

CONNECT

The Magazine of the Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit

summer 2016

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On 23rd June each of us will be asked to answer the question "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?"

Behind the simple challenge of the referendum question there are many others which are not on the ballot paper. The referendum is surrounded by controversy, and because opinions differ, so does the interpretation of facts.

A series of briefing notes produced by the Joint Public Issues Team of the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, and United Reformed Church will help people explore the issues surrounding a range of aspects of membership of the European Union (EU), and offers different opinions and perspectives. Christians may not agree on how to vote in the referendum, but we can each reflect thoughtfully and prayerfully on the issues involved.

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
29th August 2016***

Editor

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Churches working together...

joint public issues team

...to live out the gospel of Christ in church and society

See page 7

Dates for Your Diary

Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit



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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

Uniting Church Sketty

Saturday 2nd July 10.00 a.m. -12 noon Coffee Morning for
Circuit Project

Friday 8th July 7.30 p.m. 'Songs from the Shows' by Abbey
player Tickets £5 (half proceeds for Circuit project)

Sunday 10th July after morning service Hunger Lunch for
Circuit project

Brunswick

Bible Study 1st and 3rd Thursday of the Month at
11.00 a.m.

Every Wednesday at 10.30 a.m. FAN 'Friends and
Neighbours'.

11.30 a.m. Intercessory Prayer Meeting.

Coffee morning every last Saturday of each month.

Mumbles

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

Wednesday Lunchtime Worship 12.15 p.m.

Summer Book Sale – Monday 1st August to Saturday
6th August 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Children's Holiday Club 25th July to 27th July from
10.00 a.m. to 12 noon,

Horton

Horton Mini-Market & Coffee Evening on Thursday 4th
August at 7.30 p.m. in Horton Hall

Murton

The church will be holding their Thursday coffee mornings
and book stalls outside the chapel, weather permitting,
inside if wet, commencing on July 14th, 10.00 a.m. till noon
throughout July and August. Proceeds will be shared
between church and charity.

(Please see page11 for news of Murton's flower festival)

Open Day

Open day in aid of CRHD (Charity in South India) at
Riverside, Middleton, Rhossili on Saturday 18th June
Coffee 10.30 a.m.

Lunches 12 noon.

Teas 3.00 p.m.

Cake and plant stall.

All welcome.

For more information please contact Rev.Gill Evans.
01792 390527

Wesley - Brynhyfryd

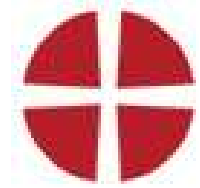
Coffee Morning and an invitation to come and look at the
recent refurbishment on Saturday 9th July 10.00 a.m. to
12 noon.

Prayer and Bible Study Meetings

These meetings take place throughout the circuit. Please
contact the ministers/church stewards for more information.



Message from the Superintendent



Welcome to the Summer edition of the Connect magazine. I hope that you enjoy reading all of the interesting articles concerning the work of the Methodist Church here in Swansea and the wider Methodist Connexion.

This year the Queen celebrates her 90th birthday. Every year she has two birthday celebrations, one on the anniversary of her birth in April, and an "official" birthday in June.

It is a tradition that was started by George II in 1748 because of the good old British weather. George was born in November, and it was felt the weather would be too cold at that time of year for his annual birthday parade and so it was moved to June. And so our Queen's actual birthday is on April 21st and her birthday military parade known as Trooping the Colour is on June 11th. With this being such a special year lots of street parties will also take place on June 12th and throughout the rest of the month. It is good to see that our Murton church will be holding a special event to mark this occasion on Saturday June 25th.



In the excellent book *The Servant Queen and the King she Serves* published by the Bible Society, HOPE and the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity I was drawn to these words in the opening chapter.

She's the longest reigning monarch in British history. She never went to university but she has been the advisor and confidante to twelve British Prime Ministers. She's a 90 year old senior citizen but still works 40 hours a week. She employs 1200 people but feeds her own dogs. She is the most famous woman in the world but seems as relaxed in a school, a residential care home or a technology company as in the company of celebrities or other Heads of State.

She is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, attends church weekly, even on holiday and prays daily but never tells anyone to go to church. She has no power to make political decisions but her personal authority has brought nations together.

