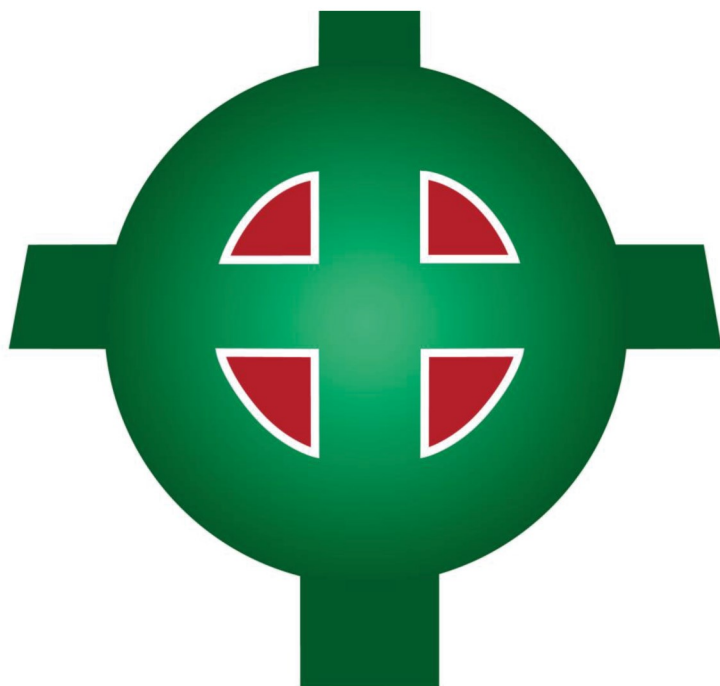


Yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd yng Nghymru  
The Methodist Church in Wales



*wales*  
**Synod**  
**Reports 2020**

## **Wales Synod – Introduction to the Annual Report for 2019-20**

I am pleased once more to introduce this Annual Report for the Wales Synod for the year 2019-20.

Since March of this last year, the work and witness of the Wales Synod, like so much of the church and wider society as a whole, has been profoundly affected by the spread of the Coronavirus and the consequent restrictions. This has had a significant impact on the ability of local churches to meet for worship and fellowship and to serve their local communities, not least in the provision of premises for activities and events. I have been hugely impressed by the way that colleagues lay and ordained have worked together to address these challenges: providing printed and 'online' services; making alternative arrangements for pastoral support; and undertaking risk assessments concerning the safe use of church premises, most of which have had to be closed for some significant periods of time. I also pay tribute to Synod colleagues and officers who have adjusted to new patterns of working and meeting remotely (not least through use of 'Zoom' technology) and finding ways to ensure that the business of the Synod can continue, even if the restrictions have meant that we have had to focus more clearly on what business is essential and urgent, and what we may need to defer for a time.

We recognise that these restrictions will have affected the finances of local churches and circuits, as worship services and collections have been unable to take place as usual; and also that income from lettings has fallen as church premises, like other community centres, have had to close to all but 'essential' public services. We recognise that this may be offset to some extent by reductions in cost of travel to meetings and running premises, but we nevertheless anticipate this may have a serious impact on the finances of local churches and circuits going into this next year 2020-21. Accordingly and we have begun to explore ways in which the Synod may use some of its reserves to help ease the burden on some circuits where the pressures may be particularly acute.

Despite all these challenges, the Synod has sought to continue its ministry and mission in line with the priorities of the Synod Development Plan. This Plan, incorporating the Synod Mission statement, commits us to supporting the work and witness of circuits across Wales, and during 2019-20 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 £329,453, more than doubling the amount in the previous year. Once again in this last year the majority of this, some £175,878, went to Ministry projects rather than Property schemes, but in line with the Scheme & Grants Committee recommendation to increase the maximum amount of Synod grant support available for major new property schemes, we were for example able to make a significant grant towards the new Barry Waterfront Uniting Church which we anticipate opening in the spring of 2021.

Secondly, we seek to resource circuits by the provision of ordained ministry through the connexional Stationing process. We were able to fill all 3 of our appointment in the Stationing for 2020, and have so far managed to fill 5 out of 6 appointments in the Stationing process for 2021. However, although we anticipated welcoming the ordination of Probationer colleagues at both the 2020 and 2021 Conferences, we have not managed to encourage new candidates for ministry to offer in these last 2 years. So we know that the challenge of recruiting and providing ministry remains, and 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. As noted above, the Coronavirus restrictions have profoundly impacted some of our mission planning. The anticipated Youth Exchange to America has had to be postponed again, and some of the new mission projects outlined in previous reports have had to be re-shaped or taken on in new ways. But equally churches and circuits have been finding that 'on-line' forms of worship and fellowship have enabled new ways of making contact with people, and the Synod Schemes & Grants Committee has sought to make a new grant stream available to support churches and circuits in developing their online presence.

We remain firmly part of a Connexional church, and one of our last events before the lockdown in March was to host a visit from the President & Vice-President of Conference in February, when they shared in a 'Big Day Out' with Momentwm, story-telling events in north Wales, a trip to the Amelia Farm in the Vale of Glamorgan, and finished with a bilingual Communion service in Aberystwyth.

This joint event with Synod Cymru is important also because it reminds us of our commitment in the Development Plan to work more closely with colleagues in Synod Cymru. Following the mission audit undertaken in autumn 2019, we had been waiting for Synod Cymru to decide on the options this presented. Unfortunately, their Spring Synod was postponed because of the virus, but meeting in November 2020, they voted in favour of 'option 1', seeking to come as a welsh-speaking circuit into a new or re-shaped Wales Synod. So currently we are resuming more detailed conversations in light of that decision, with a view to presenting some outline proposals to both Spring Synod(s) in 2021.

The impact of the Coronavirus continues to remind us that there are still many uncertainties ahead. We were pleased to welcome our new Synod Safeguarding Officer Rhian Evans-Hill in October, but very conscious that so much of her induction had to be carried out remotely rather than in person.

As I write this report I'm conscious that the Synod Office is closed, and that Wendy and I, like so many others across the country, are working from home to ensure that Synod business is properly dealt with. But I trust that the reports in this book still encourage us, as across Wales we seek to live out 'Our Calling' as disciples of Jesus and respond to the 'Priorities' of the Methodist Church.

