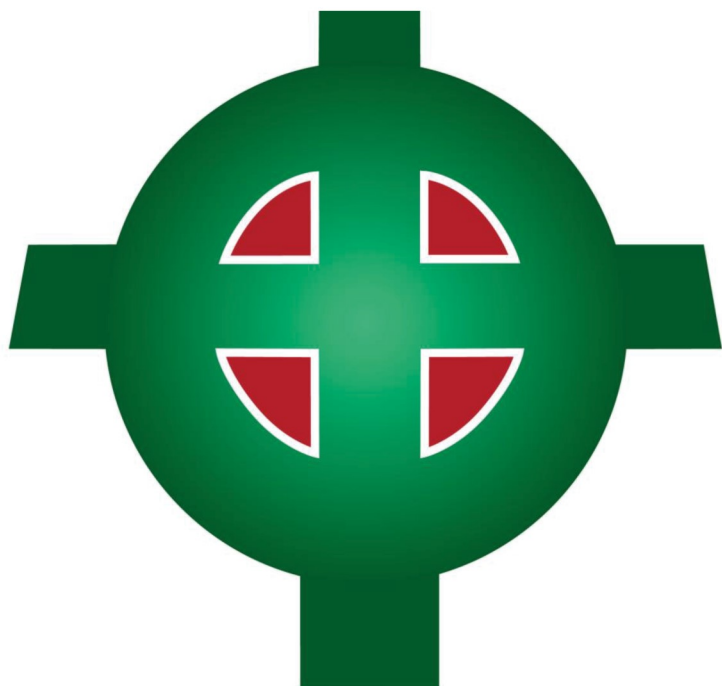


Yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd yng Nghymru
The Methodist Church in Wales



wales
Synod
Reports 2018

Wales Synod – Introduction to the Annual Report for 2017-18

I am delighted to introduce this annual report on the work of the Wales Synod for the year 2017-18.

I appreciate that it comes out a little later than usual and this time in electronic format only. This is because at the time we normally produce it, we were without PA and administrative support in the Synod Office (and I will pay tribute to Judy Lister at the end of this introduction.) However, we are grateful to Lisa Medina and to Wendy Barwise, my new PA and Synod Administrator, for their help in compiling the report and trust that even in this electronic format and with some passage of time, it will nevertheless provide a helpful overview of the work of the Synod for this past year.

The Synod Development Plan, introduced last year and reviewed again this year, commits us to supporting the work and witness of Circuits across Wales, and during 2017-18 we have done this in a variety of ways. In the first place we have continued to respond to applications for support from the Synod Advance Fund with grants totalling £109,476. Once again over this last year the bulk of these (some £95,510) were for Ministry projects rather than for Property schemes; but recognising that there are a small number of large and complex schemes in the pipeline, the Synod Scheme & Grants Committee took the strategic decision to increase the maximum amount of Synod grant support available from £10,000 to £25,000 for these highly significant schemes. The Synod remains hugely appreciative of the prompt and practical advice offered by its Grants and Property Officers.

Secondly, we seek to resource Circuits by the provision of ordained ministry through the Stationing process. Last year was a particularly challenging one for the Synod because of the surplus of appointments to ministers which meant that we were only able to fill 5 of the 9 appointments with which we entered stationing. It was also the first time in a number of years we had no candidates offering for ordained ministry (although we were pleased to support the ordination of Rev. Steve Boxall at Conference in Nottingham.) We are grateful for all the Circuits who found creative ways to address this shortfall and are hopeful that next year's stationing round will work out better for the Synod; but the overall challenge facing the Connexion remains, and we know that we will have to find better methods of ensuring we deploy ministers in the most effective and strategic way.

Thirdly, we have continued to support Circuits as they seek to reshape themselves for mission. Last year we reported on the creation of the new South West Wales Circuit out of the former Llanelli & Carmarthen and Pembrokeshire Circuits. This year, working alongside colleagues in Synod Cymru we have agreed the profile and funding for a pioneering diaconal appointment to undertake youth work in both languages in the Whitland/St. Clears area within the new Circuit and plan to enter stationing for this appointment this year. This builds on both the development of youth work through the work of Momentwm and the Youth Exchanges in recent years and also our developing relationship with our Welsh-speaking colleagues in Synod Cymru.

This points to what in turn is perhaps the most significant development of all in the life of the Synod over this last year. The Synod Development Plans speaks of our intention to work ever more closely with colleagues in Synod Cymru and in the autumn of 2017 the Synod received an invitation to enter conversations with Synod Cymru with a view to creating one new bi-lingual Synod in Wales. The Synod has responded positively to this invitation and the conversations which followed have led to the formulation of some outline proposals which have been taken to both Synods in April and September 2018. The outcome of this was a further consultation process which evidenced both some broad support for the proposal in principle and a desire to have more detail as to how it might work in practice. We envisage bringing a further report on where conversations have got to in the Steering Group, along with any more detailed proposals, to a meeting of both Synods in March 2019. It is not possible at this point to predict what the outcome of these conversations may be, but the fact that they are taking place will clearly have a significant impact on our future planning and development.

The Synod continues to support Connexional priorities and initiatives, not least in terms of the introduction of Pastoral Supervision of ministers, which we plan to roll out in Circuits across the Synod over this next year, and in Safeguarding, where again we work increasingly closely with colleagues in Synod Cymru, and where we were pleased to appoint Vicky Anderson to serve as the Synod Safeguarding officer in the Northern part of the Synod in July 2018.

So while the challenges facing the Synod remain very real, I trust that there are many things in this report to encourage us, as we seek to

live out 'Our Calling' as disciples of Jesus and respond to the 'Priorities' of the Methodist Church.

However, there is one particular person above all to whom we record a great debt of gratitude. Judy Lister has served in the Synod Office as both Chair's PA (and increasingly as the Synod Administrator) since the Wales Synod's inception in September 2007. Before that Judy had also served as PA to Will Morrey and Donald Knighton, two previous Chairs of the former South Wales District. Sadly Judy died suddenly in the week before Christmas after a long struggle with cancer. We will miss her friendship, commitment, loyalty and good humour evidenced over so many years and certainly the Synod Office does not feel the same without her. However, her example reminds us of the importance of those human relationships which go right to the heart of what it means to be Church, and we hope that those bonds of love and service will continue to bind us together as we face the challenges of 2019.

