

Voice of the Assembly 2026



Highlights of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Wales 2026

The General Secretary's Reflections on the General Assembly



The General Assembly was held this year at Capel y Porth, Porthmadog. The atmosphere and the welcome were especially warm, constructive and encouraging. I should like to thank sincerely Capel y Porth and all who were responsible for the arrangements and for their generous welcome over the two days.

It was an exceptionally constructive Assembly, with all recommendations submitted being accepted. There were honest but positive discussions, and there was an obvious desire to listen to each other and discern God's will for the future. It was decided to give authorisation to begin implementing the next stage of the restructuring process. After an extended period of consultation throughout the Connexion, we are very grateful for the confidence placed in us to move forward. The work will now focus on implementing the decisions in a careful and practical way, ensuring that ministry and mission will be at the heart of all changes.

It was also a special pleasure to welcome Ny Ako from Madagascar into our midst at the centre in Porthmadog. It was lovely to have the company of the local people of Porthmadog at the concert on the Monday evening.

On the Tuesday morning we heard about the new plans for Coleg y Bala, and we had the privilege of welcoming Lois Franks, who in August, along with Ben her husband and the children, will be moving to Coleg y Bala. This will be a new chapter in the life of the College as new work develops there in partnership with churches, organisations and other denominations, strengthening Bala's rôle as a centre for training, mission and work among children and youth. We wish the 6 of them every blessing and for everything to run smoothly for them as they settle in at Bala.

The Assembly also continued to show its deep commitment to our partners in Manipur, giving thanks for the generous response of churches and individuals throughout Wales to the appeal and the continuing support in prayer. This special



relationship, rooted in over 180 years of history, continues to attest to the unity of Christians across the world.

In this year's History lecture Dr Gareth Evans-Jones reflected in an intellectual and challenging way on the relationship between Wales's Nonconformist heritage, Christian conscience, and the moral questions that arise in the wake of events such as Tryweryn and the conflict in Israel and Palestine. It was a lecture that invited us to think more deeply about justice, peace and Christian responsibility. Likewise, there was a very valuable contribution from Rev. Dr Andras Iago in the Davies Lecture, which combined theological scholarship with living faith, encouraging us to see that theology is not only an academic exercise, but a foundation for worship, discipleship and service. Both

lectures were evidence of our strong tradition as Welsh people, but especially as Welsh Nonconformists.

It was also lovely to be able to share Cefyn Burgess's very fine textile work, which displays the Connexional logo,



patterns from Wales and from north-eastern Indian. The design is available for any one of our Churches to enjoy. If you are interested, email the office at Swyddfa.office@ebcpcw.cymru. Thank you to everyone who attended the Assembly this year, for your company and for your tireless work to make the 2026 General Assembly a constructive and happy assembly.

Our restructuring journey began a year ago in Llandudno, and there was reference made to the words of the prophet Isaiah ... "See, I am doing a new thing." Today, following the General Assembly's decisions, let us truly discern our calling in the rest of the verse ... "Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" Our prayer is that we shall have the faith and wisdom to perceive the new ways that God is opening before us – a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. That is the challenge, but that is also the promise.



Ny Ako

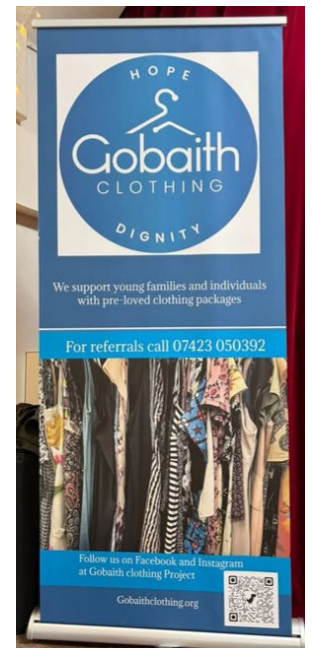
Buildings: Stewarding Sacred Spaces for Mission, Community and Memory

The agenda of most conferences and assemblies identify a series of subjects and topics and arranges them into discrete agenda items with their designated running order and time slots. The General Assembly is no different in that the agenda identified all the hot topics of the day, Restructuring, The General Secretaries report, Ministries Department report, Resources Department report etc. But there some topics that don't fit well into silo's, they cut across multiple areas so if you're not careful all the above agenda items (and others) would include a bit about the same topic. If we're lucky, they will all agree, in which case we just get bored, if they don't agree we get both confused and bored!

