

**Morrison Methodist Church Update for Circuit Meeting 11.12.14**

1. The problem with water penetrating the back wall now seems to be solved.
2. There is still water coming through the external steps into the area below.
3. Other maintenance work is being carried out to solve some of the other problems with the building.
4. The two downstairs rooms and kitchen are ready for people to hire. On going publicity is being carried out to advertise this.
5. A successful high tea was arranged at the end of November. Philippa arranged a small concert for her pupils with money from donations going to the church. A gift day is being arranged for Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December.
6. There are regularly fortnightly bible studies on a Tuesday, weekly during Advent.
7. There have been several new members joining the church.

Heather Coleman  
December 2014

## **Local Preachers Report for Circuit Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

1. The meeting remembered Rev Alfred Austin who had died in November.
2. Sue Raad, after her trial service was recommended to move from 'On Note' to 'On Trial'.
3. Caroline Buckler and Cynthia Mumford had both passed Section 'B' of the training course. Both were now halfway through training course, had formal interview with Rev Howard Long and reported on services. Both were recommended to continue 'On Trial'.
4. Selina Taylor had passed Section 'C' of the training course, had a reported on service. She was recommended to continue 'On Trial'.
5. The Meeting had a presentation of 'All Age Worship' by Rev Andrew Walker.

Heather Coleman

Deputing for Alan Cram

5.12.14

## CIRCUIT MEETING DEC 2014

### METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

The theme for the Easter Offering service next year is “The leaves of the tree....”. The service will be in Brunswick on Sunday evening April 19<sup>th</sup>. The envelopes will be given out during Lent. Easter Day is on 5<sup>th</sup> April, so I would ask that church treasurers send me their cheques or inform me of the amount collected as soon as possible after Easter. Cheques should be made payable to the **WORLD MISSION FUND**.

My contact details are Janet Neilson 19, Gabalfa Road, Sketty, Swansea SA2 8NF Tel 01792 202085 E mail – [iverbrustad@btinternet.com](mailto:iverbrustad@btinternet.com)

During 2015 there will be three area Quiet Days. These will be in Barry, Carmarthen and Swansea and Gower. The dates and details for Barry and Carmarthen have to be finalised.

Our Quiet Day will be at Nicholaston House on Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup> – 10am for 10.30 until about 4 pm. The charge will include lunch, coffee and tea. The theme is “Welcome to the Feast”. More details will be available nearer the time, as October is a long way off! But if you wish to think about it, we will be discussing favourite recipes, as well as other activities, and hopefully publishing them in a book to raise funds for MWiB projects. If you wish to come to our Quiet Day I will start making a list in the New Year, so you can let me know as soon as you like, because numbers will be limited.

WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March in various churches in Swansea and Gower. The theme is “Do you know what I have done for you?” and has been prepared by women from the Bahamas.

Janet Neilson

**Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit**  
**Charity No 1134882**  
**Report of the Trustees For The Year**  
**Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014**

The Trustees submit their annual report and the independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014.

**Legal and administrative information**

The governing body of the Circuit is the annual conference of the Methodist Church. The Methodist Church Act 1976 gives the authority under which the Methodist Church acts. The constitutional practice and discipline of the Methodist Church governs the activities of the Circuit.

The Methodist Church is no longer excepted from the need to register as a charity and on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010 the Circuit registered as a separate charity under the Charities Act 2006 and has been allocated the Registered Number 1134882.

Superintendent Minister: Rev Howard Long

Circuit Address: Swansea and Gower Circuit Office, Mumbles Methodist Church, Mumbles, Swansea SA3 4DH

Address of Correspondent: Rev Howard Long, 12 Worcester Drive, Langland, Swansea, SA3 4HL

Organisational Structure

The Swansea and Gower Circuit is made up of eleven churches. These are - Pitton, Horton, Reynoldston, Murton, Mumbles, Sketty, Brunswick, Penlan, Wesley, Morrision, Clydach.

There are approximately 650 members, numerous worshipping adherents and community 'contacts'.

There are 5 paid members of staff. These are Rev Howard Long – Superintendent Minister, Rev Pamela Cram, Rev Andrew Walker, Rev Leslie Noon & Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta

Other office holders (voluntary) include

Circuit Stewards – Mr Derek Norton, Mrs Heather Coleman, Mr Ian Campbell, Mrs Gwen Dumelow

Circuit Treasurer – Mr Bernard Gwyther

Circuit Meeting Secretary – Mrs Diane Norton

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the Managing Trustees. During the year 2013/14 the following people served as members of the Circuit Meeting.