What is the secret of the Queen's remarkable consistency of character and extraordinary contribution to Nation, Commonwealth and the global community? It's a question she herself answered in 2002

I know how much I rely on my faith to guide me through all the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings and to put my trust in God... I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.

The Queen is absolutely right when she says that there is hope in the Christian Gospel but let us be clear what is meant by that statement. When we use the word "hope" it is generally distinguished from certainty. I could go to watch Swansea City play football and just before kick-off I could turn and say to my friend 'I don't know whether we are going to win today but I *hope* we do.'

When you read the word "hope" in the Bible it is much more than wishful thinking.

Christian hope is having faith and confidence in what God has promised is going to happen.

Christian hope is grounded in the acceptance of God's Word that Jesus is God's son sent into the world to save us from our sins and that all who believe in him will be saved through him. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whosoever believes on him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3: 16). If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10: 9).

Christian hope is based upon the truth of what the Bible says about Christ's suffering and death and his resurrection on the third day. Christian hope is based on the promise that all who believe in him will themselves one day be raised from the dead. Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24). Christian hope

(continued on page 4)

"Lawenhewch, cadwch y Ffydd, gwnewch y pethau bychain"/ "Be joyful, keep the faith and do the little things" The last words of Dewi Sant – Patron Saint of Wales.

Thoughts on Approaching Retirement

At Ministerial Synod in Holy Week I had to make a speech 'asking for permission to sit down' from active Ministry. Reviewing my 26 years in ministry, I reflected on it as though I was on a mountain looking back over the climb so far.

In the distance is my first Circuit, Buckley and Deeside. Within the first year I had to take on two additional churches, on top of the four I started with, because of the serious illness of a colleague. In spite of that, I don't see the three years there as a significant climb, more a ramble in the foothills, during which I developed some of the muscles and stamina that were going to be needed later on. It was a steep learning curve, but I feel I rose to the challenges, completed probationer's studies successfully, and picked up useful skills for later on.

It was the 7 years in Morgannwg Circuit that were the really steep climb. Alongside improving my learner's Welsh and the Circuit work, I became Assistant Secretary of Synod and then also Ecumenical Officer for Methodism in Wales. During this part of the climb I suffered a good few bumps, bruises, scrapes and sprains. I'm very grateful to some people who I call my angels, who came alongside me at the toughest bits to give me a hand up. When you look down a mountain, the steepest and roughest parts of a climb are often not visible, though you know you've been there. Body, mind and spirit tell you so. However, the sense of achievement, and the view, in the end make it all worthwhile.

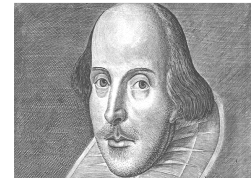
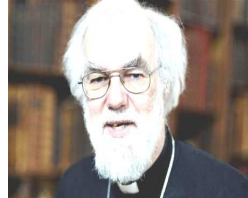
What then of the 3rd and longest part of my metaphorical climb – 16 years now in Swansea and Gower Circuit? This, of course, is the part of the climb I can see most clearly. It's nearest and less steep, a bit rocky to begin with but levelling out with the period out of stipendiary Ministry from 2003. The Masters in Spirituality and Diploma in Counselling, alongside being Moderator of the Free Church Council of Wales 2004-7 gave plenty of variety, while continuing to look after the little congregation at Clydach on a voluntary basis. I remember my geography teacher at school always using the word 'undulating' of the Suffolk landscape. I see these past 10 years in part-time ministry as 'undulating' in my mountain imagery - up and down, but not too demanding, with opportunity to look around at the scenery rather than always checking my footing.

I know this isn't the end of the climb – Ministry doesn't stop, it changes. I hope to continue the

counselling and involvement at Ty Croeso, but it'll be good to pause a while to see what else God might have in mind!

Pam Cram

Shakeshaft – World Premiere



A number of members of our Circuit are associated with the Swansea Little Theatre/Dylan Thomas Theatre.

From 27th to 30th July the theatre is staging the world premiere of Rowan Williams' (yes, former Archbishop!) first play "Shakeshaft". This explores the possibility that the young William Shakespeare may have been tempted to join the Catholic Church under the influence of Jesuit missionaries, specifically Thomas Campion. It was a dark time of persecution for English Catholics during which the threat of betrayal was ever present. The play also explores imaginatively the formative influences on our greatest playwright in this year of commemoration.

