

**MOTHERS UNION**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**CELEBRATION SERVICE**

**The Collegiate & Parish**

**Church of St Mary, Swansea**

**Eglwys Golegol a Phlwyf**

**y Santes Fair, Abertawe**

**September 17th 2018**



Croeso i’r Eglwys y Santes Fair, Abertawe

Welcome to St Mary’s Church in Swansea for this important occasion and celebration. We are delighted to welcome visitors from far afield and hope you enjoy your visit.

The current church is probably the fifth or sixth church to stand on this site and is the building that was eventually rebuilt after the bombing in 1941. It stands today as a place of prayer and peace in the heart of the City. The church is open day by day for people to call in and the coffee shop is open from mid morning until after lunch each day. The prominent position of the Church makes it an ideal location for important services as well as usual parish services and we are pleased to host many important occasions, as well as many visitors.

Whether this is your first visit to the church or you are a regular visitor we hope you enjoy this service and your visit to the Church and to Swansea.

 Ian Rees, Rector

Prayer of Mary Sumner (Founder of Mothers’ Union)

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,

whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe,

or the life I live. Amen



*Before the service begins you will be asked to stand as the dignitaries take their seats*

**Processional hymn : Tell out my soul**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His Word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy Name, the Lord, the mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children’s children and for evermore!**

**Welcome and opening prayer – Revd Canon Ian Rees (Rector of Central Swansea)**

God of all who journey, we thank you for bringing us safely to this place. We thank you for this opportunity of worshipping together. You have brought us here from different places and with different experiences. We pray that your Spirit will guide us to journey together across any boundaries that divide us: the boundaries that we fear, the boundaries that enthuse and excite us but which demand that we take risks. Bless us as we are gathered here with you and allow us to proclaim your kingdom; we ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen**

*(Prayer written by Revd Janice Jones, Bangor)*

*A period of silence as we recollect our sins and prepare to bring them before God*

Lord Jesus, you wept over the sins of your city.

On our city: Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division, jealousy and bitterness.

On us: Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner.

Grant us peace: Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Absolution – Archbishop**

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,

and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Hymn : Guide me O thou great Redeemer**

**Guide me, O thou great redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven
Feed me now and evermore;
Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer;
Be thou still my strength and shield;
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.**

**The reading from Proverbs (3: 11-18)**

*Read at the first Service by Lynne Tembey (Worldwide President) and at the second Service by Ruth Roberts (Swansea & Brecon Diocesan President)*

My child, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves the one he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour.
Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Anthem *(Sung by the choir)***

Praise to God in the highest! Bless us, O Father: Praise to thee.
Guide and prosper the nations, rulers and people: Praise to thee.

May the truth in its beauty flourish triumphant: Praise to thee.
May the good be obeyed, and evil be conquered: Praise to thee.
Give us laughter, and set us gaily rejoicing: Praise to thee.

Peace on earth and goodwill be ever amongst us: Praise to thee.
Praise to God in the highest, to God: Praise to thee.

**Words:** from *The Oxford Book of Carols*

**Music:** Russian tune, arranged by Sidney S. Campbell.

**The reading from the Gospel according to Luke (2: 41-52)**

*Read at the first Service by by Kay Warrington (Provincial President) and at the second Service by Glenys Payne (St David’s Diocesan President)*

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

**Thanks be to God**

**ADDRESS**

**Archbishop of Wales, The Most Revd John Davies, at the first service**

**Bishop of St David’s, The Rt Revd Joanna Penberthy at the second service**

**Hymn : Christ be our light (Longing for light)**

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.**

**Longing for truth, we turn to you.**

**Make us your own, your holy people,**

**light for the world to see.**

***Christ, be our light!***

***Shine in our hearts.***

***Shine through the darkness.***

***Christ, be our light!***

***Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.**

**Longing for hope, many despair.**

**Your word alone has power to save us.**

**Make us your living voice.**

***Christ, be our light…***

**Longing for food, many are hungry.**

**Longing for water, many still thirst.**

**Make us your bread, broken for others,**

**shared until all are fed.**

***Christ, be our light…***

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.**

**Longing for warmth, many are cold.**

**Make us your building, sheltering others,**

**walls made of living stone.**

***Christ, be our light…***

**Many the gifts, many the people,**

**many the hearts that yearn to belong.**

**Let us be servants to one another,**

**making your kingdom come.**

***Christ, be our light…***

**Intercessions** (*3 Diocesan Presidents leading at each service : Swansea & Brecon, St David’s & Llandaff at the first service and Monmouth, St Asaph & Bangor at the second service)*

