

CONNECT

The Magazine of the Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit

Winter 2015

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Tell us all your news

Keep us informed with news of people, activities and special events by sending your contribution to the editor or sending her an email: myra43@virginmedia.com

Deadline for the next issue is 29th February, 2016

NEW CIRCUIT PROJECT

Zambuko ra Jehovah Trust (ZrJ)



Bill Holdforth and his wife, Helen from Earlsdon Methodist Church, Coventry

On Sunday 11th October trustees from Coventry handed over their responsibilities for Zambuko ra Jehovah to trustees in Swansea and Gower. This special event was hosted by Brunswick Methodist Church and included an emotional presentation about the work of the ZrJ Trust followed by a faith tea, including African food. At the evening service, the preacher was Bill Holdforth, responsible for registering ZrJ in Britain. The Superintendent of the Swansea and Gower circuit Rev Howard Long said, 'The circuit is pleased to be supporting this worthwhile project for the next two years. We know that lives will be changed for the better because of it.'

Please see page 10 for more details

Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sketty

Coffee mornings for charities on the 1st Saturday of each month 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon.

Brunswick

Bible Study 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 11.00 a.m.
Every Wednesday 10.30 a.m. FAN 'Friends and Neighbours'
11.30 a.m. Intercessory Prayer Meeting

Murton

Coffee Morning every Tuesday 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. in the Wesley Room, serving tea, coffee and biscuits.
Occasional special fundraisers.
Everyone welcome to drop in.

Mumbles

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

Wesley

Lite Bites & Fellowship every Thursday at 12 noon
Tuesday Ladies' Group every Tuesday 7.30 p.m. (during school term time)

Pitton

Joint Carol Service with St.Mary's Church, Rhossilli at Pitton on Thursday 17th December at 7.30 p.m.

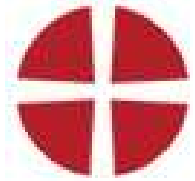
Prayer and Bible Study meetings take place throughout the circuit. Please contact the minister/church stewards for more information

Editor

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Message from the Superintendent



When Jesus approached Jerusalem, shortly before his arrest, trial and execution we are told that he wept over the city. He said, 'If only you had known on this day the way that leads to peace. But no, it is hidden from your sight ... but a time will come when your enemies will bring you to the ground, you and your children within your walls and not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognise Gods moment when it came'.

And history teaches us that Jesus' words were fulfilled in AD 70 when Jerusalem was attacked by Rome following a Jewish rebellion and the city was raised to the ground. The people had failed to recognise the moment and the message that could have saved them from their fate. 'If only you had known the way that leads to peace'

Jesus' words were not only addressed to the people of Jerusalem in AD 30 they have been addressed to every generation since and we are no exception.

If we truly seek peace, peace within our hearts, within our relationships, within our families, within our churches, within our communities then we must follow Gods Way. Martin Luther King Jr once said that history is cluttered with the wreckage of those who failed to follow Christ's command to love one another.

Pope Francis in a recent sermon said that the Christmas festivities this year will seem empty in a world that has chosen the way of war and hate.

Following the recent terrorist attacks in Paris which was the worst terrorist attack in French history, a similar attack in Mali a few days later, the bombing of a Russian airliner, a double suicide bombing in Lebanon and the bombing of Syria the Pope said, 'We should ask for the grace to weep for this world, which does not recognize the path to peace. To weep for those who live for war and have the cynicism to deny it'. 'God weeps, Jesus weeps.'

When we look at these tragic world events it looks like evil is having a field day. It was into this kind of world that Jesus was born with Roman

legions tramping over the world and kingly despots murdering the innocents. He was born into a world where there were wars and rumours of wars. He came as the prince of peace and died on a cross to save us from our sins and from the folly of ignoring God in our lives.

At this Christmas time I pray that we will cling on to this verse from St John's Gospel.

For God so loved the world that he gave us his only son so that whosoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life John 3:16

A Christmas Service with a Difference

On the last Saturday in November the circuit hosted a special Christmas service that was attended by people of different nationalities.

The event was held at Brunswick Methodist Church and organised by Rev Irfan John who is the Synod enabler for culturally diverse congregations in Wales.

The service was attended by Rev Dr Stephen Wigley, chair of Wales Synod, Rev Aled Edwards, CEO of Cytun, Alan and Marilyn Thomas from Swansea City of Sanctuary, circuit staff and members of Brunswick and other churches in the circuit.