If you prefer light comedy on your visit to the theatre this is probably best avoided! If you want an evening of thoughtful drama then you will not be disappointed. Tickets nearer the time from the Dylan Thomas Theatre booking office.

John Atkinson

Circuit Cymanfa Ganu

On Sunday July 24th at 5.00 p.m. at Capel Y Nant, Clydach.

Come and share this special praise service, which will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity to say thank you to

Rev.Pam Cram for her ministry in the circuit prior to her retirement from the active work.

Princess Cutie Did It – Oh Yes She Did



As Uniting Church, Sketty puts to bed another pantomime, we reflected on the fun and fellowship shared not only by the cast of 48, and the front and back stage staff too numerous to mention, but also we think of the audience all of whom seemed to have enjoyed themselves. I believe the venture shines as an example of how, a panto, led by our minister Leslie, knows no barriers of age, ability, culture, gender and other stereotypes. We welcomed all from both within and outside our church and we became a real, Uniting Church Family.



Thank you to everyone who played even the smallest part and to the audience support from other churches all of whom helped us raise a massive £1900. £200 of the latter has gone to church funds but £1,700 has been very gratefully received by the New Mill Autism Centre in Swansea.

Next year, God willing, we will look again for circuit support as we raise funds for the circuit project.



Jan Chaplin

Street Pastors need prayers

Street Pastors need prayers and pray-ers.

You may not feel called to walk Swansea's streets at night as part of the Street Pastor team, but all of us can pray. An important aspect of the Street Pastors' ministry is the prayer cover that Prayer Pastors provide.

Could you give up one night every four weeks, or even once a quarter if a team of volunteers could come together? The prayer team meets in St David's church in the city centre from 10pm until the end of the shift (up to 4am) and is in regular contact with the team on the streets, praying for specific situations as they arise.

If you feel this is something you might be called to do, please contact Win or Quentin Hawkins (413639) to discuss.



If we set out to learn from our mistakes, we are unlikely ever to run out of study material.



Love your neighbour

As Christians we are called to work, live and pray for a better society. This includes participating in the political processes that shape the lives of our communities, our country and our world. It is our identity as followers of Jesus that will both engage us in the referendum and shape our response. How, then, do we allow our faith to inform our answer to one of the biggest political decisions facing the United Kingdom?

The gospel accounts remind us that Jesus said the greatest commandment is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind”, while the second is to “love your neighbour as yourself.” (Matthew 22:36-40). Jesus reinforces the established Old Testament principle that our relationship with God affects the way we relate to and live with one another. These human relationships are an expression of our relationship with God; the two are intertwined.

But what does this have to do with the European Union, the Schengen Agreement and the single market? The answer is that each of these refers to and directly impacts upon how we relate to each other as individuals, as members of organisations and communities, and as countries. Whether it concerns questions of sovereignty, the free movement of people, or where laws are made and enforced, these are issues that influence and affect our relationships, and as such, our faith has much to share.

The UK has a longstanding relationship with the other nations of Europe. Our churches have well established links with Christian communities and congregations across the continent; these relationships extend to nations that are currently part of the European Union and those that are not. It is not an issue of whether we need and value these relationships, or even whether we belong in Europe, but whether that sense of belonging is best expressed by being part of the European Union.

The real referendum question

The referendum question might therefore be phrased as: “To what extent does the European Union enhance or hinder our ability to love our neighbour and, in doing so, our ability to love God?” Other questions to ask are:

- Who, in this context, is our neighbour? Are we talking about neighbours in our local communities, in the UK, in Europe, or in the wider world?
- It is an important aim to have good relations with all countries, in Europe and elsewhere. Does our membership of the European Union help us with this, or hinder us?
- All political and economic structures are made by humans and therefore flawed. The referendum offers us a choice between political and economic structures where the UK is part of the EU or outside the EU. Which would best enable us to fulfil our Christian duty towards God and our neighbour?
- Can the EU, in its current or a reformed state, achieve the ideals we might have for it?

To read and download the whole document please visit:

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/eu-referendum/>



Howard

There are many people who are prepared to serve God, but only in an advisory position.