The use, cost, and stewardship of our buildings is one of those topics. So, it was decided to amalgamate all these separate reports into this one agenda item on Buildings.

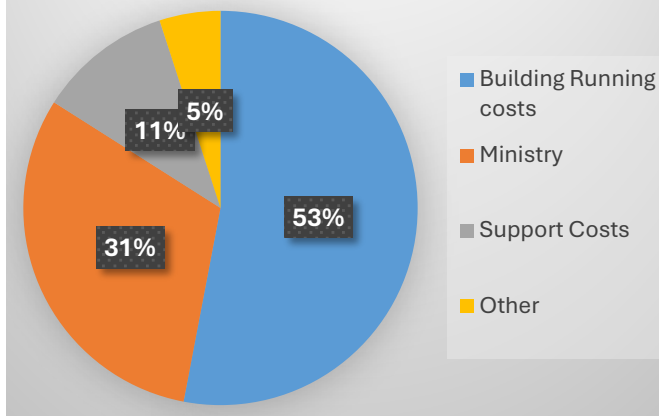
Our buildings can be a blessing, an asset, and they are certainly the location associated with many warm memories. But there is compelling evidence, and almost universal acceptance, that too often buildings are becoming a burden, requiring a disproportionate amount of time, money, effort, and human resources. At an individual church level this is an issue that is concerning many of us, but at the level of our denomination it is clear that our current buildings estate is unsustainable and becoming detrimental to Mission and Ministry. Let's consider some of the evidence:

- Analysis of the annual financial returns shows that 53% of our expenditure is on buildings compared with 31% on Ministry, how does that fit within our objectives and purpose?
- We have more buildings than is required for our current membership. Of the chapel buildings we own, approximately 108 chapels (24% of our estate) are managed by 5% of our total membership, in congregations with less than 10 members.
- Approximately 202 chapels (46% of our estate) are managed by 27% of our total membership in congregations with less than 24 members.
- That gives a total of 70% of our buildings being managed by 32% of our total membership in congregations that are smaller than the generally accepted definition of a "small church" in the UK.



Gobaith Clothing

Expenditure across the denomination



The costs of owning, managing and maintaining church type buildings, many of which are listed buildings, has increased significantly in recent years. As shown above, these costs are too often being met by a small number of members, which quickly becomes unaffordable. Consider the typical cost items for a chapel:

- Mission and Ministry Contribution
- Local ministry expenses
- Insurance.
- Energy for heating and lighting, and the cost of water and other utilities.
- Maintenance, (both statutory testing / inspection and routine maintenance)
- Repairs

Of these cost items, only the amount paid to Mission and Ministry Contribution is dependent on the number of members, all the others are approximately the same whether the costs are met by 10 or 110 members. With these very small congregations the costs are likely to become unaffordable, buildings aren't heated in winter, maintenance and repairs get neglected and even ministry and mission contributions don't get paid, a downward spiral. I've had many conversations with people who describe their chapel building as uncomfortable, not fit for purpose, potentially unsafe, and uninviting, characteristics we would probably never put up with in any other aspects of our life and are certainly not welcoming enough to encourage others to come and join us.

The irony is that we still love our home church, whatever the condition, it's partly the people we worship with and partly the memories, and prayers that are part of the DNA of the building.

We cannot ignore the fact however, that our current building estate is unsustainable. So how can we lessen the burden and increase the blessing provided by our buildings?



Carmel, Beauford



Havelock St., Newport

The answer is that we've already started!