We shared food, sang carols and as we each said the Lord's Prayer in our own language it was a reminder that the child born in Bethlehem is Lord of all and King of the nations.

Howard



Philippians 4.13 – I can do everything through him who gives me strength.....



**Little Steps
Big Steps**
"One step at a time"

Swansea's 'Little Steps Big Steps' Action for Children project held its annual conference at the Marriott hotel last month with 100 people attending including Sir Tony Hawkhead, the CEO of Action For Children.

The 'Little Steps Big Steps' project is managed by Alison Long and is part of the Swansea Young Families Scheme providing support for parents aged 14 to 25 living in the local area. The project helps young parents to think about their life aspirations and family needs as well as supporting them to access the services that are available across the county. Little Steps also works with other organisations in the Swansea area.

Based at George Thomas House in Killay, Little Steps Big Steps operates from a number of venues throughout the city including Penlan Methodist Church where a creche, parent support group and advice is provided.

The conference was attended by many young people as well as other professional bodies

including the Prison Advice Care Trust, Women's Aid, Ethnic Youth Support Team and many others. The Methodist Circuit was represented by Gill Worrall, (Action For Children secretary) Mary Hayman (member of Uniting Church Sketty) who worked with the parents for a month prior to the conference on a beautiful mosaic for the occasion and Rev Leslie Noon (minister of Uniting Church Sketty and Penlan).

Rev Leslie said, 'It was an interesting and stimulating conference. We learnt more about the Little Steps Big Steps project and heard from the young parents themselves about how the project offers them a place to develop, build confidence and self-esteem and enables them to live more productive, fulfilled and happy lives'

Sir Tony Hawkhead explained how the roots of the charity are in the Methodist Church and he endorsed the Little Steps Big Steps project as a 'very good thing, one of a kind'.



(Left) Sir Tony Hawkhead, Chief Executive with Gill Worrall, Circuit Action for Children Secretary and Rev Leslie Noon
(Right) Alison Long, Little Steps Big Steps Manager addressing the conference



(Right) Artwork provided by Mary Hayman



One of the secrets of a long and fruitful life is to forgive everybody everything every night before you go to bed. (Bernard Baruch)

Morrison Methodist Church Special Coffee Morning



This picture was taken at a special coffee morning on the 24th of October at Morrison Methodist Church. It was special because it was a coffee morning with a difference. The people who came for the coffee morning were entertained by Betty Phillips and her daughter. Betty comes from Swansea and she is one of the celebrities who attended the Weakest Link Programme on television. Betty narrated some of her adventures she undertook at the "The Weakest a Link" programme. This was a day to remember. Those who attended this coffee morning laughed their lungs out as Betty narrated her ordeal. Many of the people came to hear Betty tell her experiences. She did this in a theatrical manner. It was indeed well received and well attended.

The aim of this coffee morning was to raise money for church funds. The people were asked to make donations for this special service.

Rev. Siperire Mugadzawate

Advent celebration

Each year we ask the same question – why do the shops prepare for Christmas so early? There were some elaborate displays ready by the end of October, hoping to entice foot-weary shoppers. The time for a serious start to the preparation for Christmas is the start of Advent, but we hear Christmas carols being played and sung weeks before the start of the Advent season. During Advent we should be singing some of the great hymns of anticipation, but nowadays they tend to get squeezed out. Advent is all about preparation, enabling us to be ready for the great celebration of the coming of the Son of God.

God doesn't love us less if we fail or more if we succeed. God's love never ceases or changes



Rev Howard Long and Rev Pam Cram with Mrs Anne Gregson (centre) on the occasion of her completing 40 years as a Methodist Local Preacher.