Easter Offering Service



Another record year for Easter Offering, money wise, that is. But collecting more each year isn't the be all and end all, although it is important.

The service this year was "Child, get up!" Our preacher was Rev Denise Yeadon, from the Llanelli and Carmarthen Circuit. It was good to welcome a preacher from outside our circuit and good of her to come over the border! Denise wove the theme, the readings and the stories together to give us much food for thought.



Janet Neilson, Rev. Gill Evans and Rev. Denise Yeadon

The amount raised in our circuit this year was £2,503.08 (2015 = £2,153.32). This may not be the final total, as some gift aid still has to be claimed. This is a wonderful result and to increase year by year since 2011 is remarkable, considering that there are fewer members in the circuit and people's economic circumstances change. This shows people's commitment to the work of Methodist Women in Britain through All We Can and its partners around the world.

Two projects with which MWiB is involved in N. India are Anganwadi – a kindergarten for children aged 3-6 years. There are three such groups meeting in Nagpur, where the children of women who work in the city are cared for whilst their mothers are working. The second project helps rag pickers, children and adults, who pick over the contents of the city's rubbish tips all day every day and then try to sell what they have salvaged to earn a few rupees.

Since 2000, the circuit has collected £27,538.20 through our Easter Offering envelopes.

I would like to thank all those who contributed and all the readers and the organist who took part in and attended the service at Mumbles.

Janet Neilson

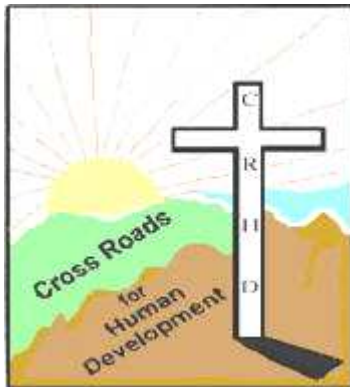
Forthcoming event at Brunswick

One life - what's it all about? Telling people about Jesus Christ is a privilege and a responsibility, but not always easy for us to do with the people we meet in our daily lives. **Christianity Explored** tells the good news through Mark's gospel in a seven-session journey, with a mixture of Bible studies, talks, DVD presentations and group discussions, as we discover who Jesus is, why he came and what it means to follow him. We shall be running the course at Brunswick Methodist Church on Tuesday evenings, from June 17th to July 26th. If you would like to refresh your knowledge of Jesus or would like to introduce a friend to Jesus, please come and join us. Sessions will start at 7.00 p.m. and be finished by 9.00 p.m.

Faith takes God without any "ifs".

D.L. Moody

Cross Roads for Human Development (CRHD)



Cross Roads for Human Development is a Charity in both the UK and India. It exists to support a Primary School in a remote village in South India and a Women's Sewing project in the nearby city of Raichur.

It was at our Easter Offering Service at Mumbles that I reflected that had it not been for the Methodist Fund for World Mission, our charity would not have existed as it does today. I was working in Bristol as a minister and trying to respond to the need for an Indian Lay Worker in my Totterdown Church, I happened to meet the Revd Ian Johnson at a seminar. He held the purse strings of a pot of World Church money for World Mission in the UK, and was able to help me procure enough money to employ my Lay Worker, now the Revd Dr Joseph Suray, although not ordained at that time.

Joseph shared with me the plight of the Dalit people, the outcastes, he himself being one. He had received an education thanks to the missionaries, still in India at that time, but his dream was that one day, in his native village, there would be a school for the Dalit children, so underprivileged in society. The seed for CRHD was born and after some wonderful fund-raising in 2001, I was in India with Joseph and his family for the opening of a small two-roomed school on the side of the village Methodist Church. In 2005 land was purchased and a single storey L shaped school was built. This eventually had an upper storey added in 2009.

We now welcome nearly 200 children of Primary School age.



The school today

In the city of Raichur we set up and support a project to teach women sewing skills which enables them to earn money for their families. Very often the students are young Muslim girls who were married off at a young age. They find in Mrs Daniel, a wonderful Christian woman, a teacher, confidante and friend.

