



General Meeting 2018
Information Pack
Swansea 17th – 18th September

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

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Croeso i Gymru!

Welcome to Wales!

We welcome you most warmly to this wonderful part of the Principality – this is probably the furthest west Mothers' Union will go to hold the General Meeting (before finding ourselves in Ireland!) and so we are thrilled that you will all get the chance to appreciate the beauty on our doorstep.

We have two areas of outstanding natural beauty within the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon – the Gower Peninsula in the south and the Brecon Beacons in the north, very different landscapes but both so worthy of a visit.

Swansea of course will be the base for the General Meeting and we know that you will love our warmth and diversity. We hope you will have time to see something of the stunning beaches that surround the Gower, the sweep of Swansea Bay, the history of St. Mary's Church, the beauty of the complex poetry of Dylan Thomas and the taste of cockles, laverbread and Welsh cakes in our vibrant indoor market.

We will do all we can to make your visit a memorable one with a truly Welsh flavour. We will send you on your homeward journey with the lilting voices of Wales ringing in your hearts and souls, as well as your ears!

"We'll keep a welcome in the hillside; we'll keep a welcome in the vale. This land of song will still be singing when you come home again to Wales."

Come and enjoy, we look forward to your visit.

Ruth Roberts (*DP Swansea & Brecon*) & Kay Warrington (*PP Wales*)

On behalf of the members of Mothers' Union in the Province of Wales

Timetable of Events

Monday 17th September 2018

3.00pm Service of Celebration, St Mary's Church

6.00pm Service of Celebration, St Mary's Church

Tuesday 18th September 2018

10.30am – 3.30pm General Meeting, Brangwyn Hall
(Doors open 9:45am)

7.00pm Welsh Choral Concert, St Mary's Church

General Meeting

The theme for this year will be **Celebrating Mothers' Union** - as we rejoice in the role our organisation has been able to play in the past, across so many lands and lives; we look then to the future, building on the experiences and programmes which make us who we are today, and celebrate the opportunities before us to serve and deliver.

Our programme will be released in due course.

General Meeting Venue: Brangwyn Hall

Brangwyn Hall is located just minutes away from the beautiful sweep of Swansea Bay. It hosts events from small meetings to major conferences, from the intimate to the grand. The hall has excellent acoustics and regularly hosts internationally acclaimed orchestras and some of the biggest names in contemporary music – we are very excited to be at such a prestigious venue.

We have limited space this year and as such the fairest approach will be for all Dioceses to have equal opportunity to attend. Therefore we are allocating a set amount of tickets to each diocese, each allocation is based on the most recent number of members reported by the Diocese. Any tickets not required will be passed to Dioceses requesting more than their allocation on a first-come-first-served basis.

The tickets are priced at £13.00 each.

To order your tickets you will need to contact your Diocese who will then be able to make their booking with Mary Sumner House using the booking form that has been sent to them. This is due to the size of the venue and trying to allocate fair numbers per Diocese over large group bookings on a first come first serve basis.

Special Requirements - Accessibility

There will be specific areas in the venue that are used for delegates with special requirements / access needs. **If you need accessible seating please make sure your diocese know at the point of booking.**

For those with hearing difficulties, there will be an induction hearing loop in the venue.

Cloakroom & Left Luggage Facility

There is a small Left Luggage and Cloakroom facility at the venue where you will be able to leave any coats, suitcases and bags. **This facility will be free of charge.**

Lunch & Refreshments

Tea and coffee will be available to purchase at multiple stations throughout the General Meeting venue from the moment the doors open (9.45am) to when they close (4.00pm).

There are **NO facilities on site to purchase your lunch** – therefore please either bring a packed lunch or make sure you are prepared to go and purchase something at lunchtime externally. We have limited space – we do hope to have some space allocated to sit and eat your lunch and you can also eat them at your seats. We are working on the issue and hope to have further seating options available on the time.

