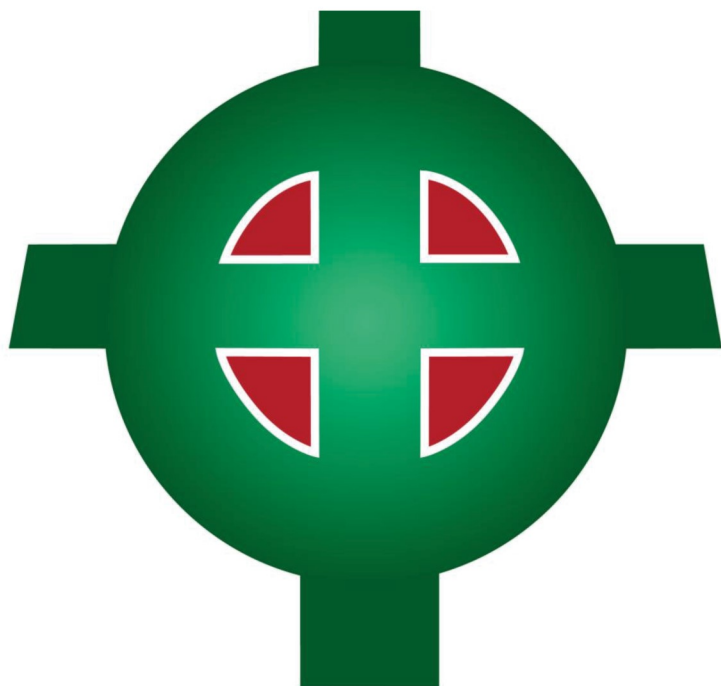


Yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd yng Nghymru
The Methodist Church in Wales



wales
Synod
Reports 2019

Wales Synod – Introduction to the Annual Report for 2018-19

I am pleased once more to introduce this annual report for the Wales Synod for the year 2018-19.

The Synod Development Plan, incorporating the Synod Mission statement, commits us to supporting the work and witness of circuits across Wales, and during 2018-19 we have sought to do this in a number of ways. In the first place we have continued to respond to applications for support from the Synod Advance Fund with grants totalling £154,910, an increase of over 40% from the previous year. Once again over this last year the bulk of these (some £141,830) were for Ministry projects rather than for Property schemes; but the Synod Scheme & Grants Committee have agreed to increase the maximum amount of Synod grant support available for some major schemes which we anticipate coming on stream over the next year or so. The Synod remains hugely appreciative of the helpful advice offered by its Grants and Property Officers and would like to record its appreciation of the work undertaken for many years by Mr. Jack Healey, who stepped down this summer.

Secondly, we seek to resource circuits by the provision of ordained ministry through the connexional Stationing process. The outcome for the Synod this last year was much better than the previous year as we were able to fill 5 out of 6 (and all our full-time) appointments and this coming year we shall be looking for 3 new appointments. We were pleased to attend the ordination of one of our ministers at Conference in the summer, had hoped to have a candidate offering for ordained ministry in this coming year and are looking to refresh our strategy for encouraging vocations. However, the overall challenge in terms of the recruitment and provision of ministry remains, and we know that we must continue seeking the most effective way to deploy our ministers and make use of their giftings.

Thirdly, we look to support circuits as they seek to reshape themselves for mission. Following last year's report, and working with colleagues from Synod Cymru, we have stationed a Deacon to a pioneering appointment to undertake youth work in both languages within the new South West Wales circuit. We trust that this will help support our developing youth work through Momentwm and a planned Youth Exchange to the USA. We have secured some Connexional funding through the Our Calling grant scheme to support the appointment of a new minister to engage with ecumenical colleagues in finding new ways of ministering to the vast new Plasdŵr estate on the NW outskirts of Cardiff; and we were pleased to support a Synod-wide prayer initiative 'If my People...' which has been running across all the circuits over this last year and will finish at Cardiff in May.

Underlying much of this work is the commitment in the Synod Development Plan to work ever more closely with colleagues in Synod Cymru. Last year we reported how the Wales Synod had responded positively to an invitation to enter conversations with Synod Cymru with a view to creating one new bi-lingual Synod in Wales. We had hoped these might lead to more detailed proposals coming to a meeting of both Synods in March 2019. Unfortunately, despite some encouraging discussions, these conversations had to be put on hold while Synod Cymru undertook an audit of its areas and ministry. Currently we await the outcome in terms of a proposed Audit and Mission plan, to see whether this will enable us to resume our conversations in the spring. Once again, we cannot predict what the outcome may be, but it clearly has a significant impact on our future planning and development.

With all best wishes,

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

Strategic objectives, aims and purposes of the Methodist Church in Great Britain

The activities covered in these reports and accounts falls within the work of the Methodist Church.

The strategic objectives of The Methodist Church in Great Britain (“The Methodist Church”) are directly linked to its aims. They are:

1. Worship – to increase awareness of God’s presence and to celebrate God’s love;
2. Learning and Caring – to help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care;
3. Service – supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor - in Britain and worldwide; and
4. Evangelism – developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved.

Public Benefit Requirement

The trustees of The Methodist Church have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in compliance with its duties under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.

This guidance sets out two key principles:

1. The organisation must have an identifiable benefit.
2. The benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

The Church exists, inter alia, to:

1. increase awareness of God’s presence and to celebrate God’s love;
2. help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care; and
3. be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.

The trustees of the Wales Synod of The Methodist Church consider that for these reasons the charity meets these public benefit requirements.

2.1 Plans for future years

As mentioned in the Annual Report, a major factor affecting our plans for this next year will be the outcome of Synod Cymru's Audit and Mission plan in Spring 2020 which will help determine whether we are in position to resume conversations with them. (It should be noted that the current Synod Development Plan already looks to build on our joint working with Synod Cymru in the areas of Safeguarding, Youth work, Training and the work of the Learning Network.) The appointment of the current Synod Chair has been extended for a further 3 years to 2023, so we hope this will help to provide stability of leadership whatever the outcome for these conversations. We anticipate that 2019-20 will be a less difficult year for stationing in terms of the number of appointments being sought (and initial signs are encouraging) although the underlying longer-term challenges remain. We will continue to support the mission of local circuits and churches through grants from the Synod Advance Fund and we look to see how plans for a connexional property strategy come to be applied for districts and circuits, not least as we are now in position to offer larger grants to a small number of significant building schemes which we anticipate coming forward in the next couple of years.