None of our work is subsidised by the Indian government, which at present is ultra Hindu. Unlike Hindus, as Christians we believe that all people are equal in God's eyes and our ethos proclaims that in our school all children will eat, study and play together. Parents of Hindu children in the village may send their children to the school but only if they accept the Christian ethos.



Certificate receiving day

I am President of CHRD, UK and The Revd Dr Joseph, Chairman. One of my tasks is to raise awareness and money for the project.

(continued on page 10)

Meet your fears with faith.

Max Lucado

(continued from page 9)

As some of you will know, for the last 6 years I have had 'Open Day at Riverside', my home in Middleton, Rhossili. This year it is to be held on the 18th June. There is coffee from 10.30 a.m, then wonderful lunches from 12 noon and then afternoon tea from 3.00 p.m. There will be a cake stall, plants and a raffle....all in aid of the charity. Do come and join us. You will be most welcome!

Visit the web-site CRHD.org.uk

Revd Gill Evans
revevgm@gmail.com

A Dangerous Profession

"This is a dangerous profession,
breaking bread and proclaiming it Body,
opening the Word and calling it Life,
sending infants to a watery grave,
and calling it resurrection,
asking those with a 50% chance of regrets
to promise "forever,"
burying the dead in the sure and certain
hope of eternal life.
Trading in words and acts that can, and often
do,
transform is unnerving.
You ask yourself: did my eloquence, my
sincerity,
my understanding nature produce this?
Of course,
Not.
But the Almighty has few untainted saints on
either
side of the pulpit.
And so, for the sake of the other sinners,
chooses to work through the likes of you."

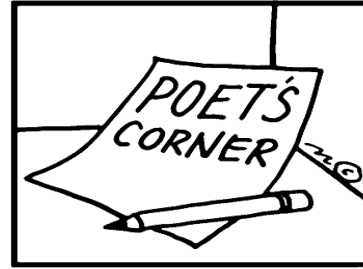
(Written by David Slater)

Submitted by Rev.Siperire Mugadzaweta

Preliminary Notice

Please make a note in your diary of a concert by Pontarddulais Choir in All Saints Church, Oystermouth on Saturday 29th October 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

Further details in the Autumn issue of Connect



Uncertain Future

Today, across the bay, a mist hangs below the hills,
blue peaks rise above, green fields beneath;
the sea ripples in, caressing
the sand, as it reaches for the land.

Yesterday across the bay, smoke from the
furnaces rose high
into the air, fierce flames scorched the sky;
the sea bubbled in, chastising
the sand as it reached towards the land.

Across the bay, rain screens out the flames and
the hills,
the smoke and the green fields;
only the sea can be seen, thundering in,
angry with the sand as it reaches for the land.

Tomorrow, who knows?
No fierce flames to scorch the sky,
Maybe, a lagoon
or just the moon on the water.

Diane Norton © 2016

Future Events in Mumbles

There will be a Holiday Club on Monday 25th July, Tuesday 26th July and Wednesday 27th July from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Youth Area.

The Summer Book Fair will be held from Monday 1st August to Saturday 6th August from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. each day.

When life is too hard to stand kneel

Brunswick's Book Fair



Brunswick Methodist Church has been looking at many different ways to raise Church Funds. Alice, a senior member suggested bringing together collected books and selling them. An absolutely brilliant idea!

It was amazing to see the wonderful books that were collected.

As a retired Local Preacher, Alice brought some lovely religious books. Other religious books included John Wesley's Journals and sermons from other sources. Undoubtedly many of the books were of good value.

The Book Fair was planned to take place on two days, the first being the morning of the 30th of April, a Saturday. It was combined with the monthly end of month Coffee Morning. The second day was Monday, May 2nd which was a bank holiday.

Overall, the event had a considerable turnout, especially on the Saturday. Brunswick Methodist Church was teeming with people from all over Swansea. During that time someone walked up to me and said, "Siperire I am sure you are happy to see so many people come here to buy or just to fellowship with each other." I responded saying, "This is Evangelism at its best!"

The people at Brunswick were very much motivated with the move undertaken by Alice with the help of many, especially because it raised a substantial amount of money. Including the Coffee Morning takings, we made well over £460.

Rev.Siperire Mugadzaweta

Events at Murton

Murton is holding a mid-Summer afternoon tea and entertainment will be held in the church hall to celebrate the Queen's official birthday on Saturday 25th June. The entertainment will commence at 2.30 p.m. followed by the tea.

