



### FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March – Welsh Unitarian Conference at The Boars Head, Carmarthen at 10.00 am.

### INDUCTION OF REVEREND LEWIS REES

The Induction Service of Rev Lewis Rees took place at 2.30pm on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> January at Nottage General Baptist and Unitarian Chapel. The well-attended service was conducted by Rev Eric Jones, minister emeritus at Highland Place, Aberdare, with Isabelle Rosenberg of the Nottage congregation providing organ accompaniment for the hymns, and other incidental music.

Rev Eric Jones welcomed all present, especially those who had travelled from afar to be there and apologies were received from those unable to attend.

Rev Jeffrey Gould, minister at Hale, Cheshire, representing the Unitarian Christian Association, presented a Reading and Rev Wyn Thomas, on behalf of the South Wales Unitarian Association, delivered the Charge to the Congregation. Next came a period of prayer and meditation, led by Rev Ant Howe, minister at Birmingham Hollywood, which was followed by a musical interlude.

Greetings were expressed by Mrs Melda Grantham (Secretary, Unitarian Welsh Department); Mr Tony Foster (President, South East Wales Unitarian Society); Rev Jean Bradley (Moderator, Unitarian Christian Association); Cllr Richard Young (Mayor, Bridgend County Borough Council); Cllr David Newton-Williams (Mayor, Porthcawl Town Council) and Ms Lis Dyson-Jones (Former President of the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches.)



Rev Lewis Rees

Photo: Joy Foster



Ceremony of Induction

Rev Lewis Rees, Mrs Jean Thomas, Mrs Avril Protheroe, Mr Alastair Rosenberg

Photo: Joy Foster

The Charge to the Minister was delivered by Rev John Carter (Minister, Southampton).

Then followed the Ceremony of Induction performed by the Officers of Nottage Chapel (Mrs Jean Thomas, Mrs Avril Protheroe and Mr Alastair Rosenberg) and commitments were made by both minister and officers to work together in the interests of the chapel.

The service closed with the benediction being delivered by Rev Lewis Rees.

With the formalities of the afternoon over, all present withdrew to the Schoolroom where the ladies and friends of the congregation excelled themselves in the sumptuous buffet tea they provided.

The occasion marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Nottage Chapel and we wish the congregation and the Rev Lewis Rees every success in their newly formed partnership.

## DISTRICT CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The SEWUS Christmas Service was held at Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Trecynon, Aberdare at 11am on 6<sup>th</sup> December. The chapel is now owned by Addoldai Cymru (Welsh Religious Buildings Trust) and has undergone restoration, with further work planned by Friends of Hen Dŷ Cwrdd.

At present there is no electricity supply so power for the organ was brought in from an adjoining cottage thanks to the kind cooperation of Mrs Marian Davies. We had been advised to wear extra layers of clothing as there would be no heating but conditions were surprisingly comfortable—helped, no doubt, by the proliferation of candles.

District President, Tony Foster, welcomed everyone and guided us through the now well-tried format of Readings and Carols presented by representatives from each District congregation, which had been organised by District Secretary, Lis Dyson-Jones. Highland Place organist Jacob Jones provided accompaniment for the carols, and his young sister, Grace, played additional Christmas music on the flute.

As there were no facilities available, lunch was served at Highland Place schoolroom after the service.

We thank Highland Place congregation for hosting a very successful event, and especially Joy Foster for giving the chapel a thorough *going-over* prior to the day.

*(Further appreciative comments on the event are to be found in chapel reports below.)*

## FROM THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Firstly, may I wish you all a belated Happy and Healthy New Year!

2015 ended on a high, with a very well attended District Carol Service at Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Trecynon. I would like to thank everyone who attended for making it such a happy occasion, with excellent readings and singing which put everyone in the Christmas spirit, as did the warm fruit punch and ginger wine!

2016 has got off to an excellent start with the Induction of Rev Lewis Rees at Nottage.

