



June 2010

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> June – Gwersyll Cwmwrdu ‘Spring Clean’ at 1.30pm** Those present for the AGM held at the camp on 22<sup>nd</sup> May felt that the old place looked a little ‘sad and sorry’, and was in need of a clean-up. Are you able to spare a couple of hours on the nineteenth? If so, please come along with your mops and dusters etc, and help restore some of the sparkle –you’ll find it most rewarding.  
**STOP PRESS NEWS – PLANNING PERMISSION OBTAINED FOR NEW EXTENSION!**

**Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> July – District Rally at Llanmadog.** Our annual rally takes us on a visit to St Madoc’s Christian Youth Camp on the Gower where generations of young Unitarians once spent many happy summer days. The site has been brought up to the expectations of the 21<sup>st</sup> century – come and see what has been achieved. Details are not yet finalised but (at present) the plan is to meet at the camp at 2.30pm...Visit to include: Tour; Service; Tea.

## DISTRICT AGM 2010

On Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May we gathered at Highland Place Unitarian Church for our Annual General Meeting, and we thank the Aberdare congregation for their hospitality.

We began with a service of worship at 11am conducted by District President Sarah Boyce. Sarah urged that we should not settle for things as they are. The problem of being in a rut is...you get used to it. Conditions change; windows (of opportunity) open —we cannot stay the same.

Following a break at noon for a shared lunch, the business session commenced at 1pm. The meeting was chaired by the President who presented a report of the year’s activities, and the District Treasurer, Rev Eric Jones, reviewed the District’s financial situation. These reports were accepted, as were further written reports covering the Women’s League, the Future Ministry bid, South East Wales Unitarian News, Publicity Group, Musical Union (Cymanfa Ganu), and Gwersyll Cwmwrdu. (Copies of these reports are available from the District Secretary.)

The election of Officers and other posts then took place. Thanks were expressed to Philip Griffiths for his many years of diligent service as District Secretary: the new Secretary is Lis Dyson-Jones. The new minute secretary is Ella Lewis-Jones: Joy Foster becomes an additional Youth and RE Co-ordinator and Keith Lewis-Jones joins the Publicity Team. (A list of all post holders is given on the district website – [www.ukunitarians.org.uk/sewus/](http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/sewus/) ).

During the final session of the day we were interested to hear Mr Neil Sumner speak on the work of the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust. Two of the six buildings that have so far been acquired by the Trust for restoration are Unitarian – Yr Hen Gapel, Llwynrhydownen and Yr Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Trecynon. An article about the latter appears below.

## HEN DŶ CWRDD, Trecynon

Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Trecynon saw a gathering of civic dignitaries outside the building recently in order to unveil a plaque to note the historical contribution of the congregation over the years. The plaque was unveiled by the Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Tâf, Cllr Robert Smith who spoke in glowing terms regarding the historical importance of the building. Speeches were also given by the Rev Dafydd Owen, the chairperson of the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust (a former General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Wales) and the Rev Eric Jones, the last minister of the congregation which ceased to use the chapel in 1994 when the remaining members joined the congregation at Highland Place.



Cllr Robert Smith, Rev Eric Jones, Rev Dafydd Owen

Photo: Darren Griffiths-Warner

There was a good gathering of interested people from the area as well as local councillors and officers of the Council.

Recently, the building has been renovated at a cost of £75,000 with a new roof, windows and entrance. A further similar sum is needed to renovate the inside of the building. Afterwards, a committee of 'Friends of Hen Dŷ Cwrdd' will be formed to decide on its use for the community and to oversee any activities, and the building, on behalf of the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust.

*Rev J Eric Jones*

## **HIGHLAND PLACE ANNIVERSARY LECTURE**

An audience of 45 attended the first of the three lectures scheduled to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Highland Place Unitarian Church.

Entitled 'Religion and Revival in Aberdare in 1859/60', and delivered by Dr Chris Turner, the lecture set the context in which Highland Place had its origin. Appropriately, Dr Turner was himself a local boy, hailing from Aberaman and was mentored by that doyen of local history, the late Rev Ivor Parry. The enthusiasm which Dr Turner brought to the subject was marked by the verve and erudition displayed.

The period 1810-60 saw a maelstrom of change and population explosion in Aberdare. Initially, the economic migration into the area was from other Welsh-speaking areas, but between 1840 and 1860 the population of Aberdare increased five fold to almost 33,000 and the first language of many of these migrants was English, giving rise to the need for worship in that tongue.