Tickets £7.50.

Murton Flower Festival Thursday 18th August to Sunday 21st of August Theme - The Olympics

Open from 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Sunday.

Programmes are £3.00.

Rev Gillian Evans will take a short service to open the Flower Festival on Thursday morning and Rev Alwyn Evans (a former minister in the circuit) will conduct the Sunday services at the usual times of 10.30 a.m and 5.30 p.m.

All welcome.

Advice to preachers

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending, and having the two as close together as possible. (George Burns)

Few sinners are saved after the first twenty minutes of a sermon (Mark Twain)

If you are too busy to pray, you are busier than God wants you to be.

Wanda E.Brunstetter

Christian Aid in Clydach



A complaint often heard against the Christian Church is that it is divided. Here in Clydach, although there are a variety of different denominations, both English language and Welsh language, worshipping in different buildings, denominational differences are frequently forgotten. This is certainly true with the support of Christians in the village for Christian Aid. Every year, the churches of Clydach raise over £4000 for Christian Aid. Whilst the committee organises a number of events throughout the year, much of the money is raised during Christian Aid Week.

The week began on Monday evening with an ecumenical service. The short service this year was held in the Parish Church, and using resources provided by Christian Aid, highlighted the plight of families living in the low-lying areas of Bangladesh.

On Tuesday morning a coffee morning was held, and we were entertained by the children of Ysgol Gellionnen (Gellionnen Welsh Primary). The standard of singing is a credit to both the children and the hard work of their teachers, and we wished them luck at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Flint at the end of May.



Children from Ysgol Gellionnen



The Coffee Morning

Throughout the rest of the week, volunteers were out either collecting house-to-house or in the foyer of the village Co-op store: the former more and more of a challenge; the latter a pleasure, as many people stop and chat, old acquaintances are renewed, and generous donations are made, often from people you least expect! Perhaps this is where the church should be!

A sponsored walk along some of the new cycle paths in the area was also arranged, with some of the young people participating.

The ecumenical support for Christian Aid is also reflected in other activities in the village: the Ty Croeso project, the Pentecost Service in the Park, and the Sunday afternoon service at the Summer Fete.

Christians in Clydach may be divided by tradition or theology or habit or language, but many are very happy to work together to "love every neighbour" as this year's Christian Aid Week slogan urged us to do.

Alan Cram
(Clydach Christian Aid Chair)



Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

Corrie ten Boom

The Methodist Conference 2016



This year's Methodist Conference will take place at Methodist Central Hall, London from Thursday 30th June to Thursday 7th July. The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world.

The 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.'

Highlights at this year's Conference will include:

- Inauguration of new President Rev Dr Roger Walten and Vice-President Ms Rachel Lampard
- Ordinations of Methodist presbyters and deacons
- A service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance
- Reports will be presented on Action For Children, Larger Than Circuit, Safeguarding and 3Generate - The Methodist Children and Youth Assembly among many others

The 2016 Conference will be streamed live on on Friday 1 July 14:15 - 14:45 (Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance) and from 14:15 Saturday 2 July onwards (unless in closed session). Ordination Services are not streamed. All webcasts are kept available for a month after the Conference has adjourned. Please visit www.methodist.org.uk for further information.



Rachel Lampard & Rev Dr Roger Walton

President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference 2016/17

Though you have changed a thousand times, He has not changed once.

Charles Spurgeon

Morrison Spring Fair

Morrison Spring Fair was a resounding success. All roads led to School Road and to Pentrepoeth Methodist Church, Morrison. The lower ground was teeming with people. Malcolm and Hilary were outstandingly busy with their stalls of greenery. The plants were healthy and very attractive and were the main venture of the fund-raising programme, followed by the cakes.



There was a very good variety of cakes. Even those who were on a strict diet of not taking carbohydrates could not resist those cakes.



The raffle tickets were another source of raising church funds. People bought raffle tickets like there was no tomorrow.

We praise God for inspiring people to work together for the good of His church.

More than £713 was raised on Saturday, 21st May, towards Morrison church funds. Praise God for this lovely work.