Synod Policy Committee 2019

The Synod Policy Committee (SPC) met in Newtown Methodist Church on three occasions during 2019. Members of SPC are the Synod Trustees and the membership is recorded in the Synod Handbook. Members are invited to place items on the agenda from their Circuits and as part of their role are expected to share information from each meeting with their Circuit after each meeting.

The agenda is made up of standing items, thus making sure all business needed to be covered by SPC is included on the agenda at one or more of the three Committee meetings. The following items were among matters considered during the year:

Establishing Policy

- Recommending to Synod that the Wales Chair's invitation be extended for a further three years

- Ongoing conversation regarding the potential joining together of Synod Cymru and Wales Synod. This is presently on hold while Synod Cymru undertake a complete review of their churches and ministry

Implementing Policy

- Reviewing and updating the Synod Safeguarding Policy

- Considering the Synod budget and accounts, including the Reserves Policy

- Enabling a Connexional Grant to be applied for to consider potential church planning on a new Cardiff housing development

SPC Business

- Approving ministerial sabbaticals and receiving reports on completed sabbaticals

- Receiving requests for church closures and bringing requests for approval to Synod

- Recommending the continuing of the appointment of the HE Chaplain, Cardiff University

- Agreeing the 'Call to Prayer' programme to be introduced during 2019/20 throughout the Synod

Chair's Business

Maintaining an awareness of all matters pertaining to the pastoral care of ministers, both active and retired

Engaging in the stationing process of all ministers and supporting the Chair in this important aspect of his work

The above represents some aspects of the ongoing work of SPC during the last year. The membership, which is made up of represents from each Circuit and certain office holders, commit time and energy to make the committee a good and successful working unit.

In the coming year, SPC will continue to carry out its business as effectively as possible and plan to meet, as in previous years in February, June and October 2020.

Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod

Income and Expenditure Account - Year ended 31st August 2019

	Year to 31.8.19	Previous year to 31.8.18	Notes	Budget to 31.8.19
Income		£		£
Connexional contribution re Conference	472	960		2,000
Grants Received	124,163	115,598	see page 2	135,671
Manse Llwyn y Grant Rd Rent		9,493		
Synod Assessment from Circuits	66,800	66,800		66,800
Miscellaneous Income				
Total Income	191,435	192,851		204,471
Expenses				
Assistant Chairs	15,075	18,980		29,805
CDiM and HE Training	3,583	5,594		4,000
Chair's other expenses	1,582	2,294		1,500
Chair's Secretary and Admin	9,351	13,507		15,000
Chair's Travel	5,409	5,189		5,500
Chaplaincy (H.E. & ATF)	39,971	39,596		39,933
Conference	472	960		2,000
Lay Employment Officer	869	579		1,500
Manse Llwyn y Grant Rd	6,800	18,364		600
Ministers retreat	1,993	2,559		2,400
Miscellaneous expenses	245	3,944		500
Safeguarding	36,341	29,089		31,500
Superintendents' meeting	999	2,004		1,500
Synod Contribution to Connexion	4,000	10,000		
Synod committees and travel	5,578	4,136		4,000
Synod Enabler (Culturally Diverse Congregations)	46,841	47,107		49,533
Synod Office Costs	6,579	6,599		7,000
Synod Secretary	1,777	1,658		1,500
Training	3,314	2,318		4,500
Y Cyngor	1,000	3,000		3,000
Momentwm (Youth)	206	2,682		4,700
Total Expenses	191,985	220,159		209,971
Income less Expenditure	-550	-27,308		-5,500
Transfers from/to reserves (net)	10,075	26,915	see page 2	5,500
	9,525	-393		0

Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod

NOTE 1

Details of Grants received, as totalled overleaf

	as received	as budgeted
Connexion re Assistant Chairs	29,934	39,740
Cardiff University re HE Chaplaincy	6,500	6,500
Connexion re HE Chaplaincy	7,500	7,500
CAPF Synod Enabler	10,000	10,000
Synod Advance Fund (SAF) Synod Enabler	15,000	15,000
Trust 14508 Synod Enabler	24,536	24,533
SAF re HE Chaplaincy Cardiff	4,000	4,000
Trust 14508 HE Chaplaincy	12,000	11,998
SAF Training	4,500	4,500
SAF Youth Work		1,500
SAF towards Synod Meeting September 2018	1,000	1,000
SAF towards Safeguarding	7,200	7,200
Synod Charitable Trust: Ministers Retreat	1,993	2,200
	<u>£124,163</u>	<u>£135,671</u>

NOTE 2

Breakdown of monies moved to/from reserve.

	actual
From CDIM reserve to cover CDIM payments made out of General Funds	3,575
From Synod Reserve being excess on 2016/17 agreed to use towards Connexional Assessment in 2018/19	4,000
From Manse Reserve towards works needed to 12 Llwyn-y-Grant Rd following occupation by Synod Chair	2,500
	<u>£10,075</u>

Synod Advance Fund - Year ended 31st August 2019

Expenditure		Income	
Grants made - Ministry	141,080	Balance brought forward	853,484
Grants made - Property	13,830	Circuit Levies	66,223
		CAPF Distribution	111,589
TMCP Administration charge	1,707		
Balance carried forward	882,353	Interest	7,674
	<u>£1,038,970</u>		<u>£1,038,970</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	
	31.8.19	
Income		
Contributions received towards Abernant weekend 2019	1,455.00	
Donation being balance of 'Holy Land' monies remaining now transferred over	284.21	
	<u>1,739.21</u>	
Expenditure		
Contributions towards Abernant and Amelia Trust Farm from earlier years and held within this account now transferred back to general funds	1,218.75	
Contributions received towards Abernant 2019 transferred to general funds	1,455.00	
Bank charges	58.77	
	<u>2,732.52</u>	
Income less Expenditure	-993.31	
Balance in hand carried forward from 2017/18	3,168.95	
Balance carried forward 31.8.19	<u>2,175.64</u>	£2,175.64