This was a very special occasion with a full chapel. It was the first Induction ceremony I have attended, and I had just enough digits to count the number of Ministers present. As well as greetings brought from many Unitarians present, greetings were also given by the Mayor of Bridgend CBC and the Mayor of Porthcawl Town Council.

It was a very memorable ceremony conducted by Minister Emeritus Rev Eric Jones. After the ceremony a delicious buffet was provided in the schoolroom. Our thanks go to the ladies of Nottage congregation for all their hard work.

We wish Rev Lewis Rees every success for his future at Nottage, and as Rev Wyn Thomas said, "We are always here, to help you, help us." Many congratulations to you Lewis.

*Tony Foster*



District President Tony Foster

Photo: Sarah Boyce



All present were invited to light a candle

Photo: Barbara Chivers

## FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITARIAN WELSH DEPARTMENT

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda! Happy New Year!

The New Year is traditionally a time to look forward with hope, a time for new beginnings, and the preferred time for making all of those dreaded resolutions: –you know the ones– the ‘keeping fit, going to the gym, losing weight etc.’ ones. Well, this year I’m determined that I’m not going to set myself up for the disappointment and self-disgust that always follows the first forbidden chocolate éclair and I’m setting “aspirations” rather than “resolutions”. These “aspirations” will be achievable and can be set at any time of the year, and they can be short-term and not necessarily life changing. Some I can manage on my own, such as actually listening to Ken Morgan and writing down the deadline dates for the SEWUS newsletter. But, to achieve some of them, I will need a little help from my friends. For instance I have this aspiration that the Welsh Unitarian Conference which will be held at the Boars Head, Carmarthen at 10.00 on March 5<sup>th</sup> will be attended by nearly every member and will be a resounding success. It will mark the beginning of a new period of development within the movement in Wales, and will provide the forum for everyone to voice their opinions, put forward their suggestions and come to an agreement as to the way forward. You see, - my aspirations are very easy to achieve – just come along and help me! The programme for the day has not yet been set, but the two main areas that will be focused upon will be “Communication” and “Service to Humanity” and I’ll let you all know as soon as possible what will be happening on the day. In the meantime, put the date in your diary – and book your place with me a.s.a.p., either by sending me an e-mail at [mgrantham@unitarian.org.uk](mailto:mgrantham@unitarian.org.uk) or by giving me a call on 01559 36 2392

Don’t forget about the GA Annual Meetings which will be held this year again at the Birmingham Hilton Metropole Hotel from the 30<sup>th</sup> March to the 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The Welsh Department slot will be on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March between 17:30 and 18:10. It has been agreed that it will be a celebration of the life of the Rev Jacob Davies and will be arranged by Megan Jones and Nans Davies. If you are able and willing to take part then please do get in touch with either of them by e-mailing [meganjones@advantagemail.co.uk](mailto:meganjones@advantagemail.co.uk) or [nans1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nans1@hotmail.co.uk)

To mark Interfaith Harmony Week the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has invited us to join them in helping vulnerable women in Wales. We are asked to collect the following items for distribution by the Women’s Refuges to different families. The items needed are: Nightwear (women and children, new & assorted sizes); Slippers (women & children, new & assorted sizes); Bath towels (new & large sizes); Rice, Pasta & Tinned Foods. These will all be made up into packs at the Church in Merthyr Tydfil on the 4<sup>th</sup> February between 17:30 and 20:00. This is the church that SEWUS visited in the Summer Rally this year, and it would be great if you could join us. Please let me know if you are able to help.

And, as we begin a New Year, we also mark the beginning of a new era at Nottage church, and I’m sure that we would all offer our very best wishes to the Rev Lewis Rees and the congregation of Nottage at the beginning of this exciting new chapter in their history.

