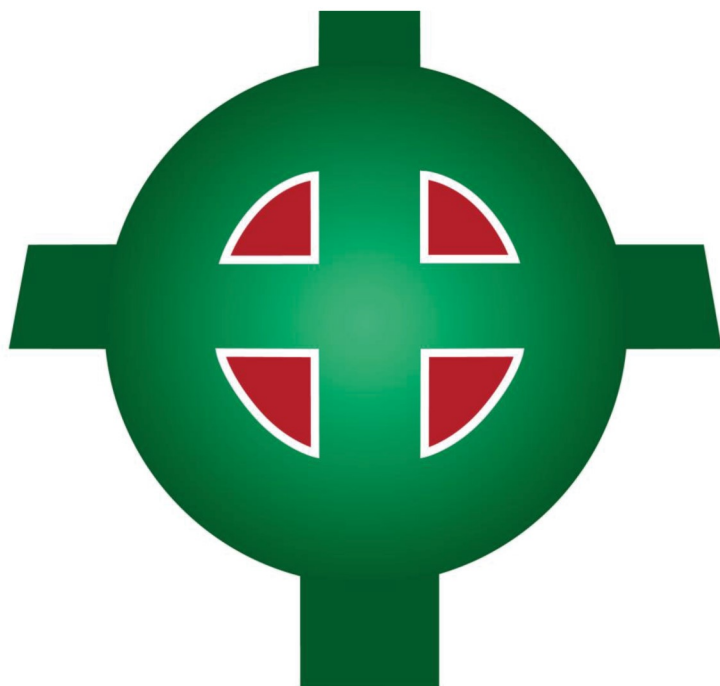


Yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd yng Nghymru
The Methodist Church in Wales



wales
Synod

Reports 2021

Wales Synod – Introduction to the Annual Report for 2020-21

I am pleased once again to introduce this Annual Report for the Wales Synod for the year 2020-21.

Throughout this year, the work and witness of the Wales Synod, like so much of the church and wider society, has been profoundly affected by the spread of Coronavirus and its consequent restrictions. This has continued to have a significant impact on the ability of local churches to meet for worship and fellowship and to serve their local communities and with the provision of their premises. I remain heartened by the way that colleagues lay and ordained have worked so hard 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, many 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 future 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 income from lettings has fallen even though churches are beginning to re-open their premises to community groups. We note that this may be offset to some extent by reductions in cost of travel to meetings and running premises, but we nevertheless recognise that this will have had a significant impact on the finances of local churches and circuits going for this year 2020-21. Accordingly, and as these accounts show, we have found ways in which the Synod has been able to use some of its reserves to help ease the burden on some circuits where the pressures may be particularly acute, particularly in offering reductions on circuit contributions to the Synod budget.

Despite all these challenges, the Synod has continued to develop its ministry and mission in line with the priorities of the Synod Development Plan. This commits us to supporting the work and witness of circuits across Wales, and during 2020-21 we have sought to do this in various ways. In the first place we have continued to respond to applications for support from the Synod

Advance Fund with grants totalling £237,819. Once again in this last year the majority of this, some £193,357, went to Ministry schemes and a much smaller amount of £17,990 went on Property schemes, probably reflecting the wider background of coronavirus restrictions. However, a significant new element seeking to address this same challenge has been the development of a grant stream to support 'on-line' worship resources which has so far made £26,472 in grants and which we anticipate continuing next year.

Secondly, we seek to resource circuits by the provision of ordained ministry through the connexional Stationing process. We were able to fill 5 out of 6 appointments in the Stationing process for 2021 and welcomed the ordination of Probationer colleagues at both the 2020 and 2021 Conferences. In this coming year we anticipate a significant Stationing challenge for 2022, although the early stages have been positive, and we have also been encouraged by having 2 candidates offering for ministry. This reminds us that the challenge remains both in terms of encouraging offers for ministry in all its forms and seeking the most effective way to deploy our ministers and make use of their giftings.

Thirdly, the Development plan commits us to working ever more closely with colleagues in Synod Cymru. Building on conversations over these last few years, both the Wales Synod and Synod Cymru voted in March/April 2021 to support an outline proposal; "that Synod Cymru ceases to be and the Cymru circuit becomes a Welsh language circuit of a new Wales Synod Cymru from September 2022. This will be a new Synod because it incorporates for the first time both Welsh and English language circuits and a commitment to working in both languages across the Synod; but initially it will use the structure of the existing Wales Synod and its pattern of meetings, budgeting and officers."

More detailed proposals were also agreed by both Synods meeting in September which also agreed to set up a small Synod Implementation Group to address the outstanding matters necessary to bring the Synod into being from 1st September 2022.

