



## South East Wales Unitarian News

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January 2014

### FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 22 March – Copy deadline for the next issue of South East Wales Unitarian News

Saturday 29 March – Leadership Workshop at Highland Place, Aberdare. 10am–3pm. SEE BELOW

### DISTRICT CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The 2013 District Service of Readings and Carols was held at High Street Unitarian Church at 11am on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December. The service was led by District President, Julie Nedin and the organist was Stephen Wilson.

The well-tried format of carols inter-spaced with items from each District congregation was tweaked slightly with the readers being requested to present their *own* thoughts on 'What Christmas Means to Me.' The outcome was both varied and interesting – with the input of a little humour producing a chuckle or two. The presentations by the children and young people were especially appreciated. The service was followed by a most welcome shared lunch. Our thanks to Julie, Stephen and all who attended, and to the Swansea congregation for hosting this successful event.



Cardiff Unitarians' Children's Club

Photo: Keith Lewis-Jones

### SECRETARY OF UNITARIANS IN WALES

With the departure of Dr Carwyn Tywyn from the post of Welsh Department Secretary in the autumn the title and role of the post holder have been reviewed. The post has now been advertised as shown:

#### Secretary for Unitarians in Wales

Part-time (0.5wte) Salary approx £25k pro rata plus 8.5% employer pension contribution

The General Assembly and Welsh Department are seeking a Secretary to promote and encourage the development of the Unitarian Movement throughout Wales.

For an informal discussion please contact Derek McAuley, Chief Officer on 020 7240 2384 or [Dmcauley@unitarian.org.uk](mailto:Dmcauley@unitarian.org.uk) .

For an information pack please contact Mary-Jean Hennis [mhennis@unitarian.org.uk](mailto:mhennis@unitarian.org.uk) or telephone 020 7240 2384

Closing date: 5 February 2014

### LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Building on the success of the congregational development workshop, 'Keeping Unitarianism Alive' held in October 2012, a follow-on workshop on the theme of '**Spiritual Leadership and Developing a Congregational Future**' will be held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March from 10am until 3pm at Highland Place.

To get the best from the workshop congregations are each advised to send several representatives. The workshop will be facilitated by Rev Eric Jones and Ella Lewis-Jones. Anyone wishing to attend should let Eric or Ella know of their intentions by the end of February.

Tea and coffee and a simple lunch will be provided.

## GWERSYLL CWMWRDU

Cwmwrdu Youth Centre, Gwernogle, Carmarthenshire)

At a Special General Meeting held at Highland Place Unitarian Church Aberdare on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January it was unanimously agreed that the charity Gwersyll Cwmwrdu be wound up and that responsibility for the building should revert to the Cwmwrdu Chapel trustees.

From 1961 Cwmwrdu had been a hostel for young Unitarians and provided holidays for children and adults in need. More recently, the condition of the chapel had deteriorated and nobody had stayed there overnight for several years.

In 2001 a booklet was published to mark the fortieth anniversary of Cwmwrdu. The words of Rev Eric Jones as they appear in the Foreword of that booklet serve as a fitting tribute at its closing.

*It was sometime in 1959 that I attended a service at Cwmwrdu Chapel in the company of a large gathering of Unitarians from Cardiganshire. This Unitarian outpost had been redundant as a place of worship for many years but there was renewed interest in the building and in the location as a centre for young people's activities in the remote area of Carmarthenshire. Ministers such as Marles Thomas, Jacob Davies and Vaughan Owen led the proceedings and I as a nervous twenty year old student, training for the Unitarian ministry was asked to speak about the possibilities, having attended the Centre at Flag in Derbyshire with a group of Foy Members from West Grove Church in Cardiff.*

*Young people present must have taken to the possibility and it soon developed into shape although there was quite a powerful lobby of older members who were extremely sceptical about the prospect of a crowd of Youngsters gathering and staying the night at this damp old building. What on earth could they be up to? Nevertheless, the Chapel Trustees were led by enlightened individuals and ... were full of encouragement*

*The story ... is a fascinating one and contains elements of vision, determination and progressiveness. From the somewhat Spartan beginnings and makeshift facilities, developed a centre which has given happiness and tranquillity to many an individual from church youngsters to children from the towns of South Wales and beyond and adults who have gathered for periods of peace and an appreciation of the countryside around.*

Writing today, Eric adds:

In so many ways it is sad to see the closure of an adventurous chapter in the history of Unitarianism – the ending of Gwersyll Cwmwrdu, 53 years after its establishment as a centre for Unitarian activities in the area around Gwernogle, Abergorlech, Lliadiad Nennog and Brechfa. In 1961, there were two shops at Gwernogle and an active chapel community. The native population took an



Roy Symons and Robert Davies at Cwmwrdu in 1981

interest in what was going on and supported the idea of a centre for young people. Today, shops have closed and there is a new generation of people living in the area.

