

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN CIRCUIT MEETING DECEMBER 2015

In March, 2016, there will be a Fellowship day at St. John's Church, Barry. The theme will be "All over the world". Speakers will include news of activities in the Baltic, Denmark and N India.

There will be an autumn fellowship day, probably at Carew Methodist Church in Pembrokeshire. The theme is likely to be "The Christ We Share".

The information, envelopes etc., for Easter Offering have been ordered (and have arrived). The venue and date for the service has t.b.c.

Hedd James, who worked in the coffee shop at the Amelia Farm, is hoping to get a working party together to weed and tidy the prayer labyrinth. If anyone would like to help, please let Janet Neilson know (202085).

News of MWiB and worldwide news is available by e mail from Janet Neilson if you wish to be kept up to date.

Janet Neilson (E mail iverbrustad@btinternet.com)

Local Preachers' report

There is no full report this time since our quarterly meeting does not take place until next Monday (7th Dec). However:

1. Huw and Cerys Davies have both commenced LP training ("on note"). Huw is following the "old" Faith and Worship course and Cerys the "new" course for preachers and worship leaders. Sue Raad continues in "On Trial" status.
2. Caroline Buckler and Cynthia Mumford have completed "Faith and Worship", and have been assessed successfully in their trial services. Assuming a positive outcome with their final assignments, they will have formal interviews at the LP meeting on Dec 7th prior to accreditation as Local Preachers.
3. Rev John Atkinson has kindly agreed to lead a small group of preachers to standardise the assessment of services led by preachers in training.
4. The LPs continue to meet monthly for prayer, study and discussion.

Alan Cram

GOWER YOUTH WORKER : PROJECT BACKGROUND

With dispersed rural Communities, Parishes, Churches and Chapels, there is none the less a sense of unity amongst the Christians living and working on the Gower Peninsular. This is expressed in long established patterns of coming together for worship and outreach, during the Christian festivals, Community Carnivals and Shows, the weeks of prayer for Christian Unity, and in many less formal ways throughout the year.

A considerable amount of time and energy is devoted to new work to reach Children and Families, with Ecumenical Messy Church, Youth Café, Youth Clubs, 'Am I Bovered?', the Stable Trail and Community Celebrations all having been established as recently as 2011.

Since September 2012 the Churches have also co-operated through the funding of a Gower-wide Youth worker, with funds raised from internal and external sources, for an initial period of two years. The geographical constraints of employing a worker to cover the entire peninsular were anticipated early on, and a successful first appointment for a period of just under two years has provided the Church with a valuable learning period for all concerned. It has also proved how important a dedicated Youth Worker is to the success of the work.

The reflection and discernment of widely drawn ecumenical group meeting at Bury Green Presbyterian Church in May 2014 was that there was sufficient work for the employment of two Gower Youth & Family Workers, principally working in the North and the South.

CURRENT APPOINTMENT : 1st December 2015.

Following a block grant from the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, and other grant funding falling in to place, the position of Gower Ministry Area Youth Worker was advertised in September 2015, with a successful appointment made soon afterwards. This will predominantly be the Youth Worker for the South Gower area (covering Murton, Bishopston, Pennard, Oxwich, Horton,

Reynoldston, Knelston, Port Eynon & Rhossili) but with some overlap with the work established in the North (Bury Green, Llangennith, Llanmadoc, Llanrhidian, Crofty, Penclawdd, Three Crosses)

Steve Jones takes up his appointment initially for one year, but with the expectation that this may be an appointment of up to three years. Funding is sought from the Methodist Church to make a contribution of £5,000 per year for two years. (See Funding Position below.)

PROJECT VISION

To serve the communities on Gower by providing meeting spaces and activities for children, young people and families.

To serve the schools on Gower with relevant, age appropriate support in the delivery of Assemblies, R.E. lessons and other sessions which help establish a credible basis for the Christian faith.

To enable the people of Gower, especially the Young People, Children and Families, to engage with positive expressions of Christian faith.

To present the Christian faith as a challenge to discipleship through a personal, living faith in Jesus Christ.

A detailed Job Description is appended, which includes measurable outcomes.

Line Management responsibility is with the Chair of the Gower Deanery Youth, Children and Families Council. (Fr. Andrew Pearce). Payroll and Administration provided by the 'Faith in Families' team of the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon.

PROJECT COSTS

Budgeted at £26,470 / yr for three years. TOTAL £79,410 for three years.

