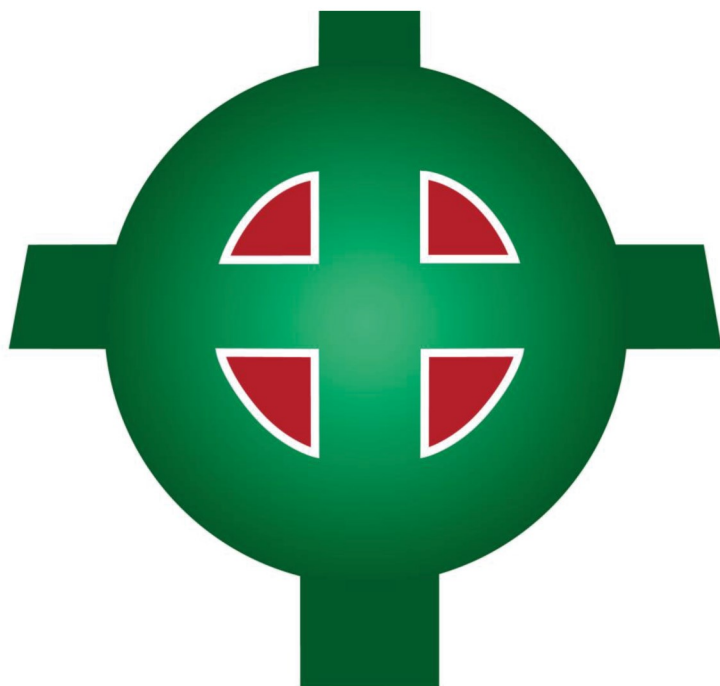


Yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd yng Nghymru
The Methodist Church in Wales



wales
Synod

Reports 2022

Wales Synod – Introduction to the Annual Report for 2021-22

I am pleased once again to introduce this Annual Report for the Wales Synod for the year 2021-22.

I am also conscious that this is the last time we report on the mission and witness of the Wales Synod in its present form, as on 1st September 2022 the Wales Synod and Synod Cymru came together as Wales Synod Cymru. This decision was celebrated at the inaugural meeting of the new Synod in Newtown, Powys on 10th September in the presence of the Secretary of Conference, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Hustler. This coming together represents many years of dialogue and discussion before the 2 Synods agreed on a scheme which was presented to Methodist Council and then approved at the Methodist Conference in June 2022. We hope and trust that the new Synod will not only encourage our traditional work in the Welsh-speaking Cymru circuit but also stimulate mission opportunities in what have been English-speaking circuits, and it was encouraging that at the first Synod meeting we were able to commission Deacon Lisa Rathbone to begin some innovative work with Welsh learners in what were hitherto 2 English-language circuit in NE Wales.

I would like to commend all my colleagues in both Synods for their hard work and perseverance in bringing this change about and to pay a particular tribute to the Chair of the former, Synod Cymru, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hurd for her commitment and leadership throughout this process.

The coming together of the new Synod is a particular achievement in light of the background against which it has been achieved. Throughout this year, the work and witness of the Wales Synod, like so much of the church and wider society, has been continued to be profoundly affected by Coronavirus and its consequent restrictions. Even in this third year, it has continued to have a significant impact on the ability of local churches to meet for worship and fellowship and use their premises to serve the wider community. I remain heartened by the way that colleagues have worked so hard together to address these challenges: offering printed and 'online' services; making alternative arrangements for pastoral support; and undertaking risk assessments to ensure safe use of church premises, many of which have been 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.

I recognise that these restrictions continue to affect the finances of local churches and circuits. It has taken longer than we first hoped for regular patterns of worship to resume and for community and other groups to return to our buildings and bring in letting income. While we note that this may be offset to some extent by reductions in cost of travel to meetings and running premises, we also recognise

that this has continued to have a significant impact on the finances of local churches and circuits and indeed the Synod during this year 2021-22. Moreover, we now wait to see how the cost of living crisis and in particular the rise in energy costs will impact on our witness and worship, particularly over the forthcoming winter months. However, that will be a challenge to which the new Synod will need to respond, and we are pleased to note that it will do so on a firm financial footing with the substantial reserves set out in these and other accounts.

Despite all the challenges, the Synod has continued to develop its ministry and mission in line with the priorities of the Synod Development Plan in supporting the work and witness of circuits across Wales. This has been done firstly by means of grant support, and during this final year of the Wales Synod it has continued to respond to applications for support from the Synod Advance Fund with grants totalling £202,386. Once again the majority of this, some £181,015, went to Ministry schemes and a much smaller amount of £13,386 to Property schemes, reflecting the impact of coronavirus and other restrictions. The Synod also continued with its grant stream to support 'on-line' worship resources which made £7,602 available in grants and which we hope the new Synod will also follow.