*Melda Grantham*

## GA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE KEY MESSAGES 13 NOVEMBER 2015

### 1. President of the General Assembly 2016-17

The Executive Committee is pleased to announce that Dorothy (Dot) Hewardine will be nominated for the position of President of the General Assembly 2016/17 at the Annual Meetings in April 2016. Dot was nominated by the Scottish Unitarian Association, Sheffield and District Association of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches and Cardiff Unitarians/Undodiaid Caerdydd.

Dot was born into a Unitarian family attending the Hunslet Unitarian Church, Leeds and was involved with the Unitarian Young People’s League in Yorkshire. She went on to serve in many national roles across the Unitarian Movement, with a particular interest in the development and training of Lay Leaders and Ministers. She is chair of the Hibbert Trust and serves on the committee of Unitarian College Manchester. She is a former member of the Executive Committee.

Unfortunately the Executive Committee was unable to make any nomination for the position of Vice-President 2016/17 as no names were received for consideration.

### 2. Annual Meetings 2017

For the third year running, the venue for the Annual Meetings in 2017, which will take place from 10 - 13 April, will again be the Hilton Metropole, Birmingham. This was a popular and successful venue in 2015, and we return there next year. There has been excellent feedback from attendees, particularly on the ease of transport connections from all parts of the country and we are pleased to have come to satisfactory arrangements with the Hotel.

### **3. Nightingale Centre**

The Annual Budget for the Nightingale Centre was approved by the Executive Committee in their role as Trustees of the Centre. An overall break-even position is forecast and a generally conservative approach to finances has been adopted throughout.

Discussion took place on the "Management Delegation Principles" governing the relationship between the Executive Committee and the Centre's Management Committee. Consultation will take place with the Management Committee on revised draft proposals and we hope to have an agreed version signed-off at the January 2016 EC meeting.

### **4. Ministry Strategy Group**

It was agreed that Jane Couper should be appointed as a member of the Ministry Strategy Group.

It was agreed that Bob Janis Dillon, a Unitarian-Universalist Minister currently working as a Partnership Minister in Merseyside, should be accepted to work towards inclusion on the General Assembly Roll of Ministers, with a programme of suitable training and mentorship to accompany his work with congregations.

*Executive Committee*

## **THOUGHT FOR NOW**

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

Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads.

*Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)*

## **ABERDARE**

### **Women's League**

We enjoyed many events during the run up to Christmas.

At the end of November we had an excellent talk on musicals. The history of musicals by Rogers and Hart and Rogers and Hammerstein was accompanied by CDs, some with original tracks. A lovely afternoon with the promise of more to come in 2016.

As usual league members decorated the church for Christmas, creating a beautiful and warm atmosphere for all that was to come.

In lieu of a Winter Sale of work members arranged a coffee and cake morning with Christmas gift and craft tables. This innovation was both pleasant and successful and raised over £375.

Our League members certainly know how to enjoy themselves. We had a trip to the new M&S store in neighbouring Merthyr Tydfil. On 9<sup>th</sup> December we enjoyed a Christmas lunch in a nearby village and on 16<sup>th</sup> December we had our final meeting of the year.

Secret Santa gifts and cards were exchanged and there were also seasonal readings, a Christmas quiz (very difficult), and a buffet. The added pleasure was that one of our members, Dorothy Jones, who has mobility and transport difficulties was able to attend. Joy and Tony Foster were determined that she should be present.

*Dilys Evans*

On the 20<sup>th</sup> November Joy and Tony Foster and Dilys Evans travelled to Sheffield for the 'Vision of Our Future' conference on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Members from Cardiff and west Wales also attended. I am sure that you will get more information in due course. In a nutshell we are to come up with plans and the means of paying for them.

If you were able to attend the District Christmas Service at Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Trecynon, I am sure that you found it to be a very joyful occasion. The various contributions by members on the theme of light were inspirational. Lis Dyson-Jones had chosen the theme and had also supplied the mulled wine. We had been warned to wear warm layers of clothing. In fact, there was warmth in the chapel in spite of the lack of heating. Joy Foster had worked very hard cleaning and decorating the building and filling it with candles.