Cwmwrdu itself served as a holiday centre for Unitarian Sunday School children, especially from the South East Wales District churches. There were schemes which provided holidays for children from Cardiff and Swansea during the summer months and it was used by schools as an Outward Bound Centre as well as Dr Barnardo's children enjoying holidays there. At least one Unitarian Minister went on hunger strike there in protest against the Post Office's lack of Welsh Language policy.

Cwmwrdu served as an important link between the two Welsh District Associations. Foy Society members (Fellowship of Youth) were very involved with its early development and three of the pioneers went on to be Presidents of the General Assembly – Dr Ann Peart, Alan Ruston and David Dawson (as well as at least three Welsh GA Presidents.) The United Nations movement in Cardiff was also very involved in the development. The chapel building now reverts to the Trustees of the chapel and they in turn will decide what happens to the building in the future.

## **GA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE KEY MESSAGES 15/16 NOVEMBER 2013**

### **1. Launch of the Red Cross Philippines Typhoon Appeal**

The Executive Committee agreed to issue an appeal to all congregations, districts, affiliated societies and individual Unitarians for financial support for the victims of the Philippines Typhoon. The Appeal has been launched with the Red Cross and all the money will be immediately available to the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) Fund. The Appeal recognizes the contribution of Clara Barton Fund who was a founding member of the American Red Cross and Universalist and has been specially created for Unitarians to donate to Emergency appeals.

Donations by cheque should be sent to:

Laura Deacon, British Red Cross, 44 Moorfields, London, EC2Y 9AL

Cheques should be made payable to British Red Cross with 'Clara Barton Typhoon Appeal' clearly marked on the back, or alternatively donations can be made online by following the link on the GA website homepage.

### **2. Millennium Fund Grants**

Two Millennium Fund grants were awarded to congregations for growth initiatives. Oldham Unitarian Chapel was awarded £5,686.80 towards equipment as part of their £58,000 project to open a One World Cafe. Pepper Hill Unitarian Chapel in Shelf, Halifax was awarded £250 for installation of an illuminated Flaming Chalice on the end of their building to raise their profile as part of a wider communications initiative.

The Millennium Fund helps to support projects that promote - directly or indirectly - spiritual and/or numerical growth within the Unitarian Movement and before making any applications congregations are encouraged to discuss their proposal with the Chief Officer.

### **3. Youth Strategy Group**

The Executive Committee agreed to establish a Youth Strategy Group with the remit of developing an overall strategy for work with children, young people and young adults within the Unitarian Movement which is seen as crucial to our future. Current arrangements for programmes in these areas, such as the National Youth Programme, will remain unchanged. The Youth Strategy Group will have five members and anyone who has an interest in finding out more about participating in important strategic work is invited to contact the Chief Officer.

### **4. Finance**

Initial indications show that the financial position of the General Assembly at the year end (30 September 2013) is positive with finances being in balance with costs being controlled. The Annual Accounts are in preparation and will also show substantial growth in the market value of the investments of the General Assembly. This is an excellent performance in an unstable economic climate.

### **5. Expectations of Competencies for Ministers of the General Assembly**

A proposal setting out the competencies expected for Ministers to achieve before being admitted to the Roll of Ministers with probationary status was received from the Ministry Strategy Group and considered by the Executive Committee. The members of the Ministry Strategy Group were commended for their work on producing the proposal. Given the significance of the proposal it was agreed that some further refinement was necessary before it could finally be approved as the policy of the General Assembly.

### **6. Vice-Presidency**

The Executive Committee was not yet in a position to recommend a nominee for the post of Vice-President of the General Assembly for 2014/15 and will seek further nominations. They also considered a proposal from the Manchester District Association that the principle of the Presidency alternating from a lay person to a minister each year be ended.