With every best wish,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Stephen Wigley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Rev. Dr. Stephen Wigley,  
Chair of the Wales Synod,  
Synod Office, Cyncoed Methodist Church,  
Westminster Crescent, Cardiff CF23 6SE

## **Synod Policy Committee**

2020 has been a difficult year for all, learning to live with Covid-19 has had an impact on all our lives. SPC is no different – we met face to face in March (having had to delay the meeting planned for February due to adverse weather) and our further two meetings in June and October were carried out virtually via Zoom meetings. Interestingly, SPC have decided that all future meetings will be carried out virtually using Zoom rather than meeting face to face. This saves travel time and also costs associated with travel. SPC will monitor this planned change, but do not anticipate moving away from virtual meetings.

To ensure the meeting covers all aspects of business required, a standard agenda is used with key topics:

Implementing Synod Policy, Chair's business, PC's business, Matters to and from related bodies, Ecumenical matters and Ministry matters.

Such a model ensures the meeting covers all matters throughout the year.

During the 2020, a varied and comprehensive list of topics have been addressed and as appropriate, decisions made within the responsibility of the meeting.

Key items have included:

- Finance - scrutiny of the Synod's finances, including approving budgets and annual accounts, approval of the Synod Reserves Policy and overseeing finances linked to Trust 14508

- Reviewing Synod policy – agreeing a revised policy regarding Local Preacher's extension of period on trial. Confirming a plan to enable Circuits to withhold for a short period the Wales Synod assessment payments if they so wish, thus assisting financially in a difficult year brought on by the pandemic we are living through

- Lay Membership of Synod – annually approving the lay membership of Wales Synod

- Property related matters – including agreeing a funding package for the development of Barry Uniting Church – a new church development in the Waterfront area of Barry

- Manses – receiving a report from the Synod Manses Committee ensuring all manses are fully fit for purpose

- Sabbaticals – approving all requests for sabbaticals and receiving reports from those who have taken a sabbatical
- Call to Prayer – monitoring the successful progress of this project as each Circuit took responsibility for this programme
- Closure of churches – approving Circuit requests for churches to cease worship and approval for sale of such buildings.
- Stationing – assisting the Chair in this very important aspect of work undertaken annually
- Methodist Council – receiving reports from Wales Synod Methodist Council and considering any topics referred for consideration through the connexion – e.g. 'Reaffirming Our Calling: Trustee Structure', 'Marriage and Relationship'
- Methodist Conference – receiving feedback reports from those who attended
- Y Cyngor - Maintaining an active interest in the work of Y Cyngor, particularly related to the ongoing conversations between Synod Cymru and Wales Synod regarding the future plans for the organisation and delivery of Methodism in Wales.
- Ecumenical - Maintaining active interest in matters from/for the Methodist/URC Joint Liaison Group and receiving reports related to Christian Aid - Wales

The above aims to give a flavour of the work of SPC through the year, carrying out Synod policy. The membership of SPC has representatives from each Circuit in Wales and it is each circuit's responsibility to annually appoint their member. The meeting has been well attended and now meeting virtually early morning to travel to Newtown (our former meeting venue) in no longer part of being a member, a bonus for some of SPC's !

Each Circuit representative is expected to report back items from SPC to their Circuit and all are welcomed to place items on the agenda. The dates of SPC for 2021 will be printed in the annual Synod Handbook. Items with relevant papers should be with the Assistant Synod Secretary not later than four weeks before SPC meets to ensure their inclusion on the next appropriate SPC agenda.

As vacancies occur, Circuits may wish to consider appointing more women and lay representatives. We look forward to continued developments linked to Methodism in Wales and potential new ways of being church.

Looking forward, Rev Dr Stephen Wigley will be taking a sabbatical from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021, with a short break when he will return to work from 18-25<sup>th</sup> April 2021. This is to enable Stephen to chair the key Synod meeting in April 2021. At this meeting Wales Synod will respond both to the 'God in Love units us' report and also to the outcome of Synod Cymru decision regarding their future and the potential outcome for Wales Synod and for Methodism in Wales, both key topics in our lives as Methodists.

Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod - all figures subject to formal examination

Income and Expenditure Account - Year ended 31st August 2020

	Year to 31.8.20	Previous year to 31.8.19	Notes	Budget to 31.8.20
		£		£
Income				
Connexional contribution re Conference		472		1,000
Grants Received	154,989	124,163	see page 2	146,223
Manse Llwyn y Grant Rd Rent				
Synod Assessment from Circuits	57,174	66,800		69,950
Miscellaneous Income				
Total Income	<u>212,163</u>	<u>191,435</u>		<u>217,173</u>
Expenses				
Assistant Chairs	17,272	15,075		30,800
CDiM and HE Training	3,055	3,583		4,000
Chair's other expenses	1,346	1,582		1,200
Chair's Secretary and Admin	15,720	9,351		15,000
Chair's Travel	2,853	5,409		5,500
Chaplaincy (H.E. Cardiff)	40,135	39,971		42,272
Conference		472		1,000
Emergency Circuit Support (Covid 19)	4,500			
Lay Employment Officer	863	869		1,200
Manse Llwyn y Grant Rd	4,180	6,800		4,501
Ministers retreat	1,244	1,993		2,500
Miscellaneous expenses	251	245		500
Momentwm (Youth)	3,059	206		4,700
Safeguarding	30,003	36,341		36,600
Superintendents' meeting	2,441	999		1,500
Synod committees and travel	2,912	5,578		4,200
Synod Contribution to Connexion	16,990	4,000		
Synod Enabler (Culturally Diverse Congregations)	46,560	46,841		49,500
Synod Office Costs	10,340	6,579		7,000
Synod Secretary	1,585	1,777		1,700
Training	1,789	3,314		4,500
Y Cyngor	1,000	1,000		3,000
Total Expenses	<u>208,097</u>	<u>191,985</u>		<u>221,173</u>
Income less Expenditure	4,066	-550		-4,000
Transfers from/to reserves (net)	<u>3,050</u>	<u>10,075</u>	see page 2	<u>4,000</u>
	<u>7,116</u>	<u>9,525</u>		<u>0</u>



## Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod

### NOTE 1

#### Details of Grants received, as totalled overleaf

	as received	as budgeted
Connexion re Assistant Chairs	30,805.00	41,073.00
Cardiff University re HE Chaplaincy	6,500.01	6,500.00
Connexion re HE Chaplaincy	7,500.00	7,500.00
Synod Advance Fund (SAF) Synod Enabler	15,000.00	15,000.00
Trust 14508 Synod Enabler	34,500.00	34,500.00
SAF re HE Chaplaincy Cardiff	4,000.00	4,000.00
Trust 14508 HE Chaplaincy	14,000.00	14,000.00
SAF Training	4,500.00	4,500.00
SAF Youth Work		1,500.00
SAF towards Synod Meeting September 2019	1,000.00	1,000.00
SAF towards Safeguarding	14,450.00	14,450.00
SAF towards Connexional Assessment	16,990.00	
SAF Capital cost of upgrade to telephone system Cyni	4,500.00	
Synod Charitable Trust: Ministers Retreat	1,243.80	2,200.00
	<u>154,988.81</u>	<u>146,223.00</u>

### NOTE 2

#### Breakdown of monies moved to/from reserve.

	actual
From CDiM reserve to cover CDiM payments made out of General Funds	3,050.00
	<u>3,050.00</u>

#### Synod Advance Fund - Year ended 31st August 2020

Expenditure		Income	
Grants made - Ministry	175,877.99	Balance brought forward	882,352.75
Grants made - Property	153,574.60	Circuit Levies	59,908.57
TMC P Administration charge	1,764.71	CAPF Distribution	126,454.00
Balance carried forward	744,498.67	Interest	7,000.65
	<u>1,075,715.97</u>		<u>1,075,715.97</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

### Monies held on behalf of Momentwm

	£ Year to 31.8.20
Income	
Donations:	
Bonner Trust	3,500.00
Synod Advance Fund	1,000.00
Synod Cymru	1,000.00
Momentwm unused budget due to Covid lockdown	1,000.00
	<u>6,500.00</u>
Expenditure	
Bank charges	51.96
	<u>51.96</u>
Income less Expenditure	6,448.04
Balance in hand carried forward from 2018/19	2,175.64
Balance carried forward 31.8.20	<u>8,623.68</u>

Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod  
Central Finance Board and TMCP Accounts year to 31st August 2020

Training Network Account CFB 6055010

	Balance b/fwd	9,952.89
	Interest	71.28
Balance c/fwd	<u>10,024.17</u>	<u>10,024.17</u>

Continuing Development in Ministry CFB 2079040

Transfer to Gen Fd	3,050.00	Balance b/fwd	27,192.80
		Interest	192.36
Balance c/fwd	<u>24,335.16</u>		<u>27,385.16</u>

Synod Reserve Account CFB 2079030

General Fund (see p.2)	Balance b/fwd	97,387.66
	Interest	738.36
	General Fund (see p.	9,500.00
Balance c/fwd	<u>107,626.02</u>	<u>107,626.02</u>

Manse Reserve Fund TMCP 15292

TMCP Admin	136.96	Balance b/fwd	68,480.02
		Interest	590.35
Balance c/fwd	<u>68,933.41</u>		<u>69,070.37</u>

Synod Chair's Discretionary Fund TMCP 16907

TMCP Admin	12.43	Balance b/fwd	6,217.07
Discretionary		Interest	49.46
paymen	1,800.00		
Balance c/fwd	<u>4,454.10</u>		<u>6,266.53</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2020

	31st August 2020	31st August 2019
	£	£
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	29,908.02	32,646.03
CFB Training Network	10,024.17	9,952.89
CFB CDiM Account	24,335.16	27,192.80
CFB Synod Reserve	107,626.02	97,387.66
TMCP Synod Advance Fund	744,498.67	882,352.75
TMCP Manse Reserve	68,933.41	68,480.02
TMCP Synod Chairs' Discretionary Fund	4,454.10	6,217.07
Barclays InternationalYouth Exchange	8,623.68	2,175.64
Total Bank/CFB & TMCP Accounts	<u>998,403.23</u>	<u>1,126,404.86</u>
Debtors	-126,454.00	
Stipends paid in advance	<u>5,783.34</u>	<u>5,629.36</u>
	877,732.57	1,132,034.22
Current liabilities	-14,000.00	0.00
Accrued Expense	-546.55	
	<u>£891,732.57</u>	<u>£1,132,034.22</u>
Total net assets	£1,287,822.57	£1,528,124.22

Wales Synod Budget 2020-21 General Budget	2018-19 Budget	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Budget
Expenditure	£	£	£	£
Asst Chairs' Stip. Contrib/other costs	29805	15075	30800	31650
CDiM and HE Courses	4000	3583	4000	4000
Chair's Other Expenses	1500	1582	1200	1500
Chair's Secretary and Administration	15000	9351	15000	17500
Chairs' Travel	5500	5409	5500	5500
Chaplaincy (HE) Stipend & Other ]	33033	32973	33972	34925
Chaplaincy (HE) travel/othercosts ]	4000	4110	5250	5000
Chaplaincy (HE) housing ]	2900	2888	3050	2225
Conference expenses	2000	472	1000	1000
Lay Employment Secretary	1500	869	1200	1000
Manse Llwyn y Grant Road	600	6800	4501	4600
Minister's Retreat	2400	1993	2500	2500
Miscellaneous	500	245	500	500
Safeguarding	31500	36341	36600	37475
Superintendents meeting	1500	999	1500	2000
Synod contribution to Connexion		4000		
Synod Committees and Travel	4000	5578	4200	5000
Synod Enabler Stipends/allows ]	33033	33007	33972	34925
Synod Enabler Travel/other costs ]	7500	4834	6528	5475
Synod Enabler Housing ]	9000	9000	9000	9000
Synod Office (incl Printing)	7000	6579	7000	6500
Synod Secretary's Allowance/exps	1500	1777	1700	1800
Training	4500	3314	4500	4500
Y Cyngor	3000	1000	3000	1000
Youth incl Momentwm	4700	206	4700	4700
	209971	191985	221173	224275
	209971	191985	221173	224275

#### Income

Grants				
Connexion Asst Chairs/HE Chaplaincy	39740	29934	41073	42200
CAPF Synod Enabler	10000	10000		
SAF Synod Enabler	15000	15000	15000	15000
Trust 14508 Synod Enabler	24533	24536	34500	34400
Connexional Grant HE Chaplaincy	7500	7500	7500	
SAF HE Chaplaincy	4000	4000	4000	4000
Trust 14508 Chaplaincy	11998	12000	14000	21100
Cardiff University - HE Chaplaincy	6500	6500	6500	6500
SAF Training	4500	4500	4500	4500
SAF Youth Work	1500		1500	1500
SAF Synod Meeting September 2020	1000	1000	1000	1000
SAF Safeguarding - proposed - to be agreed by SS&G *	7200	7200	14450	16925
Synod Charitable Trust	2200	1993	2200	2200
total income from grants	135671	124163	146223	149325
Connexional contribution re Conference	2000	472	1000	1000
Synod Assessment from Circuits	66800	66800	69950	69950
Miscellaneous Income				
Reserves General	1500	4000		
Reserves Manse repairs		2500		
Reserves CDiM	4000	3575	4000	4000
	209971	201510	221173	224275