Victoria Park is right next to Brangwyn Hall so you may want to take your packed lunch and eat it in the park – weather permitting – or even on the sea front!

Personal Data Protection

In line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (due to be in effect from 25th May 2018) all delegates attending the General Meeting will be given the option to opt out of photographs being taken on the day. Those wishing not to be photographed will be given a marker to wear so photographers know they have opted-out. This marker will be made available from when doors open.

Travelling to Brangwyn Hall

Brangwyn Hall
The Guildhall
Swansea
SA1 4PE



Situated next to the waterfront, Brangwyn Hall is close to the centre of Swansea and shouldn't be hard to get to. It is a part of a larger complex of buildings called The Guildhall. Rail should also be a relatively easy option, although to get from the station a bus would be required (the number 14).

The main entrance to Brangwyn Hall is off Guildhall Road South. For specific directions from your home or hotel put the postcode SA1 4PE into the search bar on maps.google.com

Parking near Brangwyn Hall

There are several car parks close to the Swansea Guildhall, the following are all within walking distance of Brangwyn Hall, please follow this link for more details.

Baths Car Park is just across the road from the Hall with five accessible parking spaces on St Helens Road, SA1 4PQ. It has 80 spaces, and is open from 8.00am - 9.00pm.

Cost: All day transferable ticket £5, £1.50 for 1 hour or £3.00 for 2 hours. Blue Badge concessions are available.

Paxton Street Car Park is about 15 minutes walk away and is one of the closest large car parks. It's situated on Bathurst Street, SA1 3SA. It has 331 spaces and is open from 8.00am – 9.00pm

Cost: £1.20 for 1 hour, £2.40 for 2 hours, £3.50 for 3 hours, £4.50 for 4 hours, and £7.00 for all day, there is also coach parking available.

Recreation Ground Car Park is about 12 minutes walk from Brangwyn Hall and is a large car park on Mumbles Road, SA2 0AT. It has 500 spaces and is open from 8.00am – 9.00pm

Cost: £3.50 for all day parking if it's a driver only or £3.00 all day parking driver and passenger(s), with a £2.00 afternoon-only charge from 1pm.

Buses in Swansea

There are a few options of how to get to Brangwyn Hall in Swansea from the train station. The closest stop to the Hall is called Crown Court and the number 14 bus runs regularly from the station and stops at Crown Court.

Other buses stop at Crown Court on their way to or from the bus station in Swansea. Buses from the rail station to the bus station are the 110, the 54 and the 28. Buses from the bus station that stop at Crown Court are the 2B and the Unibus 8.

Please check directly with the company before travelling as timetables are subject to change.

Annual Services

St Mary's Church sits in the heart of the city of Swansea, and is the site for our annual service on Monday 17th September 2018. There has been a church on the site called St Mary's since around 1330, when it was founded by Henry De Gower, Bishop of St. David's. The church went through many rebuilds and restorations, with new



architectural styles replacing the previous ones. There was a very close call for the congregation in 1790, when the Nave collapsed on a Sunday morning! Thankfully, nobody had entered the building.

After a few more rebuilds and renovations, St Mary's was almost entirely demolished and then reconstructed in the 1890s. The fourteenth century chancel and tower with the eighteenth century nave were replaced by a unified early English gothic design by Sir Arthur Blomfield, an architect famous for his work on churches across the United Kingdom. Like much of Swansea, St. Mary's was heavily damaged in the Blitz bombings and was not fully repaired until the 1950s.

St Mary's today is the civic church for the city and county of Swansea and is open seven days a week offering a range of services for the city, these include

- educational modules for schools,
- acting as a venue for study groups and community organisations
- Public services
- Private devotions

The Church also has some stunning examples of contemporary art and stained glass. For more information about St. Mary's Church visit their website at www.swanseastmary.co.uk



**MOTHERS' UNION GENERAL MEETING 2018
APPLICATION FOR TICKETS FOR A SERVICE of CELEBRATION.
MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 3PM AND 6PM.**

On Monday 17th September, there will be services held at
St Mary's Collegiate and Parish Church, Swansea.