With all best wishes,



Chair of the Wales Synod,
Synod Office, Cyncoed Methodist Church,
Westminster Crescent, Cardiff CF23 6SE

Synod Policy Committee

Newtown Methodist 2017/18

The Wales Synod Policy Committee (SPC) continues to meet three times a year, meeting in Newtown Methodist Church where the local members make the members very welcome. The membership is as recorded in the Synod Handbook and ensures that all Circuits are represented. Members are able to add items to the agenda and encouraged to feedback to their Circuits following each meeting.

The standing agenda ensures that all matters the committee are required to cover are discussed through the pattern of three meetings per year. Significant items discussed during the year in question include the following items:

Establishing policy

- Significant time has been spent in conversations regarding the possibility of the creation of a new Synod in Wales formed from the current Wales Synod and Synod Cymru. Discussions are ongoing and no decisions have been reached to date.
- The development of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy
- Updating the Synod Development plan and reviewing the Safeguarding Policy

Implementing Policy

- Overseeing all aspects of the Synod's finance including Trust 14508
- Agreeing the establishment of a new Deacon post in the South West Wales Circuit , a project in partnership with Synod Cymru
- Approving the re-invitation of the Synod Enabler (Culturally Diverse Congregations)
- On the recommendation of young people involved, agreeing for Youth Work to operate under the name 'Momentwm'
- Overseeing the introduction of supervision for all Ministers.

Chair's Business

- Monitoring all matters relating to stationing of Presbyters and Deacons
- Keeping aware of all pastoral matters, particularly related to Ministers who have retired from active work.

Other matters

- Agreeing authorisation of lay people to take Holy Communion
- Confirming the trusteeship of Cytun
- Preparing for the visit of the President of the Methodist Conference in 2018/19

The above gives a flavour of the tasks undertaken by SPC and it is noted with thanks the hard work members undertake. The Committee's future work will continue to be varied and the ongoing conversations between Wales Synod and Synod Cymru about the possibility of the creation of a new Synod in Wales will continue to occupy significant time in considering recommending an appropriate way forward. During the coming year (2018/19) consideration will take place regarding the current Chair's stationing. The Chair's Nomination Committee will bring a recommendation to the February 2019 SPC. From that meeting, a formal recommendation will be taken to an additional Synod meeting on 30th March 2019 and on from there to Conference in Summer 2019.

While not in the year under review (2017/18), we note with deep sadness the passing of the Chair's PA, Judy Lister. Judy died following a difficult year and she will be missed in the Wales Synod office, where she has been a tower of strength and information for many years. She has been an invaluable support particularly to Stephen and to others in the work she has undertaken on behalf of the Synod. We will miss her and we remember her and her family in our prayers.

Synod Reserves Policy

Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod

Income and Expenditure Account - Year ended 31st August 2018

	Year to 31.8.18	Previous year to 31.8.17	Notes	Budget to 31.8.18
	£	£		£
Income				
Connexional contribution re Conference	960	688		2,000
Grants Received	115,598	112,074	see page 2	126,721
Manse Llwyn y Grant Rd Rent	9,493	12,000		9,000
Synod Assessment from Circuits	66,800	65,500		66,800
Miscellaneous Income				
Total Income	192,851	190,262		204,521
Expenses				
Assistant Chairs	18,980	18,459		29,046
CDIM and HE Training	5,594	4,944		4,000
Chair's other expenses	2,294	2,127		2,500
Chair's Secretary and Admin	13,507	14,864		14,500
Chair's Travel	5,189	5,902		5,500
Chaplaincy (H.E. & ATF)	39,596	37,514		38,700
Conference	960	688		2,000
Lay Employment Officer	579			
Manse Llwyn y Grant Rd	18,364	2,317		2,500
Ministers retreat	2,559	2,312		2,500
Miscellaneous expenses	3,944	452		500
Safeguarding	29,089	29,791		30,500
Superintendents' meeting	2,004	2,313		1,500
Synod Contribution to Connexion	10,000			
Synod committees and travel	4,136	3,808		5,000
Synod Enabler Ethnic Minorities	47,107	47,374		49,025
Synod Office Costs	6,599	7,084		7,000
Synod Secretary	1,658	1,377		1,750
Training	2,318	4,451		4,500
Y Cyngor	3,000	3,000		3,000
Youth and Education	2,682	2,657		4,500
Total Expenses	220,159	191,436		208,521
Income less Expenditure	-27,308	-1,173		-4,000
Transfers from/to reserves (net)	26,915	-7,172	see page 2	4,000
	-393	-8,345		0

Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod

NOTE 1

Details of Grants received, as totalled overleaf

	<i>as received</i>	<i>as budgeted</i>
Connexion re Assistant Chairs	29,045	38,726
Cardiff University re HE Chaplaincy	4,333	
Connexion re HE Chaplaincy	7,500	7,500
CAPF Synod Enabler	10,000	10,000
SAF Synod Enabler	15,000	15,000
Trust 14508 Synod Enabler	24,024	24,025
SAF re HE Chaplaincy Cardiff	4,000	4,000
Trust 14508 HE Chaplaincy	14,137	17,520
SAF Training	4,500	4,500
SAF Youth Work		1,500
SAF towards Synod Meeting September 2017	1,000	1,000
SCT Ministers Retreat	2,059	2,950
	<u>£115,598</u>	<u>£126,721</u>

NOTE 2

Breakdown of monies moved to/from reserve.

	<i>actual</i>
From CDiM reserve to cover CDiM payments made out of General Funds	5,415
From Synod Reserve being excess on 2015/16 agreed to use towards Connexional Assessment in 2017/18	10,000
To Synod Reserve being excess of 2016/17 and as agreed to be used towards Connexional Assessment in 2018/19	-4,000
From Manse Reserve towards works needed to 12 Llwyn-y-Grant Rd prior to occupation by Synod Chair	15,500
	<u>£26,915</u>

Synod Advance Fund - Year ended 31st August 2018

Expenditure		Income	
Grants made - Ministry	95,510	Balance brought forward	735,322
Grants made - Property	12,496	Circuit Levies	72,407
		CAPF Distribution	150,116
TMCP Administration charge	1,471		
Balance carried forward	853,484	Interest	5,116
	<u>962,961</u>		<u>962,961</u>

Note: Full details of all grants made will be published separately by the Synod Schemes and Grants Committee

Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod

International Youth Exchange (formerly International Youth Exchange - Jamaica) Monies held on behalf of Momentwm

	£	
	Year to	
	31.8.18	
Income		
Fund Raising	390.00	
Grants	2,000.00	
	<u>2,390.00</u>	
Expenditure		
Travel expenses	106.89	
Bank Charges	31.67	
	<u>138.56</u>	
Income less Expenditure	2,251.44	
Add monies received for Abernant on behalf of Momentwm	735.00	
Balance in hand carried forward from 2016/17	182.51	
Balance carried forward 31.8.18	<u>3,168.95</u>	£3,168.95