These are significant developments in the life of the Methodist Church in Wales and reflect our long-standing commitment to offer a consistent and coherent mission in both languages across Wales. However, we remain

firmly part of a Connexional church and were delighted to host a visit from the President (Rev. Sonia Hicks) and Vice-President (Mrs. Barbara Easton) of Conference to Cardiff in August, when they welcomed Daud Irfan, one of our own young people and the son of the Synod Enabler (Rev. Irfan John) as the new Methodist Youth President for this next connexional year. It is good to be reminded that as well as addressing our particular context in Wales, members of the Wales Synod are also making significant contributions to the life of the wider Connexion.

The continuing impact of the Coronavirus in its new and variant forms reminds us that there are still many uncertainties ahead. However, I hope there are many other things in this report to 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 all best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Stephen G. G. G.', with a long horizontal line drawn underneath it.

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

Synod Policy Committee

Synod Policy Committee (SPC) has met for its usual three meetings during the year in February, June and October using Zoom to meet electronically. As these meetings have run smoothly, it has been decided that from now on, most meetings will be electronic, therefore saving on members travel time and on travel costs.

The standard agenda used for the past number of meetings continues to be used, thus ensuring all parts of required business is covered at each meeting.

-Finance: receiving and agreeing the budget for the forthcoming year, including Trust 14508 and approving the accounts for the past year along with the Synod Reserves Policy.

- Reviewing Synod policy: Agreeing the Circuit Assessments and agreeing to contribute to the Connexional request for financial support to the two Methodist Pension schemes

- Overseeing conversations between Synod Cymru and Wales Synod, with a view to potentially creating one Synod in Wales. Conversations continue but a number of stumbling blocks exist where detailed ongoing discussions are needed.

- Receiving Reports from the following: Manses committee, Y Cyngor, Wales Synod Methodist Council representative, considering the 'God in Love unites us' report and encouraging circuits and churches to prayerfully consider this very important report, Momentwm and the development work at St Clears, South West Wales Circuit, the Sabbaticals officer along with approving planned sabbaticals and receiving reports from those who have taken sabbaticals, receiving requests for Lay Authorisation to preside at Holy Communion, the appointment of Lay Workers in the Vale of Glamorgan Circuit.

-Appointments: appointing a new Synod Treasurer, Lay Stationing representative and Property officer and thanking those who served in those roles successfully for a number of years (all names are in the Synod Handbook)

- Stationing: Supporting the Wales Chair during this difficult time when a number of ministers are moving and plans for new ministers to work in our Synod are considered by churches and circuits. Appointing an invitation committee to consider the position of the Synod Enabler – Culturally Diverse Congregations and receiving their recommendation that the post holder should be invited for a further period of time

-Ecumenical: Engaging with other bodies to ensure ecumenical links are maintained and strengthened

- Recommending to Synod the following closures and sale of property:

St. David's Ty Sign, Newport & Lower Wye Circuit

Merlin's Bridge Haverford West, South West Wales Circuit

Panteg and Newbridge, both in, Gwent Hills and Vales

Emaus Flint, Buckley & Deeside Circuit

Noting Developmental plans for: Rhosddu Rhos on Sea, Conwy & Prestatyn Circuit and Nicholas Street, Pontypool, Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit

Becoming a class of another church: Rhosddu becoming a class of Regent Street Wrexham, Wrexham Circuit

The above represents the spread of responsibility SPC has and meeting three times during the year ensures sufficient time for this objective to be met. Individual members are expected to ensure there is a good link between SPC and Circuits by regularly reporting back to key players in circuits. Individual church members can identify their circuit representative to SPC by checking in the Synod handbook.

During the Spring of 2022, the Wales Chair, Rev Dr Stephen Wigley, will be taking his sabbatical, having been forced to delay this from 2021 for a variety of reasons. SPC and the Synod Leadership Team fully support him in taking this important period of time away from work where he will be able to begin the process of recharging his batteries. We wish him well.