### **7. Appointments**

The following appointments were approved:

Ministry Strategy Group - Rev Daniel Costley. Rev Margaret Kirk was thanked for her contribution to the work of the Ministry Strategy Group.

Nightingale Centre Management Committee - Sue Cooper

Sustentation Fund - Joan Cook and Louise Rogers as Executive Committee nominees.

Rev David Usher was thanked for serving on the Sustentation Fund.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was so pleased with the contributions which came from all parts of the District at our Christmas service in Swansea. Thank you for your support. It was a delight for me to have the children of our Cardiff congregation present who treated us to both energetic and thoughtful items. Our thanks and admiration go to the leaders of the Sunday School there for fostering these young people and organising their participation.

If, like me, you were blessed with a happy Christmas you may also have spared a thought for those who were faced with life changing events around the period, especially with the loss of loved ones. Likewise the turning of the year can be a time where fond memories of loved ones who have passed on can cause painful reflections. In this period of the New Year I'd ask you to hold in your hearts and prayers any family, friends or neighbours who are in such a position.

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2014 and look forward to working alongside you.

*Julie Nedin*

## THOUGHT FOR NOW

*(We are indebted to Anne Jones for bringing the following to our attention.)*

The foolish seek happiness in the distance, the wise grow it under their feet!

*James Oppenheim*

## ABERDARE

Happy New Year to you all from Highland Place Women's League.

We hope that each and everyone of you had a good Christmas and are looking forward to 2014.

Many of our members have had coughs and colds but are struggling on.

Christine Roberts is delighted with her second hip operation and Edna Jones is home from hospital after breaking her leg.

Gwladys Rees has been poorly and is now in Tegfan Care Home for two weeks respite.

We wish a speedy recovery to them all.

Anne and Alun Watts' granddaughter has been accepted at Oxford University! They are thrilled and all of us are basking in their reflected glory. Congratulations to Lauren from us all!

Our Sale of Work (November 2013) was quite a rewarding event although we were slightly 'down' on 2012 but, fair play, it was an appalling day, weather-wise!

Joan's knitted snowmen were a runaway success and she is already receiving enquiries for the next Sale. Besides being beautifully knitted they were well stuffed – so, Well Done to all concerned!

Women's League Christmas Social was also a great success with games; good food; laughter and a Bran Tub present for everyone. (Who said Christmas is only for children?)

We missed having Margaret Evans's Christmas Tea, but we will carry on enthusiastically as she would want.

Congregational services are continuing and are always enjoyed. We are lucky we have so many willing participants and that goes for both Church and League members.

League re-commenced on 8<sup>th</sup> January with fifteen members present. It was a planning meeting which, in itself, is interesting – as long as you turned up with the usual requisites—paper, pencil and ERASER. The coming calendar has quizzes, talks, music and story telling included

I look forward to Sundays and Wednesdays every week so, personally, I am pleased to be back in the old routine—after all you are my very own 'support' groups. Thank you for everything. May we all continue to be there for each other.

Love and best wishes,

*Marian Whippey*

## Uni'Club

Firstly, we at Uni'Club wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

This is a list of some of the things we have been up to since our last report.

We visited the Bryn Pica Recycling Centre. This was a very interesting and enjoyable experience. We were picked up from the Schoolroom and taken to Bryn Pica in a minibus. We were given a tour of the site and watched a video of what landfill does to the environment. The children were shown how rubbish is sorted and recycled into useful items. They also took part in some recycling activities which they were very good at. The staff were very friendly and informative.

We also enjoyed this year's Annual Summer Outing. We spent the day at Cantref Activity Farm, Brecon. The weather was glorious and we all had a good time. Grace, the sister of our young church organist, also joined us on the trip.

We had a visit from Niki Lee, who gave us a talk and slide show about the African charity we sponsor called Zisize. 'Zisize' translated into English means 'Help yourself'. We help them to help themselves, and the charity is making a big difference to the lives of the villagers and especially the children.

The children conducted their own Remembrance Sunday service, made paper and clay poppies, and after lighting a candle each, they observed two minutes silence at 11 o'clock precisely.