Dr Turner revealed that as iron making in the north of the valley declined and coal mining in the south flourished, there was a corresponding denominational drift, with "daughter chapels" being established where the new work was created. It was a time of frequent religious revivals and frequent cholera and typhoid epidemics, coupled with the inherent dangers of the mining industry, added to the transience of life and encouraged the resort to evangelicalism. The era was one in which huge characters bestrode the local stage, each of whom would merit a lecture in their own right.

Contemporary to this frenzy of revival and emotion, Dr Turner paid tribute to the Unitarians cause in Aberdare and many prominent Unitarians who were in the forefront of educational, cultural and other fields and quietly, but efficiently, were busy in shaping society for the better.

*Paul David*

## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU ...Informal interviews with local Unitarians**

The interview in this issue is with Marian Littlepage. Marian attends Gellionnen Chapel and is a faithful member of the South East Wales District Committee. A quiet optimist, I detect from her interview.

Until I joined the congregation at Highland Place I had never met Marian but in the early eighties, when I attended The Welsh Health Services Forum with my manager, Dr Beverly Littlepage was one of the most influential members of that group. He was ahead of his time in his understanding of the impact of poverty and disadvantage on the health of the individual. I had no idea he was a Unitarian.

*Ella Lewis-Jones*

### ***Have you always been a Unitarian?***

As a child I attended our nearby Baptist Chapel and was eventually baptised there. My Mother was an attender but my Father definitely was not. I first went to Nottage General Baptist and Unitarian Chapel as a nineteen year old and became a member at twenty. By that time I had had a few years out but missed that part of my life. I had not been particularly happy with my previous chapel and considered Catholicism which would tell me exactly where I stood. Unitarianism, when it came into my scene told me that the individual had a duty to lay down ground rules and to continue questioning and updating forever.

The Minister of our Nottage Chapel at that time was the Reverend E J Williams who had originally intended becoming a Catholic priest. He subsequently married, had two children and took care of our Wick Chapel before becoming minister at Nottage.

EJ married Beverley and me. Bev had originally come to Unitarianism in our Dublin Church when he was a medical student though he did not become a listed member there.

### ***What is your earliest memory?***

Like your last interviewee I have an early memory of being ill, sitting in the big armchair in a very warm kitchen. I also remember a big old lilac tree with lovely faded blooms and the scent of roses in the back garden.

***When were you happiest?***

The day my first granddaughter was born “my cup overflowed”. She was named Siân after my first daughter and has given me nothing but delight ever since. Five and a half years later our second granddaughter, Gwennan, arrived. The girls live nearby – what a bonus.

***Which living person do you most admire, and why?***

Nelson Mandela, father of a rainbow nation. He refused to give up hope in the future, he has lived his life bravely and is a towering example to us all.

***What is your most treasured possession?***

I find this difficult. I have shed quite a few possessions recently to a local charity shop but the house is filled with treasures of one sort or another. There are books, tapes, CDs and childish pictures. Perhaps my very good, rather old radio is most precious. If it ceased functioning tomorrow I’d go out and buy another very good one.

***What is your guiltiest pleasure?***

Chocolate. If the bag or box is unopened then that’s fine but I cannot eat some and leave some.

***What trait do you most deplore in yourself?***

I procrastinate. I’m very good at putting things off if I do not want to do them and at the same time I worry when things aren’t done. How unwise, I should seize the moment more often.

***What do you owe your parents?***

I was born to parents who were very socially aware. Both were caring and industrious. My Mother was an excellent cook and dressmaker, she was good with a crochet hook and fine embroidery too. Dad was a gardener – if you couldn’t eat it he did not want to grow it, that is except for sweet williams and sweetpeas. One morning Dad came with Beverley and me to Nottage Chapel, he just kept attending after that and Mum often came too.

***What has been your biggest disappointment?***

Beverley and I had no real retirement time together. When there should have been more time his health broke down very seriously. He loved his home but the last few years of his life were spent in a nursing home because he needed 24 hour care.

***If you could edit your past, would you change anything?***

I would have done more things “on the spur of the moment”. I would try much harder not to look for worries – what’s the point anyway? But in so many ways I have been blessed and am duly grateful.

***How do you relax?***

Daughter Megan and I go out for a meal together occasionally. She is very good company and I like her sense of humour. I belong to a folk club which meets twice a month and practise with the Trebanos Mixed Choir every Wednesday evening. The water aerobics class is good too and these all bring me into contact with people of varying age and lifestyle.

