

Circuit Meeting 17th September 2015

Ogof Adullam Report

Ogof Adullam can quite rightly be described as a very professional and required service in this city which is recognised by many for its much needed service and genuine Christian care for those less fortunate than ourselves. I would like to thank all in the Methodist Circuit for the support and encouragement the project has received since opening in October 2014.

The following is planned to take place over the coming weeks and months.

- 1. Training:** We will be starting our new block of training for all volunteers from 21st September which will include handbook updates, mental health workshop, safeguarding and conflict management.
- 2. Volunteer Recruitment:** We currently have between 30-40 volunteers on our records. However, we are always looking for more as it takes approximately 10 volunteers to host an evening. Prior to closing in August for our summer break we were welcoming between 25-35 guests per evening. This has meant that we have had to expand the area we use at Brunswick. This winter we are expecting a big increase in our guest numbers.
- 3. Team Leaders:** Due to the success and growth of Ogof Adullam the steering group has decided to build a group of 'team leaders' who can run the project in the absence of the project co-ordinator.
- 4. Caring For Ex-Offenders:** We are currently exploring the possibility of working with The William Wilberforce Trust and their 'caring for ex-offenders' programme. We will be sending our team leaders and a safeguarding officer on an exploratory course in Cardiff next month.
- 5. Christianity Explored:** We are planning to run a Christianity Explored course which has been specifically developed for prisons called 'the journey' and shot on location in various prisons around the world.

Finances – refer to Bernard Gwyther/Martyn Gregson

Swansea Night Shelter – To be discussed

Roles of project co-ordinator/deputy co-ordinator to be discussed

Ogof Adullam has built up excellent working relationships with various agencies and projects, both secular and Christian. We currently have two of our guests at different Christian rehabs. Both of these young men are doing very well and are free of drink and drugs.

Read out letters form Rob and Jason.

Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit
Charity No 1134882
Report of the Trustees For The Year
Ended 31st August 2015

The Trustees submit their annual report and the independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2015.

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 12th 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, Dr Bob Alderdice, Mr Martin Gregson

Circuit Treasurer – Mr Bernard Gwyther

Circuit Meeting Secretary – Mrs Diane Norton

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the Managing Trustees. During the year 2014/15 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 June 18th 2015

Review of the Year

At the beginning of the new Methodist connexional year (Sept 2014) the circuit meeting agreed to accept the stationing committee's recommendation that Rev Andrew Walker continue to serve in the circuit for a further five years from September 2015.

The Superintendent and Circuit Officers continued to support Brunswick, Morryston and Penlan in their forward planning.

The Ogof Adullam drop-in centre for the homeless was opened at Brunswick and overseen by a management committee chaired by the Superintendent. The drop-in centre proved to be a huge success throughout the year meeting the needs of up to 40 guests.

The circuit received three new local preachers 'on note'

The circuit mission project for the year supported the Amelia Trust farm. 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 continued to reach out to the local area with a number of initiatives including a foodbank.

During the year the circuit agreed to support a property scheme at Wesley Methodist Church.

The Methodist Church was involved again in the Swansea Churches Night Shelter for the Homeless Project. The Saturday shelter was held at Sketty Methodist Church for two months from January to the end of February. Over 60 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. During the year the circuit safeguarding officer stood down and replaced on temporary basis by the Superintendent.

Members of the circuit churches were encouraged to engage with a connexional safeguarding past cases review. Following this review a report was produced titled Courage Cost and Hope within which the Secretary of the Methodist Conference and General Secretary the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins issued a full and unreserved apology to survivors and victims of abuse within the church.

The Methodist Conference that met during the year resolved to do all in its power to improve its systems to protect children, young people and adults from abuse within the life of the Church and on Church premises, and to review them diligently on a regular basis."

The quarterly circuit magazine was produced and distributed to all the churches. During the year the Circuit Magazine received an award from the National Association of Church Editors in the category 'The Clarity of the Christian Message' The editor Myra Maddock received the award at Westminster Central Hall, London.