The Policy Committee

Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod

Income and Expenditure Account - Year ended 31st August 2021

	Year to 31.8.21	Previous year to 31.8.20	Notes	Budget to 31.8.21
Income				£
Connexional contribution re Conference	864	0		1,000
Grants Received	157,344	154,989	see page 2	162,955
Synod Assessment from Circuits	32,352	57,174		69,950
Miscellaneous Income				
Total Income	190,560	212,163		233,905
Expenses				
Assistant Chairs	15,697	17,272		31,650
CDIM and HE Training	1,340	3,055		4,000
Chair's other expenses	1,900	1,346		1,500
Chair's Secretary and Admin	17,354	14,805		17,500
Chair's Travel	1,544	2,853		5,500
Chaplaincy (H.E. Cardiff)	40,060	40,218		42,150
Conference	864	0		1,000
Emergency Circuit Support (Covid 19)	5,700	4,500		0
Lay Employment Officer	495	863		1,000
Manse Llwyn y Grant Rd	7,968	4,180		4,600
Ministers retreat	0	1,244		2,500
Miscellaneous expenses	84	251		500
Momentwm (Youth)	809	3,059		4,700
Safeguarding	20,642	29,858		37,475
Superintendents' meeting	0	2,441		2,000
Synod committees and travel	145	2,912		5,000
Synod Contribution to Connexion	23,130	16,990		13,630
Synod Enabler (Culturally Diverse Congregations)	46,761	46,643		49,400
Synod Office Costs	6,552	11,234		6,500
Synod Secretary	1,452	1,585		1,800
Training	102	1,989		4,500
Y Cyngor	0	1,000		1,000
Total Expenses	192,599	208,297		237,905
Income less Expenditure	-2,039	3,866		-4,000
Transfers from/to reserves (net)	12,110	-6,450	see page 2	4,000
	10,071	-2,584		0

Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod

NOTE 1

Details of Grants and transfers received, as totalled overleaf

	<i>as received</i>	<i>as budgeted</i>
Connexion re Assistant Chairs	31,471.00	42,200.00
Cardiff University re HE Chaplaincy	4,333.34	6,500.00
Synod Advance Fund (SAF) Synod Enabler	15,000.00	15,000.00
Trust 14508 Synod Enabler	34,400.00	34,400.00
SAF re HE Chaplaincy Cardiff	4,000.00	4,000.00
Trust 14508 HE Chaplaincy	21,100.00	21,100.00
SAF Training	2,000.00	4,500.00
SAF Youth Work	0.00	1,500.00
SAF towards Synod Representative Meeting	0.00	1,000.00
SAF towards Safeguarding	13,925.00	16,925.00
SAF towards Connexional Assessment	13,630.00	13,630.00
SAF Emergency Circuit Support	17,485.00	0.00
Synod Charitable Trust: Ministers Retreat	0.00	2,200.00
	<u>157,344.34</u>	<u>162,955.00</u>

NOTE 2

Breakdown of monies moved to/from reserve.

	<i>actual</i>
From CDIM reserve to cover CDIM payments made out of General Funds	1,110.00
From Synod Reserve	9,500.00
From Manse Reserve for property costs paid out of General Funds	2,500.00
To Momentwm Youth Exchange	-1,000.00
	<u>12,110.00</u>

Synod Advance Fund - Year ended 31st August 2020

Expenditure		Income	
Grants made - Ministry	193,357.00	Balance brought forward	744,498.67
Grants made - Property	17,990.00	Circuit Levies	69,818.29
Grants made - Online worship & mission	26,472.20	CAPF Distribution	134,670.00
TMCP Administration charge	1,236.09	Interest	2,423.98
Balance carried forward	712,355.65		
	<u>951,410.94</u>		<u>951,410.94</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
	<u>31.8.21</u>
Income	
Donations:	
Momentwm unused budget due to Covid lockdown	1,000.00
	<u>1,000.00</u>
Expenditure	
Bank charges	72.52
	<u>72.52</u>
Income less Expenditure	927.48
Balance in hand carried forward from 2019/20	8,623.68
Balance carried forward 31.8.21	<u>9,551.16</u>

Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod
Central Finance Board and TMCP Accounts year to 31st August 2021

Training Network Account CFB 6055010

		Balance b/fwd	10,024.17
		Interest	13.81
Balance c/fwd	10,037.98		
	<u>10,037.98</u>		<u>10,037.98</u>

Continuing Development in Ministry CFB 2079040

		Transfer to Gen Fd	1,110.00	Balance b/fwd	24,335.16
				Interest	33.47
Balance c/fwd	23,258.63				
	<u>24,368.63</u>				<u>24,368.63</u>

Synod Reserve Account CFB 2079030

General Fund (see p.2)	9,500.00	Balance b/fwd	107,626.02
		Interest	143.03
Balance c/fwd	98,269.05		
	<u>107,769.05</u>		<u>107,769.05</u>

Manse Reserve Fund TMCP 15292

TMCP Admin	137.87	Balance b/fwd	68,933.41
General Fund (see p.2)	2,500.00	Interest	231.60
Balance c/fwd	66,527.14		
	<u>69,165.01</u>		<u>69,165.01</u>

Synod Chair's Discretionary Fund TMCP 16907

TMCP Admin	8.91	Balance b/fwd	4,454.10
		Interest	15.30
Balance c/fwd	4,460.49		
	<u>4,469.40</u>		<u>4,469.40</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2021