District President, Tony Foster, conducted the proceedings and there was additional Christmas music from young Grace Jones on the flute, and our accompanist Jacob Jones. Lunch was then enjoyed at Highland Place.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> December a large part of our service was devoted to 'Rechoir'. This was a group of singers formed by Nathan Jones, a former organist of ours, when he was at university. What a wonderful evening of music! Nathan's arrangements, the choir and soloists were superb. The church was filled to capacity, upstairs and downstairs, some visitors having travelled from as far as Bristol.

Our Christmas Eve congregational service this year was made even more special by the attendance of local visitors and a family from Boston, USA, who were spending the holiday with relatives in Trelewis. We thoroughly enjoyed their company during fellowship.

The Monday coffee morning is flourishing. Not only is it raising a great deal of money per annum, but it is also bringing in outsiders. Visits by a Rhondda lady on her way to shopping in Aberdare have led to a forthcoming naming ceremony at Highland Place.

Joy and Tony delivered our latest collection to the Gurnos Food Bank in time for Christmas and Joy's meditation group is now well established.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2016.

Dilys Evans

## **CARDIFF UNITARIANS / UNDOIDIAID CAERDYDD**

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR DISTRICT FRIENDS!

Despite the freezing temperatures, five members from Cardiff attended the 'From Vision to Action Day' held in Sheffield on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015. Part of the day was constructive, giving a chance for group discussions relating to Ministry, Relevance in the World, Doing things Differently, Spiritual Development, Leadership and Sustainability. There have been reports in the Inquirer relating to the day and further information will be communicated at the General Assembly Annual Meetings this year when a programme of action will be launched.

Several members were able to attend the District Christmas Candle and Carol Service at Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Trecynon on 6<sup>th</sup> December and also to enjoy the festive refreshments at Highland Place.

Our Christmas Service this year took the form of a celebration of the Winter Solstice and the children played a large part in telling the story of 'Yule' and its origins. 'Mari Lwyd' also paid us a visit and we sang Solstice Carols in telling the stories. Following the service the children were each presented with a Christmas gift.

On the first Sunday of the New Year, we welcomed a visiting Unitarian Universalist Minister, Rev Madelyn Campbell Minister of the Shenandoah Valley Unitarian Universalist Church USA who conducted our worship. She spoke about 'the best gifts' and raised a smile as she warmly related many special gifts she has received throughout her life. It was good to get to know her and her daughter whose visit to Cardiff also included the highlight of the 'Dr Who Experience'.

We were all saddened by the death of Dr Elwyn Hughes, a loyal supporter of our Welsh language services and some members were able to attend his funeral on 15<sup>th</sup> December at Thornhill Crematorium.

We are pleased to have been able to welcome Marjorie Collins back to our services and to see her looking so well after a difficult time following a fall last autumn. Martyn and Maia, who attended several services last year, have now become three, as they welcomed a new addition to their family. Their daughter, Corabell was born on 19<sup>th</sup> October and once life has settled a bit for them, they hope to be able to attend services again. We were also delighted to hear of the safe arrival of the latest grandchild for Diana when her daughter Heledd gave birth to a son, Tommi, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January: a very special gift for all the family.

Carrie Boyce has finished a CELTA course in Cardiff for a TEFL qualification and after further training in Buckinghamshire, will be doing a three months placement in Valencia, Spain starting in January, teaching English to adults and children. She is arranging further work in the UK following her return. Her brother James has gained a distinction in a Masters Degree in Geographic Information Systems (Computing) and is currently applying for full time work with different companies.

There will be a United Nations meeting at the Temple of Peace, Cardiff on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm to be addressed by the Rev Aled Edwards of Displaced Persons in Action and Cytun on 'The Response of Wales to Refugees'.