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

Income		
Donations and Fund Raising	0.00	
Expenditure		
Mini bus hire	350.00	
Balance of 'Holy Land' monies donated to Youth Exchange funds	<u>284.21</u>	-634.21
Balance in hand carried forward from 2017/18	634.21	
Balance carried forward 31.8.19	<u>0.00</u>	£0.00
		<u>£2,175.64</u>

Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod

Central Finance Board and TMCP Accounts year to 31st August 2019

Training Network Account CFB 6055010

	Balance b/fwd	9,885.28
	Interest	67.61
Balance c/fwd	<u>9,952.89</u>	<u>9,952.89</u>

Continuing Development in Ministry CFB 2079040

Transfer to Gen Fd	3,575.00	Balance b/fwd	30,559.86
		Interest	207.94
Balance c/fwd	<u>27,192.80</u>		<u>30,767.80</u>

Synod Reserve Account CFB 2079030

General Fund (see p. 4,000.00	Balance b/fwd	100,718.39
70,521.65	Interest	669.27
	General Fund (see p.2)	
Balance c/fwd	<u>97,387.66</u>	<u>101,387.66</u>

Manse Reserve Fund TMCP 15292

TMCP Admin	141.04	Balance b/fwd	
General Fund (see p. 2,500.00	Interest		599.41
Balance c/fwd	<u>68,480.02</u>		<u>71,121.06</u>

Synod Chair's Discretionary Fund TMCP 16907

TMCP Admin	12.35	Balance b/fwd	6,176.93
		Interest	52.49
Balance c/fwd	<u>6,217.07</u>		<u>6,229.42</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2019

	31st August 2019	31st August 2018
	£	£
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	32,646.03	24,389.27
CFB Training Network	9,952.89	9,885.28
CFB CDIM Account	27,192.80	30,559.86
CFB Synod Reserve	97,387.66	100,718.39
TMCP Synod Advance Fund	882,352.75	853,483.72
TMCP Manse Reserve	68,480.02	70,521.65
TMCP Synod Chairs' Discretionary Fund	6,217.07	6,176.93
Barclays International Youth Exchange	2,175.64	3,803.16
Total Bank/CFB & TMCP Accounts	<u>1,126,404.86</u>	<u>1,099,538.26</u>
Stipends paid in advance	5,629.36	5,440.12
	<u>1,132,034.22</u>	<u>1,104,978.38</u>
Creditors	0.00	1,080.00
Current Liabilities	0.00	0.00
	<u>£1,132,034.22</u>	<u>£1,103,898.38</u>
Total net assets	£1,528,124.22	£1,499,988.38

Wales Synod Budget 2019-20
General Budget

	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budget	2019-20 Budget
Expenditure	£	£	£	£
Asst Chairs' Stip. Contrib/other costs	29046	18980	29805	30800
CDiM and HE Courses	4000	5594	4000	4000
Chair's Other Expenses	2500	2294	1500	1200
Chair's Secretary and Administration	14500	13507	15000	15000
Chairs' Travel	5500	5189	5500	5500
Chaplaincy (HE/ATF)Stip/Allow & Other]	32025	31733	33033	33972
Chaplaincy (HE/ATF)travel/other costs]	3875	5114	4000	5250
Chaplaincy (HE/ATF)housing]	2800	2749	2900	3050
Conference expenses	2000	960	2000	1000
Lay Employment Secretary		579	1500	1200
Manse Llwyn y Grant Road	2500	18364	600	4501
Minister's Retreat	2500	2559	2400	2500
Miscellaneous	500	3944	500	500
Safeguarding	30500	29089	31500	36600
Superintendents meeting	1500	2004	1500	1500
Synod contribution to Connexion		10000		
Synod Committees and Travel	5000	4136	4000	4200
Synod Enabler Stipends/allows]	32025	32525	33033	33972
Synod Enabler Travel/other costs]	8000	5582	7500	6528
Synod Enabler Housing]	9000	9000	9000	9000
Synod Office (incl Printing)	7000	6599	7000	7000
Synod Secretary's Allowance/exps	1750	1658	1500	1700
Training	4500	2318	4500	4500
Y Cyngor	3000	3000	3000	3000
Youth incl Momentwm	4500	2682	4700	4700
	208521	220159	209971	221173
	208521	220159	209971	221173

Income

Grants				
Connexion Asst Chairs/HE Chaplaincy	38726	29045	39740	41073
CAPF Synod Enabler	10000	10000	10000	10000
SAF Synod Enabler	15000	15000	15000	15000
Trust 14508 Synod Enabler	24025	24024	24533	34500
Connexional Grant HE/ATF Chaplaincy	7500	7500	7500	7500
SAF HE/ATF Chaplaincy	4000	4000	4000	4000
Trust 14508 Chaplaincy	17520	14137	11998	14000
Cardiff University - Chaplaincy		4333	6500	6500
SAF Training	4500	4500	4500	4500
SAF Youth Work	1500		1500	1500
SAF Synod Meeting September 2019	1000	1000	1000	1000
SAF Safeguarding - proposed - to be agreed by SS&G *			7200	14450
Synod Charitable Trust	2950	2059	2200	2200
total income from grants	126721	115598	135671	146223
Connexional contribution re Conference	2000	960	2000	1000
Manse rental	9000	9493		
Synod Assessment from Circuits	66800	66800	66800	69950
Miscellaneous Income				
Reserves General		6000	1500	
Reserves Manse repairs		15500		
Reserves CDiM	4000	5415	4000	4000
	208521	219766	209971	221173

NOTE RELATING TO 2019-20BUDGET Total SAF grant £34,174 : £14,450 allocated to Synod Budget with bala towards Connexional Budget (Methodist Church Fund) - see next sheet

NOTE RELATING TO 2018-19 BUDGET Total SAF grant £16,000 : £7,200 allocated to Synod Budget with balance of towards Connexional Budget (Methodist Church Fund) - see next sheet

WALES SYNOD ADVANCE FUND

Report to Connexional Grants Committee as required under S.O.963(3)

Period 1 Sept 2018 to 31 August 2019

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>
Bangor & Holyhead	42637 Penmaenmawr Road, Llanfairfechan. Disabled Access & Kitchen	280
Vale of Glamorgan	42791 Cadoxton - Disabled Access	1900
Swansea & Gower	43391 Murton - renewal of side extension, flat roof and windows	950
MGM	43582 Green St. Aberdare - Glazed Front Entrance	2500
Ceredigion	43957 Queens Road, Aberystwyth - New heating boiler	1700
South West Wales	43961 Hall Street, Llanelli - Repairs to west transept wall	3500
Conwy & Prestatyn	44789 Heating in Church side - St. John's, Llandudno	3000
Total (B):		13830