***Does anything keep you awake at night?***

I have to be very selective with radio/TV programmes and books. There are so many dreadful and tragic things happening around the world but so many extraordinary and wonderful things and people too.

***How would you like to be remembered?***

I think if someone says “She did her best” that will be fine.

***What is the most important lesson life has taught you?***

Life can be gruelling and then at other times uplifting that you could take off like a kite. Certainly life tells me these days that it is precious.

*“God grant me the serenity*

*To accept the things I cannot change.*

*The courage to change the things I can,*

*and the wisdom to know the difference”*

**I’m working on it.**

## **MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LINK**

Following the resignation from the Executive Committee of Jim Corrigan, due to ill health, the EC decided that for the next year, I should take up his responsibility as link to the South East Wales District. After that, the district will have another EC link because at the close of the 2011 Annual Meetings my time as a member of the Executive Committee will come to an end. I will then have served for five years.

I have forwarded the EC Key Messages following our meeting in early May and you will see the spread of EC members across the district associations.

I would encourage discussion in our congregations, on the 'Difficult Choices' questionnaire (debated at the Nottingham Annual Meetings) which was sent to all Church and District Secretaries in the last GA mailing. Please send your responses to Derek McAuley at Essex Hall, either individually or as a congregation as soon as you can. The issues must have the widest consultation and your views are very important. There has already been considerable response and the EC began discussing this at the May meeting. Full discussion about where the GA will spend its money will be taken in early September and as we need some funding for the Welsh Department General Secretary post, it is important to return these questionnaires. If this could be done by the middle of August it would be greatly appreciated. If you need clarification on this, please get in touch with me, but I can say that the Executive Committee's focus will be on Ministry and Local Leadership.

Best Wishes  
Lis Dyson-Jones

## KEY MESSAGES FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Executive Committee met on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May at Essex Hall, London. Martin Whitell and Alison Thursfield were welcomed as new members having been co-opted to replace Rev Dr Ann Peart and Jim Corrigan respectively.

- The Executive Committee looked carefully at the feedback from the Annual Meeting on "Difficult Choices" and identified priorities to work on. Significant progress was made which will be built into our future strategy. Further discussion will take place at the next Executive Committee meeting in July and we would encourage congregations, districts and individuals to continue to send in their views. A final decision will be made in September 2010.
- Views expressed at the workshops held in Nottingham on the Annual Meetings were considered. Initial plans were agreed for the 2011 Annual Meetings in Swansea and work begun to review the purpose and nature of the Annual Meetings from 2012.
- The purpose of Executive Committee links was reviewed and link members to Commission and Districts have been identified with a view to making the process more effective and economic which will result in savings (see below)
- The outcomes of the Annual Meetings workshops on the 2009 Resolutions were reviewed. The EC agreed not to take any further action on the resolution on a change of name but to ask for further work on the resolution on a set of behavioural principles
- Peter Soulsby has been appointed as the Convenor to the EC for the next year.
- An Electoral Panel comprising Dawn Buckle (Chair), Mike Tomlin and Eileen Wield have been appointed to manage the arrangement for the Executive Committee election to take place later in 2010 for four positions.

### Commission links

Communications Lis Dyson-Jones	Denominational Support Dot Hewerdine	Education and Training Alison Thursfield	Faith and Public Issues David Usher	Ministry Joan Cook
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### District Links

East Cheshire	Martin Whitell
East Midland	Sir Peter Soulsby
Eastern	Andy Pakula
London	David Usher
Manchester	Joan Cook
Merseyside	Alison Thursfield
Midland	Alison Thursfield
North and East Lancs.	Dot Hewerdine

Northern	Dot Hewerdine
Sheffield and District	Martin Whitell
Southern	Martin Whitell
Western	Lis Dyson-Jones
Yorkshire	Dot Hewerdine
Scottish	Joan Cook
South East Wales	Lis Dyson-Jones
South Wales	Lis Dyson-Jones

## THOUGHT FOR NOW

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

Kind hearts are the glorious gardens,  
Kind thoughts are the strengthening roots,  
Kind words are the perfumed blossoms,  
Kind deeds are the beautiful fruit.

Prayer is like a secret garden made up of silence, rest and inwardness.  
But there are a thousand and one doors and we all have to find our own.

