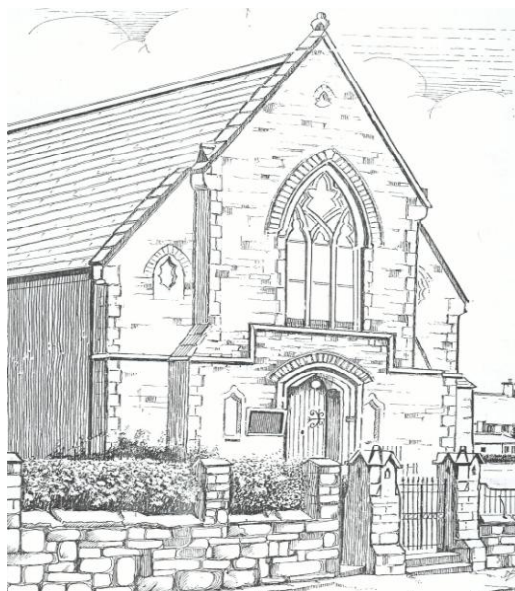


Aberdare Unitarians at  
Highland Place.  
Undodiaid Aberdâr yn  
Highland Place



**Here let no-one be a stranger.**  
**This is our Church, Let Peace dwell here;**  
**May 2012 Mai**

**SERVICES:**

May 6th at 6 p.m: Anne Jones  
Fellowship: Barbara Hughes &  
Christine Roberts  
May 13th at 11 a.m: Ken Morgan  
Fellowship: Merrilee Jones  
May 20th at 11 a.m: **Annual General  
Meeting of the District. Service at 11 a.m.**  
**See further note below.**  
May 27th at 6 p.m: Congregational Service  
Fellowship: Mark Jones & Janis  
Roberts.  
June 3rd: at 6 p.m: Women's League  
Service. Fellowship by Members

**Please support our  
regular events:**

**UNIClub every Sunday at 10 a.m.**

**COFFEE MORNING every Monday from  
10 a.m. - 12 Noon.**

**CRAFT CLUB every Monday at 2 p.m.**

**WOMEN'S LEAGUE every Wednesday  
at 2 p.m.**

***During the week**, the hall is used for  
Band Practice, Art Appreciation,  
Gardening Group, Scrabble Group,  
Brownies, Art Classes, and for other  
Community Meetings & Groups.*

***IN YOUR WILL:** Don't forget to make  
arrangements for leaving a sum of money for  
Highland Place, the interest to be used for church  
work. In this way, you can help to secure the future  
of the church and build up the Investment Fund.*

**WOMEN'S LEAGUE at 2 p.m. on Weds.**

2nd May: Hazel's Quiz:  
Thought for the Day: Anna  
Hosts: Anna and Pat  
9th May: Visit Country Park. Meet at  
Church Hall at 2 p.m.  
16th May: A "Free Choice" afternoon.  
Various activities.  
Thought for the Day: Betty.  
Hosts: Betty & Joan  
23rd May: Who's Baby ? with Anna  
Thought for the Day: Pat  
Hosts: Marion D. & Dorothy  
30th May: Speaker from our Charity "Zisize"  
Thought for the Day: Iris  
Hosts: Iris & Anne J.  
6th June At 6 Claerwen Close, Cwmbach  
for Diamond Jubilee. Bring small plate  
13th June: District Rally to Cwm Cerrig  
and Carmarthen

**WELCOME to our services** to Joan and  
her friend Susan as well as Christine's  
sister, Hilary.

**Zisize is the Church Charity** members  
support year by year, helping children in  
South Africa to meals and schooling, not  
available to them otherwise. We have  
already collected over £5,000. You can  
help by pledging a monthly or one off  
donation via Hazel Jones.

## Honour for the Rev. J. Eric Jones

We are very pleased to announce that the congregation at Highland Place Unitarian Church, Aberdare have decided to confer the honour of 'Minister Emeritus' on the Rev. J. Eric Jones.