3. Future Commitments (as at 31/8/....)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount committed</i>
2019/20	£ 275596
2020/21	£ 138025
2021/22	£ 106796
2022/23	£ 25072
2023/24	£ 3000
Total future commitments	£ 548489

4. Summary of Accounts

<i>Income</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>£</i>
Levies rec'd from circuits	66223	Ministry Grants paid	141080 (<i>Total A</i>)
Other circuit contributions		Property Grants paid	13830 (<i>Total B</i>)
CAPF distribution	111589	TMCP charges	1707
Interest	7674		
Other income			
Total (A):	<u>185486</u>	Total (B):	<u>156617</u>
Bal b/fwd from 31/8/18	853484		
Net Income / Expenditure	<u>28869</u>	A-B	
Bal c/fwd @ 31/8/18	<u>882353</u>		

5. District Officer's comments and report on the use of the District Advance Fund during the past year.

There has been an increase of £45,570 (49%) in the amount of Ministry, Mission and General grants paid this year compared to 2017/8 whilst the amount granted to building and equipment schemes increased by £1,334 (11%).

The number of building schemes assisted in the year increased by 1 to 7, however we already have firm commitments to assist up to 14 projects in 2019/20. In addition, we have at least 2 major projects in the Synod each totalling c.£1M, which will require significant Synod support in the next year or so.

Looking forward, we are already committed to pay grants in 2019/20 of up to £277k—some 175% of the total paid in 2018/9—however the total (5yr.) forward commitment is £470k (not including committed support for the major projects totalling some £100k). This would suggest the level of reserves currently being held remains high and we will be looking to see whether we are able to further increase the amount and level of

grants we are able to make this year. However, as in previous years, Synod, through its Schemes and Grants Committee, continues to need to retain sufficient reserve monies to fund any exciting and innovative project which, over 5 years, might require a significant grant contribution from the SAF, of possibly £80-£100K. Additionally, we are committed to supporting a number of Circuit appointments some of which might previously have received some Connexional support. Further Synod support is envisaged if key appointments are to be maintained in the future.

6 Monitoring and Evaluation of grant-funded work undertaken during the year:

Once, again, monitoring of schemes of more than 1yr duration has been carried out by means of a conversation.

A statement has been required from the Superintendent Minister of each Circuit where a grant instalment is to be paid that the work for which the grant was originally requested is still ongoing (and, where applicable, the personnel is/are still in place) before the payment has been confirmed.

Monitoring of the single-year schemes grant-funded this year has been transparent in terms of their nature and formal reports have not been requested.

This is the final report that I shall write as I formally retire as Synod Schemes and Grants Secretary at 31/08/19 and hand over to Gillian Peace from 01/09/2019.

Presented by Wales Synod Schemes and Grants Secretary: Jack Healey

In concert with Synod Treasurer: Richard Hodgson

Date: 25/09/2019

Synod Property Report

A Panel of Surveyors contracted by TMCP is now in operation. This panel complements the Panel of Solicitors which is operating satisfactorily with generally good comments from around the Synod. Some Managing Trustees have had difficulty in appointing a surveyor to carry out quinquennial inspections and this new panel will go some way in alleviating that problem. The panel lists can be accessed on TMCP's web site.

This year there has been an increase in the number of circuits and churches who have completed their returns. Eight out of fifteen were complete or almost complete. I urge those circuits and churches who do not complete their returns to do so. Managing Trustees may feel that I am badgering them when I send out reminder emails but it is a requirement of Standing Orders 941 and 953 that this be done.

The Connexional Property Strategy was launched in May 2019 and is now being actioned in Wales Synod. Information about the strategy can be seen on the Methodist Church web site here <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/property/property-strategy/>

The Connexional Property Development Committee now have in place a Director of Property Support, Stephen Hetherington and a Property Support Officer, Leslie Matthews who are available to assist with queries relating property projects and ideas about development. Contact details relating to Property Support can be found on the Methodist Church web site here <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/property/httpswwwmethodistorgukfor-ministers-and-office-holderspropertycontacts/>

Bob Gilston
Synod Property Officer
15 Nov 2019

Wales Synod Trust 14508 Advisory Committee

	31/08/20 18	Growth/ loss in Value	31/08/20 19
Balances/Assets			
Bank Current Account	2004	-1274	730
Interest Fund	42435	-11379	31056
Managed Mixed Fund	361003	4475	365478
Managed Equity Fund	338799	-5181	333618
TOTAL Bank & Investments	744241	-13359	730882
Properties	331000	0	331000
Total Bk/Inv PLUS Properties	1075241	-13359	1061882

	Number of Units	Price 31/08/1 8	Price 31/08/201 9
Managed Mixed Fund	75841	4.76	4.819
Managed Equity Fund	12454	27.204	26.788

TREASURER

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE
for year ending 31/8/19**

31/08/18	INCOME	31/08/19
	Methodist Connexional Funds	
10106	Managed Equity Fund	9943
10868	Managed Mixed Fund	10876
274	Interest Fund	287
21248	TOTAL Investment Income	21106
	Other Income	
9000	Synod Grant re Caewal Road	9000
9000	TOTAL Other Income	9000
30248	TOTAL INCOME	30106
	EXPENDITURE	
38161	Grants (Note 1)	36536
74	Postage	0
1448	TMCP Fee	1484
4256	Caewal Road (Note 2)	4738
43939	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	42758
-13691	SHORTFALL INCOME/ EXPENDITURE	-12652

31/08/18**NOTES TO ACCOUNTS****31/08/19****(Note 1)****Grants****Wales Synod**

24024	re Synod Enabler &	24536
13187	re University Chaplain	12000
<u>950</u>	Dishwasher Grant	<u> </u>
38161		36536

Caewal Road (Note 2)

2258	Council Tax	2378
879	Insurance	1007
236	Repairs/Replacements	228
883	Water	911
<u> </u>	Fee - Asbestos survey	<u>214</u>
4256		4738

2019 Report from District Manse Committee

Visits have been resumed this year and the team has increased covering South, North and mid Wales. We will miss Margaret Evans from Aberdare who passed away after a short illness. We would also like to thank Mr Roy Wright of Barry for his contribution over the years but he has now retired.

