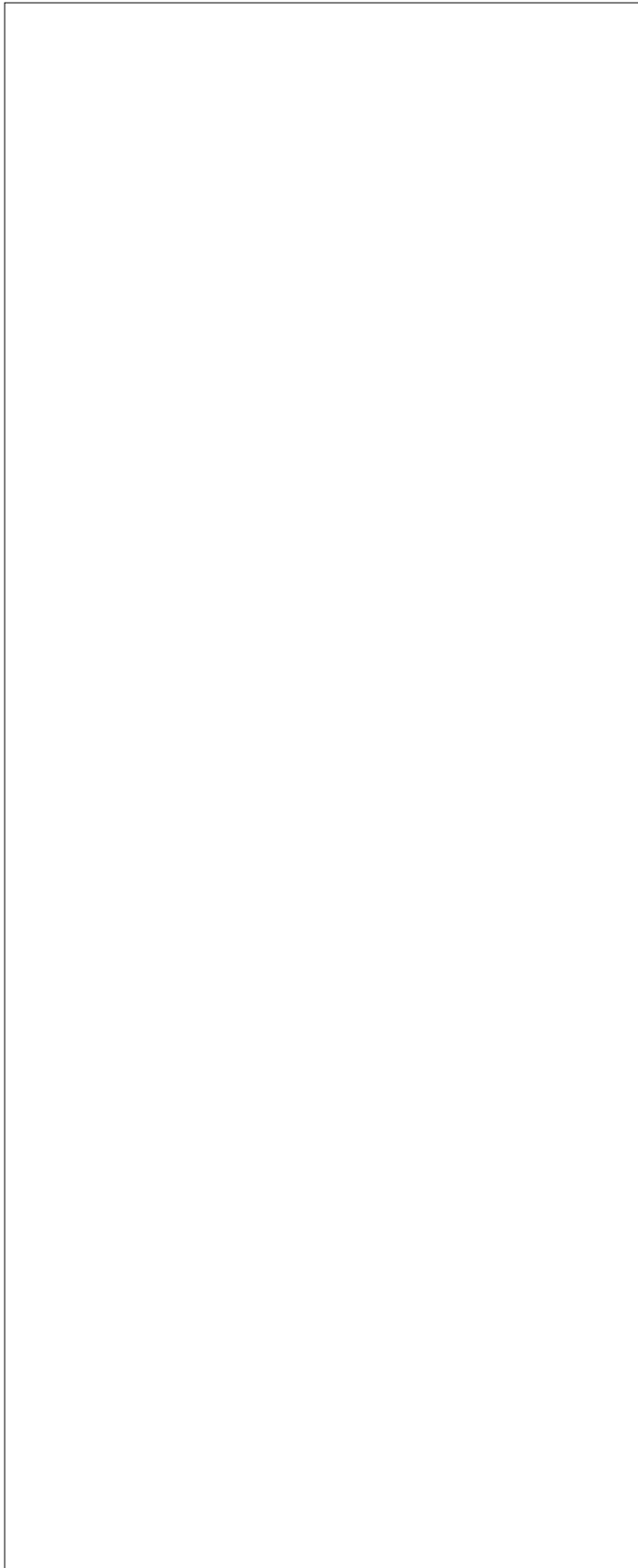
Winter 2014



Don't compare yourself to other Christians. Compare yourself to Christ. He's the one you're following.

CONNECT

Winter 2014



I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

C.S.Lewis