### Something to think about

'Unanswered questions are far less dangerous than unquestioned answers' (*Anonymous*)

Lis Dyson-Jones

## **CEFNCOED**

### **Women's League**

Well, I'm afraid there's not much news for this issue of the newsletter.

We had only one meeting in December – on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. We arranged to decorate the chapel. Mog Chambers very kindly bought a new Christmas tree. It was lovely to see the chapel looking so nice and festive.

We had our Dinner on the 9<sup>th</sup> December at the Nant Ddu Lodge, Cwmtaf. After an enjoyable meal we spent the afternoon reminiscing on old times.

We met on 6<sup>th</sup> January to take down the decorations and we start back in League on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

Christmas is now as far away as ever, so hopefully 2016 will be a better year for everyone.

Vera Tomsett

### **Remembrance Sunday**

On Sunday 8 November the annual Remembrance Ceremony at the village War Memorial at 11am was followed by the Community Remembrance Service at Hen Dŷ Cwrdd. Both services were conducted by Ken Morgan, a role he has performed annually since 1974.

### **Weather Problem**

Stormy weather conditions on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> November caused us to cancel our service.

### **District Christmas Service**

On Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December several of us visited Hen Dŷ Cwrdd's sister-chapel – Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Trecynon, Aberdare to attend the District Christmas Service. The carols were sung enthusiastically and the Readings on the theme of 'Light and Warmth' were varied and interesting. Cefncoed readers were Gwynfa Bowen and Vera Tomsett. The tasty refreshments and a hot 'cuppa' at Highland Place Church rounded off a most enjoyable morning.

### **Services over the holiday period**

The services over the holiday period were all 'in house'. Those on 27<sup>th</sup> December and 3<sup>rd</sup> January were conducted by members of the congregation, and at 11am on Christmas morning the service was led by Three Wise Men (otherwise known as Morgan, Phil and Ken.)

### **In our thoughts**

After being transferred to the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport for 3-4 weeks, Peter Powell is now back at Brecon Memorial Hospital. We send him our best regards.

*Ken Morgan*

## **NOTTAGE**

We had a visit a few months ago, from an elderly lady, who attended Nottage from her birth to her getting married and moving away. It was an emotional morning, and she had plenty to tell us about Nottage in her youth, including how it was always packed with people when she attended. She is not able to live on her own anymore, so has come back to Wales to live with her daughter. Her name is Ruby Hambrook, and the family name is still common in Porthcawl. When I was recounting her visit to Gwladys Howell, she was very pleased, because she lived next door to Ruby as a child, and that is how she went to the Unitarian Church and met her husband Les! It is indeed a 'small world'. We did invite her to visit again, let's hope!

Our congregation has increased with the coming of George DeGay to Porthcawl. He and his wife, Mary, have moved to a residential home here – the same one as Gwladys Howell, Mary is unable to attend, but George comes when he can, and we are pleased that they are both happy with their move.

David Williams very kindly spent the first week in November in the Asda store in Pyle selling poppies for The British Legion, he is a lovely man, and a great member at Nottage.

Lewis conducted his first Remembrance Service for us, and spoke of our hopes for Peace, Love and Respect for the future. Sadly, very soon after, we observed a minute's silence for the killings in Paris. We are grateful to Helen Steele for once more collecting from our members for Crisis at Christmas. Last year we were able to pay for one and a half homeless folk to enjoy Christmas day, this time it was two and a half, and I'm sure they were very grateful too.

We had a lovely Christmas Service, with a shared lunch after, conducted for the first time by Lewis. Thirty of us joined together and, also for the first time in many years, Lewis conducted a communion service. How lucky we are.

We were most grateful to Alastair, and Helen and family, for leading a service on Christmas Day, and to Elizabeth for playing the flute to accompany the carols. Lewis had prepared the service but, because he is not driving at the moment, was unable to be present. Thank you to all for keeping our traditional Christmas Day service going.