The Gower churches held a number of youth events such as 'Messy Church' and 'Am I Bovered'. Murton church continued to consult and formulate plans for a future building scheme.

During the year Rev Andrew Walker began a 3 month sabbatical from ministry. (July 2015)

Sketty Methodist and Sketty URC formed an LEP (Local Ecumenical Partnership). This was formally recognised at a special service attended by church leaders of both the Methodist Church and URC. The LEP is known as Uniting Church Sketty

The circuit was fully represented at all Synod meetings including the annual Synod in Newtown (Sept 2014), the Synod policy committees in Newtown and the Ministerial Synod that met in Abergavenny in April 2015. 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:

- Prepared the preaching plan and organised acts of worship in each of the circuit churches Sunday by Sunday.
- Arranged three Circuit Services – Mission (launch of Circuit Project October 2014) Easter Offering (April 2015) Summer Praise at Reynoldston (July 2015)
- Arranged four Circuit Meetings dealing with business relating to the Circuit and to formulate plans for the future including agreeing the budget and church assessments for the financial year 2015/16
- Arranged 6 meetings of the Circuit Leadership Team to discuss the life of the Circuit
- Arranged 18 meetings of the Circuit ministerial staff.
- Arranged four meetings of the Local Preachers and Worship Leaders

This report was approved by the Circuit Trustees on 17th September 2015

Circuit Missions Committee Report.

> >

> > Just a reminder of the Circuit Missions Sunday, as described

> > in the Circuit Plan, on October 11th 2015, at Brunswick

> > Methodist Church, 3.30pm Presentation of the

> > Zambuko Ra Jehovah Trust, now renamed Zimbabwe

> > Orphans, followed by a Bring and Share Tea at 4.30pm, and

> > then 6pm Circuit Service and Launch of the Circuit Project

> > for the following 2 years.2015-17. Please collect Posters to

> > advertise the event at the Circuit Meeting .

> >

> > Sybil Smith, Secretary to the committee.

SWANSEA & GOWER CIRCUIT

WORKING WITH THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY IN SWANSEA

BACKGROUND:

Swansea Night Shelter:

In 2012 the Swansea & Gower Circuit participated in the first year of the Swansea Night Shelter for the months of January and February, offering a venue at Sketty Methodist Church. Following the success of this first period, the Circuit supported the project in the 3 subsequent years, offering a venue at Mumbles Methodist Church for 2 years and Sketty Methodist Church for one year.

The Circuit has been grateful for the support of a large number of volunteers, in a variety of capacities, all bringing different life and professional experience. Feedback from volunteers has always been very positive and many have reported that they have 'enjoyed' this very rewarding work.

Ogof Adullam:

During this period, Huw Davies actively campaigned to initiate the Ogof Adullam Project, based at Brunswick Methodist Church, to bridge the gap, at a critical time of the day, for the Homeless Community in Swansea. Ogof Adullam supports those struggling with alcohol and drug addiction, mental health issues, and prison leavers. The project opened in October 2014, offering a warm, safe and welcoming environment on 3 evenings a week, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 5.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. throughout the year.

Thanks in no small part to the enormous commitment and effort of Huw and Cerys, this project has been far more successful than anyone could have envisaged at the outset. On the first night, 9 guests were present and this has steadily risen to an average of 25 guests; on occasion there have been almost 40 guests.

Ogof Adullam is staffed by a very committed group of volunteers, some from the Swansea & Gower Methodist Circuit, some from other Christian communities and some with no connection to a church or Christian faith.

In 2015 Huw was asked to open Ogof Adullam early on a Saturday afternoon from 1.00 p.m. during the period of the Night Shelter. Huw willingly responded to this call for help and serviced the additional opening time from the Ogof Adullam pool of volunteers. This, in part, contributed to the

growth in the number of guests who now access Ogof Adullam and has created a need to recruit more volunteers and request the use of additional space at Brunswick.

WHERE NEXT?