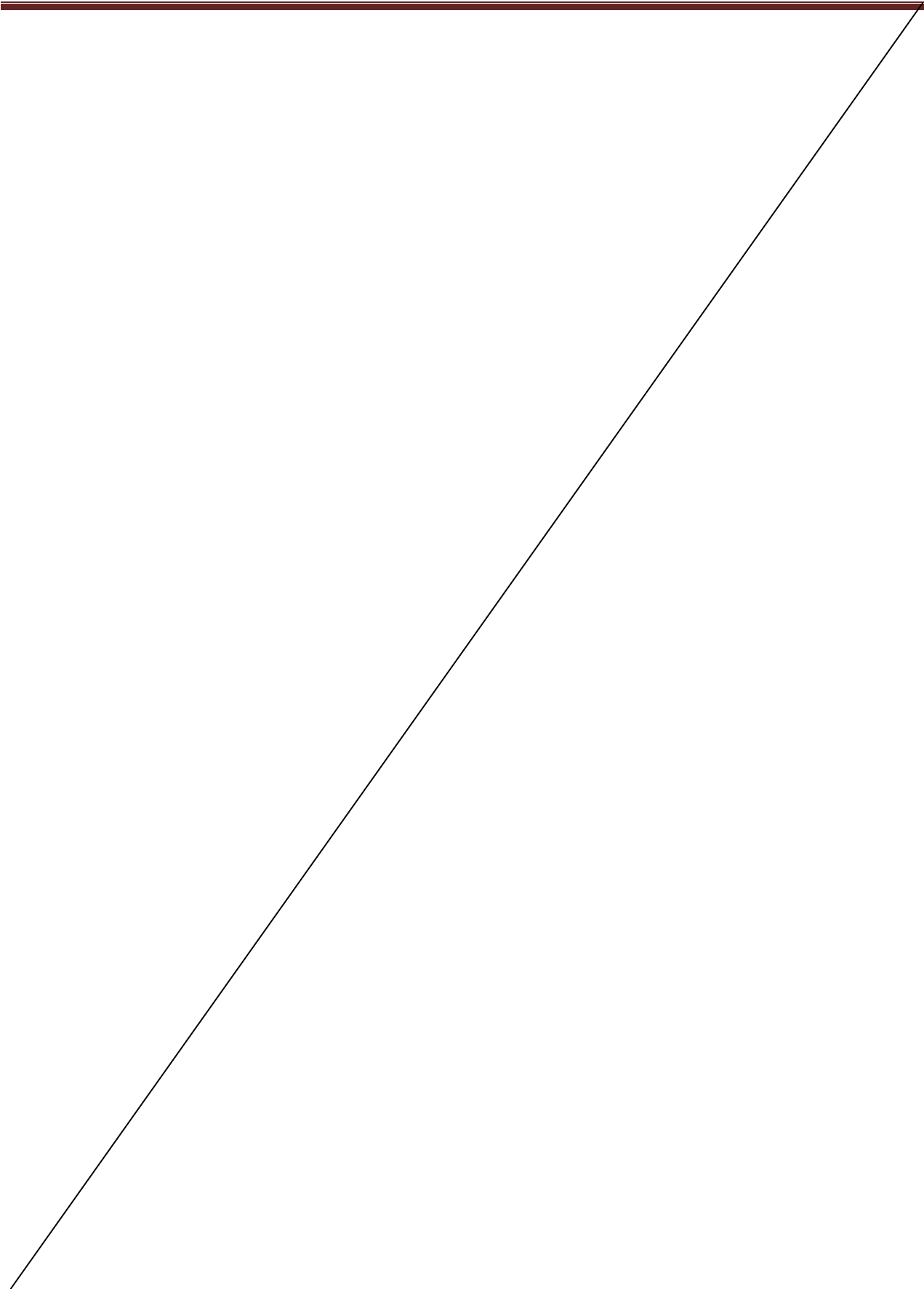
A letter of thanks from the President of the Conference Rev Stephen Wild was presented to Anne by Alan Cram, the circuit local preachers secretary at Clydach on Sunday 4th October.

Prison Fellowship group in worship at Brunswick Methodist Church



Members of the Prison Fellowship

Prison Fellowship members meet at Brunswick monthly. The average numbers of members who attend is usually 14-16, but in November there was a huge group of nearly 30 members. This is very pleasing to us because it is from this group where we get a good number of volunteers who help with our Drop in Centre, Ogof Adullam. As a church we are grateful for their support.