I don't know if the hills of Wales were 'alive with the sound of music' on the 16<sup>th</sup> January, but certainly the coastal village of Nottage was 'alive with the sound of hymn singing' as 90 of us joined in celebration at the Induction Service of the Reverend Lewis Rees. The event had been planned for some time, but the week before saw a frenzy of activity in both the chapel and schoolroom. Monday started the week with 'Spring cleaning' and from then on it is a blur of shopping, cooking, flower arranging, seating plans.....and nerves!

Sincere thanks to all who attended, especially those who made long journeys. To all who took part in the formal service, I don't think I have ever seen such a large group of ministers! To all those who helped to make the day such a successful, eventful one— but above all, to Lewis, and Cheryl for being willing 'to take us on! We are indeed ready to 'help him to help us' (*thank you Wyn*) in our quest to keep our chapel open, and a meeting place of love and friendship open to all.  
Thank you.

We send our Love and Best Wishes to Julianne and Rose, who have both spent time in hospital recently, and to Gwladys who has not been well for the past few weeks.

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i bawb,  
*Avril Protheroe*

## **TREBANOS**

### **GELLIONNEN**

Last year saw many good happenings in the life of the chapel. Removal of a couple of small pews either side of the pulpit seems to have opened up the whole chapel.

Christmas Eve midnight service went well as always, conducted by Julie Nedin and with musical accompaniment from Martin Edwards and Aneurin Jones (violin), Caradog Jones (harp), Hywel Jones (trombone), Pepe Lukas (euphonium), Johanna Lukas and Huw Jones on a whole array of recorders! As ever, our first singer was Lynnford Jones followed by wife Sandra, two superb performers. Lynne Gent pulled us all together with a wassail song for which she taught us the chorus. All three folk singers are stalwarts of our local folk club. We were treated to a superb rendering of a Shakespearean sonnet on Love and another participant gave us The Journey of the Magi. And as for the rest of us, we carolled beautifully! Two hundred pounds, on behalf of Graig and Gellionnen, will go to Tŷ Olwen Hospice which is within the grounds of Morriston hospital.

Jane Carpenter has handed over the position of safety officer to sixteen-year-old Harri Evans Mason. Thanks go to Jane for her great diligence and also to Harri for taking on the job when he was already a busy young man. He is a town councillor and a director of Children's Rights in Wales.

Siân Evans and Geraint Price recently took part in a triathlon involving a 400 metre swim, 12 mile bike ride and a 2 mile run. They practiced well and did particularly well on the day.

The Christmas Event held in Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Trecynon was very special. A number of us had never been inside this lovely chapel before and we were aware of having stepped back in history. Signs of restoration were all around us. The chapel was beautifully decorated and candle lit. If Christmas had not begun to touch us before that day, certainly it touched us then. Tea and chat later at Highland Place Church rounded off a great Christmas Event.

And so on to 2016. The Rev Lewis Rees was due to conduct a service of blessing on 3<sup>rd</sup> January when the weather was so bad that things took place down in the Graig Chapel instead. Little Efan Tomos Murphy is the brother of Ella Mae and Jac. Our love and good wishes go to all three children and also to their family.



The *Mari Lwyd* came knocking loudly on our door on 10<sup>th</sup> January. Many of us had enjoyed their visit on previous occasions, but the *Mari Lwyd* team gets better every time! They are raucous and full of fun, sweeping out the old year and filling us with hopes for the future. This seems as good a time as any to wish all of our friends well through the winter and into spring.

We have a marriage to look forward to in the summer, and hopefully many other good things.

We need to say a big thank you to our visiting speakers and it will be good to

welcome you again this year. Our numbers are usually small but our appreciation great. May we wish everyone health and happiness for 2016.

*Marian Littlepage*



The *Mari Lwyd* at Gellionnen

Photo: Carolyn (Cas) Smith

## WICK

Wick's Lay Leader and District News correspondent, Julianne Morgan is unable to file a report for this issue.