Please complete the following:

I wish to apply for tickets (insert number of tickets required)

☐ 3pm service

☐ 6pm service

My contact information is:

Diocese of

Title First Name Surname

Address:

.....

Postcode: Telephone:

Email:

Any special requirements (e.g. mobility)

.....

.....

Send this completed application form by 30th May 2018 to Mrs Helen Williams
at the address below. **Don't forget to include a C5 stamped-addressed envelope**
for tickets to be sent back to you.

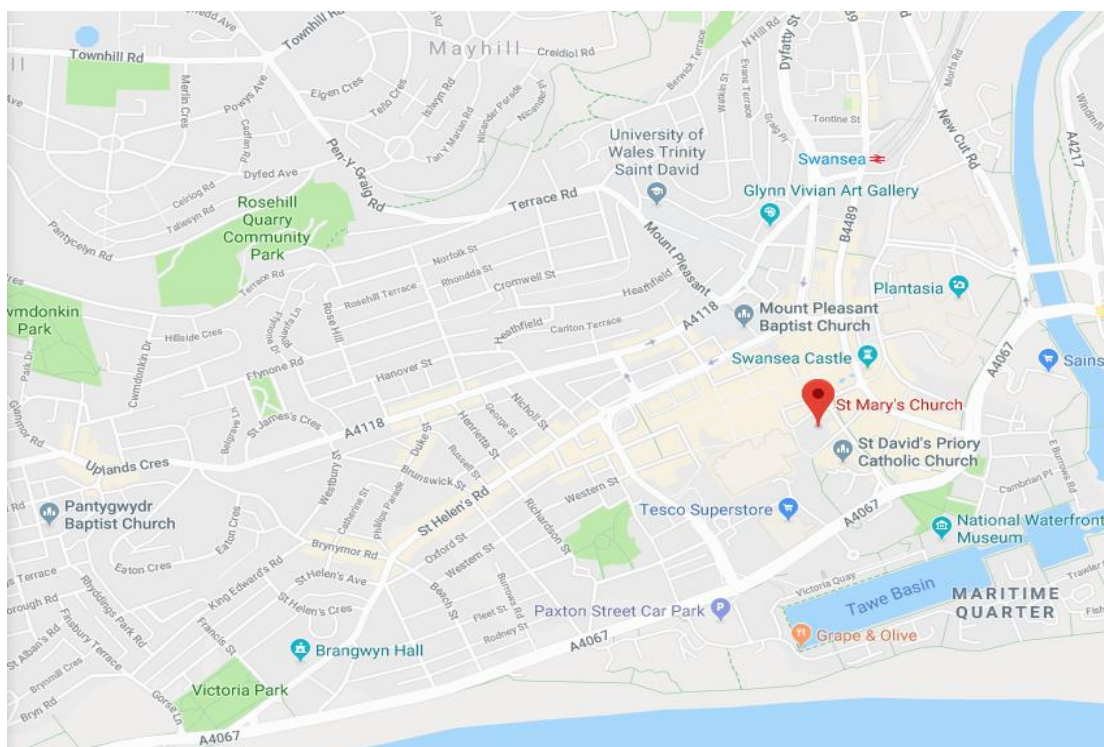
Mrs Helen Williams, The Rectory, 6 Lamb Road, Penderyn, Aberdare CF44 9JU
Enquires: Telephone: 01685 811864; helensecmu@gmail.com

Group bookings: please return any tickets that are not needed ASAP
To Mrs H Williams no later than 17th August 2018

Travelling to St Mary's Church

St Mary's Square,
Swansea
SA1 3LP

St. Mary's Church in Swansea sits right in the heart of the city centre next to the castle. The square in which the church is located is called St. Mary's Square. The Church is roughly 10 minutes walk from the train station, 5 minutes walk from the bus station and 20 minutes walk away from Brangwyn Hall.