WALK TO EMMAUS: A Programme For Christian Growth And Development



The Gospel of St Luke relates the story of the risen Christ appearing to two who were going along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Two friends were walking together, sharing their hearts' deepest concerns. The risen Christ joined them and explained the scriptures as they walked. This experience on the road was a heartwarming experience as the risen Christ walked and talked with them. The illuminating climax of the experience was when Christ took bread and said the blessing, then broke it and gave it to them. The two had their eyes opened and they recognised him as the risen Christ and they rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the others. (Luke 24:13-35)

This story provides the pattern for Walk to Emmaus, a programme that seeks to renew Christian discipleship. Originating from Cursillo de Cristiandad (Spanish for "short course in Christianity"), the Walk to Emmaus is a three-day experience which helps participants ("pilgrims") to explore the Christian faith and ways of putting faith into action.

It is a 72-hour experience which begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening. Do not expect to have a quiet, relaxing retreat, but rather a weekend packed with talks, discussion, prayer, communion, fun and memorable moments. Discussions centre around fifteen short talks given by laity and clergy which present the theme of God's grace and how that grace comes alive in the Christian community and expresses itself in the world.

Across the circuit there are twelve people who have been on a "Walk to Emmaus" and our next ladies' walk is now being planned. It will be held next year at Brunel Manor in Torquay, from 3 - 6 November. If you think this might be for you, please contact Win Hawkins in the first instance. More information is on the website: www.emmaus-walk.org.uk

Win Hawkins

Murton Methodist Ladies, Tuesday Guild



On Wednesday 16th September 2015, members of the Murton Methodist Ladies' Guild attended the Mumbles Lifeboat Station to deliver their fundraising cheque. The ladies have supported the RNLI for the last two years and have successfully raised a total of £800.

Teresa Lewis

"Oh Yes You Can"

Please put a reminder in your diary to come to Uniting Church Sketty's 2016 pantomime. Our next extravaganza, Princess Cutie is scheduled for Thurs – Sat 11th – 13th February 2016. It promises to have all the fun, noise, colour and most importantly audience participation of our previous productions. As usual we will have a cast with an age difference of 70 years so it is sure to appeal to audiences of all ages.

Do come and support us. We would love to see you – "oh yes we would"



How and what do you think about Holy Communion?



When Jesus fed the 5000, when He ate with the two disciples at Emmaus and when He had the last supper with His friends, there were four specific actions on each occasion; these four actions are always important.

- He took bread
- He offered thanks and blessed it
- He broke it
- He shared it

These four actions are present in the service of Holy Communion, which is therefore always an acted drama – take, bless, break, share.

In the Bible and in our hymn book, there are many important theological themes about the service of Holy Communion. These are emphasised differently in our various denominations, churches and in our own thinking. Some themes are often sadly neglected. I am indebted to the teaching of the Revd. John Wiseman when he was minister at Sketty, for the following ideas. He identified nine themes which I will mention here and comment on.

- 1 Thanksgiving. The service ought to be a joyful celebration with thanks for all that God has done and given to us. Our services can sometimes be so serious and solemn that the joy and celebration are missing, don't you think?
- 2 Unity. The service is for a community of people and not just for individuals. Our little glass cups are hygienic, but we need to remember the 'one cup'. Perhaps a chalice on the table might be a visible reminder? Is there some positive virtue in the frequent Methodist practice of coming to the front "by tables" rather than in a line?
- 3 Remembering. Most people regard the sacrament as a memorial of the crucifixion and the actions of Jesus for our salvation. But all memorials can be dynamic activity, a "calling to mind" which, in this case, brings the work of Christ into the present, so that past, present and future are mysteriously brought together. Remembering is not just about the past.
- 4 Sacrifice. The service for the worshipper is a sacrifice of ourselves, a sacrifice in praise and thanksgiving, the living sacrifice of worship. But it also recalls the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross, remembering the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world", the whole work we call "the atonement".
- 5 Presence. Most of us probably have very different views as to what this means. "His presence makes.....?". Is the presence of Christ in the sacrament different in any way from that at any other time? When a minister gives you a piece of bread and hands the cup and says 'the body of Christ', the 'blood of Christ', what is meant? Is consecrated bread and wine different from other bread and wine? Does it matter if surplus bread is fed to the birds? Who may preside at the Lord's Table? Does it matter?..... and so on.....What do many Christians mean when they speak of "The Real Presence?"

(continued on page 8)

Swallowing angry words before you say them is better than having to eat them afterwards.

