

Welsh Mission President's Report – 3rd quarter 2022

Introduction

I am pleased to report that after several stressful months of house hunting, Pauline and I are now finally living in Welsh Mission territory!

The Welsh Mission pastoral team and church members are actively involved in following the strategic plan objectives voted at the Session in June, as evidenced from the reports below. Several churches have had a facelift or are currently undergoing refurbishment. Members are coming together for personal revival, nurture, empowerment, and disciple-making.

Sponsors were given a new paradigm to work with at the Sponsors Orientation that took place on 4 September with Pastor Jacques Venter. The aim is to move away from a programme focused approach to investing in the local church leaders and empowering them to work within their local context.

District Overview

Rhyl

The grounds of the Rhyl Church have dramatically changed with the removal of many trees and shrubs. This is part of the full refurbishment plan for the whole church.

The aim is to create a more welcoming environment, an unobstructed view of the church and increase the natural light coming into the church building.



The vision is for the church to become a community focus point and the clearing of the church grounds provides greater opportunities for future development.

Local businesses and contractors have given advice on how to improve and maintain the church premises.

After clearing the trees, it became apparent that urgent repair work was required to the walls surrounding the church and this is being dealt with.

Llandudno Junction has focused on empowering the new members, in particular the youth, to take a more active role in the church. We have encouraged the older children to help with the media, increasing their motivation to come to church by being involved.

Wrexham Church has finally started meeting in their new venue which has seen attendees increase in number. The programme has been adaptable and relaxed with the focus being on Bible study. The aim is to have a safe, relaxed environment to meet, and a place where people can invite their friends to come and be introduced to the Word of God. Every



Sabbath there is a fellowship lunch and children's programme and an interactive prayer, scripture reading and reflection.

Carmarthen has started to have weekly Wednesday prayer meetings (in person at church and on Zoom), and Friday vespers on Zoom. This is helping to nurture personal spiritual life and provide discipleship opportunities and fellowship.

Ystrad Mynach

Personal revival and discipleship are being nurtured using "*The Armour of God*" series on Wednesdays. Members are exploring the spiritual application of each piece of armour to their lives today in the context of the spiritual battles they face. At the end of every meeting, members receive a summary of the main points learned, along with "homework" (writing down/practically applying the principles learned to their lives).

There are ongoing Bible studies throughout the week with non-Adventists.

A Music Day took place in July, with the Newport church choir and many others joining Ystrad Mynach members for a day of praise and thanksgiving to God. Fellowship was enjoyed over lunch and a concert held in the afternoon.

Telford Central voted to put their current church up for sale to help fund the purchase of a new building. Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful in acquiring the building they had hoped for. The current building is no longer suitable for the needs of the congregation.

Telford men's ministry department organised a men's retreat in the Lake district which promoted team building and spiritual wellbeing. The men felt strengthened by Christ and ready to accept the challenge to do more for Jesus.

Newtown church took part in 4 food festivals in and around Newtown. They were specifically invited to take part by two of the organising group because of the work they had previously done in the local community.

Newtown was gifted a new smoothie bike for their outreach programmes by Pastor Jeremy.

Refurbishment of their church space continues with the instalment of an electric screen and new audio-visual equipment.

Shrewsbury church celebrated the first baptism in 3 years of an indigenous Welsh young man. His whole family turned up to witness the event, keen to meet the members, as they said their husband and Dad had changed for the better since coming to church.



The maintenance and up-keep of the church externally continues with the building being painted outside.

Telford Ghana

Telford Central and Telford Ghana churches worshipped together to celebrate World Pathfinder Day on 17 September, with myself as the guest speaker.

The two churches have decided to have Pathfinder classes together going forward.



Cardiff

During the past few weeks the sanctuary has undergone repairs and redecoration. Plans are in place for the refurbishment of the kitchen, toilets, and front foyer area.

Newport has seen a rise in attendance from new members and regular visitors/friends. This has posed health and safety concerns as attendees are exceeding the building capacity.

Themed Sabbath services organised by various ministries in the church were held during August and September, giving an opportunity for all age groups to participate.

Youth arranged sporting events and the Family Ministries department organised a family fun day in a local park.



In August, six young adults attended the European Youth Congress in Finland. Youth Bible studies regularly continue two Sabbath afternoons a month.

The choir resumed their activities with two concerts in July at Ystrad Mynach church and the 'Tregwilym Lodge' Care home in Rogerstone.

A book of Condolence was open for members and visitors to pay their respects and show their love and support for the Royal Family following the death of the Queen.

Llandrindod Wells are having a challenge in finding a place to worship on Sabbath.

Hereford



Health Ministries, Family Ministries and Prayer Ministries have involved the whole church through special events and services during the summer, including a Children's Sabbath in July and a Family Togetherness Day of Prayer in September focusing on "rebuilding the family altar".

Departmental overview

For many sponsors, the summer months were a quiet period following the WM Session which has given them an opportunity to start planning for the 4th quarter and 2023.

Stewardship

Crystal Knight attended a Training Event in King's Lynn, 2 – 4 September, jointly organised by the SEC & NEC Stewardship Directors. Other guest speakers included GC, TED & BUC Stewardship Directors. Talks dealing with all the elements of stewardship, shared resources, and links, equipped and empowered local church stewardship leaders to carry out their roles. Crystal has already implemented some things at her local church.

Women's Ministries

Telford Central held a Women's Day on 3 September which included an Enditnow programme to help educate women to understand the different kinds of relationship abuses.

Youth Ministries



Twelve youth from across Wales attended the 2022 youth congress in Finland. During the week the young people had opportunity to engage in worship and workshops covering a myriad of topics relating to the challenges facing young people today, including their mental health, challenges of coming out of covid isolation and relationship advice. Spending time with 2000 youth from all over Europe made a significant impact on their spiritual growth

and social interaction, allowing them to make new friends, something that is important for young people coming from a small Mission setting. By God's grace more of our young people may get the opportunity to be involved in such a wonderful spiritual experience.