	31st August 2021	31st August 2020
	£	£
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	39,909.84	44,454.57
CFB Training Network	10,037.98	10,024.17
CFB CDIM Account	23,258.63	24,335.16
CFB Synod Reserve	98,269.05	107,626.02
TMCP Synod Advance Fund	712,355.65	618,044.67
TMCP Manse Reserve	66,527.14	68,933.41
TMCP Synod Chairs' Discretionary Fund	4,460.49	4,454.10
Barclays International Youth Exchange	9,551.16	8,623.68
Total Bank/CFB & TMCP Accounts	<u>964,369.94</u>	<u>886,495.78</u>
Debtors		126,454.00
Stipends paid in advance	5,852.32	5,783.34
	<u>970,222.26</u>	<u>1,018,733.12</u>
Current liabilities	0.00	-14,000.00
Accrued Expense	0.00	-546.55
	<u>£970,222.26</u>	<u>£1,004,186.57</u>
Total net assets	£1,366,312.26	£1,400,276.57

General Budget	2019-20 Budget	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Budget
Expenditure	£	£	£	£
Asst Chairs' Stip. Contrib/other costs	30,800	17,272	31,650	32,100
CDIM and HE Courses	4,000	3,055	4,000	4,000
Chair's Other Expenses	1,200	1,346	1,500	1,500
Chair's Secretary and Administration	15,000	14,805	17,500	16,250
Chairs' Travel	5,500	2,853	5,500	4,000
Chaplaincy (HE) Stipend & Other]	33,972	34,321	34,925	35,425
Chaplaincy (HE) travel/other costs]	5,250	3,642	5,000	4,400
Chaplaincy (HE) housing]	3,050	2,254	2,225	2,600
Conference expenses	1,000		1,000	1,000
Emergency Circuit Support (Covid 19)		4,500		
Lay Employment Secretary	1,200	863	1,000	1,000
Manse Llwyn y Grant Road	4,501	4,180	4,600	4,500
Minister's Retreat	2,500	1,244	2,500	2,500
Miscellaneous	500	251	500	500
Momentwm (Youth)	4,700	3,059	4,700	4,700
Safeguarding	36,600	29,858	37,475	25,000
Superintendents meeting	1,500	2,441	2,000	2,500
Synod Committees and Travel	4,200	2,912	5,000	4,000
Synod contribution to Connexional Assessment		16,990	13,630	21,639
Synod Enabler Stipends/allows]	33,972	34,321	34,925	35,425
Synod Enabler Travel/other costs]	6,528	3,322	5,475	4,500
Synod Enabler Housing]	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Synod Office (incl Printing)	7,000	11,234	6,500	6,500
Synod Secretary's Allowance/exps	1,700	1,585	1,800	1,700
Training	4,500	1,989	4,500	4,500
Y Cyngor	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

221,173	208,297	237,905	230,239
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221,173	208,297	237,905	230,239
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Income

Grants and transfers from reserves

Connexion Asst Chairs/HE Chaplaincy	41,073	30,805	42,200	42,800
SAF Synod Enabler	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Trust 14508 Synod Enabler	34,500	34,500	34,400	33,900
Connexional Grant HE Chaplaincy	7,500	7,500		
SAF HE Chaplaincy	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Trust 14508 Chaplaincy	14,000	14,000	21,100	21,200
Cardiff University - HE Chaplaincy	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
SAF Training	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
SAF Youth Work	1,500		1,500	1,500
SAF Synod Representative Meeting	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
SAF Safeguarding	14,450	14,450	16,925	12,500
SAF towards Connexional Assessment		16,990	13,630	21,639
SAF Capital cost of upgrade to telephone system, Cyncoed		4,500		
Synod Charitable Trust	2,200	1,244	2,200	2,200
total income from grants and transfers from reserves	146,223	154,989	162,955	166,739

Connexional contribution re Conference	1,000		1,000	1,000
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Synod Assessment from Circuits	69,950	57,174	69,950	58,500
Miscellaneous Income				
Reserves General				
Reserves Manse repairs				
Reserves CDIM	4,000		4,000	4,000

Synod Schemes and Grant Committee Report 2020/21

At the start of the church year the SS&GC recognised the need for churches to change their ways of working and established a fund of £30k to support churches and Circuits to purchase equipment for online ministry and mission. During the year 14 churches took advantage of this offer. The majority of request were for upgraded laptops,

cameras and microphones. Support was also given for new wi-fi systems, additional lighting and tablet loans to members. The projects support online worship and study groups, often in collaboration with other churches, the development of online communities and improved internet connectivity for church and community groups in the church premises.