(continued from page 7)

- 6 The work of the Holy Spirit. In all the services of Holy Communion we pray “send down your Holy Spirit, so that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us.....” We cannot separate the death and resurrection of Jesus from each other, nor from Pentecost, nor from the spirit-filled lives of believers, so in some special way the Holy Spirit is required for the sacrament to be effective.
- 7 Anticipation. The service is intended as a “foretaste of the heavenly banquet”. There is to be a final gathering in glory of God’s holy people – as described in the Book of Revelation – so this service is to continue until that final day comes, that is mysteriously described as “the marriage feast of the Lamb”.
- 8 Mission and justice. At the end of the service we talk about “living and working to God’s praise and glory”. Even in the Old Testament the prophets condemned sacrifices of worship when there was injustice and a total disregard for the poor and marginalised. Thus, in Methodism at Holy Communion, a special collection of money is made – for the needy, the suffering, those who are badly treated etc. It used to be called ‘the benevolent fund’. By whatever name its significance is important and our commitment to mission and justice is vital.

So.....what do you think and believe? How do you feel?

Alice Rutter

A reason to shout Hallelujah!



Royal Mail announced that this year's specially designed Christmas stamps will feature scenes from the nativity story. The stamps feature scenes from the Biblical story of the nativity from the Annunciation and the birth of Christ.

Harvest Festival at Mumbles



Before a service, speak to God. During a service, let God speak to you. After a service, speak to other people.

God will never become disillusioned with us, because He has no illusions about us in the first place.

Uniting Church Sketty achieves its first goal



When Sketty Methodist and Bethel URC were still 'engaged' (rather than married as we are now!), one of the things we talked about was whether we could become a church which tithed 10% of its income. At the time we didn't know whether we would be able to achieve this – but we felt we wanted to give it a go.

Through communion collections, coffee mornings, envelopes to various charities etc etc, we have now seen that the 'Uniters' (well, what else could you call us?) take their giving seriously. In the financial year between September 2014 and August 2015, we actually gave away 13% of our total income.

Our total income for the year (basically made up of collections, fund-raising and lettings) was £113,217. We gave away £14,860 to around 20 different charities and organisations.

Tithing is a basic biblical principle. No one need necessarily be controlled slavishly by it, because each person, each organisation is different. For some it will be more doable than for others. But as it says in 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

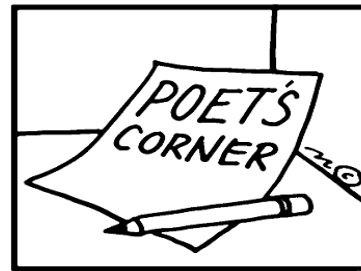
Rev. Leslie Noon

Mumbles Methodist Church Walking Group

Come and join us as we explore the area, enjoy fellowship time and relax over lunch.

For more information contact:

Sue Weekes - 850569
Jennifer Mountford – 404654
David Jones - 359008



Peace & War

A keen wind blew, sharp and clean
in my face
as I quickened my pace
above the quiet shore;
thorny yellow bushes,
bright as the morning
bent and swayed,
shaking off the dew
that still glistened on the tor.

Jackdaws were blown off course
as they gossiped together
like wives at a wedding;
a tractor, hard at work,
clanked its way across the land;
friendly voices praised
the beauty of the day
and the sea whispered secrets
to the sand.

I stood and listened in awe
to nature's murmurings,
until a warrior jet
roared low and menacingly
over the sea.

What cruel hand or mind
I wondered,
would seek to spoil this peace
for vain glory of a warlike kind?

Diane Norton © 2008

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

There is no saint without a past and no sinner without a future.

Zambuko ra Jehovah

In 1999 I had a vision, in which I was given money to set up an HIV / Aids orphanage but I did not understand what it meant. Then, in 2004 I went with my sister-in-law to villages in Zimbabwe where I met orphaned children being looked after by elderly and infirm grandmothers, with very limited resources. I felt that this is what God wanted me to do - to care for these children. I selected 8 children and sent them money for food, clothes and school fees. Two years later I was able to support 4 more children. I did this for 6 years while I was nursing in Coventry and training for the Ministry.

One day at Earlsdon Methodist Church we were talking about our encounters with the Holy Spirit and I was prompted to tell my story about the Zimbabwean orphans. As a result of my testimony, the Church Council agreed to take Zambuko ra Jehovah as their Overseas Mission for the next 5 years.