Secondly, the Synod has sought to resource circuits by the provision of ordained ministry through the connexional Stationing process. In a very difficult year, we were able to fill 9 out of 11 appointments, including 6 superintendencies, through Stationing, and to welcome 2 candidates for ministry, one of whom went on to be accepted at Conference. However, the new Synod will know that we continue to face a significant Stationing challenge for 2023, and this reminds us of the ongoing importance of both 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 Synod has remained part of a Connexional church seeking to make its contribution to the wider Church. Accordingly, we were delighted at the start of the Connexional year 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 the year 2021-22. Daud has had an active and eventful year in office, travelling widely across the Connexion and abroad. His example has led many other young people across Wales to attend the 3Generate event in Birmingham, and it is good to be reminded that as well as addressing our particular context in Wales, members of Wales Synod have also made significant contributions to the life of the wider Connexion.

The continuing impact of the Coronavirus in its various forms and the rising cost of energy bills going into the winter remind us that there are still many challenges ahead for the new Synod. However, I hope there remain 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. A. Jones', with a long horizontal line drawn underneath it.

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

Wales Synod Policy Committee Report 2022/23

The Synod Policy Committee (SPC) met four times during the year and continued to meet via Zoom, which is planned to be the ongoing way the committee will meet.

As in previous years, we have used our standard agenda, thus ensuring all appropriate items are covered throughout the meetings of the year. A record of the work of SPC is presented to each annual Synod, ensuring that it is Synod that has the full control of the SPC's work. The areas are:

Implementing policy, SPC's business, matters to/from related bodies, ecumenical and matters relating to Ministry

During the year, many items of business have been debated and decisions made including:

- + Approving the income and expenditure, agreeing the reserves policy and agreeing the individual Circuit assessments, approving a payment of £110,000 to the Pension Fund.

- + Continuing discussions related to the introduction of the new Wales Synod Cymru from September 2022, including the transfer of Wales Synod's assets to the new Synod, nominating Rev Andrew Charlesworth as one of the two Chair of the Wales Synod Cymru to work with Rev Dr Jennie Hurd

- + Receiving and responding to letter from the Secretary of Conference which suggested the new Wales Synod Cymru should have only one Chair, not two as has been the agreed way forward, the outcome being the status quo remains that the Wales Synod Cymru has two chairs for the present

- + Approving lay people to lead Holy Communion, approving ministerial sabbaticals, agreeing the role of a Synod Mission Enabler to work in North Wales

- + Receiving reports from Methodist Council and feedback from Methodist Conference, debating 'The God in Love Unites Report' and recommending a way forward for Circuits to discuss and vote on the report, maintaining a watching brief on all Stationing matters related to the Synod

- + Recommending to Synod the following church closures – Brymbo (Wrexham), LLangwm (S W Wales), Crossway (Vale of Glamorgan), Trinant, Abertillery & Pontypool (Gwent Hills & Vales), St. Paul's Loudon Square (Cardiff), Shaftesbury, Newport

(Newport & Lower Wye). Noting that Maesteg (Bridgend) will cease its sharing agreement

+ Reviewing and agreeing revised Synod policy documents relating to Momentŵm, Communications, Continuing Development in Ministry, Higher Education Chaplaincy

The above gives an indication of the important work of the SPC ensuring that the business of the Synod continues from each meeting of the Synod to the next. Each member of SPC and all Superintendents have copies of the minutes of every meeting and full details of the work of SPC can be obtained by accessing those papers, also the minutes are also available on the Synod web site. The membership of SPC is recorded in the Synod Handbook.

The June 2022 SPC meeting was the last meeting of the Wales Synod and from 1st September 2022 the new Wales Synod Cymru was operational. Looking forward to 2023, the continued establishment of the new Synod under the leadership of the Synod's two chairs, Rev Dr Jennie Hurd and Rev Andrew Charlesworth is anticipated with enthusiasm.

Our sincere thanks to Rev Dr Stephen Wigley as he ends his time as Synod Chair. Stephen has been a key influencer in the creation of the new Synod and has successfully steered the Wales Synod during his time as Chair.

Our very best wishes to Stephen as he continues his ministry within the Methodist Church

Synod Property Report

Having taken over from Bob Gilston I have to thank him for the excellent records which he passed on for me to fall back on when asked questions to which I didn't know the answer. It was a pleasure to work with him in my role as Synod Property Advisor.

One of the most important changes which has occurred in the connexional year ending August 2022 is the introduction of new rules for tenancy agreements or 'Occupation Contracts'. These new arrangements finally came into force in December 2022.

This upheaval coincided with the need for almost all of the people registered with Rent Smart Wales for the management of our rental properties to undertake refresher training and for TMCP to renew their registration as landlord. Thank you to everyone who has completed the training and renewed their registration with RSW. The Synod provided funds to cover the training expenses of those who have enrolled on the course. Anyone who has yet to do so should contact Gill Peace and me if further funding is to be requested.