The children took part in the annual Church Christmas Service, performing some songs and readings, we all enjoyed it. The following day we enjoyed our Christmas Party held in the Schoolroom here at Highland Place Church.

We are now embarking on a brand new year, hoping to gain new members along the way.

We have lots planned that we would like to do.

Therefore, this year, I would like to appeal to any member of the district congregations who would spare some time on a voluntary basis at regular intervals, approximately once a month, to go out on nature walks to the country park. Plus somebody who would want to join Joan and myself – if not every Sunday, which would be terrific, but maybe every other Sunday from 10am - 12 noon. You would need to have a CRB enhanced certificate, the cost of which would be met by Uni'Club.

Best wishes to everyone,

*Joy Foster (Highland Place Children's Co-ordinator)*

## **CARDIFF UNITARIANS / UNDOIDIAID CAERDYDD**

We enjoyed the visit of Julie Nedin, SEWUS District President to take a service with us at the end of November. She gave a fascinating exploration on the relationship between the mind, spirit and the body.

Dewi, Pat and Sarah attended an excellent presentation on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at Highland Place Church, Aberdare given by Ash James on 2020 (Growing Unitarianism in Great Britain) to support new and rekindled congregations. It certainly made us think on what avenues we could explore as a congregation.

Gwynn Pritchard led the Welsh Service on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December. It was agreed at a meeting following the service that there would not be changes in the format of the services but the congregation would sit in a circle/horseshoe for future services. Following our recently formed Worship group we have agreed as a congregation to include more opportunity for participation from the congregation in English services who will be seated in a horseshoe around the lectern and table. Worship leaders from the Cardiff Congregation will participate in a new style service with a consistent format for a trial period of six months. Visiting Service Leaders will not be expected to give the new style service.

Members of the Cardiff Congregation travelled to Swansea on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December to join the district service there. The children of Cardiff Sunday Club sang at the service and gave two readings. Then we all enjoyed the hospitality laid on by the Swansea Congregation.

Our Christmas Service was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December in Cardiff. The Friends Meeting House was decorated for the occasion with a Christmas tree. Diana and Sarah told stories to delight the children who also enjoyed receiving presents after the service and spending time with friends. It was a welcome sight to see children enjoying themselves. We also enjoyed catching up with friends of the church and family who attended the service. A Unitarian Universalist couple who were here for a week from the United States of America attended and said they had a great time!

Sarah attended a joint UNA Cardiff and District and CND Cymru talk by Bruce Kent on Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup> on 'Should Trident be trashed'. Prior to this, a wreath was laid in the sacred Garden of Peace by Bruce Kent. Future meetings will include 'Crisis in Gaza' held jointly with Palestine Solidarity Campaign on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January to be given by Ben Alofs, a Medic and Peace Activist.

Cardiff Unitarians are working together with UNA Cardiff and District to help arrange Red Hands Day on February 12<sup>th</sup> with the intention of highlighting military recruitment of teenagers in Schools. The UK is

the only European Country to allow recruitment of 16-year-olds into the army. Cardiff Unitarians have asked Aled Edwards the Chief Executive of Cytun (an umbrella body that represents Churches in Wales) to chair the day. Other denominations are also involved in this issue.

At the end of the year in Sunday Club we explored Festivals of Light and how light and darkness is a theme running through world religions. At the last Children's Club we made lanterns with a real LED light at the bottom and took a walk round the Friends Meeting House in the dark in honour of St. Martin!! This saintly man was a benefactor to the poor and he is honoured in European countries by candlelit walks in November. We also covered the Christmas story.

Cardiff Unitarians wish all a happy and healthy new year in 2014.

Dewi Owen, Development officer

## **CEFNCOED**

### **Women's League**

The month of December started with League members decorating the chapel in readiness for Christmas. Next we had our lovely Christmas Lunch at the Nant Ddu Lodge on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December.

Our last meeting before the Christmas holiday was on the following Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December and we are not meeting back until the 5<sup>th</sup> of February.

We had a congregation-led service on 29<sup>th</sup> December and League members invited all present to have a cup of tea and mince pies to celebrate the coming of the new year.