NOTE RELATING TO 2019-20BUDGET

NOTE RELATING TO 2019-20 BUDGET Total SAF grant £34,174 : £14,450 allocated to Synod Budget with balance of £19,674 allocated towards Connexional Budget (Methodist Church Fund) - see next sheet

Methodist Church Fund and Synod Assessments 2020/21																			
APPLY AN 95% COLLAR WITH EXCESS OVER 5% COMING FROM SYNOD RESERVES																			
DEPLOYMENT FACTOR					METHODIST CHURCH FUND					SYNOD FUND									
Presb.	Deacons	x 1.5	Lay	Adj Total	% of total	Employment Factor used for 2019/20	Current Annual 2019/20	Annual 2020/21	5%Cap Annual 2020/21	-5% Collar adjustment	Annual 2020/21	Quarterly	Assessm c/w 2019/20	Proposed Synod Assessment Annual 2020/21	Quarterly	% of assess c/w 2019/20	total asmt 2020/21	total asmt 2019/20	percentage diff
<b>Circuits</b>																			
1.00		1.50	1.00	2.50	3.67%	2.00	11831	16871	-5088	11803	2,850.67	99.76%	1854	2567	641.74	138.46%	14370	18465	105.00%
2.00		3.00	2.00	5.00	4.40%	3.00	17146	20245	-1773	18472	4,617.95	104.09%	2780	3060	770.09	110.80%	20536	21552	105.00%
2.40		3.60	3.60	7.20	5.28%	3.00	30168	24294	5160	29454	7,363.45	97.63%	4727	3696	924.11	78.20%	34895	33150	95.00%
6.00		9.00	9.00	18.00	13.94%	11.00	65068	64109	-2363	61746	15,436.40	94.89%	10195	9754	2,438.62	95.68%	75263	71500	95.00%
2.00		3.00	3.00	6.00	4.40%	3.00	17146	20245	-1773	18472	4,617.96	104.09%	2780	3060	770.08	110.80%	20536	21552	105.00%
3.25		4.88	1.50	6.38	9.36%	6.50	39465	43020	-1872	41448	10,266.97	104.26%	6024	6546	1,636.44	108.66%	45489	47694	104.83%
5.00		7.50	5.00	12.50	11.01%	8.00	48573	50812	-2203	48409	12,102.31	99.66%	7414	7701	1,926.23	100.82%	55987	56110	100.22%
2.60		3.90	3.90	7.80	5.72%	4.50	26619	26318	-1072	25246	6,327.57	94.84%	4171	4004	1,001.12	96.01%	30790	29251	95.00%
1.00		1.50	0.50	2.00	2.94%	2.25	13661	12637	-877	12609	3,211.28	94.50%	2085	2054	515.39	98.49%	14963	15746	95.03%
4.00		6.00	0.25	6.25	9.17%	6.00	34272	42177	-3405	45852	11,395.43	103.63%	7414	6417	1,604.36	86.56%	54736	51999	95.00%
3.00		4.50	5.25	9.75	7.71%	5.13	30374	35428	-3938	31460	7,872.61	96.32%	4750	5391	1,347.66	113.49%	35124	36881	105.00%
3.00		4.50	0.50	5.00	7.34%	6.50	38325	33741	-3446	37187	9,296.84	96.53%	6024	5134	1,283.49	85.22%	44549	42321	95.00%
1.00		1.50	1.50	3.00	2.20%	1.50	14352	10122	3196	13318	3,329.60	93.46%	1390	1540	386.05	110.80%	15640	14859	95.00%
2.00		3.00	0.75	3.75	6.24%	3.75	22182	28880	-6704	22276	5,644.04	101.78%	3475	4364	1,090.96	125.58%	25657	26940	105.00%
2.25		0.75	4.50	5.25	6.61%	5.25	33176	33087	-83	30284	7,571.06	95.01%	4866	4621	1,156.14	94.96%	36742	34905	95.00%
40.50	1.75	63.38	4.75	68.13	100.00%	75.48	455406	450726	-11630	448096	112,024.12		69949	69950	17,487.49		518046	512204	98.64%
<b>Note 1</b>																			
Stationing position based on where we were 31st December 2019, as agreed by SPC.																			
Deployment factor based on projected staff deployment of 2020/21																			
2019/20																			
40.50 + 1.75 + 4.75 + 47.00																			
45.65 + 1.50 + 4.75 = 51.90																			
<b>Note 2</b>																			
The total Connexional Assessment for 2020/21 as applied to the Vales Synod amounts to £471,226 (2019/20 £472,396)																			
During 2018/19 there was an excess on the Synod account of £9,500 which is being returned to Circuits by way of a contribution towards the MCF for 2020/21																			
It is also proposed that Synod takes a further £171,630 from reserves to ensure that no Circuit will pay more than 5% in total over the previous year, plus £2,000 towards safeguarding.																			
Thus contribution by Synod towards the Connexional Assessment amounts to £23,130 (£9,500 + £11,630 - £2,000) making an overall Synod contribution to both Synod and Connexional assessments of £40,055.																			
Of this figure of £40,055, the sum of £9,500 originated from Circuits in the form of the excess referred to above (£30,555 (2019/20 £31,440)) will be transferred out of the Synod Advance Fund																			
This will mean that the total Connexional Assessment to be made by Circuits in 2020/21 would amount to £448,096																			

## **Synod Schemes and Grants Committee Report 2019/2020**

To say that it has been a difficult year for all churches is to state the obvious. Many of the mission grants were to support the employment of staff members to enable congregations to carry out proposed mission projects. Due to the COVID19 pandemic and restrictions some staff members were placed on the UK Government furlough scheme whilst other carried out activities other than planned online. In other Circuits recruitment has been delayed. There has been a small increase in the ministry and mission grants paid this year. The majority of which are ongoing support to Circuits to enable ministry and mission to continue, as well as chaplaincy support to our higher education institutions. Ministry Grants totalled £ 175,877.99. The difficult circumstances of the year possibly reduced the number of requests for small mission projects.