On 8<sup>th</sup> December Julianne slipped on some wet leaves and had a fall, resulting in a fractured hip. She was taken to Morriston Hospital, where she remained until after the start of the new year. We send her our best wishes and hope it won't be too long before she is fully recovered. *Ed.*

## MEN'S GROUP

On 10<sup>th</sup> November we gathered at the Glamorgan Archives on Sloper Road, Cardiff. After having our identities checked and photographs taken at reception, we were given ID cards and allowed in. After viewing the document archives on computer, we all requested documents relating to churches and chapels in the South East Wales District.

I filled in a request slip to see copies of the church and chapel calendars, a forerunner of the District News, and what a lot of them there were. I decided to look at a bound copy for the year 1928. What a fascinating read. I jotted down just a few notes from the months of February and March.

*Highland Place – the hot topics of the month were the induction of the Rev Constance Harris, and the installation of a new heating apparatus, being able to worship the Lord not only in the beauty of holiness, but also in comfort and warmth, the latter condition being generally necessary to the former.*

*Cardiff West Grove – the church League of Youth held their 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas Breakfast for 120 poor children of the city. After carol singing each child received a parcel of fruit and toys.*

*Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Cefn Coed – on its 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary, £180 was raised for redecorating the interior and exterior of the church. (Hen Dŷ Cwrdd was referred to as a church rather than chapel in a number of articles)*

*Nottage – the closing of the Winter's Work was marked as usual by two social gatherings over two evenings. The first evening was for congregation and Sunday School for over 14s with over seventy attending. The second evening for the under 14s with 50 attending.*

*Swansea – held a petition against the establishment of a greyhound racing track. The petition was so successful that over 60 churches joined Swansea Unitarians in the fight. A lantern lecture was given on Ireland with the prospect of a conducted party to Ireland in the Summer. The Unitarian church was the first to have a wayside pulpit in Swansea.*



We had lunch at the Sand Martin Carvery and returned to the Archives in the afternoon for a guided tour. Our thanks to Alun Watts for arranging a very enjoyable and interesting day and I will certainly return to view more of the documents on South East Wales Unitarians.

On 8<sup>th</sup> December we joined together for our Christmas meal at the Ynyscynon Inn, Cwmbach, Aberdare. An excellent way to end the year, with good food and good company.

*Tony Foster*

## ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF EVENTS COVERED



Marie Lwyd at Gellionnen

Photo: Carolyn (Cas) Smith



Rev. Lewis Rees

Photo: Joy Foster



Let there be light

Photo: Sarah Boyce



Getting settled at Hen Dŷ Cwrdd Trecynon

Photo : Sarah Boyce

## FEELING DRAWN TO MINISTRY?

Maybe you have felt an inkling of a call to become a Unitarian or Free Christian Minister  
Maybe it's still a secret that you dare not speak  
Maybe it's something so precious you don't want to question it.

The Ministerial Fellowship is hosting

A weekend retreat

for you to discern whether or not you might pursue a path in Unitarian ministry  
27<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Friday afternoon to Sunday lunchtime

At

Luther King House, Brighton Grove, Manchester  
Cost £40 including meals and accommodation  
(Costs subsidised by The Millennium Fund)

Additional subsidies are available for cases of need

- Listen to your Soul
- Talk with experienced ministers
- Personal exploration

Bookings limited to 15

Members of the Interview panel & Ministry Group are not involved with the planning or hosting of this retreat

Further information and bookings Rev Nicky Jenkins on [revnickyj@icloud.com](mailto:revnickyj@icloud.com)

or ring 0161 224 5289

Note: This is not a replacement for the Inquiry Day (where you can ask questions about practicalities) but rather a precursor.

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

Copy-deadline for the next issue of the South East Wales Unitarian News is **Saturday, 19 March, 2016**.

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