In this connexional year 34 projects were entered on the Consents System. Of these, 17 were for sales, 11 of which were of churches. There is great concern, connexionally, regarding the rate of sales and Bob Gilston made reference, in his report for 2020 – 2021, to the connexional Property Strategy, which is designed to encourage Managing Trustees to consider whether any use can be made of premises for Methodist Church purposes, before sale is considered.

Further consideration of the issues involved is taking place and the need for property strategy to be included in Circuit and District Mission Policies has been identified as crucial to the retention of assets. We are encouraged to give strategic thought to how we might best use our property for mission and to identify early warnings of the potential redundancy of particular premises whilst there might be time to consider other options than sale.

The workload generated by sales has created difficulties for TMCP in dealing with projects in the timescale expected by Managing Trustees. They are exploring the possibility of extending the streamlining system to other types of transaction. In the meantime please allow for the constraints under which they are working.

I am still trying to get to know all the Circuit Property Officers and hope, soon, to set up Zoom meetings so that we can share experience and good practice and get to know each other, and so that I find out how I can support the property personnel and the Managing Trustees in each circuit.

Synod Schemes and Grants Committee Report 2021/22

The Synod Advance Fund continued to offer support to churches and Circuits in ministry and mission making 21 mission grants. The total grants have decreased from 2021 but a contribution of £50,000 to the ministers Pension Fund from this Trusts is the reason why a higher total is indicated.

The work of the Deacons and Children and Family workers was affected by covid restrictions in Wales until April 2021. However, creative ways of continuing to reach out into the community were very much in evidence. Overall, the number of children's, youth or family workers in the Circuits has reduced significantly across the Synod.

The support for higher education Chaplaincy work in nine institutions has continued. The scope of this work has changed to include supporting students who may be accessing their education from home. In some instances, chaplains, working with staff and students, also provided support to refugees who were housed in university accommodation.

The Synod extended the offer of support for increased online working and mission and improving the quality of worship with new AV equipment. During the year 7 churches took advantage of this grant scheme. Most churches have used their equipment to livestream services or have services for members on zoom. There have been some interesting outcomes, including developing online congregations who are geographically spread out and are unlikely to meet in person.

In September 2021 the SS&GC set up a small fund to support climate change initiatives in support of the Connexion policy and the interest generated by COP26 in Glasgow. This includes up to 100% for small grants to engage church and community in environmental issues or make changes such as change equipment to reduce energy use or improve insulation. Uptake of this scheme has been low.

Across the Synod, there were no new major building schemes. Towards the end of the year, recognising the ongoing financial struggles of some churches, with depleted reserves, to carry out urgent repairs, the Committee changed the policy of not funding work highlighted in Quinquennial inspections or which had no mission objective. Churches with low reserves can apply for 50% of the costs up to a grant of £5000. This is a new scheme so no grants were given in 2021/22.

The SS&GC has been lenient in not chasing required reports for grants. In 2021/22 only 5 reports from 37 grants were submitted. The SS&GC will not require that churches and Circuit are up to date with their reporting requirements before any new grant applications can be considered.

Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod

Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ending 31 August 2022

The accounts show £472 surplus for the year which is a reflection of lower travel expenses being offset by the unbudgeted £10,000 contribution to the pension reserve fund and higher manse repair costs. The key variances against budget are explained below.

Grants received were £16,574 less than budget.

The Connexional contribution for Assistant Chairs has been received based on 2 Assistant Chairs, however the budget assumed 3 Assistant Chairs, a reduction of £10,874.

Only £2,000 of SAF Training grant was required, whereas £4,500 was budgeted, a reduction of £2,500.

The budget included £1,000 from SAF for the Synod Representative Meeting, however as no costs were incurred, no grant was claimed, a reduction of £1,000.

Similarly the £2,200 from the Synod Charitable Trust wasn't required as none of the associated costs were incurred, a reduction of £2,200.

Miscellaneous Income is £29,512 more than budget:

£6,000 Connexional grant was received which was passed on to the Cardiff Circuit for the work in Plasdwr. The payment couldn't be made directly to the Circuit hence why it has been paid to the District for the District to pay over.

When the budget was set the costs of the Wales Synod safeguarding officer were included in the budget. The safeguarding officer also works for Synod Cymru. After the budget was set the decision was made to combine both jobs into one payroll which is charged to Wales Synod. Wales Synod then recharges Synod Cymru's share of the payroll cost to the Wales Synod. As a result the income and costs of the Wales Synod are £20,641 more than budget. The net impact on the Wales Synod was £nil for the safeguarding officer's work in Synod Cymru i.e. Synod Cymru's share of her payroll is all recharged to Synod Cymru.

Expenses:

Assistant chairs reflects the costs of 2 roles when 3 were budgeted, matched by lower Connexional funding

Grant for the Cardiff Circuit – this is the £6,000 for work in Plasdwr that was passed across

Manse Llwyn y Grant Rd – unbudgeted refurbishment of the kitchen, flooring etc.