J.T. Morgan Foundation	£3,000 lump sum
Austin Bailey Foundation	£1,000 / yr. (3 yrs)
Gower Deanery	£5,000 / yr. (3 yrs)
Swansea & Brecon Diocese Mission Grant	£13,500 (3 yrs)
Methodist Church	£5,000 / (2 yrs)
TOTAL – First Year	£27,500
Total Cost for 3 Years	£79,410
Total Projection for 3 Years	<u>£71,500</u>
Projected Shortfall (still to be raised)	£ 7,910

JOB DESCRIPTION

The post-holder would spend an anticipated 37.5 hour week within the following discrete areas of work:

1. Youth Café (6 Hours)

Nature of the Work:

- The Lamplighter Shop in Bishopston is a Christian book shop, coffee shop and resource centre, run by volunteers from St Teilo's Church, Murton Methodist Church, members of the Bishopston community, and other local churches. Twice a week it hosts an after-school drop-in **Youth Café** for upper primary and secondary school-aged children.

Objectives:

- To lead Youth Café Sessions.
- To build trust with the Young People and the Volunteers.
- To encourage wider participation in Youth Café from members of the local Secondary School.
- To introduce mission-related/social justice projects for Youth Café to engage in.
- To discern, alongside the local church leadership, an appropriate strategy to encourage commitment and discipleship, and implementing such a strategy.

Measurable Outcomes:

- **After one year**, to provide evidence that Young People from a nominal or non-Church background have been engaged in mission-related social justice projects that are clearly Christian in outlook.
- **After three years**, to provide evidence that Young People from a nominal or non-Church background have engaged with appropriate and relevant resources that explicitly encourage their commitment to Christ.

2. Youth Clubs & Youth Discipleship (6 Hours):

Nature of the Work:

- There are currently two **Youth Clubs** (one for upper primary, one for secondary school-aged children), running one after the other on Friday nights within the community of Bishopston, meeting weekly in term-time in Murton Methodist Church Hall. This is a joint Anglican/Methodist initiative, with support for members of other denominations. Additionally, there is a Youth Discipleship Group (**'Am I Bovered'**) aimed at secondary school-age children that meets on a Sunday night at the Lamplighter Café.

Objectives:

- To build trust with the Young People, the Volunteers and their Parents.
- To plan and lead relevant and accessible activities at Youth Club, including a spiritual reflection spot (or 'epilogue').
- To explore possibilities for the starting of Youth Clubs in other parts of the Ministry Area where there is currently no such provision.
- To develop opportunities for Youth Club & 'Am I Bovered' attendees to contribute to local church-based events (not necessarily Sunday Worship).

Measurable Outcomes:

- **After one year**, to provide evidence that Young People from a nominal or non-Church background have responded to and engaged with the opportunity for spiritual reflection, through questions, discussion and participation.

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- **After three years**, to provide evidence that Young People from a nominal or non-Church background have, if only on an occasional basis, attended or engaged with a local church-based event (not necessarily Sunday Worship).

3. Children & Families Work (6 Hours):

Nature of the Work:

- Traditional **Sunday School** work is now sporadic and patchy across Gower, as lack of leaders and/or sufficient numbers of children in particular communities makes it difficult to sustain a regular, week by week Sunday ministry in most churches. However, other work with children (e.g. **Messy Church**) thrives on a collaborative and interdenominational basis, with activities rotating around different venues, but with joint planning and shared leadership. There are also several **Parent & Toddler** groups run by The Methodist Churches at Murton and Reynoldstom, and by other churches on Gower.

Objectives:

- To establish a regular presence at the different Parent & Toddler groups run by the local churches, and to build relationships of trust with the parents and the volunteers.
- To contribute to the planning and leading of the monthly Messy Church sessions across Gower.
- To support those working with children in traditional Sunday Schools (where they still exist), and other work with children (e.g. 'Whatever' group in Bishopston).
- To contribute relevant input to special 'All-Age' Worship/Family Services/Community Worship in local churches on an occasional and specific basis (but **not** every week).

Measurable Outcomes:

- **After one year**, to provide evidence ~~that~~ of involvement in Parent & Toddler Groups, Messy Church & other groups aimed at children (e.g. 'Whatever' group in Bishopston).
- **After three years**, to provide evidence that regular input to special 'All-Age' Worship/Family Services/Community Worship in local churches is happening, and is effective.