After lots of consultation and discussion about our buildings by the Policy and Strategy Group, the formation of a Buildings Working Group was agreed at the 2024 General Assembly, along with the Terms of Reference for the Group.

The first thing the group did was to propose and organise the very successful Buildings Conference titled "What do these stones mean". If nothing else, the conference raised the awareness of the issues with our estate and helped us realise that we are grappling with the same issues and questions as most other denominations. It is probably not a coincidence that the response to the Restructuring Proposal for our Buildings was very much in agreement with all the previous discussions in the Policy and Strategy Group and at the Buildings Conference.

The report of the conference was presented at last years General Assembly, and several actions were agreed.

- Establish a vision of what we are trying to achieve when it comes to better stewardship of our sacred spaces.
- Conduct a survey of all our chapel and church buildings.
- Appoint a new member of staff or an external organisation to work with local chapels and Presbyteries to help them make better use of their buildings and in doing so make our estate less of a burden.

So, what progress has been made since last year?

The **vision document** has been produced. It's titled "**Faith not Fear**" it was sent out to all churches as part of the Christmas mailing last year. Our vision is that every chapel and church to be outward focused and be:

- **Spiritually vibrant** – rooted in worship and discipleship, equipping people to live and share the gospel with faith that inspires hope.
- **Community engaged** – actively identifying and serving their community by responding and adapting to local community needs with compassion, justice and hospitality.
- **Sustainably managed** – with buildings that are adaptable, environmentally responsible, and financially viable.
- **Welcoming buildings** – suitably supporting the churches outreach, mission and ministry.
- **Collaborative in mission** – working alongside other churches, community groups and partners for greater impact.

It's a high bar to clear, but the purpose of a vision is to have something to aim for.

The **survey of all buildings** will be by a questionnaire, which is now available and ready to go. It needs to be completed and submitted on-line, but a paper copy will be provided so that you can see all the questions and where necessary gather the information together before entering it on-line.

Most chapels will be perfectly capable of completing the survey without too much difficulty, others will need some support. To do this **every Presbytery has a named representative** who will distribute the questionnaire and can support you if needed. It's a very factual questionnaire for which little or no technical knowledge is needed, as long as you know your own chapel, it's locality, and vision for the future.

Yes, we know it's a big task, and we know we don't like questionnaires, but it's the quickest and most cost-effective way of building up an informed picture of our estate. It will also provide a really useful information pack which will allow the new member of staff to work with chapels and presbyteries as soon as they are appointed.

We strongly urge you all to be proactive, if you haven't had the questionnaire contact your Presbytery Rep (if you don't know who they are please contact us). Start to talk about making better use of your buildings and your plans for the future.

So, what happens next?

The Buildings Working Party is scheduled to meet in September at which a job description for the proposed new member of staff (or organisation) will be produced. Once the appointment is made, they will have a large amount of information available to them from the questionnaire so they can quickly start the work of achieving our vision for our places of worship.



It's inevitable that some of our buildings will no longer be required, we want this to be because of a planned positive decision made by the officers and members of the local church in partnership with Presbytery, not because the cause has closed. There are many good examples of where causes have taken the bold decision to dispose of their building but continue to worship and flourish together without the burden of an expensive, under-used building. There are a range of options available:

- Merging: joining with another PCW congregation.
- Working ecumenically: forming an ecumenical partnership with another denomination.
- Sharing: meeting as an existing cause in a building which you don't own, another church or a community building for example.

But we need a better way of repurposing or developing those buildings we don't need rather than selling them on the open market (often at knock-down prices). The PCW is not a property developer, our plan is to find ethical partners we can work with who can do this on our behalf, maybe not for every building we no longer need, but certainly for some.

All of this is a significant change, new ways of working, a new vision for our buildings but are we sure that our rules will allow us to do what we need to do? A task for the building working party is to review the rules on buildings to ensure they aren't a barrier or a disincentive to our vision for our buildings.