The support for higher education Chaplaincy work in five institutions has continued, as has support for a variety of ongoing mission initiatives in the Circuits. The ongoing difficulties for churches to maintain their usual activities with reduced opportunities for giving resulted in the Synod offering some support to Circuits amounting to £17,485. There was little support requested for building projects related to mission.

The SS&GC reminds churches and Circuits in receipt of a grant that report is required annually.

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Levies rec'd from Circuits	69,818.29	Ministry Grants paid	193,357.00
Other circuit contributions		Property Grants paid	17,990.00
CAPF distribution	261,124.00	Online Worship & Mission Grants paid	26,472.20
Interest	2,423.98	TMCP Charges	1,236.09
Total	333,366.27		239,055.29
Bal b/fwd from 31/8/20	618,044.67		
Net Income / Expenditure	94,310.98		
Bal c/fwd @ 31/8/21	712,355.65		

Synod Property Report

Following on from the Connexional Property Strategy launched in May 2019 and actioned in Wales Synod there have been several Road Shows on Zoom and I know a good number of Managing Trustees have attended at least one of them. The Road Shows not only provided guidance from the Property and Legal teams on how to use property to fulfil the Church's calling in a coherent way, but also introduced new methods of working through the sale and purchase of properties. The new system which will streamline the process is being used now and once Managing Trustees have decided to purchase or sell a property, they should contact TMCP before proceeding.

If you missed the Road Shows, they can be accessed on the Methodist web site here <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/property/property-mission/>

Managing Trustees will find that TMCP's web site is a good place to go to for answers to questions regarding property matters which require legal input. If you haven't signed up to updates you can do so here <https://www.tmc.org.uk/> . Go to the bottom of the Home page to the "Stay Updated" line and insert your email and press "Go".

This is my last Property Report because I have passed the reigns over to Martin Lougher who is now the Wales Synod Property Officer. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked with me to facilitate various projects over recent years. It has been a privilege to work with you.

B.G.

Former Synod Property Officer

21 Nov 2021

Cymru Wales Learning Network Report 2020-21

In September 2020, we were looking to get back to “normal” working following the limited opening up over the summer. But it was not to be, as the Connexional Team was still working exclusively from home and the infection rate was creeping up again. We continued, therefore, to revise plans for in-person meetings and training and developed our online work even further.

Our One Programme Participant, Megan Borges, completed her entire year of supporting the work of Momentwn working exclusively online. We were very sorry not to have been able to meet her in person, but we were happy to support her in her efforts to keep the young people in contact with each other. She played a major role in the success of the Big Day In Events.

Some training events moved almost seamlessly onto online platforms, and were so successful that it was decided to keep the majority of the work online, even after in-person events become possible. Safeguarding, Supervision, WLP tutor meetings and Moderation, Unconscious Bias and Bible Month events thrived across the Connexion as we were able to meet with a wider selection of people than had been possible pre-lockdown. Special training events for online working, both for those in churches and those in the Connexional Team, were well organised, well attended and appreciated.

A Wellbeing day for ministers and Vocations events for lay people challenged us to find ways to work in a mixed mode way, and we were delighted with the new possibilities.

All of this good news doesn't change the fact that it's been a difficult and frustrating year at times. Our travel budget has been cut in half from what it was pre-Covid, and so we are still planning to do the majority of work online in order to save money and to lower our impact on the environment. It's been a lonely time, despite meeting on Zoom much more often than we ever managed in person. We pray for a quick end to the suffering that the virus has brought to the world.

Wales Synod - Statistics for Mission Report at 23.11.21

No Attendance data is required for the completion of your church membership data for 2021. (One of the benefits of Covid – 19!)

A simple way to access the necessary form, together with 6 pages of very helpful guidance notes: -Type data.methodist.org.uk in your browser. This takes you to the Log in page.

Then click on **Statistics for Mission**

You can begin to complete the form now and update it by **January 31st. 2022.**

So far, 70 of our churches have already begun this process. Well done!

Local Preachers Report

Each Circuit has sent in their annual return and in our 15 Circuits there were, on 31st August, 260 Local Preachers (last year 263), of whom 184 (191) are active. There are 22 (38) who are on note or on trial, and 105 (106) Worship Leaders. I am grateful to the Circuit Local Preacher/Worship Leader Meetings' Secretaries who provide the information which goes to make up this report

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

Bangor & Holyhead	Val Peaden
Buckley & Deeside	W Arthur Roberts
Buckley & Deeside	Clare Roberts
Buckley & Deeside	Derek Scanlon
Cardiff	Tony Gutteridge
Cardiff	Margaret Morgan
Cardiff	Wyn Morgan
South West Wales	Ladonna Mallams
Wrexham	Ken Drury

We thank God for their faithfulness over the years in leading worship and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ within the church and in their everyday lives. There have been long-service awards and accreditation services, despite the restrictions.