Note: A further £1080 is held within the Synod Main account towards Abernant to make a total held for Abernant of £1,815

International Youth Exchange - Holy Land monies held on behalf of Revs Irfan John and Les Jones

Income		
Donations and Fund Raising	23,820.00	
Expenditure		
Pilgrimage Expenses	24,825.16	
Youth retreat	500.00	
Bank charges	41.08	
	<u>25,366.24</u>	
Income less Expenditure	-1,546.24	
Balance in hand carried forward from 2016/17	2,180.45	
Balance carried forward 31.8.18	<u>634.21</u>	£634.21
		<u>£3,803.16</u>

Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod
Central Finance Board and TMCP Accounts year to 31st August 2018

Training Network Account CFB 6055010

	Balance b/fwd	9,843.59
	Interest	41.69
Balance c/fwd	<u>9,885.28</u>	<u>9,885.28</u>
	<u>9,885.28</u>	

Continuing Development in Ministry CFB 2079040

Transfer to Gen Fd	5,415.00	Balance b/fwd	35,824.08
		Interest	150.78
Balance c/fwd	<u>30,559.86</u>		<u>35,974.86</u>
	<u>35,974.86</u>		

Synod Reserve Account CFB 2079030

General Fund (see p	10,000.00	Balance b/fwd	106,291.68
		Interest	426.71
		General Fund (see p	4,000.00
Balance c/fwd	<u>100,718.39</u>		<u>110,718.39</u>
	<u>110,718.39</u>		

Manse Reserve Fund TMCP 15292

TMCP Admin	171.35	Balance b/fwd	85,674.14
General Fund (see p	15,500.00	Interest	518.86
Balance c/fwd	<u>70,521.65</u>		<u>86,193.00</u>
	<u>86,193.00</u>		

Synod Chair's Discretionary Fund TMCP 16907

TMCP Admin	12.30	Balance b/fwd	6,151.97
		Interest	37.26
Balance c/fwd	<u>6,176.93</u>		<u>6,189.23</u>
	<u>6,189.23</u>		

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2018

	31st August 2018	31st August 2017
	£	£
Fixed Assets 12 Llwyn y Grant Road	396,090.00	396,090.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>£396,090.00</u>	<u>£396,090.00</u>
Bank/CFB & TMCP Accounts		
Current Account Barclays Bank	24,389.27	29,143.12
CFB Training Network	9,885.28	9,843.59
CFB CDiM Account	30,559.86	35,824.08
CFB Synod Reserve	100,718.39	106,291.68
TMCP Synod Advance Fund	853,483.72	735,321.75
TMCP Manse Reserve	70,521.65	85,674.14
TMCP Synod Chairs' Discretionary Fund	6,176.93	6,151.97
Barclays International Youth Exchange	3,803.16	2,362.96
Total Bank/CFB & TMCP Accounts	<u>1,099,538.26</u>	<u>1,010,613.29</u>
Stipends paid in advance	<u>5,440.12</u>	
	<u>1,104,978.38</u>	<u>1,010,613.29</u>
Current Liabilities	0.00	0.00
	<u>£1,104,978.38</u>	<u>£1,010,613.29</u>
Total net assets	£1,501,068.38	£1,406,703.29

Wales Synod Budget 2018-19
General Budget

	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2018-19 Budget
Expenditure	£	£	£	£
Asst Chairs' Stip. Contrib/other costs	28573	18459	29046	29805
CDiM and HE Courses	4000	4944	4000	4000
Chair's Other Expenses	2000	2127	2500	1500
Chair's Secretary and Administration	14000	14864	14500	15000
Chairs' Travel	5500	5902	5500	5500
Chaplaincy (HE/ATF) Stip/Allow & Other]	31500	31096	32025	33033
Chaplaincy (HE/ATF) travel/other costs]	3750	3802	3875	4000
Chaplaincy (HE/ATF) housing]	2550	2616	2800	2900
Conference expenses	2000	688	2000	2000
Lay Employment Secretary				1500
Manse Llwyn y Grant Road	2500	2317	2500	600
Minister's Retreat	3000	2312	2500	2400
Miscellaneous	510	452	500	500
Safeguarding	30500	29791	30500	31500
Superintendents meeting	1600	2313	1500	1500
Synod contribution to Connexion				
Synod Committees and Travel	5000	3808	5000	4000
Synod Enabler Stipends/allows]	31500	31498	32025	33033
Synod Enabler Travel/other costs]	7000	6876	8000	7500
Synod Enabler Housing]	9000	9000	9000	9000
Synod Office (incl Printing)	7700	7084	7000	7000
Synod Secretary's Allowance/exps	2000	1377	1750	1500
Training	4500	4451	4500	4500
Y Cyngor	3000	3000	3000	3000
Youth incl Momentwm	4500	2657	4500	4700
	206183	191434	208521	209971
	206183	191434	208521	209971

Income

Grants

Connexion Asst Chairs/HE Chaplaincy	38907	28572	38726	39740
CAPF Synod Enabler	10000	10000	10000	10000
SAF Synod Enabler	15000	15000	15000	15000
Trust 14508 Synod Enabler	22500	22510	24025	24533
Connexional Grant HE/ATF Chaplaincy	7500	7500	7500	7500
SAF HE/ATF Chaplaincy	4000	4000	4000	4000
Trust 14508 Chaplaincy	16776	16792	17520	11998
Cardiff University - Chaplaincy				6500
SAF Training	4500	4500	4500	4500
SAF Youth Work	1500		1500	1500
SAF Synod Meeting September 2018	1000	1000	1000	1000
SAF Safeguarding - proposed - to be agreed by SS&G *				7200
Synod Charitable Trust	3000	2200	2950	2200
<i>total income from grants</i>	124683	112074	126721	135671
Connexional contribution re Conference	2000	688	2000	2000
Manse rental	10000	12000	9000	
Synod Assessment from Circuits	65500	65500	66800	66800
Miscellaneous Income				
Reserves General		-12116		1500
Reserves Manse repairs				
Reserves CDiM	4000	4944	4000	4000
	206183	183090	208521	209971

* Total proposed SAF grant £16,000 - £7,200 allocated to Synod Budget with balance of £8,800 allocated towards Connexional Budget (Methodist Church Fund) - see next sheet