Circuits visited included Hills & Vales, S.W. Wales, Conwy & Prestatyn and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Due to Sabbaticals, 2 manses will be visited in this next group. We will also be visiting Swansea & Gower, Neath & Port Talbot, Bridgend and Newport & Lower Wye Circuits.

I remind Circuits that grants are available but you will need to contact Mr Martin Rees before work begins.

Mary Williams.

Wales Synod - Statistics for Mission Report (on 22.11.19)

The Statistics for Mission 2019 form, for completion by each of our churches, only requires Membership and Attendance data.

You are asked to give “an estimated average attendance (combined for all ages) at a main worship service during the previous year.” Please note that LEP joint or ecumenical members should now be included as part of the Methodist membership figure.

See the helpful information available at :-

www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/statistics-for-mission/news

To enter your data, go to <https://online.methodist.org.uk>

So far, to date, only 1 of our 15 Circuits has managed to complete the required data for all their churches for the year ending 31.10.2019. (Deadline is January 31st.)

Please ensure that your church has the correct **pastoral contact** listed in the church profile.

There is a new feature : **Digital Archive**, at Circuit level, which lists former societies that have ceased to meet, become a class of another or merged to form a new church. You may be able to supply more information about this to the Statistics for Mission team.

Sylvia Lutkins (Wales Synod Church Membership Secretary)

Learning Network – Cymru | Wales

2018-19 was a busy year with the LN team involved in work connexionally, regionally, and locally.

Connexionally, the team was involved as facilitators in the training of supervisors across the country, as well as preparing supervisees for the changes brought by the new Supervision policy. This has been intense work with high rewards as participants have learned new skills and enjoyed significant growth and transformation. In 2020, we will welcome Michael Paterson for a refresher day for our supervisors in Wales.

We continue to run our “Wholly Included” days for lay workers and ministers, concentrating on mental health issues for ourselves and those we work with. Gordon Gresswell led our sessions this year on the subject of depression, and will run another session in November, by popular demand.

Bible Month continues to be well received, and we were very pleased to welcome Professor John Tudno Williams, who spoke at two events to over 60 preachers and small group leaders on the subject of Colossians. In 2020, we will welcome Professor Gareth Lloyd Jones on the subject of Ruth.

We continue to support those who work across Wales with young people, through Big Day Out events, Momentwm Weekend, support for youth workers and safeguarding training. Our team was instrumental in the planning and provision of 3Generate in 2018 and again in 2019.

We enjoy the opportunity to work with people in circuits, through circuit and church reviews, stewards training events and support for Local Preachers engaged in tutoring and mentoring on the Worship: Leading and Preaching course.

In 2019-20, we will be looking to find more ways to support the work of Our Calling in Wales, especially in the areas of Mission and Evangelism.

Amy Adams

Local Preachers Report

Each Circuit has sent in their annual return and in our 15 Circuits there were, on 31st August, 275 Local Preachers (last year 277), of whom 200 (199) are active. There are 41 (40) who are on note or on trial, and 113 (111) Worship Leaders.

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

Bangor & Holyhead	Mr J Alec Fuller
Cardiff	Mr Tony Gutteridge
Conwy & Prestatyn	Mr Les Ireland
Neath Port Talbot	Mrs Christine Taylor
Newport & Lower Wye	Mrs Joyce Coles

We thank God for their faithfulness over the years in leading worship and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ both within and outside the church.

We are relatively stable in numbers of preachers, though not all the active preachers are as active as they used to be. I am delighted to report that we have had one new Local Preacher who has completed the new training course (Worship: Leading and Preaching) , and was Accredited at a joyous service at Carmarthen. Congratulations to Margaret Birch. I know that others will be completing their training in due course.

The availability of preachers varies widely between circuits, with some with a surplus, others with a shortage: sadly not near each other. Evening services are in decline, except where a church has that as their only service. We are able in places to assist Churches in Synod Cymru by providing preachers for some services. We are as ever grateful to Supernumerary Ministers who are willing to continue to lead worship.

The style of worship is generally traditional, which may reflect the age of the congregations and that of preachers. In some circuits there is greater use of IT which allows for different opportunities to enjoy worship.

A residential week-end took place at Lindors in February 2019, and this was the final one to be held there as the Hotel has been sold. We are exploring alternative venues and a different time of year for the future. Other study sessions have taken place, often with Circuits sharing together and enjoying a wider fellowship. More planned for the current year.

Bible Month 2019 was used in several Circuits, with helpful preparation sessions organised by the Learning Network, and another is planned to again for 2020.

I ask your prayers for those who continue to lead us in worship as they live out their response to hearing the Gospel and seek to lead others to hear it and respond.

Peter Swindale

Probationers.

Firstly, we must thank Carole Challis who has recently stepped down as Probationers secretary. I am sure all of us who have been supported by her in our first years in ministry would agree that she has been a wonderful and wise support.

Also, we thank Amy Adams for her work alongside Carole and now alongside me as I take on the roll.

We celebrate that Alana Lawrence of the Cardiff Circuit was 'Welcomed into Full Connexion' and Ordained at the Conference in July.

This has left Alexis Mahoney as our only probationer. Alexis is in year two of probation as a Presbyterian, and we continue to pray for him, and for our student minister Philip Osbourne as they continue their studies.

Our meetings also include those who are still in their first five years of ministry. In our first meeting of the connexional year we met at Amelia Trust Farm and will soon meet in Cwmbran for a study day. Our meetings are a time for fellowship, support, encouragement and often, laughter.

Our annual retreat was held once again at Noddfa House in North Wales, where we were welcomed by the sisters and some warm sunny days. We also welcomed David Ray who gently led us in times of reflection.

We look forward to another year of study, fellowship and support, and hopefully, to celebrating another event at Conference 2020.

Catherine Lewis

Amelia Trust Farm

The Amelia Trust Farm continues to provide education and learning opportunities for young people in the Vale of Glamorgan. It has a particular focus for those living in city and urban areas – and who have little opportunity or access to the countryside. As Chaplain to the Farm, I have continued to provide support to young people with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties aged 11-16 years. I have done this through working alongside the Farm's GROW team, who provide Occupational Therapy, Vocational Education and Work Skills for young people, by courtesy of the GROW programme.