Developments in providing worship opportunities have included live-streaming services which continue even as we can meet in person. This is appreciated by those who need to remain at home. For those without technology, several Circuits have provided printed services, often written from within the Circuit.

Re-opening churches means most churches now have only service on a Sunday. However, several Circuits have a significant number of 'Local Arrangements', and the role of Worship Leaders is becoming more important and widespread. Attendance in person at worship has diminished and has had an effect on the nature of the services delivered.

Bible month has taken place in some Circuits. There is a hope that more will take part in 2022 and some on-line preparations sessions are planned. Other continuing development and training has been available, though the lack of meeting in person has limited the fellowship.

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

Please continue to uphold your worship leaders, local preachers and ministers in prayer as they lead God's people in the worship of a God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who has never left us alone, especially in these difficult times.

Probationers Report 2021.

At this stage we do not have any probationer ministers in the District.

Our 'under fives in ministry' group met via zoom last connexional year and we have begun to meet regularly 'face to face' once more, since September. Our first meeting was at Amelia Trust Farm, which has become something of a tradition for the group.

The group is now one of Ministers in the 'early years of ministry' as we have widened the group a little.

Our meetings are held roughly six times a year, which gives us opportunity for sharing fellowship, and to study together. We also hope our retreat will go ahead in May 2022.

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

Synod Sabbaticals Report 2021

A total of 10 Synod Sabbaticals took place in the Connexional year 2020-2021 in the Wales Synod, with one being postponed until 2021-2022, with the approval of the Synod Policy Committee. As with the previous year, the focus of many Sabbaticals has been one of reflection and study, rather than travel and exploration. Online courses have been chosen to work around the continuing Covid restrictions during a large part of the year. It is not ideal for many presbyters but has enabled the Sabbatical experience to be productive and stimulating.

I remain full of admiration for the ingenuity that presbyters have shown, when confronted with a three months' Sabbatical, taken mainly at home, with little scope for travel and even less for a residential experience. I am pleased to note that plans for the year 2021/22 are beginning to be a little more adventurous, as the Covid-19 restrictions have been gradually relaxed during 2021. I look forward to a return to more normal opportunities to presbyters in the coming year.

Amelia Trust Farm

We give thanks for the Amelia Trust Farm, currently in its 30th year. The Methodist Church in Wales was involved in setting up the Farm, when benefactors Bob and Ethel Huggard donated the land, with derelict buildings and barns, to create a living memorial to Bob's mother Amelia.

In that time, it has been providing new opportunities for young people struggling with formal education, as well as being a place for families to relax and enjoy the countryside.

Since 2017, I have been a part of the team at the Amelia Trust Farm, where as part of my responsibilities, I serve as Chaplain. Other members of the team include the Farm's Director, Caretaker, Animal Care Supervisor and GROW team leader.

Together with its partners, the Farm provides a holistic environment that benefits some of the most marginalised members of society. Who are some of those partners?

During term-time, we run the GROW programme for young people who may be struggling in mainstream education. GROW stands for: Greater self-awareness, Recognise potential, Opportunities and Work experience.

The Vale of Glamorgan Pupil Referral Unit for Key Stage 3 provision is also based at the Farm.

The Innovate Trust Field Days Project works with adults with learning disabilities, teaching them horticultural skills.

Woody's Lodge is a charity, which supports veterans of the armed forces and their families.

The Farm's mission is to provide alternative educational interventions to meet the needs of vulnerable groups, where gaps exist in current provision. It aims to increase motivation and self-worth, so that there is a greater willingness to re-engage with education and get people's lives back on the right path.

The Amelia Trust Farm is good ground. The Good News reminds us that when the seed God sows finds good ground, wonderful things can occur. May this care farm, set in the beautiful Vale of Glamorgan, continue to be open to God, and may it bear much fruit in the seasons to come.

Momentŵm (Methodist Youth Wales)

Report to Synod for the Connexional Year 20/21

The members of Momentŵm Core are Trish Earlam, Emily Barry, Gareth Bennett (Learning Network), Rev Richard Parkes, Megan Borges (OPP), Deacon Jon Miller (Momentŵm Deacon), Rev Flis Randall (Chair).

Our activities in this year were obviously informed by the pandemic however we ploughed on, with Momentŵm Core meeting regularly to plan and pray together.