Methodist Church Fund and Synod Assessments 2018/19																		
Circuits	DEPLOYMENT FACTOR					METHODIST CHURCH FUND					SYNOD FUND			total asstnt 2017/18	total asstnt 2018/19	percentage diff		
	Presb.	Deacons	x 1.5	Lay	Adj Total	Deployt Factor used for 2017/18	Current Annual 2017/18	ANNUAL		Assesmt c/w 2017/18	Current Annual 2017/18	Proposed Synod Assessment Annual 2018/19	Quarterly % of assess c/w 2017/18					
								2018/19	Quarterly									
Banger & Holyhead 3	1.00		1.50	0.50	2.00	2.48%	2.00	10806	11378	2,844.38	105.29%	638	1655	413.75	101.04%	12444	13033	104.73%
Brendgen 6	2.00		3.00		3.00	3.72%	3.00	76209	17066	4,266.56	105.29%	2457	2483	620.63	101.04%	18666	19549	104.73%
Buckley & Deside 7	3.40		5.10		5.10	6.32%	5.10	27555	29913	7,253.16	105.29%	4177	4220	1,055.06	101.04%	37332	39323	104.73%
Cardiff & Caerphilly 9	6.00	1.00	10.50	0.50	11.00	13.63%	11.00	59433	62576	15,644.07	105.29%	9009	9103	2,275.63	101.04%	68442	71679	104.73%
Ceredigion 10	2.00		3.00		3.00	3.72%	3.00	76209	17066	4,266.56	105.29%	2457	2483	620.63	101.04%	18666	19549	104.73%
Conwy & Prestatyn 12	4.00		6.00		6.00	8.00%	8.00	46227	45403	11,377.50	98.45%	6785	6820	1,655.00	97.57%	53012	52130	98.34%
Gwent Hills & Vales 13	6.00		9.00		9.00	11.77%	9.50	51328	54043	13,510.78	105.29%	7781	7861	1,965.31	101.03%	59109	61904	104.73%
Mid Glam Mission 16	3.00		4.50		4.50	5.57%	4.50	24314	25599	6,399.85	105.29%	3696	3724	930.94	101.02%	28600	29323	104.73%
NorthPort Talbot 18	2.00		3.00		3.00	3.72%	3.75	21669	17066	4,266.56	78.76%	3181	2483	620.63	78.04%	24850	19549	78.67%
Newport & Lower Wye 19	5.00		7.50		8.00	9.91%	8.00	43224	45510	11,377.50	105.29%	6552	6620	1,655.00	101.04%	49776	52130	104.73%
South West Wales 20	3.00		4.50	0.25	4.75	5.88%	4.75	27447	27922	6,755.39	98.45%	4029	3931	982.66	97.56%	31476	30952	98.34%
Swansea & Gower 24	4.00		6.00	0.50	6.50	8.05%	6.50	32810	33820	8,491.49	104.32%	4914	5379	1,344.69	109.46%	37332	39199	105.00%
Welshpool & Bro Ifaeren 25	2.00		3.00		3.00	3.72%	3.00	76209	17066	4,266.56	105.29%	2457	2483	620.63	101.04%	18666	19549	104.73%
Wrexham 26	2.00		0.50	3.75	3.75	4.65%	3.75	20261	21333	5,333.20	105.29%	3071	3103	775.78	101.05%	23332	24436	104.73%
Wale of Glamorgan 27	3.00		0.75	5.63	5.63	6.97%	5.63	30392	32028	8,006.92	105.38%	4606	4655	1,163.67	101.06%	34989	36692	104.81%
	48.40		2.25	75.98	4.75	80.73	100.00%	484301	443701	114,024.00		66800	66800	16,700.00		510507	522896	
Note 1	Stationing position based on where we were 31st December 2017, as agreed by SPC although noting we are carrying five vacancies. Deployment factor based on projected staff deployment of 2018/19 48.40 + 2.25 + 4.75 = 55.40 2017/18 47.40 + 3.75 + 4.75 = 55.90																	
Note 2	The total Connexional Assessment for 2018/19 as applied to the Wales Synod amounts to £468,896 (2017/18 £453,700) a 3.35% increase. It was agreed by Synod Policy Committee that for 2018/19, general Synod funds would contribute £4,000 being the excess on the 2016/17 accounts. (2017/18 £10,000 from 2015/16 excess) Additionally, part of the £16,000 SAF Grant towards Safeguarding amounting to £8,800 is also allocated to the MCF by way of further Synod contribution This would mean that the total Connexional Assessment to be found by Circuits in 2018/19 would amount to £456,096																	

Synod Schemes and Grants Committee Report for the Connexional Year ended 31st August 2018

The detail of grants made by the Committee from the Synod Advance Fund during the year is as follows:-

1. Ministry and General Grants paid		
<i>Circuit</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Amount (£)</i>
Wales Training Network	Agreed support	4500
Synod/MGM	Support for Penrhys Ecumenical project	1000
Synod/MGM	Llanfair Penrhys - Additional grant to help with ministers expenses for 3 yrs.	1000
Synod	Wales Synod Evangelism Enabler (Ethnic Minority Congregations)	15000
Synod	Cardiff HE Chaplaincy	4000
Wrexham	University Chaplaincy - Glyndwr Wrexham	4000
Synod	University Chaplaincy - Bangor	4000
Synod	University Chaplaincy - Aberystwyth and Lampeter	4000
Synod	University Chaplaincy - Swansea & Swansea Met.	4000
Swansea & Gower	Ty Croeso - Clydach	500
Synod	Grant towards extraordinary cost of representative Synods	1000
Buckley & Deesdie	Mission Enabler	7500
MGM	Deacon Support (paid in August of preceding connexional year)	7500
MGM	Extra Circuit Support (paid in August of preceding connexional year)	2000
Bangor & Holyhead	Grant support for Children, Youth and Community Worker, St. Paul's, Penmaenmawr	2500
Bangor & Holyhead	Grant support for Children, Youth and Community Worker, St. Paul's, Penmaenmawr (late payment for 2016 - 2017))	2000
Swansea & Gower	Ogof Adullum project	5000
Wrexham	Circuit (Diaconal) Support	2000
Wrexham	Circuit Children and Youth Worker	1000
Buckley and Deeside	Families Worker	2000
GH&V	Tongan Community Support	5000
South West Wales Circuit	Circuit Support (Administrator)	5000
Vale of Glamorgan	Support for Deacon providing chaplaincy to AMFT	8010
Bangor & Holyhead	Support for Administrator	3000
Total		
(A):		95510