*Jean Vanier*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our South East Wales Unitarian News enables our congregations in the district to celebrate our congregational life together in print so here goes. We had the opportunity to gather together for the district AGM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2010 and this is a useful chance to take stock of what has happened in the year before and to plan ahead. We also had the chance to hear about the work of the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust which has the care of the Unitarian chapel building in Trecynon. Many thanks were extended to Philip Griffiths for all his hard work as Secretary. He has always put a lot of work and preparation into planning district events and all the other areas of communication with our national body and within the district. Lis Dyson-Jones now takes on this role. Many thanks are also given to those who contribute to district life through attending the district executive meetings or roles such as Treasurer, supporting our website or as newsletter editors. Members from other congregations attended the Highland Place lecture on 27<sup>th</sup> May as part of a celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Highland Place Unitarian Church, Aberdare.

On the east side of the district the congregations of Aberdare, Cefncoed and Cardiff have met on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010 for the Collaborative Leadership group. Following a good deal of preparation the group is now ready to put in an application for the Ministerial Vacancy list. The Rev Linda Phillips, Director of Ministry at Unitarian Headquarters will be coming to meet our group on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May in Cardiff and will check with us that we have prepared our application sufficiently to proceed. Our application for a minister will then be put online.

I hope to see many of you at our district Summer Rally in Llanmadoc on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

I write this President's Message at a time of sadness for the people of Cumbria following floods, a coach crash killing two children and an adult and the killings of innocent people by a gunman. The sadness of life seems to go hand in hand with the beauty of life and a verse from a prayer by Sheena Gabriel in 'with Heart and Mind 2' reminds us of this.

*Help us remember that despite  
The pain and suffering that haunts our world  
Somewhere in the universe  
Beauty is always unfolding-  
Silently, secretly, without fan-fare  
Waiting to be discovered.....*

*Sarah Boyce*

## ABERDARE

It was not the sunniest of April days when a coach party of forty of the members and friends made a return visit to Llangoed Hotel, (Llyswen) for afternoon tea. The choice of sandwiches and cakes were of the usual high standard and there was plenty for all. The Hotel obliged those who were interested with a tour of the bedrooms which were considered very upmarket. Unfortunately a visit to the fabric shop at the hotel was not possible on that occasion.

It is pleasing to report that Dilys Evans, who has, for the past five years, been the President of Highland Place Women's League and the South East Wales District, was installed as National President of Women's League at the Annual General Meeting



Dilys (left) is welcomed into office by the outgoing National President, Mary Wightman

Photo: Keith Lewis-Jones

which took place at Nottingham University. Dilys spoke without notes, and told those assembled how much she valued Women's League and that she had observed that everyone who took an active part in League seemed to develop talents which had not previously been realised. Dilys explained that, above all, it was her intention as National President to return something of what she had gained from being a member. We have already heard that Dilys's visit to Scotland was a great success. Dilys, having such a good sense of fun, could not fail to interest other branch members.

Marion Davies, who has been a member of Highland Place Women's League for a very long time, has recently celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. A good crowd of League and Church members gathered for the party. Marion was presented with a hamper of goodies by the new President, Joy Foster and a posy of flowers. A delicious spread and Birthday Cake were provided by the members. Marion sincerely thanked everyone for their kindness and for the personal support and comfort which League members had shown her over many years.

Gareth Watts has been selected as the Welsh representative on the British team of Auditors, commissioned to audit the accounts of the United Nations. He will work for the UN Commissioner for Refugees. He will be based in UN offices in Geneva and Budapest and visit refugee camps abroad. Gareth regularly takes services at Aberdare, Cardiff and Cefncoed churches.

*Ella Lewis-Jones*



Joy Foster presents a hamper of 'goodies' to Marion

Photo: Ella Lewis-Jones

**Highland Place Unitarian Church, Aberdare**  
1860 – 2010 One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary  
Public Lecture Programme

The final lecture will be held at Highland Place Unitarian Church, Monk Street, Aberdare on  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 7.30pm

**Notable Unitarian Women**

**Speaker Rev. Dr Ann Peart**

*Anyone interested is very welcome to attend*  
*There is no charge for the lecture – A collection will be taken*  
[www.ukunitarians.org.uk/aberdare/](http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/aberdare/)