I went to Zimbabwe and formed a committee of Zimbabwean trustees; we selected 30 children according to the greatest need. First children who had lost both parents; second those with one parent who was ill. We selected 18 girls and 12 boys.

Bill Holdforth at Earlsdon formed a committee of trustees and registered ZrJ as a UK charity. With other church members we raised enough funds to care for the 30 orphans. Last year a borehole was sunk so that the children and community could have clean water and the children could start market gardening.

Since the formation of Zambuko ra Jehovah I have been to Zimbabwe 3 times, to pay for the children's school fees, buy school uniforms, shoes, stationary, food and other essentials. I am so grateful that the members of Swansea and Gower circuit have agreed to support this project.

Siperire Mugadzawate

Swansea Hope Week of Prayer & Fasting for the City 11th – 17th January 2016

Meeting in different churches throughout the week (venues/times tbc)

Sunday 17th January at 7.00p.m. – Prayer Celebration for the whole City (venue tbc)

They call it true love

It was a busy morning, approximately 8:30 am, when an elderly gentleman, in his 80's, arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He stated that he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9:00 am. I had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him. I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy with another patient, I would evaluate his wound. On exam, it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors, obtained the needed supplies to remove his stitches and redress his wound. We began to engage in conversation. I asked him why he was in such a hurry. He told me that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. He told me that she had been there for a while and that she was a victim of Alzheimer's Disease.

As we talked, and I finished dressing his wound, I asked if she would be worried if he was a bit late. He replied that she no longer knew who he was and that she had not recognized him for five years. I was surprised, and asked him. "And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?"

He smiled as he patted my hand and said. "She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is."



Methodist Women in Britain Recipe Book

The South Wales area of MWiB is planning to produce a recipe book to sell to support projects being undertaken all over the world by MWiB and partners. If you have any well tried and tested recipes please let me have them as soon as possible. They can include starters, soups, main courses, desserts, cakes, vegetarian, gluten free etc., etc. Men are welcome to send in recipes as well.

Janet Neilson (Tel 202085)
Email: iverbrustad@btinternet.com

The best way to know God's will is to say, "I will" to God.

Asian Fellowship



There is a new Asian Christian Fellowship (Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi) that meets each month in Sketty with Rev. Irfan John. It would be lovely to see anyone wishing to share in worship with us.

The fellowship meets at Bethel URC, Sketty Park Road, Sketty Swansea SA2 9AS on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 5pm. Please contact Rev. Irfan John for more information: 07796 494035

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

It's happening in China

Saying prayers with colleagues would feel a bit uncomfortable, too intimate an activity in the workplace for many people. Yet at Chinese real estate giant Tiantai Group (known as Tentimes Group in English) that is exactly what they do in the boardroom before making important decisions. Three-quarters of the firm's eight-strong senior management team are Christians and founder and chairman Wang Ruoxiong, who himself became a Christian seven years ago, says that when the company has to make difficult decisions, it turns to the Bible for guidance. In fact, he goes as far to say that it's not him but God running the firm. "He controls everything. I am merely a housekeeper of Jesus, assisting him in taking care of the company," he says.

What a score. Ninety seven not out!



The world-famous American evangelist Billy Graham has turned 97. Billy Graham has preached to tens of millions of people face-to-face, with some estimates saying more than two billion people in total have heard the Gospel through his ministry. Estimates say that hundreds of thousands of people have put their faith in Jesus Christ because of Billy Graham's work. He is famous for his television crusades, which ran from 1947 to 2005, and for advising US Presidents Dwight Eisenhower, Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard Nixon.

Billy Graham supported Martin Luther King Jr in the American civil rights movement and his ministry contributed to people becoming Christians in Communist countries like Russia and East Germany before the fall of the Berlin Wall. He is still active in ministry, albeit much less so, having recently released a new book. His preaching has also featured in a recently released promotional film about the Gospel, called Second Chance.

Steve Wade, from the charity My Hope UK which Billy Graham founded, commented: "Billy Graham was saying 'do you think they'll still remember me in the UK?' And for me this spoke of the humility of the man, that he would actually think that we'd forget about him. This is the guy who preached to over 9 million people in this country face-to-face... over 380,000 recorded decisions for Christ, and yet he's saying 'do you think they'll still remember me?'. "My heart's desire, his heart's desire, is that we all become bolder in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ."

Life is our creator's gift to us. What we do with that life is our gift to the world.