After an initial halt to building and renovation work, over the summer much more work was able to be conducted, enabling projects to progress. As anticipated at the end of last year, there has been an increase in building grants made. A significant grant of £70k was made to the Bridgend Uniting Church Redevelopment project which was agreed as match funding for significant grant enabling this £1.25m project to go ahead. Other major projects have not been progressed as far as might have been anticipated, so some potential requests for significant sums for major church building works have been delayed. A total of £153,574.60 paid out for building projects.

Summary of Accounts			
<i>Income</i>	£	Expenditure	£
Levies rec'd from circuits	59,908.57		175,877.99
Other circuit contributions			153,574.60
CAPF distribution	126,454.00		1,764.72
Interest	7,000.65		
Other income			
	<hr/>		
	193,363.22		331,217.31
	<hr/>		
Bal b/fwd from 31/8/19	882,353.75		
Net Income / Expenditure	<u>- 137,854.09</u>		
Bal c/fwd @ 31/8/20	<u>744,499.66</u>		

Gill Peace SS&GC Secretary

## **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



## **Report from Manse Committee October 2020**

Due to Lockdown the following Circuits were not visited:-

**Bridgend, Neath, M.G.M., S.W. Wales and Newport.**

**These will be visited when lock-down allows.**

We were unable to meet as a Committee in May. A Report was sent to DPC of the following visits:-

Visits prior to lock-down:-

2019 by James Hall

**Monmouth Manse** – work being carried out before the new minister arrives.

**Caldicot** – After 2017 Quinquenniel recommendations have been completed or in hand.

**Chepstow** – After 2018 Quinquenniel the manhole problem has been reduced by using cement but it is impossible to be addressed completely. The dining room windows have been improved and also the study wall has been insulated.

**Swansea and Gower**

Grace Sollis has sent reports to the Office. The Superintendent is happy that work is scheduled or already carried out on all manses.

**Gwent Hills & Vales**

The neighbour's right-of-way across the front of the manse and the boundary wall needs clarification. If the District clarified these issues, it could avoid any controversy with the neighbours in the future.

Mary Williams

## **Learning Network – Cymru | Wales**

2019-20 was definitely a year of two halves. In the autumn, we carried on as we had before, providing training and support in person across both Synods. We supported safeguarding training at every level, from being part of the connexional group rewriting the Foundation Module course, to supporting the Synod Safe-guarding Officers in delivering the Advanced module, and filling in as additional trainers in circuits that needed support in delivery. We ran courses on the role of the Circuit Steward, helped to facilitate the training of ministers as supervisors, delivered the Theology Unwrapped course, travelled to Cliff College to help train One Programme Participants, and led training for ministers and lay workers in MBTI. We supported tutors of the Worship: Leading and Preaching course, and moderated completed portfolios. We facilitated training for those leading Marriage and Relationships conversations; and continued to support the Synod Cymru audit and the follow up ready for the vote in Synod in the spring of 2020. We helped plan and lead the 3Generate event for young people across the connexion, and Gareth extended that work by developing a theology of physicality for people of all ages. We supported the work of Momentwm and providing training to youth workers in preparation for the Big Day Out events in February. We made plans for Bible month events in the North and South. We got together for team meetings, mostly in Lampeter, and took time together to share in fellowship over a Christmas lunch

That seems a long time ago now. From March onward, with the change in priorities brought about by lockdown and the closure of MCH and Cliff College, all our work went on line. Whilst some things, like planning meetings and stewards training, MBTI and WLP tutor meetings and moderation, swapped easily into the world of Zoom, other things were cancelled and put on hold or completely rearranged. Connexionally, the Learning Network is currently devising or rewriting six training programmes to enable them to be delivered online, in blended or standalone units. Each of us in the Cymru Wales team are part of this process, and we are working closely with colleagues whom we used to see only rarely, but now often meet with on a weekly basis. Gareth led us on our Zoom with a Brew sessions, helping people across both Synods adjust to the new technology. We hastily organised the Unconscious Bias training mandated by Conference for all Circuit Invitation committees, and reached over 100 people in sessions over the summer,

## **Y Cyngor – report for Synod Report book 2020**

Y Cyngor is the body on which Methodists from the 2 Synods in Wales confer together. It has responsibility for ‘co-ordination of overall mission and training strategies in Wales’, ‘oversight and co-ordination of ecumenical strategy, policy and relationships in Wales in line with connexional policy’ and ‘authorisation of representatives to speak with ecumenical partners and government.’ (SO 491(3))

The Chair (Y Llywydd) of Y Gymanfa is Deacon Gwenllian Roberts Knighton and we are grateful for her gracious efficiency in undertaking this role. We normally meet 3 times (in November, March and June) at the Gateway Centre in Shrewsbury, but our March meeting took place just before the coronavirus lockdown and our June meeting was postponed. Meetings normally take the following pattern:

- Reports from each Synod

- Report from the Treasurer

- An update on training matters in Wales

- Ecumenical matters in Wales

- A report from the Connexional representative to the meeting

However, the most significant aspect of Y Cyngor’s work over this last year continues to be its monitoring of the conversations between the 2 Synods in Wales, which have resumed following Synod Cymru’s mission audit and subsequent proposals. These were initially planned to come before Synod Cymru in May, but because of the Coronavirus were then postponed to its meeting in November 2020. At this meeting Synod Cymru agreed to proposals which would involve its ceasing to be a Synod and looking to come as a Welsh-speaking circuit into a new Wales Synod. It was this decision which was shared and discussed at a bilingual Zoom meeting of Y Cyngor’s Zoom later in November, while a smaller group of officers from both Synods are meeting with connexional representatives to explore in more detail what might be future proposals to come before both Synods.

Stephen Wigley

before the stationing process began in September. In some ways, we are now busier than ever, learning new skills alongside running training and meetings online, without the natural breaks for thinking and planning that our travelling used to provide. We have learned a great deal about the possibilities and limitations of life online and are looking to carry the best of that learning with us into 2021, whatever that may hold.

Amy Adams

### **Statistics for Mission Report at 27.11.20**

There is an extensive Guidance Manual included in the Statistics for Mission pages on the Methodist website for those trying to complete their 2020 Church or Circuit Membership data by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Fortunately, no Attendance information is required this time !

Please see the email sent to all Superintendents and Circuit Administrators on 1.10.20 by the Connexional Team. This very helpful information is also accessible via :-

[www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/statistics-for-mission/news](http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/statistics-for-mission/news)

There is a pdf file in their Zip folder :-  
stats-2020-guidance-notes.pdf

Sylvia Lutkins (Church Membership Sec.)

