

## Welsh Mission President's report 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2022

### Seeking and serving to make God known as revived, empowered, disciple-makers

#### Strategic Objective #1 - Revived

##### Revived members and congregations

The Family Ministries team, Kenroy & Eileen Mckenzie, responding to an appeal for more to be done for the men in the Welsh Mission, held a Men's Retreat, 18-20 November, with guest speaker Pastor Ebenezer Daniel from the North England Conference. The theme for the weekend was "Who am I? A Reality Check". There was concern over whether the men would talk, but given a Spirit-filled environment, the men shared together, laughed together, and encouraged one another, experiencing an intimacy than none expected. The men were enthralled with the retreat weekend and commented that they would like to do this more often. A more detailed report will be sent to the Messenger.



The Telford Ghana church participated in an evangelism drive from 1-15 October alongside other Ghanaian SDA churches in Europe. This was held via Zoom and led by Pastor Anthony Melchizedeck. Up to 13 visitors regularly connected with the meetings in Telford and 5 of these are now receiving Bible studies, with the others on a list of interests who receive telephone visits. For the church members, the campaign served as a revival as well.

The Cardiff church ran a church-wide survey throughout October about people's experiences, expectations and plans related to Cardiff church. This survey was open to members, regular attendees, students, and first-time visitors. Even the children up to age 12 had a specially prepared survey so they could give their input. The results were analysed and presented to the Church Board and congregation throughout November and December. The response was hugely positive, with identified areas of improvement relating to outreach, the social life of the church, and the church building.

Prayer ministries are strong in many churches. Cardiff members have been encouraged to join the BUC Power Hour of Prayer and WM Prayer Time on Wednesdays and Cardiff District

Vespers on Fridays. The two Cardiff congregations enjoy joint opportunities of fellowship through Prayer Ministries, Pathfinders and Music.

Since December, the Prayer Ministry team at Newport have resumed in-person prayer meetings on Wednesday evenings. Online morning prayer sessions continue Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. The first post-lockdown Youth Week of Prayer was led by Pastor Luca in November.

The Prayer Ministry team at Hereford holds weekly online prayer meetings, giving all members the opportunity to be revived and encouraged to share God's love with others. As a result, several ladies from the women's ministry team have started a new small group and meet for an in-person prayer session and meal once a month.

There are ongoing weekly Wednesday prayer meetings at Carmarthen, organised by the head elder, David Colledge, and Friday vespers organised by Uschi Mertens. This has attracted visitors, as well as members.

Ellis, a young man from Ystrad Mynach, who has been receiving Bible studies, assisted Pastor Adriana with "The Armour of God" series on Wednesday evenings during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Ellis presented the historical side and use of the Roman soldier's armour and Pastor Adriana led in the spiritual application.

The Women's Ministries sponsor, Samantha Fessal, organised a retreat 7-9 October which was attended by 35 women from mid and south Wales. The theme of the weekend was "Pillars of a Christian Life" and Duska Rancic was the main speaker, with supporting presentations by other ladies.

This event provided spiritual, physical, and mental support, and Spirit-filled praise, prayer and testimonies encouraged each attendee.



### Revived pastors

A pastoral family retreat was held from 16-18 December with Pastor Bernie & Karen Holford as guest speakers. This took place at the Elim Conference Centre, nestled among the beautiful Malvern hills. Most pastors and their families were able to attend. On the Friday and Saturday evenings, Karen had separate meetings for the women. This was the first time the ladies had been able to meet since pre-Covid. The men had their separate sessions with Graham and Bernie and there was plenty of time for joint worship and socialising. The time of fellowship and seminars was a real blessing and enabled us to get to know one another more.



### Revived facilities

Following refurbishment of the sanctuary and balcony during September, the Cardiff church was reopened on 1 October. During October, work continued in the foyer, mothers and youth rooms and corridors, which has freshened up the building and made it more aesthetically appealing.

Newport church have rearranged and removed most of the furniture from the vestry room to make space for the growing group of teens attending the Cornerstone Connections Sabbath School, as well as a baptismal class with Pastor Luca. A new fixed video camera has been installed in the main sanctuary to allow for local streaming of services to the youth hall monitor and, in the future, online live streaming. All tax-returning members are frequently reminded to donate through Gift Aid.

### **Strategic Objective #2 - Empowered members and pastors**

Pastor Jovan Adamovic, WM Community Services Sponsor, met with the pastors of Cardiff and Newtown churches in October to assist the churches with their plans for increased involvement with the community. Pastor Jovan discussed ways of accessing funding. Pastor Jovan has not been able to form a WM Community Services advisory as it appears the churches have not elected local Community Services leaders. His focus is on providing help and support to local ministers and working with churches and their respective boards when invited.