Good News from Tanzania!

As many of you are probably by now aware, I go out to Tanzania twice a year to support a couple of projects. I'm glad to say that both are progressing (see for example www.heshima.org). However, on my most recent visit I also came across, almost by accident (Tanzania is full of surprises!), a project that supports street children.

Since I had a couple of days to spare at the end of my visit, I decided to spend a night at Kiboko safari lodge, on the edge of Arusha National Park. A few years earlier in Tanzania, I had met a Dutchman who turned out to be the owner of the lodge. I'd remembered him telling me that the lodge employed ex-street children who were trained at an education/training centre that he had also established: luckily I'd kept the details and, with my appetite whetted, I duly arrived.

Getting to the lodge itself was an adventure: 5km from the nearest "proper" road. My taxi driver, who had borrowed a rather nice saloon car from a friend, kept very cool even when the bottom of the car made contact with various large rocks in the middle of the "road". However, apparently no permanent damage was done, and he seemed pleased with my tip!

The lodge is described in the brochures as a "paradise": it turned out to be a totally accurate description. Traditional thatched African style chalets (but with running water and electricity) on the edge of forest but overlooking a large marshy area, which was home to a "kiboko"—a hippo. Unfortunately, the hippo had gone walkabouts when I was there, so sadly, there was no sight of him. However, at night in addition to the fireflies and hundreds of croaking frogs, the marsh became a roosting site for (literally) thousands of small birds, who arrived at around 6.30pm in huge noisy flocks, and were then joined by a dozen or so sacred ibis. By 7pm, though, (almost on the dot) all was quiet (except for the ibis who never seem to sleep), until sunrise the next day. An alarm clock was not required!



Kiboko Safari Lodge

(continued on page 13)

We should ask ourselves occasionally – is our life shedding a light or casting a shadow.

(Continued from page 12)

The staff at the Lodge were indeed ex-street children, who had been “rescued” from the streets of Arusha, and given the opportunity for education and training. Their hospitality, standard of service and cooking were exceptional. Their stories of why they ended up on the streets and how they survived there were both shocking and moving, so I decided to pay a visit to the project which rescued them. The site covers several areas, and includes classrooms, workshops, a small farm, and dormitories for around 40 boys. The boys (aged 14-18) first have to prove that they can live without the alcohol, drugs and glue that made their lives bearable whilst on the streets. The daily regime is strict: the first step in rehabilitation is to have some sort of order to replace their previously chaotic lives. The boys also understand that this is their only chance of beginning a new life: if they go AWOL, then they are not allowed back: most of the children choose to stay! Upon “graduating”, several years after arriving, the more academic students are then either sponsored to attend good fee-paying schools, where they can study to ‘A’ level standard, or the more practically minded are found jobs with local engineering companies, or indeed at Kiboko Lodge.



Street children at the training centre enjoying a coke!