Bobby Howells, our League Secretary rang me at the beginning of January to say she had received an unusual email from Madrid—supposedly from Mary Wightman (former National President of the League) saying she had lost everything and had no money to pay her hotel. I realised there was something wrong, and told Bobby to delete it. I then decided to try Mary's phone number in Aberdeen and, lo and behold, she answered it. Someone had lifted her email details off her computer. Mary said it was a scam and they were looking into it. Hopefully no one fell for it and lost money.

Finally, we all wish everyone a belated Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

*Vera Tomsett*

### **Remembrance Sunday**

On Sunday 10 November the annual Remembrance Ceremony at the village War Memorial at 11am was followed by the Community Remembrance Service at Hen Dŷ Cwrdd. Both events were conducted by Ken Morgan who has officiated in this capacity annually since 1974.

### **2020 Fund**

On Saturday 23 November members attended a meeting at Highland Place Aberdare where Ash James gave an informative presentation on 'The 2020 Fund – Growing Unitarianism in Great Britain' – a scheme to support new and rekindled congregations.

### **District Christmas Service**

Several members—their number depleted by sickness—attended the annual District Christmas Service at Swansea on 1 December. The reading on behalf of Hen Dŷ Cwrdd was presented by Phil Griffiths.

### **Phillippines Typhoon Appeal**

In response to the Red Cross Appeal a total of £250 was raised – comprised of £50 from Chapel funds, £50 from the Women's League and £150 from individual members.

### **Visitor**

On Sunday 15 December we were pleased to welcome Donna Borja-Edwards (*Britt Monk of Pobol y Cwm*.) Donna was visiting her brother Ken and took the opportunity to attend our service. It was good to see her again and get updates on her activities, and of husband Ray and daughters Sophie and Lucy.

### **Services over Christmas and the New Year**

The services to end the old year and start the new were conducted by members. Three Wise Men (Phil, Morgan and Ken) led the service on Christmas morning, with music provided by David Dawson's CD.

### **Best Wishes**

We send our best wishes to one of our oldest members, Eirwen Evans who was 95 on 19 January. After spending some time in residential care in the Merthyr Tydfil area Eirwen moved to Oakwood Nursing Home in Aberdare where she has been a resident for a number of years.

*Ken Morgan*

## **NOTTAGE**

Gwladys Howell, myself and my husband, were pleased we were able to go to pay our respects to Margaret Evans at Thornhill. Margaret and Gwladys had been good friends for many years through Women's League. Gwladys would drive the late Margaret Thomas to meetings, and this is how their friendship flourished over the years. It was a sad day, but the large congregation was testament to the affection in which she was held.

December was a busy month for Nottage. It started with the District Christmas Service, and was quickly followed by the Cubs and Beavers Christmas Service. Jean Thomas's troop have held their service in Nottage since Dr Beverly Littlepage was our Lay Pastor. It is always a pleasure to join them, they are always so eager and excited, and it is one of the few times in the year that we can boast of a full house! After that we had our own Christmas service and Hope and Faith lunch, and were delighted that 16 of us were able to join together under the leading light of Julianne Morgan, she really is a "treasure", and I don't think we would have survived without her. THANK YOU Julianne.

Thanks also to all who have taken services during the year, helping us to remain open every Sunday.

Sadly there was no service on Christmas Day. The theme of the District Christmas Service was "what Christmas means to me". While EJ Williams was our minister our Christmas Services were held at 8am. My parents, along with their 4 children, never missed, even though my father rarely went for the rest of the year, and I particularly remember the year Father Christmas brought me roller skates, which I refused to remove to get up Nottage Hill! It was a tradition I am proud to have grown up with.

There have been birthdays in abundance during the past couple of weeks. Isobel Rosenberg celebrated her 21<sup>st</sup>, David Williams "came of age" and celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on New Years Day, and Tudor Evans joined us for our New Year service and lunch having just reached 86! What a trio of "stars" – congratulations to you all.

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, Janet and Harry Hales will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. They were married at Nottage by the Reverend EJ Williams. Our warmest congratulations to you both —doesn't time fly?! A sad note to end: Annette Marsh's mother has recently died – our sincere sympathy goes to her family.

*Avril Protheroe*

## **TREBANOS**

### **GRAIG**

The Carol Service on Sunday, 8 December attracted a good congregation who were rewarded with fine singing by ex-members of the Trebanos Choir, led by their conductor, Lawrence Bowen, who also accompanied the carol singing on the chapel organ, which had recently been serviced and tuned at the expense of the choir before they disbanded.