**(To be completed)**

## **Mission and Purpose**

The Circuit is constituted to advance the mission of the Methodist Church in the Swansea and Gower area by providing opportunities for churches to work together and support each other, by offering them resources and finance, personnel and expertise which may not be available locally. The Circuit also services the local Churches in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries of the Church, and in programmes of training.

## Priorities for the Methodist Church

In partnership with others wherever possible, the Methodist Church will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments on this priority:

***To proclaim and affirm its conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the Church***

As ways towards realising this priority, the Methodist Church will give particular attention to the following:

**Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer**  
**Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor in Britain and worldwide**  
**Developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved**  
**Encouraging fresh ways of being Church**  
**Nurturing a culture in the Church which is people-centred and flexible**

## Swansea and Gower Circuit Policy

***As a Circuit we affirm the Priorities of the Methodist Church and seek to:***

- ***Express the Gospel through worship, word and action in ways that will speak to the needs and culture of the people around us.***
- ***Nurture Christian understanding and lifestyle through fellowship groups, study groups and prayer groups in the Churches.***
- ***Encourage growth in church membership through worship and evangelism, mission and pastoral care.***
- ***Support existing chaplaincies and develop other chaplaincy work wherever possible.***

- *Work in partnership with other churches wherever possible in order for us to share in God's mission more effectively.*
- *Play a full part in the work of the Methodist Church in Wales while being inspired and challenged as part of the worldwide Church of Christ.*

*Be sensitive to environmental issues and be good stewards of our natural resources.*

This policy was agreed at the Circuit Meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2012

### Review of the Year

At the beginning of the new Methodist connexional year (Sept 2013) the circuit welcomed two new presbyters on to the staff team, Rev Leslie Noon and Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta.

Rev Leslie Noon assumed pastoral responsibility for Sketty and Penlan as well as working part time at the University Chaplaincy. Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta assumed pastoral responsibility of Brunswick in central Swansea.

During the year the circuit welcomed two new circuit stewards, Bob Alderdice (Murton) and Martin Gregson (Clydach) and thanked the outgoing circuit stewards, Gwen Dumelow and Ian Campbell.

The Superintendent and Circuit Officers continued to support Morrison in the redevelopment of the church premises making them more accessible and appealing for church and community use. They also formed a new forward planning group at Brunswick to support the church in its ministry to central Swansea.

A Circuit Management Committee was formed to plan and oversee the work of Ogof Adullam, the new Drop –In Centre project for the homeless and those with addiction issues based at Brunswick.

### **The circuit received one new local preacher 'on note'**

**The circuit mission project for the year supported the Water Aid charity.** Fundraising events were held throughout the circuit which not only raised vital funds but also served to raise awareness of this important work.

During the year, the Clydach Local Ecumenical Partnership called Capel Y Nant continued to forge links into the local community through the Clydach Council of Churches, local schools and cultural societies. Ty Croeso, the community project on Clydach High Street opened and among other outreach initiatives operated a foodbank.

During the year the circuit agreed to support a property scheme at Capel Y Nant

The Methodist Church was involved again in the Swansea Churches Night Shelter for the Homeless Project. The Saturday shelter was held at Mumbles Methodist (Victoria Hall) for three months from December to the end of February. Over 50 volunteers from the Methodist circuit supported the work of the night shelter.

**The circuit continued to monitor its safeguarding policy. Annual audits were carried out in the local churches and monitored by the circuit safeguarding officer. A safeguarding training evening was organised in the circuit by the Wales Synod.**

The quarterly circuit magazine was produced and distributed to all the churches.

Members of the circuit churches were encouraged to engage with a consultation document on the Churches Uniting in Wales. Following the consultation the circuit meeting agreed a formal response. Members of the circuit churches also had the opportunity to contribute to a Methodist connexional consultation on same sex marriage following changes in government legislation.

The Gower churches held a number of youth events such as 'Messy Church' and 'Am I Bovered'. Reynoldston along with other local churches held a very successful 'Stable Trail' in December which was attended by over 400 people many of them young families.

During the year a proposal by Sketty Methodist and Sketty URC to form an LEP ( Local Ecumenical Partnership) was agreed by the Circuit Meeting and the Synod Policy Committee.

A Circuit Invitation Committee was formed to oversee stationing matters.

The circuit was fully represented at all Synod meetings including the annual Synod in Newtown (Sept 2013), the Synod policy committees in Newtown and the Ministerial Synod that met in Abergavenny in April 2014. The Superintendent Minister chaired the Synod schemes and grants committee which met three times during the year in Cardiff.