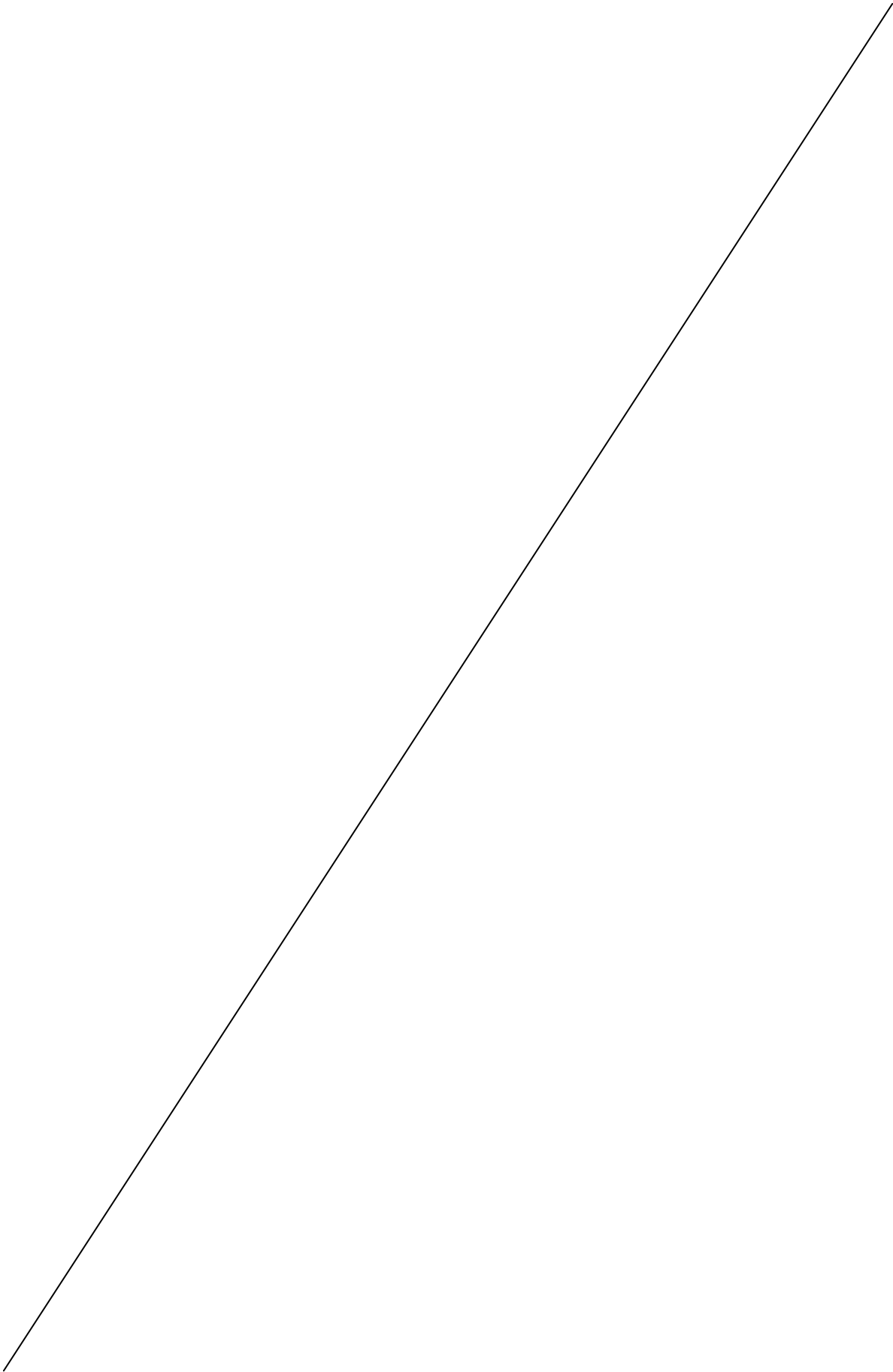
I won't bore you with the details of my journey back to the lodge, first of all standing on the back of a pick up truck, speeding down the main road at 50mph, driven by the Roman Catholic priest who is the manager at the training centre; and then for the last 5 miles, on the back of motor bike, tearing along a rough track for around 5 miles: a good job Pam wasn't there to witness it all!

My visit to both the lodge and the project itself (www.watotofoundation.nl) shows what one individual with vision, determination, energy, and a bit of prayer and support, can achieve. Does this remind anyone of Ogof Adullam?!

PS. How many of you knew that there was a general election in Tanzania on October 25th, and that it passed largely without incident? Another good news story from Africa: sadly, almost totally ignored by our British media.

Alan Cram

God's promises will never be broken by leaning on them.



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Info:  Gower Messy Church Tel: 01792 230226.



THE STABLE TRAIL ...is back!



Saturday 12th December 2015
Come to Reynoldston Village Hall SA3 1AA
Trails set off about every 10 mins.
Morning: 10:30 to 12:30. Afternoon: 2:00 to 4:00.
AN AMAZING, UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE!



Two thousand registered primary schools are now taking part in **Open the Book** initiative and over four hundred schools have registered since October 2014. There are also over 11,000 volunteer Bible storytellers now going into schools across the UK. **Open the Book** is a three-year rolling programme of themed and dramatised Bible stories, which are presented by teams of volunteers, free of charge to primary schools.

Wesley Guild Coffee Morning



Ladies of the Clydach Wesley Guild

On Saturday 26th September Wesley Guild held a very successful coffee morning in aid of Macmillan raising £400.50. It was well attended by friends from the Circuit and Capel y Nant, with a few neighbours and passers by dropping in. Thanks to everyone for their support.

When you feel you are working all the hours God made, it is worth remembering that He made us as human beings and not human doings.