If you seek to get to St. Mary's Church by bus from Brangwyn Hall the best route is to walk south to the bus stop called The Slip on the A4067 road and take the Metro 4 bus which will go directly to St Mary's Church. An Alternative to this would be to take any of the buses going to the bus station from the Crown Court bus stop, and then walk the 5 minutes to St. Mary's Square. Buses on this route are the Unibus 8, the 2, 2B, 2C, 3A or 116.

Travelling to Swansea

Car

Swansea is well connected to Cardiff, England, and the rest of the United Kingdom by the M4 motorway and most routes for driving will involve it. Drivers can get into central Swansea from the M4 via:

- the A483 at junction 42
- the A48 at junction 44 then A4217
- the A4067 at junction 45.

Other routes for those coming from the north might involve taking various A-roads through or around the Brecon Beacons National Park, and following them into the Swansea city centre.

Rail

Swansea has a major train station right in the centre of the city that is accessible from most major rail stations in the UK. Both Arriva Trains Wales and Great Western Railway operate to and from the station. If unable to find a train that goes straight to Swansea, it's advised to go to Bristol, Newport or Cardiff and take a connection from there.

www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk

www.gwr.com

Flight

Swansea does not have a commercial airport of its own however nearby Cardiff has a small airport that does European and UK domestic flights. The nearest large long-haul international airports that are London Heathrow and Birmingham. Flying to Swansea therefore means also taking a train or other form of travel from one of these airports, all of which have excellent rail links.

www.cardiff-airport.com

Other

There are several coach companies that operate to and from Swansea, including National Express and Megabus. Swansea bus station is conveniently right in the centre of the city however it should be noted that travelling by coach can take longer than other forms of transport and be more limited in frequency.

www.nationalexpress.com

uk.megabus.com

Accommodation

There are a number of places to stay in and around Swansea:

Marriott Swansea

www.swanseamarriott.co.uk

Oxwich Bay Hotel

www.oxwichbayhotel.co.uk

Mercure Swansea Hotel

www.oxwichbayhotel.co.uk

King Arthur Hotel

www.kingarthurhotel.co.uk

Beachcomber Guest House

www.beachcomberquesthouse.com

Many more can be found by visiting the Swansea Tourist Information site:

www.visitswanseabay.com/listings/where-to-stay

Things to do & see in Swansea

Bay Studios

Swansea's very own film studios opened in 2013 kicking things off with Starz TV series "Da Vinci's Demons". The former car part factory has since welcomed stars from the big and small screen to Fabion Way including a new Netflix project from Gareth Evans.

Dylan Thomas

There's no shortage of attractions connected to Swansea's most famous son in the city. Good starting points for a Dylan tour are his birthplace at 5 Cwmdonkin Drive in Uplands and the Dylan Thomas Centre in Somerset Place which has a permanent Love the Words exhibition. Other highlights include Cwmdonkin Park and the Dylan Thomas Theatre in Swansea Marina which has a statue of the man himself outside.

Galleries

Swansea's flagship gallery is the Glynn Vivian which re-opened its doors in 2016. Other galleries to visit in the city centre include Galerie Simpson and Volcano on the high street.

Joe's Ice Cream

Home to the best ice cream in the world! And there is a Joe's Ice Cream Cafe just down the road from the Brangwyn Hall.

Market

Swansea Market is the largest indoor market in Wales. Among its specialities are seafood such as Penclawdd cockles and traditional laverbread. Other goodies include jams, Welsh cakes and fresh produce which often come fresh from Gower and Pembrokeshire. And for vegans the Brontosaurus Vegan Lifestyle Store has a wide range of animal-free goodies.

The National Pool

The Wales National Pool is an impressive 50 metre swimming pool just a stones throw away from Swansea University in Sketty. You don't have to be a top athlete to use it – from the "Spash & Play" sessions for little ones to those dreaming of the Olympics(!), the pool is open to everyone.