In the course of the year the Swansea and Gower Circuit has:

8. Prepared the preaching plan and organised acts of worship in each of the circuit churches Sunday by Sunday.
9. Arranged three Circuit Services – Mission ( launch of Circuit Project October 2013) Aldersgate/ Pentecost Praise (May 2014) Easter Offering ( June 2014)
10. Arranged four Circuit Meetings to deal with business relating to the Circuit and to formulate plans for the future including agreeing the budget and church assessments for the financial year 2014/15
11. Arranged 6 meetings of the Circuit Leadership Team to discuss the life of the Circuit
12. Arranged 18 meetings of the Circuit ministerial staff.
13. Arranged four meetings of the Local Preachers and Worship Leaders
14. Arranged meetings of the Circuit Missions Committee and Outreach Group to promote interest in these areas within the churches of the Circuit.

**This report was approved by the Circuit Trustees on 11th December 2014**

## **Meeting of the Commission of Covenanted Churches with Church leaders at Wrexham (Oct 2014)**

**(A briefing paper for Leadership Team of both Synods, superintendents and leaders of ardaloedd)**

1) Members of the Commission of Covenanted Churches met with leaders of the 5 Covenanted Churches (including the Methodist and URC Ecumenical officers) at the Ramada Inn in Wrexham for an overnight meeting on 28-29<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

2) The meeting first reflected on the responses from the 5 denominations. You will be aware of the Methodist response, which was to say that we did not feel there was sufficient support to accept the invitation to consider ourselves as part of a Uniting Church along the lines of the recommendations which followed. The Church in Wales' response was to indicate their willingness to proceed in accordance with the Commission's recommendations. The response of the other 3 denominations (PCW, URC and Covenanted Baptists) was to say that while they wanted to stay with the process, they had problems with many, if not most of the specific recommendations. (Indeed, a short paper offering a matrix summary of the responses indicated that that the 4 non-episcopal denominations shared very similar reservations about the detailed recommendations.)

3) The meeting then took time to reflect on where this left the Commission in its work, since the nature of the responses meant that it was not possible to proceed as the Commission recommendations had hoped towards a Uniting Church at the present time. In the course of the frank discussion which followed, it was noted that none of the partners was at this point proposing to withdraw from the Commission or the Covenant. However, it was also recognized that there was still much further work to be done to fully understand each other's traditions and practice; and that there needed to be further steps taken to build confidence in relationships and enable further local ecumenical mission initiatives along the lines indicated in the Methodist response.

4) As a result of this some further steps were agreed. First to address the issue of our better understanding one another (and our positions on the key subject of *episkope* and episcopacy) Bishop Gregory offered to revisit the paper on 'oversight' together with other members of the Commission (including Jennie Hurd (Meth) and Brian Matthews (PCW)) in such a way as to include reference to recent steps taken by the churches in Ireland and to report back to a future meeting of the Commission in the spring.

5) Then to address the issue of building confidence and relationships, 3 further steps were agreed: first to take up the invitation for ecumenical representatives to be present and involved at the Church in Wales Conference planned for November in Llandudno, so as to offer an ecumenical



perspective to discussions about ministry teams and areas (and we would hope mission initiatives); second to continue to press for regular meetings of other church leaders with the Bench of Bishops to follow up on the initial conversation which began last October, and with a view to meeting up either in January or March 2015; and third for the Commission to plan for a series of road shows to take place across Wales during 2015, at which the Gathering recommendations and the churches' responses could be shared as part of a broader ecumenical discussion seeking to find a way forward.

6) It was also agreed that a Press statement would be prepared to summarise what had happened and where the Commission was with the recommendations following the meeting; but since there is as yet no clear timetable as to when this will be available, this briefing paper is offered by the two Methodist Chairs of Synod to help their colleagues understand the present position.

***(SDW & JH Nov 2014)***

## BRUNSWICK METHODIST CHURCH REPORT TO CIRCUIT 2014

DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

### 1. BRUNSWICK CHURCH OFFICE

Brunswick Church Office was redecorated had a new carpet put in. The room can accommodate up to 20 people and is looking lovely. It is ready for renting if anyone knows anyone who needs a room to rent please contact us.

### 2. OGOF ADULLAM

Ogof Adullam was launched in October and it is open 3 days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 5pm to 9 pm. During the beginning of the night shelter Ogof will be open early on Saturday. The visitors who are coming enjoy playing snooker and card games. They are given warm soup and bread rolls. They also have an opportunity of talking to someone as there are so many willing volunteers who come on a rota to assist. They start with a word of prayer and finish again with a word of prayer which is wonderful. The volunteers have been amazing. Certainly everything is going according to plan.