The Welsh Assembly member for the Morrison area, Mike Hedges, was present and he said a few words of encouragement to the organisers of the fair. He said he was quite impressed by the way Morrison members are able to plan such successful events.

Rev.Siperire Mugadzaweta

A Plea!

For a number of years now I've been preparing a quarterly prayer diary for the Circuit. The idea came from something similar in the Llanelli Carmarthen Circuit, but also because on one occasion someone was praying for our church in Clydach, asking God for things that we just did not want or feel were the direction we should be going in!

It seemed to me that it would be helpful to have some way of learning what was happening in local churches and what the members there, and their Minister, saw as the priorities.

I'm told by the preachers that they find the diary helpful. However, with retirement only a few weeks away, I've just produced the final prayer diary.

This isn't the only way in which we can find out about one another across our Circuit, of course. Connect magazine is one way in which we now do that. Nor is the way I've done the diary the only way to do it. I'm wondering if there's anyone out there who might like to follow it up in some way. It hasn't been a huge amount of work as I had a template and once the prayer thoughts had come in it didn't take that long to 'stick and paste' everything. Obviously it requires a computer, whether you go for print copy, online/E mail version or both. Perhaps it could be done in a more compact form and become part of Connect. What do you think? Could you take this on?

Rev.Pam Cram

Seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand.

Augustine

(continued from page 3)

based upon the promise that one day he is going to come again and we will enjoy heaven with him and a glory such as no eye has seen and no ear heard and no mind has conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him. Russell Carter's old hymn sums it up

*Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.*

Whatever circumstances we are confronted with in life, always look to Christ and hold fast to His promises. Hope comes from the promises of God rooted in the work of Christ.

Howard

A Touching Story

A touching story about the children at Morriston Methodist Church. One Sunday after the service there was a meeting to discuss the building developments at the church. Rev. Siperire Mugadzaweta provided the congregation with an update of the Church's financial position and building developments. In the congregation there was a little boy named Harry Coleman. Harry lifted his hand up and he said to Rev. Mugadzaweta, "I would like to donate £100 towards the church building project". Rev. Mugadzaweta was stunned and asked Harry where he would get the money from. Harry replied, "I have money in my Piggy Bank that I have received for my birthday and I would like to donate it". The congregation was touched and amazed by the generosity of this little boy. Following this all the children at Morriston Church, Joanne and Celine Lloyd, Harry and Donald Coleman donated a total of £150.00 towards the work of God to continue at Morriston Church. Our God is such a wonderful father.

I was challenged by such generosity coming from a little boy. This indeed also challenged the whole congregation to give to the Lord.

By Grace Coleman/Rev. Siperire Mugadzaweta

A fascinating morning

You may be interested to know that Pitton's recent fundraiser for the circuit project, Zambuko ra Jehovah, raised £982.21 which includes Gift Aid from donations. The Coffee Morning was well attended by locals and friends from around the circuit. Rev. Siperire spoke movingly about how the charity had been set up and then Donna Isherwood, a talented member of our Horton Chapel, gave a practical demonstration of how to make a 'fascinator' which was very well received.



Our thanks to everyone who supported the event.

Selina Taylor

A Date for your Diaries

"An Evening with Kevin John" will be held at Morriston church at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 8th September. Further details will be available at a later date.