## **Local Preachers Report**

Each Circuit has sent in their annual return and in our 15 Circuits there were, on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 263 Local Preachers (last year 275), of whom 191 (200) are active. There are 38 (41) who are on note or on trial, and 106 (113) Worship Leaders. I am grateful to the Circuit Local Preacher/Worship Leader Meetings' Secretaries who provide the information

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

Bangor & Holyhead	Gladys Lee
Bridgend	Allan Osborne
Gwent Hills & Vales	Geoffrey Price
Gwent Hills & Vales	Vera Price
Gwent Hills & Vales	Michael Webb
Mid Glamorgan Mission	Colin Paveltish
Newport & Lower Wye	Terry Quinlan
South West Wales	Anne Lloyd
Vale of Glamorgan	Barry Lakin

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.

The number of preachers has declined, as has the number of churches within the Synod. Now 171, previously 178. However, we are still accrediting new preachers, which is encouraging.

There has been a seismic change in the way worship has been lead this year. After a period of no building-based worship, ministers and preachers have had to adopt and adapt to new ways of reaching congregations. This has led to YouTube services, and Zoom services. Their availability has depended on the skills in individual circuits. As ever we are mindful of those of our congregations who do not have access to the technology to receive such services.

A new style of shortened service is emerging, which has caused us to rethink traditional approaches.

Bible month training was not available for many. It has still gone ahead in some circuits, though not necessarily in June. It is hoped that Circuits will be able to participate in Bible Month 2021.

Opportunities for training and continuing development are now on-line, which

means there is little chance of preachers meeting across circuits to share in that invaluable fellowship that takes place on the periphery of such events.

We thank the supernumerary ministers who continue to lead worship as and when they can.

I ask your prayers for those who continue to lead us in worship as they do so in unexpected circumstances, but knowing that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

*Peter Swindale*

### **Probationers Report 2020.**

In this report we would usually begin by congratulating anyone in our District who had been welcomed into Full Connexion and Ordained at our last Conference. This year we congratulate Rev Alexis Mahoney on having been welcomed into Full Connexion, via Zoom / Conference but await to offer our congratulations on his ordination which we hope will go ahead in the New Year.

Rev Philip Osborne is currently our only Probationer. We continue to hold Philip and Alexis in our prayers at this time. Especially as things are a little unclear to how things progress.

We pray that Philip's studies will be nurturing for him, although again they are completed by Zoom.

Our 'under fives in ministry' group has met via zoom this connexional year and we did meet regularly 'face to face' before the pandemic prevented this. The group is now one of Ministers in the 'early years of ministry' as we have widened the group a little and we look forward to the time when we can meet safely once more.

In time we look forward to sharing fellowship and study together.

We would like to thank Mrs Amy Adams for her ongoing work, help and support to this group.

*Catherine Lewis.*

## Amelia Trust Farm

Connexional year (2019/20) began positively at Amelia Trust Farm in the Vale of Glamorgan. In September, our Harvest Celebration Service included a visit from Saint Athan RAF Brass Band. In addition, Field Days Organic kindly donated a food stall of local produce. At the Farm's Nativity in December, people of all ages engaged in the real Christmas story. It was a wonderful, uplifting occasion appreciated by all. Our GROW team had continued to provide education and learning opportunities for young people.

In March, the Farm was preparing for its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. However, as Wales started to get a sense of what the Covid-19 pandemic would mean to the nation as a whole, staff realigned priorities and came to terms with new ways of living and working. We give thanks to the small number of staff, whose hard work, time and energy helped to care for the Farm's animals during the UK national lockdown.

Looking forward (to 2020/21), staff and volunteers will begin to prepare for the Farm's 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary in earnest. It will hope to include a Celebration Service; testimonies from those who, in previous years, had received education and learning opportunities at the Farm; and visits from past and present Directors.

The Amelia Trust Farm continues to help people grow through alternative education and community engagement. Please support its work in whatever way you can, and please pray for its staff and volunteers; for the young people who are guided through their time there; and for me as I serve alongside them.

Deacon John Brobbey  
*Chaplain to the Amelia Trust Farm*

## **Safeguarding Report.**

Safeguarding remains a significant priority in the life and work of the Synod. Following the Methodist submission to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IIQSA), there has been a renewed focus on ensuring that DBS records, particularly for ministers, are up to date across the Connexion. We are pleased to report that the records for the Wales are in good shape and express our thanks for all who have helped to ensure this is the case. There has also been a considerable amount of work undertaken to enable Safeguarding training to be delivered both in on-line and in 'blended' formats for the new Foundation and Advanced modules, and we look forward to hearing more once the various pilot schemes have been evaluated. In the second half of this last year, we said goodbye to our 2 Synod Safeguarding Officers, Vicky Anderson (North) and Sandra Oborski (South) and we express our gratitude for all the work which they have undertaken with us. In light of the coronavirus restrictions and their impact on travel and remote working, we decided to bring the two together into one post and were delighted to appoint Rhian Evans-Hill into this post in October. We look forward to her continuing this important work among us with the help of Learning Network staff as we move into new patterns of training for the Safeguarding modules over the coming year.

Stephen Wigley

Rhian adds:

Since October I have been becoming accustomed to the Safeguarding Framework within the Methodist Church. I was surprised to see such support given to us as DSO's by Connexion and I benefit from regular meetings with my colleagues. As mentioned previously, one of our adaptations to the current situation will be online training. I am aware that Circuit Safeguarding Officers are working hard to make sure that we are able to provide the necessary Foundation Module Safeguarding training to as many people as possible. We will be doing the same with the Advanced Module when it is ready for us to use. There continues to be various Safeguarding issues arising and I am available to assist Circuits as and when it is needed. I have also benefitted from attending various Church Services online. Please contact me if I can assist with any Safeguarding matters.

Rhian Evans-Hill



## **Christian Aid**

The Methodist Church has a place on the Christian Aid National Committee. Iy has been my privilege to have filled that place for some 20 years.

As with most Charities because of the Pandemic, there has been a marked decline in income. This has had an effect on the structure of the work in Wales. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> February, a meeting was held at Coleg Trefeca, where a radical plan to restructure was unveiled. From now on the Offices in Carmarthen and Bangor will close, many staff will work from home and the main hub of operations will be from the Cardiff Office. The Cardiff Office address is Churchgate Court, 3 Church Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 2DX – Tel: 02920 844 646.