As a registered charity that does not receive any statutory funding, Amelia Farm has relied heavily on donations to ensure that it continues to be a countryside sanctuary for everyone to enjoy. As a member of staff, I have been available to represent the Farm at many booked talks/presentations throughout the region, and have been grateful to all those groups who have generously given donations following those events.

The Farm continues to be a big attraction, with over 20,000 people visiting in 2018/19. As a result, it has continued to develop existing links and respond to local community needs. My role has been to try to enhance the visit of families and friends, who come to spend time at the Farm's memorial trees, plaques and benches – assisting especially in the general upkeep and replacement of plaques, as well as leading short services in those areas of the Farm dedicated to loved ones.

The role of Chaplain to the Amelia Trust Farm requires having an ability to work flexibly and independently. It also requires having a welcoming approach to young people. For 2019/20, my aim is to focus more on the process of support whilst young people are at the Farm. I will hope to become more embedded in the work of the GROW team, and in doing so, try to enable young people who are going through adjustments in life, to discover a feeling of value, greater confidence and self-esteem.

Deacon John Brobbey

Synod Safeguarding Report

Over the past year there have been significant changes in the structure of the Connexional safeguarding team, these in turn have changed the way District Safeguarding Officer's (DSO'S) now work. The responsibility for casework has devolved from London to regional "Casework Supervisors" whose role is to oversee and standardise safeguarding practice across the Connexion. This means that as DSO's we now meet monthly with our supervisors who work alongside us in an advisory and support capacity.

Training has again been a priority throughout the year as "Advanced Module" has been rolled out across the circuits. The inclusion of local preachers and worship leader into the training list has meant that it is taking time to ensure training is available to all who require it. By the end 2019-2020 that the first phase of this training module should be completed.

In the forthcoming year 2019-2020 an updated version of the Foundation Module is to be finalised and introduced into circuits.

Our Safeguarding Advisory Group now meet twice a year in Newtown to discuss good practice, training needs and policy change etc. These meetings give an opportunity for us to work with lay members from a range of professional safeguarding backgrounds.

Significantly in July the Methodist Church was called to offer a witness statement to IICSA (Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse). The information required included a wide-ranging account of our safeguarding procedures and practice, key statistical data related to all the cases of child sexual abuse from the last 10 years, and training statistics.

This required all those involved with safeguarding in the synod to rapidly supply the Connexion with the information they needed in order to provide the inquiry with response that fully reflects the hard work taking place throughout the UK. As DSO's we are very grateful for all the help received from the circuits which enabled us to quickly pass on the information needed.

The Methodist Church along with other denominations will appear before the inquiry in the spring of 2020.

It is important to acknowledge the work done within the circuits from all involved in safeguarding who are endeavouring to make our churches safer spaces for all. We are grateful to and would like to thank our safeguarding group colleagues, ministers, deacons, circuit and church safeguarding officers and to all who work quietly to promote safeguarding in their churches.

Vicky Anderson
Wales Synod Safeguarding Officer (North)

Sandra Oborski
Wales Synod Safeguarding Officer (South)

Action for Children

Research from last Christmas revealed that one million children under the age of 10 could face a Dickensian Christmas this year. This has been featured in a “Daily Mail” article on donation and volunteering options over the Christmas period. The article also includes a link to our Secret Santa campaign.

Secret Santa is the current fund raising campaign raising funds to help those in need. Details and purchasing T shirts and jumpers can be obtained from AfC Office in Cardiff. Some of those who will be helped are listed below.

So many young people experience violence in relationships, this should be prioritised like substance misuse or smoking – information from a recent study.

Also, many fostering services struggle to recruit Muslim foster carers due to barriers such as poverty and language skills faced by those who could look after children in care the report found.

Schemes to feed children during the school holidays need to continue to avoid children returning in September having “lost weight” through a lack of nutrition, a senior Leeds city councillor reported this

Our support is essential to help those in need, and many Churches and Circuits thankfully remember AfC at this time of the year. Thank you for your care and support.

Mary Williams.

MWiB Report to Synod - 2019

MWiB Synod North has had quite a good year last year.

Susan Murrell has become our MWiB Representative to Connexion and we wish her well, in the knowledge that she will do her utmost to further MWiB throughout the Synod. She and I are available to speak at your MWiB Meetings should you request it.

Unfortunately, future joint synods between the North and the South have fallen apart and South Wales have suggested that for the foreseeable future the North continues to send a rep to the National MWiB Connectional Committee.

Our splendid Advent Day in November 2018 was not well attended. The day opened with Christian Puppetry. We were all surprised by the life-sized puppets and the different Biblical characters they represented! The puppeteers, better known as Jean Owen's Daughters, Jennifer and Jacqueline brought to life several stories from the Bible after which those present were invited to have a go!! Not easy, handling was very difficult but most enjoyable. The afternoon was designated "A Great Big All Age Messy Church" again under the auspices of Jennifer and Jacqueline. The day closed with devotions and a scrumptious Afternoon Tea. Thanks to St David's Craig y Don for their generous help with the refreshments.

In January 2019, Bangor Church put on the pantomime Snow White with songs by the Singing for Fun Group – a sell-out, written by Jennifer. Trinity Prestatyn has been enjoying a Ladies Who Lunch Bible Study series with Rev Linda Pearce who also conducted our Easter offering Service at St Pauls Abergele in May.

We have two Centenarians' this year Joan Gledhill from Amlych and Mary Lewis from Rhuddlan, our Best Wishes for the future were conveyed to them both.

This year we have decided to dispense with the Advent Day which has been running for many years! Instead, since we have welcomed three new ladies into our Conwy & Prestatyn Circuit. They are our Superintendent Rev. Janet Park, Rev. Eleanor Reddington, (with oversight of Abergele and Llanddulas) and Deacon Vivienne Gray (Supernumerary), the three ladies all agreed to speak of their former history and experiences at a Lunch on Wednesday 16th October at St Pauls Church Abergele. We enjoyed a lovely lunch cooked by Susan and her sister Janet and really enjoyed listening to the experiences of our speakers during their lives prior to joining us in the Conwy & Prestatyn Circuit.