Crystal Knight, the Stewardship sponsor, sought to empower and equip members through the sharing of Stewardship material for the Stewardship Revival Week from 26 November - 3 December. She has been sharing sermons from the Grateful Living series in her local church and focusing on teaching stewardship principles to the children and young people in Llandudno Junction.

In Llandudno Junction, the youth and children are being encouraged to take a more active role in the church.

The Cardiff Communication Department, dealing with Social Media accounts and streaming of worship services, is completely run by young people.

Cardiff Sabbath School Leaders have been implementing ideas gained from the various presentations given at the BUC Sabbath School Conference they attended.

Training of Adult and Children's Sabbath School teachers also took place at Newport during November.

The Personal Ministries Sponsor, Pastor Adriana Fodor, along with other members from the Welsh Mission attended a BUC evangelism and mission summit the weekend of 18-20 November for the purpose of preparing, inspiring and equipping members for the work of evangelising the communities across the Welsh Mission.

### Strategic Objective #3 – Disciple-Makers

At Rosemarket (Haverfordwest) several local people are part of a Bible study group and sometimes attend church services as the result of members making connections in the local community. Adventists from abroad moving into the area for work have helped to enhance the discipleship opportunities in this village.

In October, Pastor Jovan met with the Swansea Lord Mayor, Welsh Government Ministers, businesses and third sector to discuss ways to reach and help the most disadvantaged people in our communities. Pastor Jovan attended a week-long online Christian seminar in November on the importance of churches being involved in their local communities at this time of economic austerity.

Swansea church became part of the nationwide Warm Hubs programme and received funding for it, as well as additional funding for their ongoing Breakfast Club – in total over £2,200.

On 1 October, a Remembrance Day was held for the late Theo Gokah, an elder of the Cardiff North church. A concert with visitors performing from Newport and the two Cardiff churches preceded a time of socializing and food.

The members of Hereford church had the joy of witnessing the baptism of Bethany Khumalo on 22 October, hosted by the Putson Baptist church. Several non-Christian visitors attended this special day.



On 29 October, both the Newport and Hereford churches held their second post-lockdown Children's Sabbath, with most children actively involved in the service.



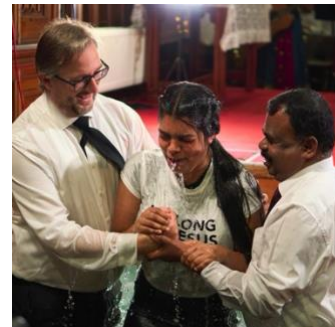


At Newport, the afternoon programme was marked by special items, including an original theme song composed and written by the children. A brainstorming session for both adults and children focused on ideas to improve the Sabbath School experience of students and teachers. All children are being encouraged to have a genuine spiritual and devotional life at home, play an active role in church and witness to their friends in the community.

Two Children's Days of Fun were held 2 & 3 November at Cardiff with bouncy castles, loads of fun and food bringing joy to about 50 children on the first day and 30 on the second with about 7-8 of these coming from non-Adventist families.



The baptism of two sisters, Debbie & Dinah Monickam, took place on 5 November at Cardiff church with Pastors David Rancic and Jacob Monickam officiating. This was attended by more than 200 people.



The children at Wrexham had a special Children's Day with Eileen Mckenzie, which allowed them to be engaged and involved in the programme. The children used the opportunity to invite some of their non-Adventist friends.

There are 3 people receiving Bible studies at Wrexham. Of these 3, a husband and wife searched for a Sabbath-keeping church after reading the Bible and being convicted of the true Sabbath.

Several churches held community Harvest and Christmas services, including Carmarthen, Cardiff, Swansea, Ystrad Mynach, Hereford, and Newport.



At Hereford, the little ones participated in a Nativity play, watched by many non-Adventist parents, including a young family of refugees from Ukraine.

The “Knit and natter” group at Hereford, comprised of members and local friends, produced hats and scarves that were donated to ladies and children at the Gilgal Refuge in Birmingham.

Ystrad Mynach held two Christmas services, one for the church and one for the community. They hosted a Christmas meal where church members were joined by family members and non-SDA friends who don't usually come to church. They also had their first end of year and welcoming the new year together with a special service on the afternoon of New Year's Eve.

Swansea hosted a party for the elderly in the community and a Charity Christmas Concert raised over £900 for the health treatment of a little boy. Every quarter they organise a Community Sabbath when all the members go out to serve people in need in their community. An International Day in October brought together not only church members from 36 countries, but also other groups from the local community, giving people the opportunity to sample traditional cuisine from many cultures.

Cardiff church decided to hold their Carol Service in the church car park, and this attracted visitors from the community. Part way through, heavy rain meant the service had to continue indoors, but this experience has got local members very enthusiastic about utilizing the car park for future events.



#### **Strategic Objective #4 – Audit of membership records**

Pauline & Jacques have begun the process of working with church clerks to carry out a membership audit.