We have been informed that the Night Shelter will run during the months of January and February in 2016. It is important to consider the Circuit's capacity to meet the needs of the Night Shelter, alongside Ogof Adullam, both in terms of human resources and finance. There is a very clear need for a year-round service to support the homeless community in Swansea, more especially since the demise of the Cyrenians which saw the closure of the drop-in centre in High Street. There is also a need to support the Night Shelter during the coldest months, when many of the guests are at their most vulnerable. The question is how can we make the best use of our resources?

As a consequence of these considerations, the recommendation is that the Swansea & Gower Circuit should offer Brunswick as a venue for the period from 1.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. on a Saturday. Night Shelter volunteers are to be encouraged to support the Night Shelter by volunteering at Brunswick during this period, and/or at other Night Shelter venues.

We hope that by doing this we can continue to support both projects, encourage volunteers who have Night Shelter experience to volunteer at Ogof Adullam on an ongoing basis, and raise additional funds for Ogof Adullam thereby ensuring this project can continue to flourish and develop.

5 September 2015

As the headlines continue to be dominated by news about refugees and migrants, All We Can has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting those who have fled the conflict in Syria, and to contributing to addressing some of the root causes of the crisis.

Maurice Adams, Chief Executive, commented: "Over recent days, many of us have been shocked and moved by tragic stories of the human impact of the escalating refugee and migrant crisis in Europe. Increasing numbers are enduring arduous journeys to escape war and persecution, or simply in search of a better life, only to encounter danger, suffering, hostility and even death. There are many complex reasons for this crisis, but its human cost is all too clear to see.

As an organisation grounded in Christian principles, we believe in the God-given value and potential of every human being, so anything which diminishes that is of concern. We also heed the Biblical call to respond unconditionally with compassion to those who are needy and vulnerable, the stranger and the orphan. Today we stand in prayerful solidarity with all who are suffering, and reaffirm our commitment to playing a part in addressing the crisis.

As we have done for the last two and a half years, we will continue to provide humanitarian support to those fleeing the conflict in Syria through our work with partner organisations in neighbouring countries. Donations to our [Syria Appeal](#) will particularly help our partners to improve conditions and prospects for people living in temporary accommodation in Jordan. As All We Can's main focus is on working with partners in the poorest communities of the world's poorest countries, we are not presently engaged in a direct response to the needs of refugees and migrants within mainland Europe, but we commend [the work being done by our sister agencies and churches](#) in this area.

Through our long-term development and advocacy work, we also seek to make a contribution to addressing some of the root causes of the current crisis, including poverty, climate change and oppression, in all its forms. Our partners are working to improve quality of life, economic prospects and awareness of rights within local communities, so people have fewer reasons to leave their homes, their families and their livelihoods.

While there are no easy answers to this crisis, we are all called to do what we can in response. Please consider donating to our [Syria Appeal](#), and join us in praying for the situation."

A prayer

Creator of all:

For people who are displaced,
may they find a safe refuge.

For people who have lost control of their lives,
may they know a sure foundation.

For people who live in fear,
may they be given a strong fortress.

For people who are disillusioned,
may they have hope in a future.

Loving Father, in times of crisis, sorrow and uncertainty
we ask that you draw near.

Amen

Report of Local Preachers' Meeting Horton Sept 7th 2015

The meeting was attended by 20 Ministers and Preachers.

Devotions were led by Win Hawkins.

Various issues of pastoral concern, and other issues from around the Circuit, were highlighted, including the successful fundraising at Wesley, and the situation at Sketty.

The meeting received positive reports of the two preachers On Note, Cerys and Huw Davies, and was informed of the withdrawal from training of Jean Lang. Favourable reports of assessed services led by preachers On Trial Sue Raad, Cynthia Mumford and Caroline Buckler, were received. Cynthia and Caroline were congratulated on reaching Unit 17, and that they will require formal interviews at the next LP Meeting.

Brief discussions took place on Ogof Adullam, Circuit Support for the Night Shelter, and ways in which individuals can support refugees.

CPD: the next LP Study group will meet on Oct 5th at the Colemans: "the joys and challenges of preaching in our Circuit churches". The use of the new LP training course for CPD, and also for possible use by church members, was noted.