Eternal God of hope and peace who sent Your Son to us in human form, we offer our prayer in His name for the Mothers' Union here and everywhere they serve their communities. As we serve the needs of our community, each in our own way, may we do so as Jesus showed us with grace and humility and above all, with love.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for MU members working in this country and throughout the world who are working in difficult places; in places of poverty or injustice, in places of war and oppression, in prisons and in places where the knowledge of your love is so desperately needed.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all those in authority in our nation and in our world. May they learn from the example of Jesus Christ that true power is the power to feed the poor and the hungry, to make a home for the homeless and to offer hospitality to the broken- hearted.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

As we gather here in Swansea and pray for this city, we pray also for our own communities. May we see each other as brothers and sisters, called to sit at God’s family table together. Let us work together for that great day when God comes again to restore heaven and earth.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who suffer today, in mind, body or spirit. May they know your presence with them and know the comfort and security of your love.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

God of the past, the present, and the future, we celebrate and give thanks for your faithfulness through the years. We commit ourselves afresh to your purposes for the future.

May we continue to enrich family life for future generations. This and all our prayers we offer in Jesus’ name. **Amen**

**Mothers Union Prayer**

*(said together)*

**Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world, in Jesus' name. Amen**

**Lord’s Prayer** *(please pray in the language of your choice)*

**Ein Tad,**

**yr hwn wyt yn y nefoedd,**

**sancteiddier dy enw,**

**deled dy deyrnas,**

**gwneler dy ewyllys;**

**megis yn y nef, felly ar y ddaear hefyd.**

**Dyro i ni heddiw ein bara beunyddiol**

**a maddau i ni ein dyledion,**

**fel y maddeuwn ninnau i’n dyledwyr.**

**Ac nac arwain ni i brofedigaeth;**

**eithr gwared ni rhag drwg.**

**Canys eiddot ti yw’r deyrnas,**

**a’r gallu, a’r gogoniant,**

**yn oes oesoedd. Amen.**

**Our Father who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Revd Eli Jenkins Prayer – Sung by the choir**

Every morning when I wake, Dear Lord, a little prayer I make,
O please do keep Thy lovely eye on all poor creatures born to die

And every evening at sun-down I ask a blessing on the town,
For whether we last the night or no I’m sure is always touch-and-go.

We are not wholly bad or good who live our lives under Milk Wood,
And Thou, I know, wilt be the first to see our best side, not our worst.

O let us see another day! Bless us all this night, I pray,
And to the sun we all will bow and say, good-bye – but just for now!

*From Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas*

**Hymn : Love Divine**

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

**BLESSING – THE ARCHBISHOP OF WALES**

**God, that madest earth and heaven *(Sung by the choir)***

**God, that madest earth and heaven,
darkness and light;
who the day for toil hast given,
for rest the night;
may thine angel-guards defend us,
slumber sweet thy mercy send us,
holy dreams and hopes attend us,
All through the night.**

**Guard us waking, guard us sleeping,
and, when we die,
may we in thy mighty keeping
all peaceful lie:
when the last dread call shall wake us,
do not thou our God forsake us,
But to reign in glory take us
With Thee on high.**

**Words:** Verse 1 Reginald Heber; verse 2 Richard Whatley

**Music:** *Ar hyd y nos*, Welsh traditional melody, arranged by Dr William Reynolds

**Organ Voluntary:** ToccataGeorgi Mushel

**Director of Music:** Dr William Reynolds

**Organist:** Mr Andrew Goodwin