### 3. UNITAS

We held a Women World Day of prayer at St Marys Church on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November. This ecumenical service was well attended. This is part of our UNITAS Churches Together in Swansea City which Brunswick part is of.

We attend the UNITAS Meetings and I join the other Clergy in the Fraternal Breakfasts.

### 4. THE HILL CHURCH

they are still worshipping at Brunswick.

## 5. THE ASSYLUM SEEKERS AND THE REFUGEES

These are still coming every Fridays for fellowship, for English lessons and art work and for food.

## 6. BIBLE STUDY

Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month we have a bible study on Thursday at 11am. There is no Advent Bible Studies at Brunswick this year. People are joining other ecumenical groups as planned at the UNITAS Meeting.

## 7. FAN (Friends and Neighbours)

We still meet every Wednesdays at 10.30 am and we encourage all those who are lonely to come and join us for a chat and a free cup of tea/coffee and biscuit or cake.

## 8. PRAYERS

Every Wednesdays we meet at 11.30 am for prayers. Everyone is welcome.

## 9. Christmas

We will be distributing newsletters inviting our neighbours to our Carol service on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion and to our Christmas Service on the 25<sup>th</sup> December.

## 9. OUTREACH SERVICES

We are extending our Outreach services to St Helens by doing School Assemblies and attending the Sand fields Community meetings.

God bless

Rev'd Siperire

A message from Rev. Leslie Noon to all Circuit Meeting Members

Tea & coffee will be served before the Circuit Meeting. There will also be an opportunity, for those that wish, to visit Sketty's four prayer stations, which were set up for their first 'Breakout Church' on Advent Sunday. Each station offers some thoughts and prayers for reflection, as well as a prayerful activity.

## **NIGHT SHELTER:**

The Swansea Night Shelter will be open in January, February and March and will be hosted by 7 churches across the city, each opening one night a week. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year the Night Shelter has been open; sadly the need for this support is increasing.

The generosity of giving in the Swansea & Gower Circuit of time, talent and money is astonishing. We have received expressions of interest from 74 people; including volunteers to Team Lead, Host, Cook, Shop, Drive and open the church early on a Saturday to receive the bedding bags. All who will have direct contact with the guests have now attended the training.

In addition to these offers of practical help, we have also received very generous donations which will help us to meet the needs of our guests by providing a hot meal and a warm, safe place to sleep.

In compiling the Rota of volunteers, it is clear that our weaknesses are:-

1. A general lack of male volunteers
2. A lack of volunteers who are willing to team lead.
3. A relatively small number of volunteers who are willing to cover the overnight and early morning sessions.

We are making every effort not to compensate for these weaknesses by over-loading a small group of people.

The good news is there are some very positive outcomes as a result of the work of the Night Shelter; a good example is described by Laurie Higgs following this report.

A huge 'thank you' to everyone for your continuing support.

**Gwen Dumelow**

## **A NIGHT SHELTER 'GOOD OUTCOME' STORY:**

The name of the character in this story has been changed to protect his identity:

I first met Christopher in his second evening in the night shelter. He was bedded down at the back of Mumbles Church Hall. The team leader I relieved said to keep an eye on him as he was in the process of detoxification from the affects of alcohol.

He awoke about 7 am and politely asked for a cup of tea. He was about the same age as me and even though slightly dishevelled struck me that he could have been a professional of some kind. We chatted and he explained that his wife had thrown out of his house due to his drinking. He had also lost his job on account of getting a drink/driving ban. Prior to getting into the night shelter he had lived rough dragging his belongings around in his suitcase. He was really grateful for the help of the night shelter team and felt that this was helping him to get his life together. What was really striking on that day was how the other clients had built up a rapport with him, they supported each other. They were all planning to go to Swansea library to sit in the warm and dry during the day before moving onto the next night shelter venue.

I met Christopher on one other occasion in the night shelter. He was looking better, appeared more confident in the future and was coming to terms with his situation. I later learnt that he had found accommodation and would no longer be using the service. 12 Months later I bumped into him coming out of a supermarket. We stopped and chatted. He was getting ready to cook a meal for his new partner as it was her birthday. Christopher showed me his shopping. Yes he did have a bottle of wine in his bag for his celebratory meal but admitted that he had not drunk since leaving the night shelter. We joked about our current abilities to drink alcohol where we both agreed that after 3 drinks both of us would be under the table. He said that life was good.

My over riding feeling whenever I meet the clients in the night shelter is that there is a very thin line between a warm bed and a cold wet pavement somewhere in Swansea. Whatever we do is always greatly received and those small acts of kindness, support and love can make real changes in people's lives.

**Laurie Higgs**