£10,000 pension contribution to the pension reserve fund

Safeguarding £20,641 adverse due to the Synod Cymru payroll (explained above), however this has partly been offset by lower travel and expenses due to the Pandemic restrictions earlier in the year

Travel in general has resulted in lower costs across quite a few categories including Chair's Travel, Chaplaincy (H.E. Cardiff), Superintendent's meeting, Synod Committees and travel, and Synod Enabler (Culturally Diverse Congregations).

The lower training costs have been matched by lower grant funding.

Transfers from / to reserves:

£5,000 contribution from the Manse Reserve towards the cost of the manse refurbishment

£1,971 from the CDiM reserve towards the cost of CDiM

£1,800 from Momentwm towards the costs of young people attending 3Generate

In summary, income has varied in line with the associated spending. Savings on travel and expenses have offset the manse repairs and the contribution to the pension reserve fund.

Methodist Church in Wales - Wales Synod

Income and Expenditure Account

	Actual	Full Year Budget	var
	£	£	£
Income			
Connexional contribution re Conference	1,366	1,000	366
Grants Received	150,165	166,739	(16,574)
Synod Assessment from Circuits	58,500	58,500	-
Miscellaneous Income	29,512	-	29,512
Total Income	239,542	226,239	13,303
Expenses			
Assistant Chairs	17,617	32,100	14,483
CDiM and HE Training	1,971	4,000	2,029
Chair's other expenses	1,910	1,500	(410)
Chair's Secretary and Admin	18,070	16,250	(1,820)
Chair's Travel	2,737	4,000	1,263
Chaplaincy (H.E. Cardiff)	40,171	42,425	2,254
Conference	1,366	1,000	(366)
Deaconal Appointments	5	-	(5)
Emergency Circuit Support (Covid 19)	-	-	-
Grant for Cardiff Circuit	6,000	-	(6,000)
Lay Employment Officer	299	1,000	701
Manse Llwyn y Grant Rd	23,303	4,500	(18,803)
Ministers retreat	-	2,500	2,500
Miscellaneous expenses	105	500	395
Momentwm (Youth)	2,465	4,700	2,235
Pension contribution	10,000	-	(10,000)
Safeguarding	44,286	25,000	(19,286)
Superintendents' meeting	-	2,500	2,500
Synod committees and travel	69	4,000	3,931
Synod Contribution to Connexion	21,036	21,639	603
Synod Enabler (Culturally Diverse Congregations)	42,111	48,925	6,814
Synod Office Costs	10,093	6,500	(3,593)
Synod Secretary	1,781	1,700	(81)
Training	2,447	4,500	2,053
Y Cyngor	-	1,000	1,000
Total Expenses	247,841	230,239	(17,602)
Income less Expenditure	(8,299)	(4,000)	(4,299)
Transfers from/to reserves (net)	8,771	4,000	4,771
	472	-	472

25/09/2022

Wales Synod accounts 31 Aug 22

Synod Cymru Balance Sheet 2021-2022

Current Account

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>	
Brought forward 1.9.21	81847.88	Gwylidydd	
		Paper	6876.70
Gwylidydd Donations	3056.00	On CD	0.00
			6876.70
Cymru Circuit Assessment	14658.00	Cristion publication x 6	2117.01
		Christmas Gifts	2200.00
Transafer from account 1241	2956.00	Methodist church assessment 21/22	62523.00
		Plas Llwynog Manse	2977.86
Transfer from account 6079	4864.00	Grants/Gifts	500.00
		Secretary's costs	451.58
TMCP	56322.81	Free Church Council contribution 2022	450.00
		Treasurer's costs	398.97
		Methodist Insurance	701.97
		Remuneration / Honorarium	1065.00
		Sunday Schools Council - 2022 contribution	3000.00
		SWW Circuit - contribution towards Jonathan	
		Miller's Ministry	13000.00
		Refreshments following the special Synod Service	
		9.7.22	250.00
		Safeguarding costs	20640.80
		Conference costs	575.26
		Contribution to Pension fund	3820.00
		Cymru Circuit - contribution towards the	
		Gwylidydd 2022/2023	4000.00
		Bank charges	77.04
		Book token fro Amy Adams	52.00
		Travelling costs to meeting of the Synod	50.40
		Returned cheque not paid by bank	10.00
sub total	163704.69	sub total	125737.59
4 unpaid cheques brought back		In hand 31.8.2022	38367.10
into the account	400.00		
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>164104.69</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>164104.69</u>

No 2 Account

Balance brought forward 1.9.21	12119.41
TMCP	497.99
Bank Interest	4.41

sub total	12621.81
Transfer to current account	2956.00
Bank balance 31.8.22	<u>9665.81</u>

TALAITH CYMRU

Balance brought forward 1.9.21	13342.39
TMCP	1108.40
Bank Interest	2.33

sub total	14453.12
Transfer to current account	4864.00
Bank balance 31.8.22	<u>9589.12</u>

Medwyn Jones
Treasurer
31.8.22

Amelia Trust Farm

A few miles situated northwest to the town of Barry, sits the local farming community of Amelia Trust Farm.