2. Property Grants paid			
<i>Circuit</i>		<i>Project</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Conwy & Prestatyn	42729	St. John's Llandudno - new electronic organ	2678
Neath Port Talbot	42866	Sandfields - Upgrading and resurfacing car park	1554
Welshpool and Bro Hafren	41094	Trefeglwys - Renovation of exterior of Church	1800
Conwy & Prestatyn	43508	Old Colwyn - replacement boiler in Church Hall	1554
Bangor & Holyhead	42643	St. Paul's, Penmaenmawr - Kitchen Upgrade	1650
Buckley & Deeside	41344	Buckley Cross - New Roof	3260
			<hr/>
			Total (B): 12496

3. Future Commitments (as at 31/8/2018)			
<i>Year</i>		<i>Amount committed</i>	
2018/19	£	203748	
2019/20	£	122520	
2020/21	£	80025	
2021/22	£	49796	
2022/23	£	19072	
Total future commitments	£	<hr/>	<hr/>
		475161	

4. Summary of Accounts			
<i>Income</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>£</i>
Levies rec'd from circuits	72407	Ministry Grants paid	95510 (Total A)
Other circuit contributions		Property Grants paid	12496 (Total B)
CAPF distribution	150116	TMCP charges	1470
Interest	5116		
Other income			
Total (A):	<hr/>	Total (B):	<hr/>
	227639		109476
Bal b/fwd from 31/8/17	735321		
Net Income / Expenditure	118163	A-B	
Bal c/fwd @ 31/8/18	<hr/>		
	853484		

Synod Property Report

The Panel of Solicitors contracted by TMCP is now in operation. Three circuits have already started to use one of the firms based in Cardiff and the initial indication is that communication has been smooth with no evidence of delays in creating contract documents. All the firms on the panel have received training by TMCP for Methodist requirements and have the relevant experience in charity law. Circuits are able to use a solicitor from the panel if they so wish but still have the freedom to use another solicitor of their own choosing.

Blake Morgan Solicitors in Cardiff provided a three hour training course for Managing Trustees aimed at explaining the responsibilities of a Managing Trustee. Our Chair Rev Dr Stephen Wigley and I attended with four people from circuits. This course is recommended and Blake Morgan have stated that they are willing to do another one in another area in Wales. Please let me know if you are interested.

I plan over the next few months to tidy up the projects on the Consents system. There are a lot of projects which are still at “Consent Given” status which should now be at “Finished” status. I will be emailing the relevant Managing Trustees in the near future asking for projects to be reviewed and where necessary marked as finished.

The Connexional Property Strategy will be launched in March 2019 and information will be given to circuits in due course as to what that means for them. Part of my role will be to collect all the Quinquennial Inspection Reports which have not been forwarded to me and I will email Managing Trustees to request those missing for their circuit.

Synod Property Officer

Wales Synod Trust 14508 Advisory Committee

	<u>31/08/2017</u>	Growth/loss in Value	<u>31/08/2018</u>
Balances/Assets			
Bank Current Account	1471	533	2004
Interest Fund	56634	-14199	42435
Managed Mixed Fund	346290	14713	361003
Managed Equity Fund	<u>321077</u>	<u>17722</u>	<u>338799</u>
TOTAL Bank & Investments	725472	18769	744241
Properties	365000	-34000	331000

Total Bk/Inv PLUS Properties

1090472

-15231

1075241

	Number of Units	Price 31/08/17	Price 31/08/2018
	(8/16) (8/17)		
Managed Mixed Fund	81318/75841	4.566	4.819
Managed Equity Fund	13422/12454	25.781	27.669

TREASURER

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

INCOME & EXPENDITURE for year ending 31/8/18		
31/08/17	INCOME	31/08/18
	Methodist Connexional Funds	
9799	Managed Equity Fund	10106
10952	Managed Mixed Fund	10868
112	Interest Fund	274
20863	TOTAL Investment Income	21248
	Other Income	
9000	Synod Grant re Caewal Road	9000
9000	TOTAL Other Income	9000
29863	TOTAL INCOME	30248
	EXPENDITURE	
39302	Grants (Note 1)	38161
0	Postage	74
1349	TMCP Fee	1448
10914	Caewal Road (Note 2)	4256
51565	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	43939
-21702	SHORTFALL INCOME/EXPENDITURE	-13691

31/08/17**NOTES TO ACCOUNTS****31/08/18****(Note 1)****Grants****Wales Synod**

20800	re Synod Enabler &	24024
18502	re University Chaplain	13187
	re Dishwasher Grant	950
<hr/>		<hr/>
39302		38161

Caewal Road (Note 2)

2151	Council Tax	2258
1007	Insurance	879
6593	Repairs/Replacements	236
857	Water	883
306	Quinquennial Report/Fees	0
<hr/>		<hr/>
10914		4256

Wales Synod - Statistics for Mission Report (at 9.1.2019)

The Statistics for Mission 2018 form, for completion by each of our 177 churches, is much simpler this year. The Membership entries are the same as previously, but the required October Count of people attending our church services has changed. We are now asked to give “an estimated average attendance (all ages) at a main worship service during the previous year.” This replaces the much more detailed breakdown into age-groups.

Despite the very helpful monthly e-mail updates circulated by the Statistics for Mission Connexional Team to all Superintendents and Circuit Administrators, so far, to date, only 5 of our 15 Circuits have managed to complete the required data for all their churches.

(Deadline is January 31st.)

These e-mails can be viewed in the Statistics News section on the Methodist website :-

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/statistics-for-mission/news>

The data your church submitted in previous years from 2002 to 2017 for the annual October Counts can now be viewed online at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/statistics-for-mission/district-circuit-and-church-reports/>

District Membership Secretary

Manse Report

Not much carried out this year but I have been given the all clear, so will be more active in 2019.

District Manse Visit List

2017 - 2021

Before August 2017

Wrexham

Welshpool & Bro Hafren

May 2017 – 2018

Conwy & Prestatyn

Llanelli & Carmarthen

Vale of Glamorgan

Gwent Hills & Vales

Bangor & Holyhead

May 2018 – 2019

Cardiff

Swansea & Gower

May 2019 – 2020

Neath Port Talbot

Mid Glamorgan Mission

Bridgend

Newport & Lower Wye

May 2020 – May 2021

Buckley & Deeside

Ceredigion

Learning Network – Cymru | Wales

2017-18 saw the introduction of many new events and developments within the DMLN in Wales, including a re-branding to the simpler name of the Learning Network in the Spring of 2018.