Julie Nedin, a chapel member and President of the South East Wales Unitarian Society, led the service and thanked the ex-members of the choir, which had been founded at the Graig Chapel in 1968, for keeping the organ well tuned and maintained in a pristine condition. The carol singing, which was enjoyed by all, included well known and modern hymns in English and Welsh. It was also a pleasure to hear Julie read John Betjeman's poem "Christmas" and to listen to some seasonal classical music played by Lawrence.

The occasion will also be remembered by the congregation's tribute to Nelson Mandela which was led by Colin Morgan and concluded with a prayer of thanks for Mr Mandela's work and life. The service terminated with a collection for local charities

Before making their way home, the congregation and their visitors enjoyed each other's company over a cup of tea, mince pies and Christmas cake, all of which had been gifted by members. The event was a very good start to the Festive Season and I look forward to next year's get together. Well done Julie!

*Colin Morgan*

## **GELLIONNEN**

Our year concluded with a midnight Christmas service. The chapel was decorated with holly and ivy, the fire burned bright and our musicians were marvellous. Come to that, the lusty singing of the congregants was marvellous too. Everyone seemed to have made an effort. Over the past year we have been grateful to speakers who came to us through the Pulpit-Plan and also those of our own number who have shared their thoughts. On a number of occasions Lawrence Bowen has been our accompanist – Gellionnen has an electric keyboard and Lawrence usually plays the magnificent Graig pipe organ. Stephen Wilson has also played for us a few times and was happy to help out. Thank you Stephen.

On Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> January the Rev Eric Jones began the new year for us by welcoming in two new members. They're not new really – they have both been working away doing more than their fare share for quite some time. So, to Jane Carpenter and Sarah Jones, thank you for joining.

Sarah's eldest son Hywel, having completed his university course has obtained a music teaching post. Jane has become a grandmother again, this time to Emily Kate, a little sister for Holly.

(Sarah and Jane are shown receiving their Membership Certificates from Eric.)



Photo: Sandra Beynon

On Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> January we gathered to answer the knocking on the door by the Mari Lwyd. This is a pre-Christian celebration which was taken over and adapted by the Christian Church long ago – though the fun-filled pagan roots remain. We concluded with the Inquirer's *Inquiring Words*, "I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes," and Aneurin Jones played some wonderful melodies on his violin. This young man gets better and better.

The placing of a geocache\* beside our graveyard wall has caused many people to come here for the first time. They might well be making use of our three new benches! It seems that several have commented on the stunning location.

\* *Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, in which the participants use a GPS (Global Positioning System) receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches", anywhere in the world. (courtesy Wikipedia)*

To all our Unitarian friends, we wish you a happy, healthy 2014.

*Marian Littlepage*

## WICK

Greetings to all our District friends for 2014.

In many ways 2013 has been a sad year for us at Wick. Two of our most loyal members have had to go into residential care, Eva Morgan and Glenys Pugh are now settled in Cowbridge; then, just after her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday, Phyllis Rose died. Our chapel was very close to their hearts and we remember them with love.

Our refurbishment plans are almost completed, and we were so pleased (an understatement) to find the recent heavy rain had not damaged the chapel in any way. The chapel is at a lower level than the graveyard so I was expecting some flooding — but – not a drop!

Our Christmas service was well attended and we were delighted to welcome members of Lucy Macdowell's family, including her month-old great-grandson. Even the hearty carol singing failed to awaken him.

We began 2014 with hope – and we were not disappointed – our average age for that service was one of our lowest with 2-year-old Mia and 2-week-old Jack attending (in pouring rain) with their mother and grandmother.

Our deep gratitude to all our faithful members – especially our organist, chairperson (and cleaner!) Helen Lewis who travels from Tonna in the NeathValley. My thanks to you all.

*Julianne Morgan*

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

Copy-deadline for the next issue of the *South East Wales Unitarian News* is **Saturday 22 March 2014**. Items for publication should be sent by to:- **kenneth.morgan25@tesco.net** or Ken Morgan, 25c Holford Street, Cefn Coed y Cymer, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 2RW. Tel: 01685 379016