Eric has served the congregation at Highland Place for fifty years. He served as Minister from 1962 until his 'retirement' in 2003. Until 1995, when it closed, Eric was also the Minister of Hen-dŷ-Cwrdd, Trecynon. Along with his responsibilities in Aberdare, from 1971 to 2003 he was the Minister at West Grove, Cardiff and between 1999 and 2003 was the Minister at Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Cefn Coed. From 1965 until April 2011, Eric was the Secretary of the Unitarian Welsh Department of the General Assembly and a Trustee of the Pantyfedwen Fund established by Sir David James at Aberystwyth. A Past President of the South East Wales District, he also held office on the Cwmwrdu Centre, District Sunday School Association and organised the Llanmadog Youth Holiday for 25 years. Eric served on various committees of the General Assembly in London and became the President of the Ministers' Fellowship in 1986, President of the General Assembly itself in 1989. He was made an Honorary Member of the South East Wales District Association in 2008 and of the General Assembly in 2010. In 2005, he was invited to conduct the Assembly's Annual Service, held at Chester Cathedral. Also in 2005, he was admitted to the Gorsedd of Bards at the National Eisteddfod held at Caernarfon.

A dinner is to be held in October at which the honour will be officially conferred.

### **FUTURE DATES:**

May 12th; Wedding of Jayne and Steve May

20th: District AGM at Highland Place.

Service with children at 11 a.m. and a talk from Carwyn Tywyn to follow with business meeting.

May 27th at 11 a.m: Memorial Service to late Rev. Eirion Phillips at Gellionnen.

May 29th: CHURCH COMMITTEE  
Provisional date. Please check.

June 14th: Public Lecture with Dr. John Davies of Cardiff. Please make every effort to publicise. He is a leading Welsh Historian and we are privileged to have him as a lecturer.

June 17th: District Rally with a visit to the Ross on Wye Fellowship. Lunch and Service being arranged..

June 23rd: Wedding of Gareth Watts and Kathryn Philpott in Cardiff.

June 24th; Flower Communion Service at 6 p.m.

July 28th: Wedding of Natasha and Warren. Aug. 4th - 11th: National Eisteddfod at Vale of Glamorgan. Help welcomed at the Unitarian Tent.

30th Sept. Harvest Service, jointly with Cardiff and Cefncoed at 3 p.m, conducted by Rev Patrick Timperley of Mansfield. Rev Timperley was trained for the Anglican Ministry at Lampeter and served as a priest in Pembrokeshire before training for the Unitarian Ministry.

4th October: Dinner at the Aberdare Golf Club to confer the status of Hon. Minister Emeritus . The cost will be £12.50

20th Oct. Official visit of the G.A. President, Lis Dyson-Jones. Dinner at the Ivy Bush Hotel in Carmarthen.

10th November: Church Autumn Fair.

**Two weddings have already been booked for next year - in March and July.**

**PERSONAL:** It was good to have Celia Evans at our church services after an absence of many months.. We are sorry to hear that Jean Thomas is unwell but she has a good attitude and still maintains her cheerfulness. Marian Lewis, Alma St has broken her right arm and is in some discomfort. We have missed her as we have missed Arthur Saunders who is now improving quickly after his operation at Llantrisant. Eirwen Davies has had a further problem with her eyes and is off work. We hope the problem will soon be resolved. Margaret Slocombe's daughter in London has had to undergo an operation and we wish her a speedy return to good health.

## REVIEW OF OUR CHURCH HISTORY BOOK

Highland Place Unitarian Church 1860-2010, A Story of Resilience; Edited by J. Eric Jones, Aberdare, 2011, paperback 156 pages with illustrations. Price £8 plus postage from Rev J. Eric Jones, 14 Clifton Street, Aberdare. CF44 7PB.

The old type of nonconformist chapel history, so common until about the mid twentieth century, gave considerable detail on successive ministers of the cause, an account of the building and not much else. Perhaps a few of the leading members of the congregation were mentioned in passing by the current minister who generally had written it. That style has thankfully passed out of favour and now we see more accounts which give far more about members of the cause, their activities and the social context in which the congregation operated at various times.

The story of Highland Place Unitarian Church Aberdare gives a solid account of the successive ministers, a very detailed description of the building to date but also then adds so very much more. Written by a variety of researchers and writers associated with Highland Place it provides rich descriptions of the figures who created the congregation and the cultural background to this English speaking church built in Monk Street on a hill in Foundry Town. In addition the various societies associated with church are described. The last section consists of sixteen personal memories and reflections from people who have made up the congregation, many of whom have moved away. The history of Unitarianism in the surrounding area is not neglected. Eric Jones, who retired as minister in 2003 after a ministry of 41 years, is to be congratulated in bringing the various and

often very different accounts together, It could only have been achieved from enthusiasts in a lively and active congregation which Eric has done a great deal to create. This is one of the best all round chapel histories that I've read in recent years and those who are thinking of setting out to prepare a chapel story are recommended to read it. They will see what a good history consists of and a structure which can be used as a benchmark. This 150<sup>th</sup> celebration of a building is an example of where a variety of inputs from a committee have been blended together to produce an excellent result.