Major events included Reimagine Forums in Prestatyn and Newport, which between them welcomed nearly 200 Methodists from across Wales and inspired them to think again about how God is calling the Church to be salt and light for the people of this nation. Also very well attended were Bible Month training days in Buckley and Deeside and Cardiff, when over 75 people came to hear Trevor Dennis share with preachers about how they might approach 4 weeks of working with the Book of Jonah. We look forward to providing more Bible month training in 2018-19.

We ran a Connecting Disciples Local day on the subject of identity and mental health, attended and well received by 12 people in North Wales. A new Welsh Christian festival, Coda, ran for the first time in July 2018, and was supported by Learning Network staff in its planning and at the event. We look forward to helping to grow the festival for 2020.

Our continuing support of those who work with young people across Wales has included membership of Momentwm, taking a lead in organising the youth weekend in August, supporting and attending the Big Day Out, and two members of the team as key staff at 3Generate. New ventures included the development of *Enw*, a 6 week PSHE curriculum for children progressing from primary to secondary schools, focusing on identity and self-worth in a Christian context. This was planned to be piloted in autumn term 2018 in two schools in Newport, with training of volunteers running alongside the pilot.

As usual, the wider DMLN in Wales worked alongside our network colleagues, in 3Generate, the development of the new Advanced Module of the Safeguarding training, and in the continuing work of the *Worship: Leading and Preaching* course. Members of staff have been deeply involved in the roll-out of the new Connexional Supervision policy for Ministers, as facilitators in training sessions for supervisors, and in devising and delivering briefing days for Ministers who will be supervised.

The Synod Charitable Trust

The Synod Charitable Trust continues to help Methodists in Wales, ministerial and lay with grants, often towards training. The trust tries also to support Circuits in matters of mission, manses and chapels. In the financial year to 5 April 2017 the Trust made 8 grants to the value of £21,456 to one individual, 6 Circuits, 2 Chapels and the Synod itself.

Applications are welcome at any time via David Tilley, who will remind inquirers that the technical needs relating to work on manses and chapels will need to be cleared through Jack Healey/Bob Gilston on behalf of the Schemes and Grants Committee, and if appropriate, Mary Williams of the Manses Committee. The Trustees meet annually in May to consider current applications, ratify the decisions of the officers and to discuss policy.

Local Preachers Report

Each Circuit has sent in their annual return and in our 15 Circuits there were, on 31st August 2018, 277 Local Preachers (last year 283), of whom 199 (224) are active. There are 40 (41) who are on note or on trial, and 111 (125) Worship Leaders.

It is with sadness I report the death of Accredited Local Preachers:

Ceredigion	Dr David Green
Conwy & Prestatyn	Mr Bryan Bucknall
Gwent Hills & Vales	Mrs Georgina Wood
Newport & Lower Wye	Mr Brian Ham
South West Wales	Mrs Hilda Berkley
Swansea & Gower	Dr Clive Jones

We thank God for their faithfulness over the years in leading worship and proclaiming the Gospel both within and outside the Church.

This report highlights a drop in the number of active preachers, and many of those who are active are able to offer fewer appointments. This makes it difficult for some Circuits to provide preachers for all services. Fewer evening services, and some Chapel closures, have made little difference and some further thought about what forms of worship and where must inevitably take place. Smaller congregations sometimes restrict the opportunities for alternative forms of worship. The ministry of Supernumerary Ministers in our pulpits is much appreciated.

Looking ahead, we shall be asked to provide a peer-review scheme for all active Local Preachers. Connexional guidelines are in preparation. Worship Leaders are already subject to a three yearly review by their Church Councils.

A residential weekend took place at Lindors in January 2018, and another is planned for February 2019. Other study sessions have taken place, often with Circuits sharing together and enjoying a wider fellowship. More are planned for the current year.

The use of IT is patchy and depends on the Church providing it and a preacher being confident to find suitable material. When it is used it is well received.

Bible Month 2018 was used in several Circuits, with helpful preparation sessions organised by the Learning Network, and another is planned again for 2019.

I ask your prayers for those who continue to lead us in worship as they faithfully prepare and seek “to serve the present age, their calling to fulfil”.

Local Preachers Secretary

Amelia Methodist Trust Farm

As chaplain to the Amelia Methodist Trust Farm in Wales, I have continued to provide pastoral care and support to young people, staff, volunteers and visitors.

Amelia Farm provides the Vale of Glamorgan Pupil Referral Unit with the use of its facilities. It is an outdoor classroom that helps to support young people. In my role as Chaplain, a vital part of what I do, is to try and build up a structure of moral values that will enable young people to have the ability to tell the difference between right and wrong. As a result, young people have themselves developed good manners, practiced self-control and become aware of other people's needs. It has given them the skill and knowledge to make right moral choices.

Seasonal workers are an essential part of the culture that exists at the Farm. Along with other staff, I have acquired an understanding and appreciation of the wide range of influences that shape the culture of farming. From season to season, staff members are genuinely attempting to create a future distinct from the past. They believe that it is something they simply cannot avoid, because the wide range of other cultural influences that shape our heritage, they are also having to evolve with the times.

If it was not for the tremendous team of volunteers, who provide help and support, and contribute to ongoing fundraising activities, the Farm would not be able to operate three hundred and sixty-four days a year. Volunteers have an interest in, and an understanding of the way the community works. It is a place where they can identify with a range of experiences. I have regularly attended the Amelia Volunteers' Social, an occasion which invites members of staff to meet old and new volunteers, and for guest speakers to come and give talks about their roles at the Farm.

Visitors to the Farm are invited to come and enjoy an outdoor countryside sanctuary. It welcomes in all those with beliefs, religious or otherwise. Appointed to develop the spiritual vision at the Farm, I have made sure that I am spiritually supporting people from different backgrounds. I have listened to many who have come with personal stories to share. For me, this has raised a greater awareness of God's presence in our conversations. At the Farm, I believe that spirituality is something we can grow into, because only from our shared human experiences, can we then take it on to a more deeper and spiritual level.

Now into my second year as Chaplain, as well as providing ongoing

pastoral care and support to those involved with the Farm, I will be helping to organise and lead special services at Harvest, Christmas and Easter, and I will be present at many of the other events that are planned. I am also looking towards introducing a chaplaincy team, as a useful pathway in helping to provide a high degree of service and care for the community. The team will respond to everyone, with the commitment to extend and strengthen the well-being of each person we meet.

Safeguarding Synod Report 2017-2018

2018 has again been another busy year for Safeguarding. Jane Ellis left her role in the North in April to return to full time work. In July, Victoria Anderson took over the role and has worked hard to assimilate the many facets of Safeguarding and to get to know her Circuits.