**CARDIFF UNITARIANS / UNDO DIAID CAERDYDD**

Cardiff Unitarians continue to meet, each Sunday, at the Society of Friends Meeting House in Charles Street. We are few in number but we are committed to raising the profile of Unitarianism in the city. To this end we have taken the decision to form a 'growth group' with the hope of extending our message in the community. We regularly contribute to local, national and international charities and have recently sent £140 to a school and orphanage in Kathmandu, Nepal. We are also committed to the work currently being carried out by the Ministry Steering Group in preparation for a joint Ministry with Highland Place and Hen Dŷ Cwrdd. We look forward to welcoming both of these congregations to a joint service on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

The Women's League meet regularly and in the past few weeks this has included enjoying an afternoon together listening to highlights of our church secretary's life in a light hearted 'This is Your Life' session. League members are pleased to report that they are sending a donation of £50 to the Air Ambulance Fund.

A few members were able to join Lewis Rees and other district Unitarians on a visit to the Jewish New Synagogue Roath, Cardiff. They found the ritual and ceremony interesting as they joined with the congregation celebrating Passover and listening to psalms sung in both Hebrew and English. All of the visitors were welcomed warmly and it was clear that the Jewish community still live their history as they demonstrate their faith.

A well attended Annual general meeting of the congregation took place on 9<sup>th</sup> May and following detailed business decisions involving finance and other matters, discussion took place about the 'Difficult Choices' questionnaire sent to congregations by the Executive Committee.

We send our good wishes to Caroline Boyce for success in her GCSE examinations and to Win John and Lyn's sister Olwen for improved health. Warm wishes for a speedy recovery also go to Nye Jones who is currently a patient in the Heath Hospital.

#### Thought for Now

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby, some have entertained angels unawares"  
(Hebrews 13.2)

And now, some thoughts on angels.....

*'An angel flies in the sky and looks like a girl with wings. Some are silver, some are bright and some wear white a lot. They live in the sky and do jobs for people'* (Sean age 6)

*'An angel is something that flies into your bedroom when you are asleep and gives you a kiss'* (Harriet age 4)

*'I see angels as kids with wings, who are very kind. They are sort of servants or messengers for God'* (Chris age 11)

*'Angels have weird names, have harps and wear slippers. When my Tamagotchi dies it is an angel'* (Ben age 8)

*'God uses angels to tell people on earth things. They have some of God's powers and have got wings but they hardly ever use them They just appear in places.'* (Jonathon age 9)

*'I would really like to see an angel so I can find out what they do'* (Claire age 7)

*Lis Dyson-Jones*

## **CEFNCOED**

### **WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

We were pleased to welcome friends from the district to Hen Dŷ Cwrdd for the League AGM when Joy Foster of the Aberdare branch was installed as the new District Women's League President.

Last month we spent a lovely day out when we visited Brecon, where we had lunch, before moving on to Erwood near Builth Wells, stopping at Llangoed Hall where we had an outstanding tea. It was a special occasion as we were celebrating the life of our dear friend Betty Williams who passed away at the close of the year. Betty's family had donated a sum of money so that we could do something special that Betty would also have enjoyed, and so bring back memories of happy times spent together. It was a lovely thing to do, and was very much appreciated. Fond memories of Betty will always be with us.

Gwen Everrit

A few of us attended the District AGM at Highland Place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. On the return journey we made a slight detour to Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Trecynon to see the newly unveiled blue plaque. There was also a small contingent from Cefncoed at Highland Place for the first of their series of lectures.

We were pleased to welcome Prof David Brynmor Thomas to a service during May and we look forward to another visit in August. Though he and Elizabeth have their home in St Andrews they also have a property in Brecon and spend time there when they are able.

Margaret Edwards and Bill Douglas have both spent time in Prince Charles Hospital recently. They have now been discharged and we wish them continued improvement. We are pleased to have Margaret back in her pew once more.

We send our best wishes to those who, through age or illness, are unable to join us for services

*Ken Morgan*

## **NOTTAGE**

Our chapel seemed full for a lovely Easter Service conducted by Annette. Delydd McAdam played the organ for us, Helen Steele provided a beautiful floral centrepiece and we were blessed with seven children in the congregation of friends old and new, what a delight!

Gwladys Howell has been our chapel President for many years. She took herself off on holiday to Llandudno, but sadly was taken ill there, and ended up in hospital. I'm so pleased to say that six weeks later she was back in chapel, she is an inspiration to us all. God Bless you Gwladys.