A virtual meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The latest information was that the target for income from Christian Aid Week for the whole of the UK was £7.1 million. The actual sum received was £3.7 million. However, the organisation continues to be determined to protest on behalf of the poor and disadvantaged. A letter has been sent to the Chancellor advocating that the debt owed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> World would be cancelled. Also, at the Glasgow Conference on Climate Change, Christian Aid will protest on Climate Justice.

The Christmas Appeal 2020 will concentrate on Ethiopia where the drought has decimated harvests and Christian Aid with its partners have undertaken the task of constructing deeper and newer wells.

Any donations will be gratefully received.

Rev Roy Watson.

## **Momentwm report for the Connexional year 2019-2020**

The members of Momentwm Core for this year were Emily Barry, Gareth Bennett, Trish Earlam, Deacon Jon Miller (Momentwm Deacon), Rev Richard Parkes, Rev Flis Randall (Convenor)

The year got off to an excellent start with the (packed) welcome service in the village hall in Llangynin, St Clears for Deacon Jon Miller. Jon began a pioneering appointment working half time planting new Christian communities in St Clears and with the other half of his appointment as Momentwm Deacon, supporting and advocating for young people and youth work across the Synod. The Momentwm Deacon part of his appointment is a joint project (and funded) between Synod Cymru and the Wales Synod. Jon works closely and is guided by Momentwm Core and alongside this he has a reference group which includes, amongst others, both Synod Chairs. Jon visited a number of circuits in the first half of the year, including leading youth services, and taking a pivotal role in a day for youth workers in the Cardiff Circuit.

Momentwm Core planned, as usual, for many live events during this year including the Big Day Out, Momentwm Camp and the outward leg of an exchange to the United States. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, the only live event which actually took place was the Big Day Out in February. This was held in two locations: Ty Bach Methodist Church, Port Talbot in the south and Trinity Methodist Church, Prestatyn in the north with over 70 young people attending between the two sites.

The Vice President Clive Marsh joined us in the south at where a number of workshops on the theme of 'Where's God in my story?' were taking place. We were also pleased to welcome students from Cliff College who not only led us in our opening devotions but also brought 'The Story Project' booth with them. Those who attended were encouraged to share about where God features in their story – and many did. In the South the day finished with a few hours in Limitless trampoline park.

In the North the day started at Rhyf's Ninja Tag Assault course later heading to Trinity where a wonderful warm welcome and a hot lunch awaited, after which everyone dived into the workshops. Leading on from the morning activity Ninja Warrior and Total Wipeout Contestant Rev Robin Fox told his story as a competitor and a Christian. Also, the president of Conference Rev Barbara Glasson was warmly welcomed to the event. It was lovely to hear afterwards how much Barbara and Clive had enjoyed their time with us.

When the pandemic hit Mometwm Core continued to find ways to support youth work and encourage the young people. Thus, in June we began a blog where activities and ideas could be shared for use by groups and individuals. We also held a well-attended Zoom support and training evening for youth workers from across the Synods. Our Social media presence was also expanded to include platforms including Facebook, Twittier and Instagram. We have yet to expand onto TikTok but watch this space...

Rev Flis Randall.

## **MWiB Report for the Synod Handbook 2021**

**2021 will see MWiB reach its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** during which time much has been achieved. The new strapline For Women, For Justice, For Christ , has been introduced in order to give a broader understanding of our aims and purposes. Plans are going ahead for the Swanwick 2021 MWiB Conference, **Hope on the Way**. Whether this be at the actual venue, with safety precautions in place, or online via zoom or some other positive media. The speaker will be Sister Imelda Pool, President of the Mary Ward Loreteo Foundation, an organisation working to eradicate sexual and labour exploitation, slavery and organ harvesting.

The Hayes Conference centre at Swanwick is the venue commencing Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021, booking opens 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

If you are a newcomer to MWiB and wish to explore the aims and objectives of the organisation further, we can offer a free place to one interested person wishing to attend the conference at Swanwick. Please let me know by 1<sup>st</sup> December should you wish to avail yourself of this offer.

Instead of our regular advent Quiet day in November 2019, we decided to organise a district prayer walk with lunch and afternoon activities in the spring of 2020. Needless to say due to the current pandemic, this event has been postponed until we understand what the new normal will be!

Two sad events to advise you of this year are the deaths of Barbara Russell, Conwy and Prestatyn MWiB member and treasurer for many years and Margaret Williams who served on the Connexional Committee with me at the time Women's network became MWiB. Both these women made invaluable contributions in furthering the work of God in Methodism and we thank them for it.

The Methodist Church has collected together stories of how individuals have walked with God in this extraordinary year. These stories will be shared on both the Methodist Church's and MWiB's website and social media, daily throughout Advent. A Christmas Service featuring carols and readings will be available to download and can be ordered free of charge on CD from [www.methodistpublishing.org.uk](http://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk) (The CD will be distributed in mid-December.)

Norma Boocock (President MWiB. Wales Synod)

## **Synod Enabler (Ethnic Minority Congregations)**

This year has been a difficult one with many ups and downs but by the Grace of God, His work still continues. As a Synod Enabler with Culturally Diverse Congregations Wales, I am sharing this report with all of you as a reflection of how God has used me for his work throughout Wales over the past year. Working in this role for the past 12 years has been a great honour and privilege for me to be able to be a witness of God and a faithful servant working amongst people from all nations, cultures and backgrounds.

My job role consists of four key areas of work:

1. Work with asylum seekers and refugees
2. Work with culturally diverse congregations
3. Advocacy role across Synod

### **Leading of worship**

As mentioned above, the first key area of work for me is working amongst asylum seekers and refugees. Over the past year I have continued to provide support to those individuals and families who are going through tough times in their lives and the Lord has used me to help them in many ways. Through emotional support, guidance on their procedures, guidance on how to become better citizens in this country and showing them the abundant love of Christ. I would like to thank all the volunteers and other organisations that I work with or am affiliated with, who help me to be able to provide asylum seekers and refugees with household items and clothing - especially during the winter season.

The second area of work, working with culturally diverse congregations has again for another year been a very special and fruitful year for me. The Urdu/Hindi Fellowships in Cardiff and Swansea continue to grow, with people from Haverfordwest now joining us in Swansea. This year we celebrated our 12th anniversary in Cardiff and 5th anniversary in Swansea. I am continuing to provide support to other language fellowships also, including the Malayalam Fellowship (South Indian) and Ethiopian Orthodox Church, both of which worship at Trinity Centre Cardiff.