Again, this year training has brought the biggest changes.

The updated Foundation Module and Refresher Module introduced in 2016 continues to be rolled out in many Circuits but we are aware that in some areas there is a desperate need for local trainers. We are always ready to train new trainers and would encourage people to reflect whether it is a role they are being called to take on.

At Easter, Advanced Module training was introduced, this course has replaced the Leadership Module. The list of those requiring this level of training has also grown as it was agreed at the 2016 Methodist Conference that Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and Church Safeguarding Officers should be included.

Since its introduction we have been trialling the course in Cardiff and

have found that where possible working in specific groups e.g. Local Preachers, Ministers, Safeguarding Officers etc. allows the course to be tailored to areas of responsibility. Where possible to minimise travelling at this initial stage of training we are trying to train Circuit by Circuit.

Two things to note; firstly, training needs to be undertaken every four years, secondly Advanced Module is not instead of Foundation/ Refresher Module it builds onto them.

When the “Methodist Policy, Procedures and Guidance” was first published a number of people in Wales contacted us requesting clarification of certain points and pointing out inconsistencies. We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who did this as your comments and queries have been fed back to Connexion who have used this information to update or amend the policy. Please continue to do this your attention to detail is invaluable.

Updating and amending this document is continually ongoing and so it will only be available online and will never be published as a hard copy.

In January 2018, the Methodist Safeguarding Conference was held in Stratford upon Avon. Its theme was the progress of Safeguarding within the Church and how we share our progress and competency with other agencies. It was noted in the 2014 report to Synod, “that the professional relationships with the Statutory Agencies and other Third Sector Representatives continues to grow and develop”. This is frequently our experience and we benefit from positive working relationships with other agencies who are invariably impressed with Methodist policies and procedures when working with offenders in the community.

This year saw the completion of the Past Cases Review and has brought changes to the Connexional Safeguarding Team. From the beginning of this Methodist year the Safeguarding Team has been devolved. For Safeguarding purposes, the Connexion has been split into 4 areas, providing us with a case supervisor who will work alongside us and encourage our continuing professional development.

Finally, we would like to thank our Safeguarding Group Colleagues, Ministers, Deacons, Circuit and Church Safeguarding Officers for all your invaluable help and support over the past year.

Synod Safeguarding Officers (North and South)

Action for Children

Action for Children's Chief Executive, Julie Bentley, told Newsbeat that thousands of families were asking the charity for help, either with budgeting, providing a meal or access to food banks.

"No parent should be forced to face the appalling choice between 'eating or heating' at Christmas," she said, "but this is the reality for far too many in the UK today."

How Action for Children helps

There are children in the UK who face a Christmas without a hot meal, presents, or a safe place to sleep. But our Santas are helping to change this. By signing up to be a Secret Santa for a vulnerable child, you can bring joy, warmth and safety to those who would otherwise go without.

In 2017, Action for Children helped 300,000 children and young people in need. We work on the ground and in communities to make

a real, lasting difference. We intervene early to stop neglect and abuse, support young carers, and help children who find themselves homeless.

We wouldn't be able to do any of this without our supporters. This Christmas, we needed 25,000 Santas to make sure we reached children like this all over the UK. Were you one of them?

By 10th December, 2018, over 95,000 pounds was raised. Please consider being one next Christmas.

There are projects helping children and families in so many areas, try and support their work. One Centre was just discovered in Newtown, do you have a project near you?

I have come to the end of my 6 years representing the District on Action for Children. Are you interested in taking on this wonderful challenge? If so, please contact me for further details.

Methodist Women in Britain

Methodist Women in Britain continues to be very well supported in the North of the Synod, our twice yearly meetings are enthusiastic and productive. Our Conwy and Prestatyn Circuit MWiB Service this year was held at St Johns Llandudno. The Circuit President Frances Williams conducted the service assisted by Rev. Beverley Ramsden who never fails to support the movement. Frances included several other women in the proceedings which many at this well attended service found to be inclusive and fulfilling.

Our Advent, what used to be called 'a quiet day', took on a new dimension and was really successful when Jennifer Roberts and her sister Jacqueline Ashworth from the Bangor and Holyhead Circuit

brought their fantastic "Puppets for Jesus" (not to be confused with any other puppetry duo's) to St David's in Llandudno. We were absolutely bowled over by the lifelike scale of the puppets and the variety of characters they exposed. The morning opened with prayers and a short address on the day's theme given by myself. We then found ourselves learning how to use the puppets. We were split into two groups and by lunch time had become proficient enough for each group to perform a Bible story, the other group looking on and making loud encouraging noises!

We called the day 'A Great Big All Age Messy Church' and the afternoon was given over to lots of activities and crafts for adults and children. The penultimate being a performance by Jennifer and Jacqueline in front of the audience of adults and children, the children became so animated and excited that we had to close the afternoon with a scrumptious afternoon tea presided over by two of the ladies of St David's who worked really hard to ensure a perfect end to our day.

Ronnie Dean our current representative to the MWiB Executive will be reaching the end of her three year term in September and at our next meeting we will be discussing her replacement, if you think you could be an efficient member of the executive or you know of anyone who might be interested please email me with the relevant details.

MWiB Synod President
Operating in the North.

Synod Complaints and Discipline Procedures Panel

The work of this panel has proceeded as required at the request of both the Wales Synod and the Connexion, mainly in the role of supporters when a complaint has been lodged, but where the possibility of reconciliation within a situation is recognised we are also available. Involvement is always confidential. The Discipleship and Ministries learning network has provided training for us in the past and is continuing with that programme in 2019, giving us both an opportunity to meet and support each other as we develop the relevant skills for this work.

HMP Cardiff Chaplaincy Report

It continues to be an honour to serve the Synod as a Chaplain in HMP Cardiff, albeit one that can be challenging at times.

Prison Chaplaincy is one way to fulfil the instruction given by John Wesley to take the good news to those who most need to hear it. In prison we meet people who are often in desperately sad circumstances which are compounded by their offending behaviour. Cycles of addiction and crime are all too common, as are situations of domestic strife and abuse.

Chaplains aim to offer an informed compassion to all the prisoners meeting as we do everyone who comes to the establishment at least once. Jesus' instruction that his followers have hearts like doves and minds like snakes (Matt 10:16) is especially apposite for prison work! Knowing where we can be of genuine help as opposed to when we are being 'blagged' is cause for regular discernment!