During the coming year 2020, many of us in the Synod will be considering what can be done to accomplish an outstanding Month of Prayer – our contribution from MWiB in the Conwy & Prestatyn Circuit will be to submit several Prayer Walks which have been written for our Advent Days over the years.

We hope that our contribution will bring many blessings to those who choose to “Walk the Prayer Walks”.

Norma Boocock President

Wesley Guild in Wales

The Wesley Guild in Wales is not terribly well represented. However the organisation is still going fairly strong.

A holiday to Sidmouth to the Christian Guild Hotel there has been arranged from Sunday 28th June to Friday 3rd July and bookings are coming in. A coach will leave Draycott near Derby and anyone living in the vicinity is welcome to join the holiday from there. If you live en route we will consider picking you up at a mutually convenient spot

Excursions from Sidmouth will be arranged for 3 days and one free day.

Anyone wanting further details please contact me asap.

We issue a calendar annually and if you would like one please let me know.

There are various booklets available dealing with opening devotions and programme planning as examples and we support the Nigeria Health care project. Any further details required please let me know.

Pat Preston

Chair of Wesley Guild Executive.

Synod Complaints and Discipline Procedures Panel

The Complaints and Discipline Panel met in Shrewsbury in April 2019 for some further training which was delivered by The Methodist Church Learning Network Cymru Wales. The panel has also welcomed some new members during the year. Our support work continues to respond to the needs of the Wales Synod.

Synod Enabler (culturally diverse congregations)

Another blessed year to write my Annual report. As a Synod Enabler with Culturally Diverse Congregations I am happy to write and share with you how God is using me as a vessel to serve him in Wales. It is always a privilege to serve God and build the bridge of care while fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19).

I am working for and serving the Lord in four different areas.

Work with asylum seekers and refugees

Work with Culturally Diverse Congregations

Advocacy role across Synod

Leading of Worship

Before I start to write my annual report of my work, I would love to say thanks to all those who have been a huge support to me; Rev. Stephen Wigley and all the Circuit Superintendents, members of SPC with all my other colleagues and congregations who have been there for always helping and encouraging me.

As mentioned of four areas, firstly I continue to support asylum seekers and refugees to help deprived families and individuals. A huge thanks to all those who help out by donating household items.

I have good affiliation with other organisations who are working for Asylum seekers and refugees to seek every possible support for them.

Secondly, 'Urdu/ Hindi Fellowships' in Cardiff, Swansea and Haverfordwest are growing in the Lord. I continue to provide pastoral support to other language fellowships also including Malayalam (South Indian) and Ethiopian Orthodox Church at Trinity Centre.

In September we celebrated the 11th anniversary of Urdu/Hindi Fellowship in Trinity Centre Cardiff. The Fellowship is held every 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings of the month. In August we celebrated our 4th Anniversary of Urdu/Hindi Fellowship in Swansea. The Fellowship is held every 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings of the month.

I recently started bible study/Prayer meetings with individual families and groups in Cardiff, Newport, Swansea, Bargoed, Merthyr Tydfil and Pontypool, with a burden especially for the youth. To establish a strong foundation of faith built upon the Word of God. Some new believers also have opened their house to have prayer meetings and started coming to Sunday fellowship.

Our “Welcome Christmas programme with Culturally Diverse Congregations” was celebrated in Cardiff and Swansea.

The annual picnic was taken to Langland Bay, this year. Many ethnic people joined from different parts of Wales.

Thirdly, I have visited and been in contact with many circuits. I also continue to meet with them on regular basis. Leading worship in different churches enables me to meet people of other ethnicity around Wales and stay engaged with them.

In September I was invited by Ealing Trinity Methodist Circuit Superintendent to share my ministry experience and preach the Word of God in their Sunday morning and afternoon Urdu/Hindi service.

Fourthly, I regularly preach in Cardiff and other circuits.

As you read this is a big responsibility but the hand of my Lord and your prayers continue to lift me up. Please remember me and my family in your prayers.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Rev Irfan John

Momentwm (Methodist Youth Wales)

We welcomed Rev Richard Parkes onto the core team as Owain Morgan, on graduating, had moved to Oxford to begin work. Our thanks to Owain for all he did in his time with us.

Over the course of this year we ran our usual events; Momentwm Forum (running alongside Representative Synod), the Big Days Out (North and South) and Momentwm Camp. All these went really well with increased numbers attending both the Big Days Out and the Camp. However, we decided that because of everything else we do now, Forum had run its course so this was the last one.

We hoped to run another exchange in this year but with difficulties finding a suitable host we took the decision to postpone a year.

After the excellent news last year that enough funding had been secured to station a deacon half time to work across both Synods in Wales for Momentwm, we were delighted to be successful in stationing and to be matched with Deacon Jon Miller who abounded with the gifts and skills necessary for this work.

Momentwm core also enjoyed a day retreat at Pentre Llifor facilitated by Deacon Lisa Rathbone. It was a lovely day of prayer and reflection and we hope to repeat it again in the future.

So looking forward...

Jon is now in station and will be working up and down Wales in a multifaceted role which includes working alongside circuits to support isolated youth, advocating for the work of Momentwm, offering support with circuit youth initiatives and developing online platforms for young Methodists to keep in touch with one another and grow in faith.

The exchange will be going ahead this year, to Missouri U.S.A.; and more specifically will be based at the church where Tim Annan (a past Youth President) currently works. We are really excited to see what God will do in the lives of the participants this time round.

We are well on the way with planning this year's Big Days Out which will be happening on the 8th Feb 2020 and Camp which will be over the weekend of the 25th and 26th July 2020.

We will continue to encourage and enable circuits (e.g. with our small grants for participants) to send young people to 3 Generate and hope that attending the event will be a bit easier for some in Wales when it moves to Birmingham next year.

Rev Flis Randall on behalf of Momentwm Core (Emily Barry, Gareth Bennett, Trish Earlam, Deacon Jon Miller and Rev Richard Parkes)

Aberystwyth University —Synod report for year ending August 2019

We have had to do a lot of outside-the-box thinking recently with regard to University Chaplaincy in Aberystwyth. Since Methsoc voted to close nearly two years ago, the numbers of students coming to St Paul's Methodist Centre have been low. We stopped our Sunday evening "Open Space" services, and have done other things at that time instead, such as Bible Study groups. We ran a successful 6-week series of Dinner Church recently (yes, a full dinner, with worship and conversation around the tables). Students regularly take part in the Worship Band on Sunday mornings, and help with the youth.