Over the course of the year, we held a few Zoom meet ups for youth leaders. These were an opportunity for folks to come together to primarily talk about how they were finding things during the pandemic, as well as to share resources and ideas of what had worked in the lockdowns etc. Our feedback was that many folks found these useful.

Because we were unable to hold our usual 'Big Day Out' in Feb/March we opted instead to hold a 'Big Day In' in April which was an activity morning conducted online, on the theme of 'God's World, Our Home'. The morning included worship, Taskmaster games, a choice of live sessions in breakout rooms and pre-recorded YouTube videos, as well as time away from the screen. In preparation for the day, we'd previously sent out packs containing activities and materials needed for some of the sessions. The morning seemed to go down very well with those who came and our thanks to all the youth leaders who helped with the planning and delivery of that morning.

It was a delight to have Megan Borges working with us last year. She was a One Programme Participant working alongside Momentŵm. Megan was an absolute gift and did so much including spearheading the excellent 'Hope in a £10 note' project where individuals and youth groups were encouraged to find creative ways to reach out to churches, communities and charities using £10 as a starter. She also put together a number of Tune-Ins (short films on a variety of relevant topics). The results of both of these projects and more can be found on Momentŵm's Social Media platforms on Facebook and Instagram (Momentŵm Cymru).

A highlight of the year was the news that Daud Irfan was voted in as Youth President and we know he's already making a huge impact in his year of office, a particular joy so far being the recent 3 Generate youth gathering.

Looking forward, Momentŵm is taking some time out to reflect, listen, pray and plan after all the changes in the Synods, and in the world following COVID. So big events will be on hold for a while, but we will continue to hold Zoom meetings for youth leaders and we also plan to offer opportunities for our young people to meet with Daud online.

MWiB Report

This year's annual MWiB Conference like so many others took place on zoom. There were great plans to celebrate Ten Years of MWiB, in the event people brought along their own cake and drink to toast each other, and, the occasion, on Zoom! Panels highlighting activities which had taken place during the inception of MWiB and since, have been added to a length of bunting This bunting has been displayed at various meeting, and at the Forum. One member from Abergele Church produced two of these panels. Yellow Canaries made by the Forum members were sent to MP's attending COP 25. Members of MWiB are encouraged to wear Black on Thursdays, to highlight the Abuse of Women and the practice of Female Genital Mutilation.

St Johns Bangor are planning their Easter Offering Service in their newly refurbished Church, to include a light lunch, which for all Circuit Churches also taking part in the EOS, will be titled 'Tell Her Story, Tell Our Story' the details of which will be available from MWiB on line, in the New Year. President of the Bangor Circuit Jean Owen, will lead the Service assisted by their new minister Nick Sissons. This event will be available on Zoom for those unable to attend in person.

I am extremely pleased to report the re-generation of the Conwy and Prestatyn Circuit MWiB. The New President, Deacon Linda Brown and Secretary Supernumerary Deacon Denise Creed, also a welcome new addition, have put together a very exciting looking monthly program which I am sure will be welcomed by the Women of the Circuit. Should you be a member of the Conwy and Prestatyn Circuit and wish to attend these events, you will find the email addresses of Linda and Denise in the Circuit Plan.

We welcome contributions from Churches in the North of Wales which can be included in the next Synod Handbook.

We continue to miss the women from the South of Wales and hope that in due course they will also "re-generate" to coin a phrase and keep us in the loop with their activities.

Please remember that Susan Murrell our Synod Forum Representative and I are available should any group wish to avail themselves of our time.

N.B.

Synod Enabler

Coming to the end of another year, I would like to offer my thanks to the Synod Chair and members of the Synod Policy Committee, for their ongoing support and trust in me along with their prayers.

The four key roles which I am carrying out include work with asylum seekers and refugees, work with culturally diverse congregations, advocacy role across Synod and leading of worship leading of Worship. The past two years have been a different experience for me and a lot of other people in dealing with responsibilities, but I have been able to navigate my work throughout the pandemic.

A key part of my year has been the on-going Urdu and Hindi Fellowships in Cardiff and Swansea for which I carried on leading online services every Sunday from the start of the pandemic till summer 2021 until restrictions on gatherings were eased and we could meet in person. In August of this year, in the Cardiff circuit we held a welcome service for the induction of the new Methodist Youth President for 2021-2022, Daud Irfan from the Cardiff Urdu/Hindi Fellowship. Furthermore, as our youth is growing, Daud Shaukat from the Cardiff Fellowship has also been appointed as the Digital Youth Rep, whilst Elisha Atif from the Swansea Fellowship has been elected as the Global Church Rep. Iraj Irfan from the Cardiff Fellowship has also been elected as a Methodist Conference Rep. Not only have three young people from the Fellowships been elected to key roles in the Methodist Church, at 3Generate this year, a total of 12 children and young people from Cardiff and Swansea attended as participants.