The Prison Service continues to face some serious challenges. In a

misguided effort to save money large numbers of experienced staff were pensioned off. New recruits have arrived, and many will become excellent officers. However, this will take time and retention of new staff is an issue. As a result, there are high levels of staff stress and efforts to provide a rehabilitative culture are hampered. The demands of prison work are further increased by issues associated with drugs such as 'spice' which have received considerable coverage in the media.

Real as such challenges might be, prison work can be very rewarding, and we have the sense that we are making a real difference to people's lives when they most need it. This is especially evident with the men who follow the outreach courses put on by the Chaplaincy through which some come to faith.

It has been a privilege to serve at HMP for another year and please continue to pray for the Chaplains, staff and the prisoners.

Chaplaincy Report Cardiff University

January 2019

Just before Christmas I had two separate visitors, both students from the past who were taking a trip down memory lane, popping in to the Chaplaincy at Cardiff University to say 'hello'. The first was a Muslim student who had graduated from the University six years ago and is now a film maker in New Zealand; a larger than life character who bounced in, gave me a massive hug and announced to the whole room (I was in a meeting) that he loved the Chaplaincy and that it was his second home while he was at university!

The second visitor was a Jewish student who made the difficult decision to leave university in his second year and had subsequently moved to the USA, got a job, got married, had kids and was generally on a successful trajectory in life. He knocked the door and tentatively asked me if I remembered him (it was nine years ago now!); he told me my conversation with him the day that he was going to see his parents about leaving university, and my prayers for him as a result of that conversation had empowered and encouraged him. Both men were full of thanks and praise for the work of the Chaplaincy. The latter gave me some cash to support the work, and in thanking him I told him that we would spend it on the Christmas party!

Those voices from the past are echoed in the comments I hear from the students I see day in day out, right now. Whilst they were both people of different faiths, the Christians, and indeed Methodist students I see, are also full of thanks for this ministry. They tell me that they wouldn't still be in university had they not had the support of the Chaplaincy. They tell me that their faith has grown as a result of the events, worship, prayer and Bible studies that we have put on and

one-to-one conversations we have had. One told me that he was gutted that he had only found the Chaplaincy in this, his third year - because he could really have done with the support in previous years.

We now have the Cardiff Anglican Methodist Student Society (CAMS) who are active in the Student Union, as well as supporting all our events. This is what Will, the President of the Society says about us: "The Chaplaincy has been such an integral part of my time at university. The Chaplains have been available for a chat whenever I have needed them and their support has been amazing. With services from the traditional Eucharist to modern Pizza, Prayer and Praise, there are different areas of Christian worship to explore and find what is comfortable for you! It also means that you make friends with students from across the spectrum of Christian traditions. I could not recommend The Chaplaincy at 61 Park Place enough!".

I hope this shows you, the Synod, what a worthwhile ministry student chaplaincy really is. I am privileged to work alongside a great Anglican colleague, Rev. David Sheen, in a true ecumenical partnership. If you're interested in finding out more about what we get up to, like our Facebook page: **Cardiff University Chaplaincy at 61 Park Place**.

Coordinating Chaplain, Cardiff University

University of Wales Trinity St. David's (Lampeter)

Chaplaincy Report

A new year and a new start:- with the appointment of a new full-time Chaplain to the College during the last academic year, the pastoral care of the students has become more coherent and our relationships with the Student Union have improved greatly, allowing for more communication and co-ordination in our work.

Despite the variable timetables of the students, with lectures often continuing over lunch-times, we have continued to provide free soup lunches for students at St Thomas' Church, Lampeter every Thursday in term-time and those who come along are provided with a nutritious meal. We enjoy the fellowship we share with our visitors, although numbers are low despite our best efforts to promote the event. We welcome the students who come occasionally to our Sunday worship and also to our social events.

I continue to be invited to speak to the Christian Union, and although this is a small group, they appreciate their link with local Christians. It is difficult to develop the Free Church chaplaincy role beyond these activities, because of the particular nature of the College, but it is an essential part of the whole Christian ministry to the students, shared by many in the town and within the College itself.

Swansea University Chaplaincy Report

Major changes in structure and personnel in the Chaplaincy at Swansea University have made for a renewed and recharged team! The Chaplaincy is now 'officially' (as opposed to informally) a Multi-Faith Chaplaincy with a full time Anglican Chaplain and a full time Muslim Chaplain, and four associate chaplains who work alongside.

The Chaplaincy space on Singleton Campus (which isn't ideal) has been completely revamped and is a much more useful and inviting space now. Regular events include weekly Wednesday Worship, which I lead about once a month, as well as pizza and games evenings, de-stress days, events to mark inter-faith week, including a University Question Time, when I was the Christian representative on the multi-faith panel, chaired by the Archbishop. The Listening Service that we provide is also set to grow, as the University Well-Being Team struggle to cope with the numbers of students coming to them for help.

Working across two large campuses in different parts of Swansea is a challenge to a small team such as ours. However a purpose built multi-faith space on the Bay Campus will be completed by the end of this academic year, and should be a good resource.

I can honestly say that *finally* the District is getting real value out of the contribution it makes to the Swansea and Gower Circuit to enable my involvement in the Chaplaincy!

Synod EDI Committee Report

The Synod EDI committee drafted a new Equality and Diversity Statement that was adopted by Synod in September 2018.

We are encouraging the Circuits and Churches to adopt this statement for their own contexts. This will be further resourced by the Methodist Church's EDI Toolkits, which can be found on the Methodist website (search for 'EDI Toolkit').

Synod EDI Officer

Equality and Diversity Statement **The Methodist Church in Wales: Wales Synod**

The Wales Synod of the Methodist Church values every human being as created in God's image, equal in dignity and worth and part of the whole people of God. The Synod aims to encourage within the churches and circuits of Wales an environment which respects and values every person and reflects the grace and love of God so enabling each of us to achieve our full potential as a child of God through full participation in the life of the Church.

Wales Synod will comply with all relevant legislation from the law as well as The Methodist Conference, developing our understanding of the issues surrounding equality and diversity through training and discernment and seeking to be a place where the transformational love of God is embodied and life in all its fullness is a gift which is offered to all people. There are no distinctions based on race or ethnic origin, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, family circumstance, social or economic class, age or disability, or any discrimination that is a bar to this gift of God.

The Wales Synod encourages the churches and circuits to reflect the radical and eternal love of God who liberates from oppression and fear and welcomes all with radical hospitality into the fullness of life of the Kingdom of God; a kingdom of justice and peace, mercy and compassion worked out here on earth and throughout eternity.

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