We are also happy and relieved to report that Ruben, Annette and Dave's grandson, who was born twelve weeks early weighing 2lb 2oz, is out of hospital, and weighing in at a more healthy 4lb 10oz, and doing well.

Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May was a very important day for baby Rhys Malin Owen Watson-Moore at the age of 3 months. His christening –or Naming Ceremony– was held at Nottage, with Annette officiating. Family and friends of many different religions gathered to wish him a happy life. The chapel was full to the rafters and the singing was a joy! Proud parents Pam, Katy and Craig were treated to readings by friends, and then the wonderful music of the Nemeth family – a rare treat indeed. A friend of the family, Alec, played the organ for us, and he has kindly agreed to be our organist until September when he has to return to his studies. Many thanks, Alec.

*Avril Protheroe*

## **SWANSEA**

Two new faces in our congregation have been a pleasant surprise. A lady and gentleman (not connected) have been searching for a spiritual home. We hope they find it with us. Meanwhile, the rest of us are overcoming health problems to remain loyal and attend regularly.

We are grateful to all the people who take our Sunday services, providing us with something to think about. Lewis Rees brought with him the Order of Service from his visit to America. This brought back happy memories of when we used to have both morning and evening services during Rev Baker Short's ministry and we always used our Order of Service for the morning services. They had such lovely wording it is a pity they are not used anymore. Ken Morgan was very modern with an enjoyable Sat Nav based service. Julianne used poetry to illustrate overcoming our own fears.

'Variety is the spice of life', and we certainly have it on Sunday evenings. We enjoy our cups of tea and biscuits after service when we have a chance to discuss any issues raised and to socialise.

*Pamela Taylor*

## **TREBANOS**

### **GELLIONNEN**

Easter saw Gellionnen graveyard bright with flowers and we heard the cuckoo. When we stepped inside the chapel there was a large bowl of chocolate eggs on the table. Egg-rolling down the aisles became quite competitive but everyone was a winner. Our thanks go to Angela Nemeth for taking us through a short history of Easter customs and arranging the service of celebration. We were joined by Mary and Adrian Stone who were married at Gellionnen Chapel some years ago by Lewis Rees (his first marriage ceremony) and they brought with them family members and visitors from Brazil and Bolivia!

We had heard of the birth of Bryn Robert to Dr and Mrs Paul Temblett. Eirion Phillips took part in Helen and Paul's wedding service in Kingston Lacey, Helen's home area in Devon but they now live in this part of the world. Our love and good wishes go to Bryn Robert Temblett. May his life be blessed.

When Jamie Nemeth is playing away on his violin these days he often has another musician with him and we welcome twelve-year-old Aneurin with great pleasure. He is a super violinist and at the drop of a hat the two will break into a jig or a Welsh folk dance. Aneurin comes to service with his mother Sarah and Sarah's sister Ruth Cropley attends service with *her* children at our UU Church in Rockville, Maryland. On arriving for the first Sunday in Rockville Ruth was asked if she might bring a cake the following week for some sort of special event and she's been attending service ever since. Jane and Sarah's mother Jenny has been with us recently and it was so good to meet her. Please come again Jenny.

Last Sunday (as I write this) we were a congregation of six, but at the conclusion of the service we were joined by the Llanelli Ramblers. It was a hot day and our lovely cool building was appreciated. From time to time we have visits of this sort and always enjoy them.

With many thanks to those who have taken service in recent weeks, we look forward to hearing more services taken and an infinite variety of outlooks and conclusions.

It is always a pleasure to meet with Unitarians of other chapels and churches as we did in Highland Place at the District AGM. Also, to learn of the loving care being given to Hen Dŷ Cwrdd, Trecynon which is now sound, weatherproof and nearly ready for another lifestyle.

### **'Gone Wrong' Chapel Notices**

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please us the back door.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double doors at the side entrance.

*Marian Littlepage*

## **WICK**

We begin with a very special event, the seventieth wedding anniversary of two of our members – Arthur and Mary Board. Their celebrations lasted for some time because members of their family are scattered all over the world, and they are both well known locally, and members of many organisations. Mary was born at Cae Caradog farm of historic fame and the family have been connected with Wick Chapel for generations. Our love and best wishes to them both.

This has been a particularly good year for primroses, they seem to have spread all around our chapel even cropping up beside our new memorial seat making it a particularly pleasant place to rest.