Steve Wynn



Summary of the Tuesday Morning Address – General Assembly 2026

1 Thessalonians 5:12–28

As we gathered on the second day of the General Assembly, we did so as church workers, ministers, lay people, and elders who know both the joy and the challenges of Christian ministry. Many are serving amid declining numbers, increasing pressures, and significant change within the life of the Presbyterian Church of Wales. Paul does not ignore these difficult realities, but he reminds us that our hope is founded not on our circumstances, but on the faithfulness of God.

The apostle first encourages us to love and support one another. Ministry is a calling that requires perseverance, patience, and unity. As we care for others, we must also care for our fellow labourers in the gospel, encouraging the weak, supporting the discouraged, and living together in peace.

Paul then gives three commands that lie at the heart of the Christian life: **“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances.”** This is not a call to ignore life’s difficulties, but to keep our eyes fixed on Christ. The Lord still reigns on His throne, the gospel continues to save, and the Holy Spirit is still at work.



Hedd Morgan

Paul also warns us not to quench the work of the Spirit, but to test everything according to Scripture and hold firmly to what is good. Throughout biblical history, God has repeatedly used what appears small and weak to accomplish His great purposes.

Finally, we are given the assurance that forms the foundation of our hope: **“The one who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.”** It is not our own strength that secures the future of the Church, but the faithfulness of God Himself. Therefore, we can face the future with joy, prayer, and thanksgiving, knowing that Christ is the Head of His Church and that His purposes will stand forever.

National Prayer Meeting

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WALES	
NATIONAL PRAYER MEETING, FROM HOME, ON ZOOM	
FOR MORE INFORMATION: THE REV D OWEN GRIFFITHS OWEN.GRIFFITHS@EBCPCW.CYMRU 07811727540	THURSDAY 2ND JULY 7.00 PM TO 8.00 PM



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86840505238?pwd=Sho6MhRb5mNbPv2INjU5RarnqcISiJ.1>

Meeting ID: 868 4050 5238

Passcode: 259186

Gweddi.Prayer App

Someone once said of prayer, "It is a longing of the soul. It is a daily admission of one's weakness." If this is what it is, then I would add that it is also a search for the desires of God and a daily response to the love of the Almighty. Since humans first walked this earth we have always come face to face with our weakness. We have, therefore, also always needed to encounter the One whose love is almighty. For this reason, prayer is the most ancient of practices. Why then does it suddenly need an app?

The answer to this question, of course, is that it doesn't. But having an app can help us to pray in a more informed way about the world around us.

Gweddi.Prayer is the new prayer app for the Presbyterian Church of Wales. Its purpose is to help the Connexion synchronise its longings with those of Christ, the Head of the Church and the Lord of Creation, and to do so in the most informed way possible.

It is built around three prayer diaries. The first reminds the user about things of Connexional, national and international significance for which they can pray. The second is a local prayer diary which sends the

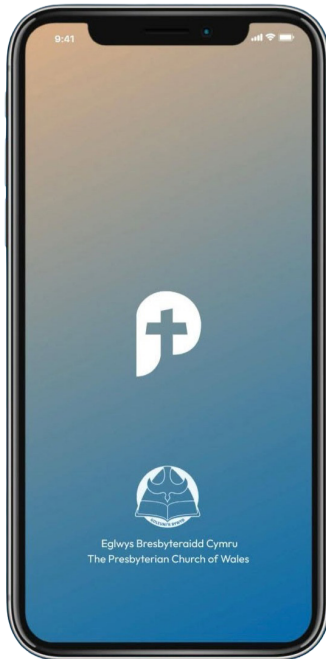
prayer needs of the user's own presbytery directly to their phone. Finally, Gweddi.Prayer also allows the user to create their own personal prayer diary. Each day, notifications are sent to their phone of the relevant prayer points - national, local and personal - for that particular date.

The app also has the latest news from the PCW and information about upcoming events. It contains links to videos and to sermons produced by the church and to websites that are relevant to the items it invites the user to pray for.