For the last 30 years, it has been providing new opportunities for young people struggling with formal education. Since 2017, I have been a part of the team at the Farm, where as part of my responsibilities, I serve as Chaplain. Together with its partners, the Farm also provides a holistic environment that benefits some of the most marginalised members of society, such as the Innovate Field Days Project and Woody's Lodge. Indeed, on Armistice Day at the Celtic Cross, I shared in a time of deep reflection with Woody's Lodge, who support veterans of the armed forces and their families. That day, we were also joined by young people and staff at the Farm.

Many long-standing members of the Methodist Church visited the Farm throughout the year. In my role as chaplain, I was available to conduct ceremonies that involved the placing of memorial benches, the stationing of memorial plaques and the planting of memorial trees.

In July, the Farm held its first End of Year Celebration since 2019. It was a chance to give thanks to the young people who had been on the Farm's GROW programme for the academic year. We also welcomed their parents and carers.

We give thanks that the Amelia Trust Farm has and will continue to bring together different communities who will live as a sign of the Kingdom.

Hospice Chaplaincy

It is a great privilege to be involved in Hospice chaplaincy as we seek to companion patients and their families on the 'final journey'.

At St David's we have up to 1,000 patients at any one time, living in the four boroughs we serve – Newport, Monmouthshire, Torfaen and Caerphilly as well as having a smaller presence in Powys. Most patients receive care in their own homes and chaplains are available referral to make home visits. We also operate Day Hospice at three sites where we meet with patients and develop relationships that can lead to deeper conversations about the challenges people face as they live with life limiting illnesses. We also have a 15 bed In Patient Hospice where some people come for end-of-life care, symptom control or for respite. A significant part of chaplaincy work here is a ministry of presence and availability – a service extended to colleagues as well as patients and their families.

If patients express a religious preference, we will either try and facilitate links with their own faith community or provide support ourselves. For example, it is a regular joy to share Holy Communion with patients nearing the end of their lives or to share in daily prayer as their end nears. Most weeks we gift people holding crosses which are a great source of comfort to many.

Of course, the majority of patients are not strongly aligned to any particular faith and in these situations, chaplaincy focuses on spiritual care – something everyone needs as it pays attention to the depths of a person that can be of great significance towards the end stages of illness. It is hard to overemphasise the value of deep listening to people - a type of listening which is not too different to that used in spiritual direction.

Hospice work can be challenging and a grounded, contemplative spirituality is proving essential in order to be as present as possible and avoid the temptation to try and 'fix' or solve what is beyond repair. To have a faith based acceptance of our mortality with all the fragilities and frailties that entails is another essential.

As well as being grateful the Methodist Church's support of this chaplaincy role I would also like to record my thankfulness for connexional funding for a postgraduate course in Chaplaincy Studies which I am enjoying enormously.

Inter Faith Report

Just before Christmas one of the Methodist Church's leading practitioners of Inter faith dialogue died. Kenneth Cracknell had been Senior Tutor at Wesley House, Cambridge, in the late 1980s and early 1990s and had inspired me to be involved throughout my ministry in finding ways of bridging the divides that exist between different faith traditions. At his funeral his widow reminded everyone of Kenneth's favourite saying, which comes from the Scottish philosopher John Macmurray: "All meaningful knowledge is for the sake of action and all meaningful action is for the sake of friendship."

My report is, like Macmurray's philosophy, a call to action. This is the first report I've written for many years, in fact ever since my counterpart in the South stood down and the task became too big for me. But my move to Bangor, where the international nature of the University and the Hospital brings inter faith issues regularly to the fore, I have been energised to return to both action and report-writing!

So, I would like to request that those within the Synod, who are regularly engaged in inter faith work and in the building up of friendships with people of other faith traditions, get in touch with me so that I can begin to form a picture of what our activity in this area looks like in 2023. Working in this area can sometimes be lonely and it is important that we can also offer encouragement to each other.

I recently attended an Interreligiosity Webinar on Welsh religious identity, where people from spiritual traditions as far removed as Islam and Druidism, listened courteously and carefully to one another as each explained what meaning and purpose their faith brought into their lives. There are plenty of such virtual opportunities available, even if you are not living in a very multi-cultural and multi-faith area of the country.

As well as hearing from the work people are already engaged in, I would be happy to listen to those who aren't sure where to begin but would like to open up a spiritual conversation with others in their neighbourhoods.

Useful links for Stats for Mission Data entry <https://online.methodist.org.uk>

www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/statistics-for-mission/on-line-data-entry/

This contains Forms and Guidance.

www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/statistics-for-mission/faqs/

This contains frequently asked questions.