Helen Lewis our organist has been away visiting China for just over three weeks, and we are looking forward to her 'Traveller's Tales' when she returns. Julianne will be particularly glad to enjoy her musical skills once again. She has been sadly missed.

Unfortunately, ill health prevented Mansel Lalis from attending the General Baptist Assembly meetings, but Julianne, as Messenger, attended and they were as usual lively and entertaining.

Joyce Williams is progressing slowly, and Margaret Escott has had an operation and is recovering well.

Helen Bhanaut is organising an Open Evening in the chapel on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> June. After light refreshments she will give a PowerPoint talk on Wick Chapel – Past, Present and Future, followed by questions and discussions of future use of the chapel and how we envision our progress, as a faith community and a village one. Everyone is welcome.

Our Flower Communion Service will be held at 3.00pm on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> June.

Alexander the Great decided to give away some of his possessions in a great ceremony.

To one man he gave a fortune in rubies

To another he gave a whole province to govern.

To another a high position in court.

"If you keep on doing this," said a friend, "you will have nothing left."

"Don't you believe it," replied Alexander, "I have kept the most valuable of all for myself —my hopes for the future."

*Julianne Morgan*

## **VISIT TO SYNAGOGUE**

The synagogue visit organised by Lewis Rees was a great success. Attenders from our Swansea, Cardiff, Nottage and Gellionnen congregations met together at the Reform Synagogue in Cardiff to share service with the folk there. We were made most welcome and seated together for what became a two hour service! But it didn't seem that long. I had assumed that everyone would have their heads covered, several people did and there were a number of men wearing prayer shawls and skullcaps. The rabbi told us that he serves congregations in Bristol, Dublin and a number of other places, but he no longer has a Scandinavian congregation!

We were each given a service book and I was pleased to hear so many parts of the service which were familiar because of our own Old Testament backgrounds. The sermon was short, the sung parts of the service beautifully accompanied on an organ and at the end several people said, "Where are you from? Do come again."

They are a small group of people worshipping in a building which was originally a Methodist chapel bombed in the 1939-45 war. They have reclaimed and restored the building beautifully, putting in the most gorgeous stained glass windows. There are windows recording the Ten Commandments, Passover and various other stages in their history, but of course no human representation. Our good wishes and many thanks go to the people of the Cardiff Reform Synagogue.

PS: Lewis is considering another trip —Sikh, I think.

*Marian Littlepage*

## **A BIRD'S EYE VIEW**

I thought I'd do a bit of shopping after work yesterday. I only needed two or three things but ended up with half a trolley full as usual. I was in a bit of a hurry and looked for a fairly quick exit. It was very busy yesterday of course, but I found one conveyor belt with a foot of space on the end. '*Just the thing*', I thought, as I could start unloading my ten items in good time.

In front of me were two ladies who seemed to have bought up most of the shop, but they were getting to the end of their line of purchases, so there was hope. The odd thing was that the belt was hardly moving. I moved closer to investigate and found a pleasant young man being commandeered by the two ladies to pack their bags, making sure that some things were not being mixed up with the others as they made their disapproval known. A Cool Bag had to be packed and unpacked in a certain way. I noticed the nice lady in green on the next till going through quickly, followed by the large gentleman - and I had not even put my things on the belt!

Paying time came - £108. They wanted to split the bill. The one paid by card, but the other looked for her purse at the bottom of her bag when she was told that half of £108 was £54.

Two ladies in pink went through the next till.

As she was about to pay, the other lady decided she wanted to have Cashback and that started a new set of procedures as the man with the large tummy went through the next till followed by the lady in a very short dress.

When it all seemed to be complete, the young lad was asked if he could come and put their bags in two trolleys, before they left the shop.

I learnt that there were still some young lads around (probably a lot) who are polite and helpful: I also learnt that my patience and understanding of such a situation was not as good as expected.

*The Golden Eagle*

## **DISCOVER YOURSELF**

Some readers may be interested in a **Weekend Retreat** organised by **Southern Unitarians** at Ivy House, St Denys Retreat Centre, Warminster, Wilts on 17<sup>th</sup>—19<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

For a leaflet giving full details, or for any other information, contact: Kathy Beckett, 13, Neilson Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh. Hants. SO53 1GR.

email < [Kathy@kpb.gotadsl.co.uk](mailto:Kathy@kpb.gotadsl.co.uk) >Telephone: 02380 273420

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## **ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION**

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The annual SEWUS membership fee for 2010 remains at **£5**.

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