Grand Theatre

For Swansea's biggest shows head to Swansea Grand Theatre, home of the city's annual panto and some of the more popular touring shows.

Verdi's

What could be better than an Italian coffee and a glorious view after a long walk? Of all the cafes in Swansea Verdi's might be the one with the best location, having a clear view across the bay at the end of the Mumbles promenade.

For more ideas of what to do on your visit to Swansea, please visit the local tourist information site:

<https://www.visitswanseabay.com/useful-information>

Other Information

All additional information will be added to the Mothers' Union website so please do check there for updates. If you have any questions please contact Rachael Anderson – rachael.anderson@mothersunion.org, 0207 222 5533.



Invite you to a

Welsh Choral Concert

Featuring performances from
Angelicus Celtis (as seen on Britain's Got Talent)
Morrison RFC Male Choir
Hywel Girls' Choir
Hywel Boy Singers

On

Tuesday 18th September 2018
7.00pm

at

St Mary's Church, Swansea

*Please join us for an evening of good company and some sparkling
entertainment!*

*There will be a charity raffle on the night as well as refreshments for sale in the
interval*

TICKETS £12.00

Available by filling out booking form on page 20

Angelicus Celtis



Angelicus Celtis choristers come from its parent children's choir, the Hywel Girls' Choir & Hywel Boy Singers, founded by John Hywel Williams. Angelicus Celtis was the brainchild of John and his wife Jean and son Jeremy. John and Jean had been leading children's choirs together as husband and wife for over 50 years and the whole family was excited with the idea of developing Angelicus Celtis from the ranks of the Hywel Girls' Choir & Hywel Boy Singers.

Having just enjoyed a standing ovation finale, John and Jean left the concert and within feet of the venue, they had a terrible car crash. John was badly injured but Jean was sadly killed. Despite his ongoing injuries, John fought back to be there for his choristers and make Angelicus Celtis happen - but Jean sadly never heard her beloved Angelicus Celtis choristers perform.

John Hywel's courage and selfless commitment despite personal tragedy and personal injury is a great inspiration to all, especially his beloved choristers. There are no auditions for Angelicus Celtis; the only requirement is a love of singing and the willingness to learn. We are absolutely thrilled that they are joining us for an evening of beautiful music.

www.angelicusceltis.com

Morryston RFC Male Choir



Morryston RFC Male Choir is based in the town of Morryston, a suburb of Swansea in South Wales. Formed in 1979 by members of the local rugby club, it has progressed to be one of the foremost Welsh choirs. The Choir has undertaken several European tours, including the Lorient InterCeltique Festival, when we represented Wales. Their repertoire includes religious, traditional Welsh, musical show, and some foreign language pieces.

www.morrystonrfcmalechoir.co.uk

Hywel Girls' Choir & Hywel Boy Singers



Born from the baton of John Hywel Williams MBE, the Hywel Girls' Choir & Hywel Boy Singers have become an institution in choral singing. With an unequalled heritage of teaching thousands of young voices, they have enjoyed the extraordinary achievement of over 200 TV and radio broadcasts spanning 120 countries globally, 25 international concert tours, performing at world leading

concert halls to royalty, world leaders and the Pope – justifying their reputation – in the words of Prime Minister John Major – as Wales’ Young Ambassadors of Song.



Welsh Choral Concert Booking Form

BOOKING FORM

To order tickets:

Return ticket order form to: General Meeting Team, Mary Sumner House,
24 Tufton Street, London, SW1P 3RB

Please send me tickets at £12.00 each

Please note there is not reserved seating. Tickets for the concert will be sent out in August. You will get a confirmation email once your booking has been processed.

Name:

Telephone number:

Address:

Post Code:

Email:

Diocese:

I enclose a cheque made payable to: Mothers' Union

Alternatively you may call Mothers' Union and book tickets over the phone – 020 7222 5533. Please make sure you have your card details to hand to make payment.