Recently, Gweddi.Prayer has also started to feature a weekly audio devotion called A Quiet Place. This is a short reflection on a passage of Scripture that allows the user space to connect with the passage for themselves. It appears on the app every Sunday and old devotions are archived on the app so that anyone can listen to them again at any time. Currently these are recorded by Rev Gethin Russell-Jones and it is our intention to recruit more people to

record devotions to enable us to expand this ministry so that it is offered more frequently.

The Revd Owen Griffiths



Gweddi.Prayer



Ap gweddi yr EBC | The PCW prayer app

Gweddiwch dros Deyrnas Duw
Pray for the Kingdom of God

Siapiwch eich bywyd gweddi
Organise your own prayer life

Gweddiwch gydag eraill o fewn EBC
Pray with others within the PCW



“The kitchen table as a communion table”



John Roberts reminded us of Christ’s custom of “breaking bread”. It was a common habit of his, and people recognized him at the breaking of the bread, and the early church was known as people who “broke bread in their homes”. It was the use of a Jewish ritual where a family takes bread, gives thanks for it and invites God’s presence to the table. The ritual was one that brought the spiritual life to the **centre of everyday living**. The danger for the churches is to move the emphasis from the centre of everyday life to a separate place, in an occasional service in the chapel.

Jesus changed the ritual of breaking bread too, he made it an **inclusive** event. The religious establishment criticized him for eating with publicans and sinners, breaking bread with the rejected. So the communion table should be a welcoming inclusive place.

Jesus added another element to the breaking of bread, making it a means of remembering a love that forgives, strengthens, gives victory - but in addition understands our pain, misery, and fear and offers the love of One who empathizes with us.

Finally the communion also calls on us to **announce** the death of Christ, through the communion we are invited to receive his love, but that love should have an effect on our life. This is why communion should be at the centre of our daily lives, people must see the influence and effect of his love on us.

Ministers of the Assembly who have passed away since the last Assembly:

1954 Revd Elwyn Pryse
1958 Revd Arthur Meirion Roberts
1959 Revd Dafydd H Owen, BSc, BD
1964 Revd John Owen, BA, BD
1966 Revd Philip de la Haye
1970 Revd Gareth Edwards, BA, BD
1978 Revd Marcus Robinson, BA, RN



PCW X

https://x.com/EBC_PCW



Manipur Appeal

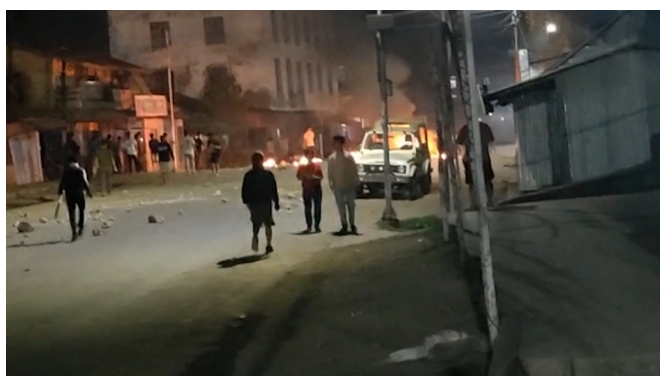
Weekly Prayer Meeting 9 o'clock every Friday

We continue to meet virtually over zoom at 9 o'clock every Friday to pray for Manipur. A loyal group attends the meeting, some are members of EBC, Christians from Manipur who have settled here in the United Kingdom, and others. Anyone is warmly welcome to join.

This article appeared on the news of the WCRC (World Communion of Reformed Churches) reporting on our special relationship with the state of Manipur, North East India.

PCW Manipur Appeal

During the past year, the Presbyterian Church of Wales has continued to respond to the deepening crisis in the state of Manipur in Northeast India, where ethnic violence since May 2023 has led to loss of life, widespread destruction, and the displacement of tens of thousands of people. Villages and churches have been burned, and many families have been forced to flee their homes in search of safety.