The Synod Handbook for 2022-2023 lists 15 Circuits and 160 churches.

To date, 84 churches have already submitted their completed data for the year ending August 2023 on-line. (i.e., their membership data at November 1st 2022)

Adroddiad Rhwydwaith Dysgu Cymru Wales 2021-22

Profodd tîm Rhwydwaith Dysgu Cymru Wales newidiadau sylweddol yn ystod y Flwyddyn Gyfundebol 2021-22. Ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn cynhaliwyd y mwyafrif o ddigwyddiadau ar-lein o hyd yn unol â chanllawiau'r Tîm Cyfundebol. Yn raddol tyfodd y cyfleoedd i gymryd rhan mewn digwyddiadau wyneb yn wyneb, gan roi ystyriaeth ofalus i'r dulliau mwyaf effeithiol ym mhob achos. Yn ystod y flwyddyn bu'r newidiadau mawr yn yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd yng Nghymru gyda'r gweithio tuag at uno'r ddau Synod i greu un Synod dwyieithog yn flaenoriaeth yn ein gwaith wrth i ni geisio cefnogi'r trawsnewid hwn mewn gwahanol ffyrdd. Ym mis Mawrth wynebodd y tîm RhD ei newidiadau ei hun gydag ymddeoliad Amy a phenodiad Delyth yn Gydlynnydd dros dro a'r gostyngiad o dri aelod i ddau wrth barhau i gyflawni ein hymrwymiaadau ar gyfer y flwyddyn Gyfundebol.

Yn ystod y flwyddyn parhaodd yr eflen o ddarparu hyfforddiant ar y cyd mewn rhaglenni Cyfundebol megis Goruchwyliaeth, Addoli: Arwain a Phregethu, Cydweithio Cadarnhaol, Arweinyddiaeth, Llwybrau Disgyblaeth, Duw i Bawb a mentrau Cyfiawnder Urddas a Chydlynid i dyfu, gyda llawer ohono ar-lein a hyfforddiant Diogelu yn trosglwyddo i lwyfan Theology X, gan baratoi'r ffordd ar gyfer datblygiadau mewn hyfforddiant ar-lein yn y dyfodol. Wrth i gyfleoedd ar gyfer digwyddiadau wyneb yn wyneb agor, gwelsom y 3Generate cyntaf yn cael ei gynnal ers y cyfnod clo, digwyddiad hybrid Cyfundebol Mis y Beibl yn cael ei ffrydio mewn cyfarfod traws-gylchdaith yn Aberystwyth, gwaith rhanbarthol Cynllunio Cenhadol mewn eglwysi a chylchdeithiau, hyfforddiant Trefniant Lleol yn cael ei gynnig mewn cylchdeithiau wyneb yn wyneb ar-lein a'r gwaith ecwmenaidd ym mhrif wyliau Cymru yn ailddechrau.

Mewn ymgais i annog arfer da wrth baratoi ar gyfer y Synod dwyieithog newydd, daeth cylchlythyrau Cymru Wales yn ddwyieithog ym mis Medi 2021 gydag eitemau Cymraeg a Saesneg yn ymddangos ochr yn ochr. Rhoddwyd cefnogaeth i Grŵp Gweithredu'r Synod wrth ddatblygu'r Polisi Iaith ar gyfer y Synod newydd. Ym mis Mai cyhoeddwyd a lansiwyd adnodd dwyieithog newydd *Taith trwy hanes - 2000 o flynyddoedd o Ysbrydolrwydd Cristnogol yng Nghymru* yn Eisteddfod yr Urdd.

Rydym yn ddiolchgar am y gefnogaeth, y cydweithrediad a'r anogaeth a gawsom fel tîm o du'r ddwy Synod a'r cylchdeithiau ac eglwysi ar hyd y flwyddyn ac edrychwn ymlaen at yr hyn sydd o'n blaenau yn y maes dysgu a datblygu ym mywyd y Synod newydd.

Cymru Wales Learning Network Report 2021-22

The Cymru Wales Learning Network team experienced significant changes during the 2021-22 Connexional Year. At the beginning of the year most events were still being held online in accordance to Connexional Team guidance. Gradually the opportunities to participate in face to face events opened up, with careful consideration to given as to the most effective means in each case. During the year the major changes happening in the Methodist Church in Wales with the working towards the merger of the two Synods to become one bilingual Synod were a priority in our work as we sought to support this transition in different ways. In March the LN team faced its own changes with Amy's retirement and Delyth's appointment as interim Co-ordinator and with the reduction from three members to two whilst continuing to complete our commitments for the Connexional year.