The meeting finished with a lively discussion led by Rev Leslie Noon on "The Authority of the Bible"

Next meeting: Murton Dec 7th

Alan Cram

Ogof Adullam

Working with the Homeless in Central Swansea

The Ogof Adullam Drop-In Centre is a project created by the Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit officers has set up near the City's Centre, in Brunswick Methodist Church on St Helen's Road, Swansea. The centre opens three evenings a week (Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 5.00p.m to 9.00p.m) and offers a 'place of refuge' to individuals experiencing homelessness, alcohol and drug addiction as well as providing a point of contact for prison leavers and asylum seekers. It is intended as a safe place free of outside external interferences where guests can develop safe, secure and loving relationships in a Christian environment.

The centre opened in October 2014 with 9 guests attending the first night. Now over 30 guests regularly attend the centre each night, and this number is increasing. The current economic climate is indicating an increase in homeless in Swansea and the closing of the Cyrenians, homeless project in the city centre has almost certainly exacerbated the problem.

The centre offers a meeting place for guests to meet the volunteers, for recreation, light refreshment, and to socialise.

Ogof Adullam is run by a management Committee and staffed by volunteers who work on a rota basis. The centre is open 4 hours a night for guests, but setting up by volunteers starts an hour earlier and half an hour is added to the finish time for clearing away. During the winter, in the very cold period months the centre is also open on a Saturday afternoon.

The running costs of the project are covered by one off charitable donations and over 80 people regularly give £5 per month.

There is a vast amount of work generated for the project leader, who works on a voluntary basis. It is now felt that to continue and to expand this work there should be a paid coordinator (project Leader) appointed for 20hours per week and a paid Assistant Coordinator for 15 hours per week.

Job Description
Project Coordinator:

20 hour per week

Annual Salary Year 1 £8840

Year 2 £9620

Year 3 £10400

Holidays 18 days per Year

Contract 3 years

Purpose of the Role:

To manage the Project, lead, train and mentor volunteers, and ensure guests receive a warm welcome in a safe and secure environment.

Responsibility:

The Project Coordinator will be responsible for

- The day to day running of the project
- Overseeing best practice compliance and the general smooth running of the project, reporting to the Management Committee who act on behalf of the Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit and to Brunswick Methodist Church Council.

Key aspects will include:

Safeguarding:

Ensure compliance with Methodist safeguarding policies as defined by the Methodist Church and the Swansea and Gower Circuit of the Methodist Church.

Management of Volunteers including:-

- Recruitment, Management and Training of Volunteers
- Manage the Volunteer rota
- Debrief volunteers following any incidents
- Working with and support the volunteers with concerns and difficulties they may experience.

- Ensure compliance with Ogof Adullam Policies as defined in the Volunteer Handbook
- Ongoing review of the Volunteer Handbook, updating as and when appropriate

Sessional Work;

- Open the church and prepare for the session
- Lead the opening and closing volunteer prayer and briefing/debriefing sessions
- Supervise guest admission
- Ensure each session has a safe level of volunteer staff in accordance with guidelines in the Volunteer Handbook.
- If/when it is deemed there is insufficient volunteers present to safely open the session, the project leader will liaise with guests and manage their departure, calling for police assistance if necessary.
- Ensure the venue is left clean and tidy after each session
- Lock up and secure church building.

Post-sessional work with guests:

Where appropriate, support guests in liaising with statutory and voluntary agencies who work with them, including the court and probation service.

Administration:

- Maintain log books, the Project Reference Folder and all other project records
- Finance: Work with the project treasurer to ensure an accurate record of the accounts is maintained in accordance with the policies of the Methodist Church.

Promotion of the Project:

- Work with statutory and voluntary agencies to encourage a 'work together' culture and to promote the work of the project.

- Publicise Ogof Adullam by maintaining, updating and distributing/displaying publicity material and seeking opportunities to make presentations to promote the Project.

Assistant Coordinator:

15 Hours per week

Annual Salary Year 1 £6630 Year 2 £7215 Year 3 £7800

Holidays 13.5 days per year.