Students are invited every Tuesday evening to the Manse for "Conversation & Cake"; numbers are low, but we always find plenty to talk about, and the cake is good. Meanwhile, our South Korean students (currently around 20) meet with us for Sunday morning worship and hold a Bible Study in their own language on a Tuesday evening (also with cake!). The "Town and Gown" carol service held in the Great Hall of the University has become an annual event, and sees the Churches partnering with the Christian Union in planning and leading the service.

And ... breaking news ... I am in conversation with the Vice Chancellor about the possibility of setting up some formal chaplaincy at the University.

Rev Roger Hides

Bangor University Chaplaincy

I arrived in Bangor in August to take up the Circuit's Superintendency from September but had already been appointed as Methodist Chaplain through the technical wizardry of an on-line, face to face interview with the Senior Chaplain from my study in East Yorkshire!

Our work with the University is greatly assisted though the expertise and creativity of our Student Worker Izzy (herself a second-year student) whose focus is upon the student body and particularly their Sunday evening meeting. We are not a Methodist Society (yet) however we have re-branded ourselves as the Bangor Methodist Collective – and set up a Facebook page - in an attempt to 'serve the present age' - we meet each Sunday at 6.00 pm for fun, food and fellowship. We are however currently exploring if this day and time really meets the needs of our catchment group.

University Chaplaincy is about more than the student body as the staff base continually face cuts and realignments, causing uncertainty and upset across all departments. This is something our ecumenical and multi-faith Chaplaincy Team is hugely conscious of and it is actively exploring ways that we can be supportive across the *whole* University... from the Chancellor to the Catering Team.

Rev John Hughes

Cardiff University Methodist Chaplaincy Report 2018-19



Graduation is always a wonderful event as we celebrate with the whole of the University community the success of our students. This year, amongst others, we had a number of Music students who were well known to the chaplaincy graduating and moving on to pastures new. It is always sad to say goodbye to students who have been a part of the Chaplaincy for the three years of their University life (although some of those have stayed to do a Masters, so we have the pleasure of their company for another year or so!).

We have had a lovely bunch of students who are part of the chaplaincy community this year, some of whom are regularly in contact with the chaplaincy on a faith basis as well as those who access us for support and pastoral care. We have a regular 25 - 35 who will come to our various Monday night events (socials, talks, 'Pizza, Prayer and Praise'). Furthermore, those who are connected with the chaplaincy through a pastoral contact through £1 lunch and drop-in cafe, as well as one-to-one pastoral appointments would be about 100 people a week.

Here's what one of our regulars had to say: "I rediscovered my faith in my 2nd year and the chaplaincy really helped me explore living faithfully, praying, and settling into a local church. It's great to be part of the religious student community. If it wasn't for the chaplaincy, I would never have met my girlfriend, and I may never have had the courage to check out churches either, I owe the chaplaincy so much."

Making the link between university life and local church community is one of our aims as a Chaplaincy. We regularly suggest different local churches to students to try, and I'm pleased to say that we have a number attending the local Cathays Methodist Church, one of whom has expressed a call to preach and has begun her local preachers training.

However, the work of the Chaplaincy is not limited to Methodists, or even Christians, as I am there to provide pastoral care and support to all regardless of faith or belief. One of our Muslim students wrote this:

“As a young Muslim student, I really didn’t feel like one of the places I’d most feel at home is the Chaplaincy. I admit I was surprised when I was invited to the £1 lunches, being assured that the meat was halal and there was a vegan option if I’d prefer. The effort made by the whole team to be inclusive and welcoming has been truly humbling. I am particularly grateful to Delyth, when I lost a very close friend in my second year. She was incredibly supportive to our community of friends struggling to cope with that impossible loss, helping us to come to terms with God’s role in our grieving. The Chaplaincy has offered a wonderful space to safely explore and discuss faith in its beauty and diversity, caring for those of all religions and none in times of crisis and continuing to demonstrate there is a place for faith for students at Cardiff University.”

So, thank you for the continued support of the Synod to the work of the Chaplaincy at Cardiff University. I value your prayers.

Rev Delyth Liddell

University of Wales Trinity St. David’s (Lampeter) Chaplaincy Report

The last academic year has seen a marked decline in the number of students attending the weekly free soup lunches for students at St Thomas’ Church, Lampeter. After much careful thought we decided it was time to stop holding these, as we could not justify the time and work involved. It was a difficult decision to make, as this is a very long tradition of hospitality at St. Thomas’.

I have not as yet been invited to speak to the Christian Union, but once I am back at work following knee surgery I will be following this up. Last year’s numbers at CU were very low, so it may be that this is just not continuing this year.

We continue to welcome students to worship on a Sunday and several attend when they are able, and they receive a warm welcome from the congregation.

The general decline in campus activity has certainly had a huge impact on our regular interaction with students, but we continue to consider prayerfully how we might play a more active role in our ongoing relationship with the College.

Rev Marty Presdee

Swansea University – Synod report for year ending August 2019

In its new setup, the Chaplaincy in Swansea University continues to grow and expand. Some of the regular activities, in which I play a full part are:

Daily morning meditation at 8.15am

Weekly lunchtime meditation at 1pm

Annual Interfaith Week

Regular interfaith meetings

Termly de-stress days

Special occasions and festivals eg Christmas and Remembrance

Listening Service

All of these activities have grown in strength and in numbers in the last year. The one which is the hardest to keep up with is the Listening Service. When this started a year ago, there wasn't much uptake. However, a year in, the numbers of students seeking to access the service is growing – a reflection on the issue of mental distress within university life. The listening service is a 'step below' the counselling offered by other parts of the university – but we can usually respond quicker for there is no waiting list. Learning to listen to students in distress (even if it's not as acute) has meant developing a different set of skills from that of traditional pastoral ministry – but I am learning as I go.

Rev Leslie Noon

Associate Chaplain, Swansea University

Minister at Uniting Church Sketty and Clydach Methodist Church

Synod EDI Committee Report

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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