During the year the shared delivery element of Connexional programmes such as Supervision, Worship: Leading and Preaching, Positive Working Together, Leadership, Discipleship Pathways, God For All and Justice Dignity and Solidarity initiatives continued to grow, since much of it was online with Safeguarding training transitioning to the Theology X platform, paving the way for future developments in online training. As opportunities for in person events opened up, we saw the first 3Generate held since lockdown, a Connexional Bible Month hybrid event streamed at a cross circuit gathering in Aberystwyth, Mission Planning regional work in churches and circuits, Local Arrangement training offered both in circuits and online and the ecumenical work at the main Welsh festivals restarting.

In a move to encourage good practice in preparation for the new bilingual Synod, the Cymru Wales newsletters became bilingual in September 2021 with Welsh and English items appearing side by side. Support was given to the Synod Implementation Group in developing the Language Policy for the new Synod. In May a new bilingual resource *Journey through history - 2000 years of Christian Spirituality in Wales* was published and launched at the Urdd Eisteddfod.

We are thankful for the support, co-operation and encouragement we as a team received from within both Synods and the circuits and churches throughout the year and look forward to what lies ahead in the area of learning and development in the life of the new Synod.

Local Preachers Report

Each Circuit has sent in their annual return and in our 15 Circuits there were, on 31st August, 242 Local Preachers (last year 260), of whom 159 (184) are active. There are 20 (22) who are on note or on trial, and 97 (105) 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:

Bridgend United Area	Rosalie Maddy
Gwent Hills & Vales	Alan Hall
Gwent Hills & Vales	John Penney
Newport & Lower Wye	Bridget Gibbs
Vale of Glamorgan	June Pooley

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

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 a few Circuits have continued to provide 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 not gone back to pre-restrictions times

Bible month has taken place in some Circuits. The choice of Isaiah was felt to be somewhat cumbersome and did not enable churches to get more than a brief look at some themes. Other continuing development and training has been available, though the lack of meeting in person has limited the fellowship as some LPWL meetings are held by Zoom.

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

We look forward to joining with the preachers in the Cymru Circuit.

We worship a God who came to us Jesus, sustains us through the Holy Spirit, and delights in the worship of his people. Please continue to pray for all who have the privilege of leading congregations in worship week by week.

MWiB Report for the Synod Handbook.

2022 seems to have been a quiet year for the Wales Synod North in general; however, the Synod Advent Day held in Old Colwyn Methodist Church, which included a live advent spiral made up of fresh flowers and greenery, was considered by those who attended to be a successful occasion and made a fitting addition to our preparations for Christmas.

On Saturday 11th March from 10am-4pm a Synod Day on the theme of Lent into Easter took place at Old Colwyn Methodist Church.

This year's MWiB Easter Offering Service, during which we present our monetary gifts, contributed by the churches in each circuit for the furtherance of God's kingdom through MWiB, follows the theme of

No borders to God's love.

"The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as a citizen among you;

you shall love the stranger as yourself. Leviticus 19:34 [NIV]

Many churches support people who have come to the UK in search of sanctuary. The Easter Offering 2023 dedication service asks us to consider welcome and hospitality, especially to people who are displaced and forced to migrate.

No borders to God's love offers churches, circuits and districts a celebration of God's love and mission worldwide. It includes the dedication of the Easter Offering, all of which goes to the World Church.

Please do not hesitate to send your MWiB news during the year to

nboocock2009@hotmail.co.uk

Momentŵm (Methodist Youth Wales)

In the last connexional year 2021/2022 Momentŵm took a sabbatical. Churches and circuits were getting back on their feet following the worst of the pandemic, and thus there was little energy for youth activity beyond the local groups which had made it through the lock downs.

Momentŵm Core is the small organising group representing all parts of Wales (Trish Earlam- North Wales, Flis Randall -Mid Wales, Jon Miller- South West Wales, Emily Barry-South East Wales, along with Gareth Bennett who supports us from the Learning Network.) We met over the summer for a planning meeting and then the work began again in earnest in September starting with a very small Youth Forum which met alongside representative Synod in Newtown. Those who came however, enjoyed themselves and particularly relished grilling Rev Dr Jonathan Hustler, the Secretary of the Methodist Conference.

It was a joy to see so many young people from Wales at 3Generate in October. Momentŵm hope to both encourage and financially support young people attending this event next year.

February saw return of the Big Day Out where over 40 young people from all over Wales, came together at Abernant Lake Activity Centre to take part in outdoor pursuits, some input from us on the theme of 'A new thing' (based on Isaiah 43:19), lots of food and some great fellowship.

Our Social media presence (Momentŵm Cymru) includes most platforms including Facebook, Twitter Instagram, and Whats App. Perhaps this is the year to expand into TikTok?

Jon Miller, the Momentŵm Deacon continues to be available to support churches and circuits with their youth work and student engagement in whatever form (i.e., established, or non-existent!).

Momentŵm Core will be meeting again in the spring to confer and pray, as we think about what Momentŵm will be and do within the new Synod. Rest assured we will let you know of what is happening when it does.