Contract 3 years

The Assistant Coordinator would be accountable to the Project Coordinator and the Management Committee and be expected to deputise for the Coordinator and help with the running the centre.

See Coordinator job description (similar to the Project Coordinators Role regarding sessional work and working with guests)

Application Form

Delete which does not apply **Project Coordinator / Assistant Project Coordinator**

Name: _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

It is important to this project that the people appointed to these posts have empathy and understanding of the guests and the problems they face. Experience is an important criteria in these jobs.

Application by letter and CV to include the following information

- your qualifications, with dates,
- work experience with dates,
- Any other experiences professional or as a volunteer which you feel would be relevant for the post.
- Reasons why you want to apply for the post
- Ways in which you envisage Ogof Adullum could be developed in the next 1-3years.
- Any other relevant information which you think would be helpful.

Salaries

Project Coordinator:

Year 1

Salary 20h x £8.50 x 52 = £8840.00

National Insurance @12% = £1060.80

Pension Contribution @6%= £ 530.40

Total Cost = £10431.20

Year 2

Salary 20h x £9.25 x 52= £9620.00

National Insurance @12% = £1154.40

Pension Contribution @6%= £ 577.20

Total Cost = £11351.60

Year 3

Salary 20h x £10 x 52 = £10400.00

National Insurance @12% = £ 1248.00

Pension Contribution @6%= £ 624.00

Total Cost = £12272.00

Assistant Coordinator:

Year 1

Salary 15h x £8.50 x 52 = £6630.00

National Insurance @12% = £ 795.60

Pension Contribution @6%= £ 397.80

Total Cost = £7823.40

Year 2

Salary 15h x £9.25 x 52= £7215.00

National Insurance @12% = £ 865.80

Pension Contribution @6%= £ 432.90

Total Cost = £8513.70

Year 3

Salary 15h x £10 x 52 = £7800.00

National Insurance @12% = £ 936.00

Pension Contribution @6%= £ 468.00

Total Cost = £9204.00

Looking for Grant :-

Year 1 = £18254.60

Year 2 = £19865.30

Year 3 = £21476.00

TOTAL OVER THE THREE YEARS OF £59595.90

Methodist Homes Report:

Thank you to all the churches who have sent me cheques since Methodist Homes Sunday in June. To date, a total of £788.70 has been sent to MHA Headquarters which includes a donation sent by one church direct to MHA. It was good to receive so many Gift Aid envelopes which will increase our circuit contribution to the continuing work of Methodist Homes by a good amount.

I hope to receive donations from the remaining churches in due course.

Sandra Pengelly.

ALL WE CAN Methodist Relief and Development

Harvest:

I have distributed the resources I was sent for the Harvest, so every church should have had a poster and the beehive shaped collection box for use during any service or event. I hope you all have fun 'Creating a Buzz' using the resources provided.

One Home:

At Greenbelt we were given a sample of a resource aimed at 'youth groups' on the theme of Climate Change. It suggests that this is suitable for 16-21 year olds and includes short films on a DVD-Rom, Bible Studies, ideas for taking action and prayers. There's a pack of picture cards to aid discussion, each showing one of All We Can's partners and suggesting the effect Climate Change is already having on them. There's material for four sessions. I'm sure this could also be used by an older age group with good effect too!

Extraordinary Gifts

I've received a number of copies of this year's 'Extraordinary Gifts' catalogue – 'practical gifts that help people in some of the world's poorest communities to become all that they can'. The gifts range from £9 to £240! They include a gift of young fish to women in India so they can set up a fish farm; materials for a pig farm for a vulnerable widow in Cameroon; and training in Disaster Risk Reduction for 30 staff in Nepal, raising awareness of what to do when an earthquake strikes. Linked to the gift catalogue is an Advent resource with reflections and prayers for each Sunday and one for Christmas Day. If you'd like a copy of the catalogue I can supply a few, but I only have one copy of the Advent resource. They are all available from:

All We Can,
25 Marylebone Road,
London NW1 5JR
020 7467 5132

info@allwecan.org.uk

www.allwecan.org.uk/christmas