My third key area of work is the advocacy role across the synod. I continue to preach within the Cardiff circuit and I am in contact with different circuits where ethnic people live.

Finally, leading worship is my fourth key role but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, over the past year, it has been a slight challenge in terms of travelling throughout Wales to lead worship in different circuits as I usually did before. However, I have been leading church services online every Sunday throughout the year on Facebook and Zoom. Along with Sunday services, I have also been leading midweek prayer meetings on Zoom for the Urdu/Hindi Fellowships. In midweek services, I spend time leading worship with individual families and also as a congregation. In May of this year, I also organised a 24 hour prayer chain through Zoom in which we prayed for the world, COVID-19 and those who have been affected by the pandemic.

Thank you for all your prayers, support and constant encouragement. God bless you all.

Rev Irfan John

## **Synod Sabbaticals Report 2020**

Spring and early summer are very popular choices when presbyters are planning their sabbatical leave and extended travel often forms a major part of sabbatical plans. The Sabbatical Prospectuses for the Connexional year 2019-20 were no different in this respect. However, the arrival of the coronavirus has made a huge dent in all but one of the seven Wales Synod sabbaticals originally planned for the spring and summer of this year, as plans were completely overturned by the pandemic and its associated restrictions on travel and communal activities. In some cases it has been possible to postpone activities until they can be realised in a future annual leave when travel will be easier; I am pleased to report that the Connexion has been willing to honour the Sabbatical financial support for such postponed activities. However, not all plans have been able to be salvaged. It has been possible to postpone part of the Sabbatical in a very few circumstances, but the fact that a new cohort of sabbaticals become due every year has meant that this could not be the solution for most of the 2019/20 recipients.

I am full of admiration for the pragmatism, forbearance and ingenuity that presbyters have shown, when confronted with a three months' Sabbatical at home, for the most part, in Lockdown. I note also that plans for the year 2020/21 are being re-focused more on investigative study and reflection, since the path out of the restrictions is by no means clear yet.

At the end of a sabbatical, each presbyter is asked to write a short report on their sabbatical experience and I get to read the reports as they come to me on their way to the Synod Policy Committee. This year's reports have been no less inspirational and enlightening. We currently share these reports with members of the Synod Policy Committee but I often wonder if a way could be found to publish Sabbatical Reports more widely within the Wales Synod, with the consent of the authors of course.

As Sabbaticals Officer for the Wales Synod I feel privileged to be able to help in facilitating such a precious gift to each presbyter from the Methodist Connexion. I look forward to the time when presbyters will once again be able to extend their horizons fully through their sabbatical experience.

Glenda Kelly

Wales Synod Sabbaticals Officer

## **Cardiff University Methodist Chaplaincy Report 2019-2020**

As I write, we are in the midst of the pandemic so it is hard to look back to September 2019 to the first event of the year when I took a bunch of students out for pancakes and ice cream after a Sunday church service! Where is the social distancing?!!

That first semester, we were oblivious to the impending pandemic as we crammed over 40 students in at a time for the £1 Curry lunch (serving over 70 in total each week). We held regular worship in the chapel (Monday Taizé services, Wednesday Contemplation and Communion, amongst others) and themed our Monday night events around the Methodist theme for the year, "So, what's the story?" exploring the story of faith through Godly Play and talks from Cardiff Circuit Methodists Dave Kitchen on poetry, and Sarah Middleton on the Methodist Art

Collection. I met students and staff to give pastoral support, having a greater number of bereaved students than usual probably because of the introduction of 'Death Cafe' at the chaplaincy which showed we were able to support folks in grief. I was delighted to mentor one of the students as she began her Local Preacher's studies.

The first term passed with its usual Remembrance Day event, and Carols around the Tree at Christmas and the second semester started, our Monday nights turning to the theme of lent with excellent talks from university academics. With lockdown looming, the University asked staff to work from home from Tuesday 17th March so, of course, we cancelled our remaining events including the lent course, the £1 lunches and all worship events.

It was a strange end to the academic year - a few students popped in to say goodbye on that Monday and Tuesday, recognising that, as 3rd years, they probably wouldn't be back. I have worked from home from Wednesday 18th March. Despite the approaching Easter Holidays, we felt it important to keep in contact with those who had engaged with the Chaplaincy, so every week, from March 30th, we have held a zoom midday prayer, followed by a chat BYO drink drop-in. We have also started our Monday evening socials by Zoom, doing crazy quizzes, Pictionary and charades.

I have been in contact with all our students via social media and have had one-to-one pastoral conversations via Zoom. Some of our students are still in Cardiff, others at home. Both present different challenges for students - isolation in Cardiff and living as adults at home with parents!

Graduation didn't happen as normal and although the university did its best to make a virtual graduation meaningful it was very sad not to have the grand pomp and

ceremony of a graduation as the means of saying goodbye to our students. The next academic year is going to be very challenging for us all, not least for our students who will continue their learning with very little face to face teaching and most of their course online. As chaplains, we will be reaching out to the students virtually, rather than in person, which makes the role of chaplaincy all the much harder. The prayers and support of the Synod are invaluable to this ministry as I seek to work out what it is to be a chaplain to Cardiff University in this strange new world of a pandemic.

Rev Delyth Liddell



## **Swansea University – Synod report for year ending August 2020**

The Chaplaincy at Swansea University has undergone significant and positive change over the last couple of years and this is now reflected in its title. No longer known as ‘Chaplaincy’ (after all, what does that really mean to students today?) we are now known as Faith and Community. The physical spaces that we have on the two campuses have also been renamed as The Lighthouse and The Haven. All this is in order to be more accessible to students and staff of all faiths and none.

I continue to be involved in the following activities:

- Listening Service for students

- Meditation

- Termly de-stress days (with Wookie my dog)

- Interfaith activities

- Remembrance Day

As part of last year’s interfaith week organised by the university, Uniting Church Sketty hosted a successful film night, showing and then discussing the film *The Sultan and the Saint*. We had over 50 attendees from across the community of a variety of faiths. It was good to be together in this way.

The last term of the academic year (and of course the first term of this year and for the foreseeable), everything has gone on-line. However we are managing to continue most things in this way.

Rev Leslie Noon

Associate Chaplain, Swansea University

Minister at Uniting Church Sketty and Clydach Methodist Church

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