As we have slowly started to emerge out of the pandemic with restrictions being lifted, in regards with government guidelines, I have also again been working with asylum seekers and refugees, to support them through their difficult times. Throughout the year, I am still carrying on to continually preach in services across the Cardiff circuit. Navigating through the pandemic is a challenge for us all but your prayers, support and constant encouragement is very valuable to me.

Safeguarding.

This past year has been challenging for all. Covid and the different waves and variants have meant that we have not been able to meet face-to-face and have had to rely on Zoom and similar online meeting systems. It has been possible however to join many meetings across Wales thus allowing more work to be completed.

Colleagues remain committed to furthering the safeguarding agenda and I thank them for their constant support. There are now online training modules available for both Foundation and Advanced levels. Colleagues who are trainers are making good progress with the Foundation Module in circuits and along with colleagues in the Wales Learning Network we have been able to make significant progress with online Advanced Level Training also. Training for the Advanced Module is offered regularly therefore please ask your Circuit or Church Safeguarding Officer for more information should you need it.

The District Safeguarding Group meet twice a year to discuss good practice, training needs and policy changes. We hope to welcome a new Chair to our next meeting along with lay members from a range of professional safeguarding backgrounds. The Past Cases Review challenged the church to provide better care and support for those who have experienced abuse.

The Methodist Church launched two important documents earlier this year. These are 'Reflect and Respond', a four-week study guide for small groups in churches and the leaflet 'Supporting Survivors of Abuse'. 'Reflect and Respond' can be ordered from Methodist Publishing free of charge. Both the guide and the leaflet are available to download on the Methodist Church website. If you have used this resource or are interested in exploring the topic further, please contact me.

Thank you for all your support during the past year.

I look forward to working together to make sure that our churches are safe spaces for all to attend.

Aberystwyth University Chaplaincy

During the year 20/21 with many of the students studying from home coupled with long periods where St Paul's wasn't physically meeting, the chaplaincy work was obviously quiet. However, a small number of students were still connected with the church which was a delight. During this year St Paul's also became affiliated with the Student Christian Movement.

This September the chaplaincy got off to a bang with a rainbow festooned stall at Freshers' Fair highlighting the intentionally inclusive stance of St Paul's. Many, many conversations were had over the 3 days and it was felt that this was an important time of chaplaincy and ministry to the students, not just to the Freshers but to the second years too, who hadn't had the opportunity for physical Freshers' events the year before because of the pandemic. We were supported by the Momentum Deacon, Jon Miller in this work for which we were grateful.

A good number of students responded to our invitations and have started attending church on a Sunday, either in the morning, or to Dinner Church in the evening (aimed at students and young people). St Paul's Students also meet at the manse on a Monday evening and this too has proved popular with much cake being consumed on a weekly basis. Students have also chosen to attend some of our fellowship groups. The group of Methodist Korean students who were part of St Paul's prior to lockdown have restarted their weekly Bible Study group at St Paul's.

This year we have a number of students with no Christian background whatsoever all of whom have chosen to worship with us because of our purposeful welcome to the LGBTQI+ community, seeing St Paul's a place of safety and acceptance. It has been a joy to welcome them. We held a service, run in large part by the students, for the Transgender Day of Remembrance, where we stood in solidarity with those affected by transphobic hate crimes. This was well attended with many students in attendance, one of whom has joined us since. It is a telling fact that St Paul's is the first church some have ever been inside and humbling that they now see it as "their church".

Going forward we hope to build on this work and continue to offer a warm welcome, hospitality and support to the students.

Swansea University – Synod report for year ending August 2021

As you would expect, life in Swansea University has been completely different over the last 12 months. All teaching was online and there were very little face to face meetings or activities of any kind.

Faith and Community (the new name for the Chaplaincy) has therefore offered different and restricted activities. However I have been involved in:

Online and telephone appointments with students who are struggling, through the Listening Service;

- Planning and co-leading LGBTQI+ online worship;
- Swansea Interfaith online meetings and discussions;
- Online Remembrance Day observance;
- And during the warmer months ‘well-being’ dog walks.

Faith and Community now has two dedicated physical spaces (of course not much used at the moment): a smaller space on Singleton Campus called The Lighthouse and a brand-new extremely large space on Bay Campus called The Haven. These spaces are important and will make our work easier in the years to come.

Faith and Community is now also fully interfaith, with representatives from all the major faith traditions.

Rev Leslie Noon

Associate Chaplain, Swansea University

Minister at Uniting Church Sketty and Clydach Methodist Church

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