Wales Synod Sabbaticals Report 2022

A total of 6 Sabbaticals took place in the Connexional year 2021-2022 in the Wales Synod, which included one that had been deferred from the previous year with the approval of the Synod Policy Committee. It is good to note that Travel has featured more strongly this year, with the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, enabling presbyters to be more adventurous in their plans.

In the Connexional year 2022-23, I anticipate there being 4 Sabbaticals taken in the Wales Synod Cymru, two of which have been deferred from last year to ease the burden on Circuits who have, by chance, several presbyters whose Sabbaticals are due in the same Connexional year. Looking further ahead my research indicates it likely that there will be 5 Sabbaticals due in Wales in 2023-24, subject to changes resulting from the Stationing process.

One of the best parts of my role is reading the reports submitted by those returning from their Sabbatical. They provide a lasting record of the Sabbatical Experience for the individual and also a bank of ideas which future Sabbatees can draw upon. Reports received have expressed pleasure at being given the opportunity to undertake extended study, acquire new skills, pursue hobbies and engage in a wide range of activities which would normally not be possible.

May I encourage all those returning from Sabbatical to let me have their report promptly!

Wales Synod Safeguarding.

2022 was a year of Working Together.

First, I wish to thank colleagues for assisting with the Safeguarding work within our Circuits. We are fortunate that individuals are willing to take on the roles of Circuit Safeguarding Officers and Church Safeguarding Officers. It has become apparent however that some Circuits are finding it difficult to fill these positions, therefore different ways of carrying out the role must be explored.

As we are aware, a DBS is needed for colleagues carrying out certain roles. It has become apparent that the DDC site was not updated correctly for some areas from September onwards. This has caused great confusion and continues to do so. If this is the case, please contact me in order for steps to be taken to resolve the matter. It is essential of course, for those who need one, to have a valid DBS.

Synod Enabler

The year 2022 was a year of many new beginnings and continuous blessings within my role as a Synod Enabler, Culturally Diverse Congregations Wales. Continuing in this role since 2008, my four main directions are still the same objectives which I am working on, which are:

Work with asylum seekers and refugees

Work with Culturally Diverse Congregations

Advocacy role across the Synod

Leading of Worships

As we were coming out of the pandemic and the impacts which COVID-19 had left on our society, we entered a new stage in our lives and for many of us it felt as if we had been given a new life through God's abundant grace. The Urdu/Hindi/Punjabi Fellowship's in Cardiff and Swansea grew back to the numbers which we had before the pandemic and over the course of 2022 we also saw the addition of many new families in both the Cardiff and Swansea Fellowship's. Our annual convention which had been previously disrupted due to COVID-19 was held at last in August 2022 in Sketty Methodist Church Swansea and was attended by over 80 people from all across Wales as we spent a whole day in worship together and to learn the Word of God from various guest speakers, including the Methodist Youth President at that time – Daud Irfan.

In the summer, another one of our annual events which was able to take place after a few years was our picnic in July. Which this year took us to the Brecon Beacons and was a time of great fellowship where we talked about God, talked about betterment of our family and community lives, shared in lunch together and had fun in activities such as hiking, playing football, cricket, and many other sports, whilst ending the day together in worship.

For a second year in a row, many children from those families whom I work amongst were able to share together in a weekend of fun and worship as they tuned into God at 3Generate at the NEC in Birmingham in the last weekend of September.

17 children and young people joined the Cardiff circuit's 3Generate group and on their arrival back home, it was truly wonderful to see how much fun they had over the weekend but also how they had bonded together as children and young people of the Methodist Church. Apart from those 17 children, a further 4 were also in attendance as the Ex-Youth President, Conference Youth Rep, Digital Youth Rep and Global Church Rep - all of whom were a part of our Cardiff and Swansea Fellowships'.

Another major beginning over the past year has been the start of 3 people who are ready to start ministry with the Methodist Church and have begun their local preaching course with Cliff College as part of the worship leading and local preaching in a year course.

Trinity Centre in Cardiff was the host for my annual Welcome Christmas programme in Cardiff and this was also held in Port Talbot for people from the Swansea/Neath/Port Talbot area. The wonderful events had Christmas carols in different languages and a nativity play in which people from many different countries participated.

I would like to thank Rev. Stephen Wigley, all the superintendents of the circuits across the synod, members of the SPC and all of my colleagues for their continued support in enabling me to carry out my work with their prayer, love and support. God Bless You all.

Index

Amelia Trust Farm	14
Discipleship & Ministry Learning Network	17
Hospice Chaplaincy	15
Interfaith	16
Local Preachers	19
Methodist Women in Britain	20
Momentwm	21
Property	7
Sabbaticals	22
Statistics for Mission	16
Synod Enabler	23
Synod Policy Committee	5
Synod Safeguarding	22
Synod Schemes and Grants	8
Wales Synod – Annual Report	2