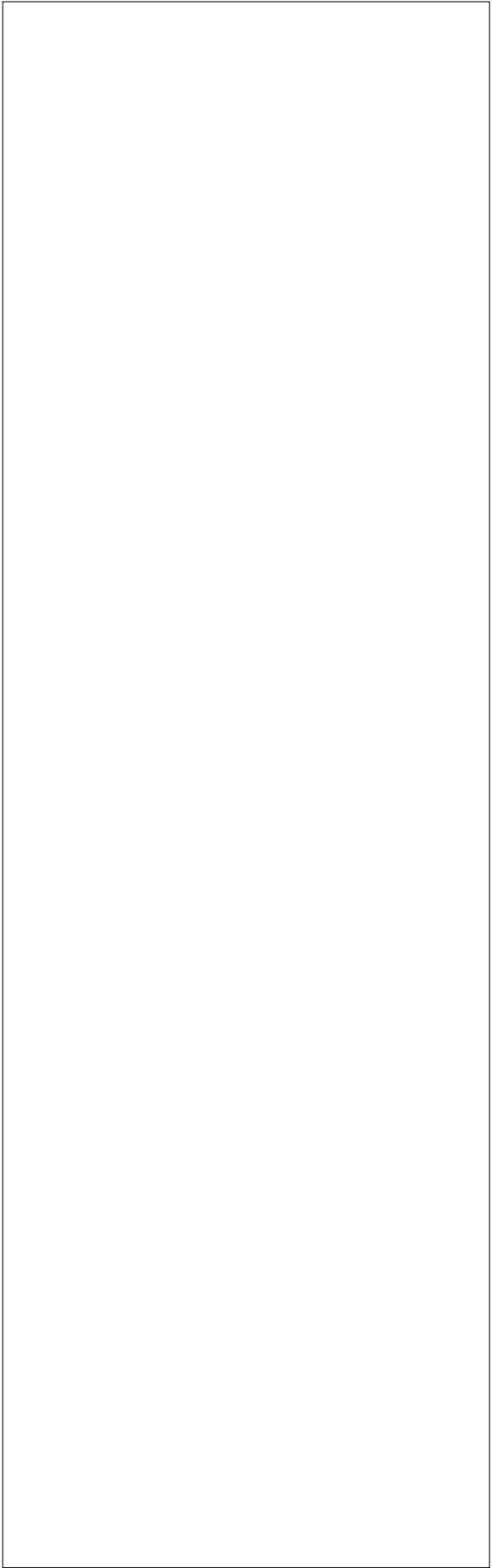
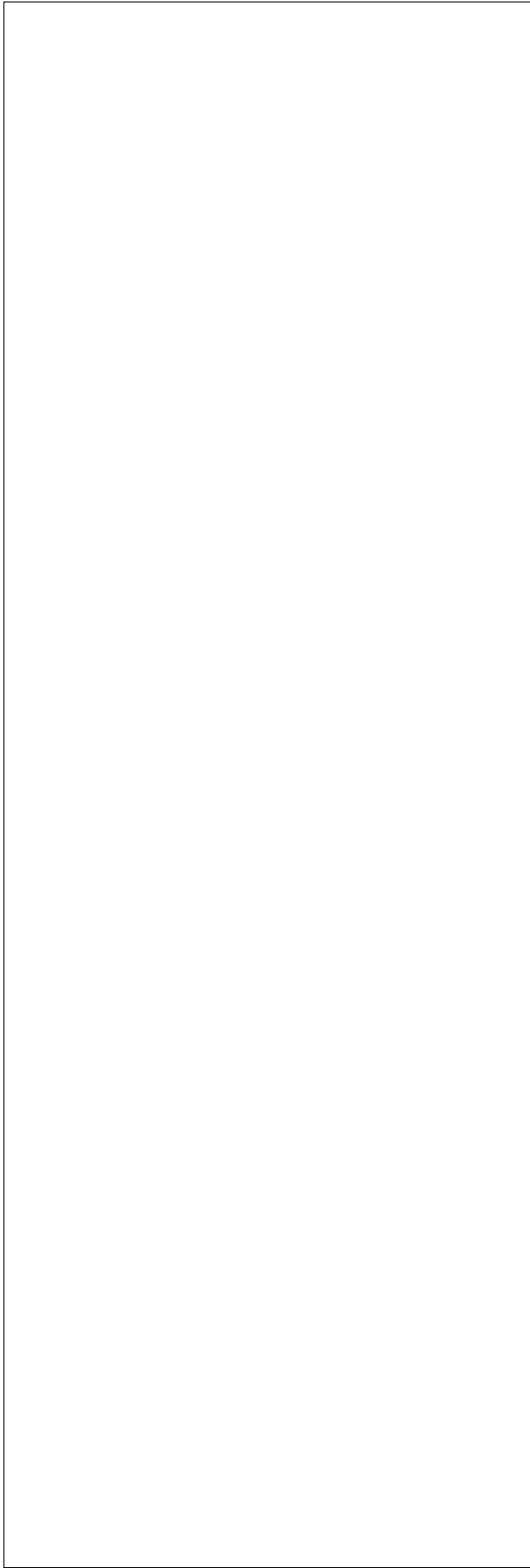
To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer.

Martin Luther

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