4. Schools Work (6 Hours):

Nature of the Work:

- There are links between all the **primary schools** within the Ministry Area and the local churches and clergy. In some cases, these are already good, with regular visits to the schools by clergy and clergy involvement in school governance. However, links with the local **secondary schools** are more sporadic. There is scope for this to be improved by the Youth Worker.

Objectives:

- To develop opportunities to lead Collective Worship and contribute to RE and PSE within local primary and secondary schools; to strengthen existing ties between local primary schools and local churches/clergy; and to establish such ties between local secondary schools and local churches/clergy.

- To support Christian volunteers already working in schools (e.g. Knelston School Monday Club), and to promote initiatives such as 'Open the Book'.
- To provide support and guidance to Christian young people within the local secondary schools (e.g. Bishopston Comprehensive School Christian Union).
- To explore ways in which school/church links can be nurtured around areas of common interest (e.g. fair-trade issues, local community).

Measurable Outcomes:

- **After one year**, to provide evidence of regular visits to the primary and secondary schools, and the nature of these visits.
- **After three years**, to provide evidence that existing initiatives within schools have been maintained/strengthened, and that new initiatives have been undertaken.

5. Pioneer Work (6 hours):

Nature of the Work:

- Although there is existing work with Young People across the Ministry Area, much of it good, there are areas where that work is weak or non-existent, and potential that is currently untapped. One of the tasks of the Youth Worker will be to identify the strengths and weaknesses of what is already happening, and to develop potential opportunities for Youth Work within Gower.

Objectives:

- To develop brand new areas of work to target age groups not currently reached, such as those in their mid to late teens.
- To encourage the local churches to experiment with patterns of worship that might be more appropriate for groups not currently represented in our congregations.
- To plant and nurture cell groups that will be open to different ways of worshipping and 'being church'.
- To examine (in collaboration with local clergy and church leaders) the possibilities for the innovative use of existing church buildings.

Measurable Outcomes:

- **After one year**, to provide evidence that new styles of worship ~~being~~ have been tried, evaluated and further developed, as appropriate, in the local churches and communities.
- **After three years**, to provide evidence that 'missing age groups' (e.g. those in the mid to late teens), have begun to be reached in a relevant way by the local churches.

6. Planning, Preparation & Administration: (7.5 hours)

Objectives:

- To attend regular meetings (weekly) with Line Manager to support and review the work.
- To attend planning sessions with leadership teams of the different churches, and within the different areas of work (e.g. Youth Clubs, Messy Church), as required.

- To attend working party meetings, to provide an input into and to give advice on the direction of the work, and to facilitate co-operation with other Christian youth/children's workers operating within Gower.
- To plan individual Youth Worker activities (e.g. Collective Worship), and to source resources.
- To account for time spent (timesheet/diary), and to record expenses.

Measurable Outcomes:

Over the course of the first year (and in any subsequent years), the Youth Worker should:

- Attend a regular pattern of meetings with the Line Manager that demonstrate progress in each of the areas of work outlined.
- Submit a **thrice-yearly (i.e. termly)** report to the Ministry Area Council.
- Demonstrate good preparation, and relevant use of resources.
- Provide, when required, evidence of good record keeping.
- Show clear evidence of a willingness to work and plan with different leaders and volunteers.

The Line Manager should:

- **Twice a year**, invite feedback from those working with the Youth Worker (e.g. clergy, church leaders, volunteers).
- **Once a year**, invite feedback from the key stakeholders in the Youth Work (i.e. children, young people & families). Note: this will be carefully managed to ensure anonymity, and to exercise due regard to safeguarding and data protection issues.
- **Once a year**, provide an Annual Report of the Ministry Area Youth Work, including the activities of the Youth Worker, for inclusion within the Annual Report of the Ministry Area.

Subject: Information for Churches on retention of records - please circulate to Circuit meeting members

Date: Thu, 3 Dec 2015 22:57:56 +0000

The information I summarised at the Circuit meeting about retaining various sorts of Church records for specific periods of time is on the Methodist Church web site at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/archivists>

[Guidance on best practice in retaining records](#)

and **[Retention Schedules for Methodist Records](#)** and links in 'doc' and 'xls' format respectively, but it appears that if you access this site with a tablet or smartphone you may be able to download both as 'pdf' files.

It may be worthwhile for churches to consider, perhaps at a stewards' meeting or a Church Council, the extent to which their current practice meets 'best practice'.

If you seek specific advice about particular records, or wish to deposit records which are to be 'retained permanently', please contact me, preferably by email.

Jeff Coleman
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Circuit archivist