**The above is a review of the Highland Place History which appeared in the Transactions of the Unitarian History in April 2012**

**Please note that copies of the History are still available for £8.00.**

**HYMN SINGING SPONSORSHIP:** Many of our members took part in the Hymn Singing Sponsorship at Trebanos to raise money for the Training of Ministers. We managed to raise £940 with some money to come from Gift Aid. A truly magnificent effort.

**MONDAY COFFEE MORNINGS** are becoming quite popular with a good number attending and long complicated discussions can be overheard. You are welcome to come as well (from 10 a.m. onwards).

**BUILDING INSURANCE:** Recently David Edwards, Insurance Agents attended Highland Place to assess the insurance premium and cover and quite a useful discussion took place with further cover for the church activities, including the children's activities. Those able to be present were Alun Watts, Tony Foster, Keith Lewis-Jones and Eric Jones.

**FUEL COSTS:** James Kenny on behalf of Utility Aid, helping Charity Groups with the cost of fuel has managed a contract for us for Gas and Electricity. The cost of electricity will be quite a bit higher for the next three years but since we have four meters for our electricity supply, the standing charge for so many meters is much higher. We do need to look at that situation and see if we are able to reduce the number of meters we need.

**CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** was held at the end of March. There were favourable reports with a celebration for the growth in activities and a growth in the numbers of people attending. Officers were re-appointed with thanks. Alun Watts will be the delegate to South East Wales meetings, replacing Ella Lewis-Jones. We thank Ella for her contribution on behalf of Highland Place. Mark Jones was confirmed as Vice Chair of the Executive Committee and Gareth Watts will be approached to act as Auditor. Members were given copies of a Draft Constitution - could you please study it in detail as there will be a meeting to discuss the new constitution and recommend it at an Extraordinary Church meeting fairly soon.

### **THOUGHT FOR TODAY**

**LIFE IS A PLAY.** Its not its length but its performance that counts.

*Seneca*

You will find as you look back on your life that the moments when you have really lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love.

*Henry Drummond.*

LIFE is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

What a wonderful life I've had. I only wish I'd realised it sooner.

*Colette.*

**AS WE GO TO PRINT:** We regret to announce the death of Ivy Thomas in Cardiff on April 27th at he age of 90. She was a former HP League Member.

**COST OF PRODUCING THE NEWS-SHEET:** We have run out of paper and need to buy ink as well. The cost of these are pretty high these days. We would be glad to receive £2 from each participant which should cover the cost for 2012. Please hand to Eric Jones. Thank you.

### **AND FINALLY \_BREAKING NEWS FROM CEREDIGION:**

Eric Jones states: "My father who is in his 96th year has been caught speeding in his 15 year old Ford Escort car in his own village where they had just put up a 30 mile per hour limit. He was unaware of such modern developments and was caught doing 34 miles an hour. He had some strong words to say about it all and they would not be appropriate for repeating in such a worthy production as this."

## **CONTACTS**

Secretary: Anne Jones  
14 Clifton St.,  
873440

Treasurer: Merrilee Jones, 9 The  
Close, Aberdare  
Tel: 01685 871438

Financial Sec: Hazel Jones, 31 Gwawr  
St, Aberaman.  
Tel: 01685 872849

Hall Lettings: Eric Jones 14 Clifton St.  
Tel: 01685 873440

**THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE:**

President: Anne Watts,  
8 Brondeg Terr.,

Vice President: Marian Whippey ,  
22 The Grove.

Secretary: Dilys Evans,  
7 Claerwen Close,  
Cwmbach  
01685 874463

Treasurer: Anne Jones: 14 Clifton  
St., Aberdare.  
Tel: 01685 873440

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**HALL AVAILABLE FOR HIRE:** Please spread the word that the hall is available for hire on Mon, Tues & Fri. evenings mainly and during the day on Tuesdays and Fridays.