The response of the Presbyterian Church of Wales is rooted in a historic relationship with Northeast India stretching back nearly 180 years. Following the arrival of Thomas Jones and his wife Anne in the Khasi Hills in 1841, a relationship of mission, partnership, and friendship began that continues to this day.



Through the years churches, schools, and hospitals were established, and the bonds between our churches remain living and strong. In response to the suffering in Manipur, the Presbyterian Church of Wales launched a special appeal to support affected communities, particularly focusing on educational and healthcare needs among displaced families. However, the response soon grew beyond financial support alone. Every Friday morning at 9 a.m., a small but committed group gathers online to pray together with Christians from Manipur and members of the Manipuri diaspora living in the United Kingdom. This has not simply been about praying for people far away, but praying with brothers and sisters in Christ during a time of pain and uncertainty.

Through these weekly prayers, deep relationships have been formed across continents and cultures. Updates, concerns, and hopes are shared regularly, reminding us of the true nature of the global church — one body in Christ standing together in suffering and hope.

During one of the prayer gatherings, participants reflected on the words of 2 Corinthians 4:8–9:

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair.”

These verses have become a powerful expression of the resilience and faithfulness of the church in Manipur amid violence and loss.



As we continue to pray and give, we believe this appeal has become more than an act of humanitarian support; it has become a witness to Christian solidarity and global partnership in a time of crisis. When one part of the body of Christ suffers, we are all called to stand together in faith, hope, and love.

Terrible news about Baptist ministers who were murdered in May

It was distressing to hear about the murder of three Baptist ministers in Manipur in May. In an attack near the village of Kotjim in the Kangpokpi area of the state the Rev. Vumthang Sitlhou — Former General Secretary and key leader in Manipur's ongoing peace efforts — together with Rev. Paogoulun Sitlhou and Rev. Kaigoulun Simte were killed. 4 others were seriously injured in the incident.

The leaders were travelling home from a meeting in Churachandpur which discussed how to rebuild churches and communities that have been destroyed in the ethnic violence. This tragic incident underlines how fragile and dangerous the situation in Manipur remains, despite claims that the situation has “returned to normality”.

We pray for a just peace, for the safety of those in danger, and for an end to the conflict that has caused so much suffering to the people of Manipur. Following our visit to India it was clearly noted with the PCI (Presbyterian Church of India) how we would spend money collected through our ‘Manipur Appeal’. The total amount collected in the end was £47,982.

The Revd Nan Powell-Davies

Women's Department

“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” John 20:31

Without a doubt one of the highlights of this year has been studying the accounts of Jesus' miracles with women from across Wales on Zoom. Through them we've seen how God kept his promises to send the Messiah to redeem his people. In doing so, we've had a glimpse of the character and glory of the Son of God, full of grace and truth, as he acted to reveal his power and authority and compassion. The miracle accounts have encouraged to realise how great and dependable our God is; they have reassured us that we have a High Priest who can sympathise with us in our weakness and has the power and desire to help us and they have pulled the curtain back a little for us to see what lies ahead of God's people to that time when King Jesus ushes in his Kingdom in it's fulness. What a sweet privilege it's been to have fellowship around the Word. We thank God for drawing near to us and blessing us so richly.

Another highlight has been opportunities to meet in person in churches, presbyteries and Mission Rallies. The women's burden to support mission in Wales and internationally remains strong and to date around £22000 has been

raised to be distributed to five international projects and various mission initiatives in Wales. The Mission Rallies were well attended and proved once more to be a source of blessing with excellent speakers and warm fellowship. Our women have also made a special effort to raise money for our brothers and sisters in Manipur and several of us join the weekly prayer meeting on Zoom for Manipur.

Our chosen Theme for 2026/7 is 2 Corinthians 13:14: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.” Our prayer is that we'll all find studying these familiar verses to be streams of living water to refresh and give us life. We have produced a free Resource book on the Theme which is suitable for personal use or for use in groups. Please contact Eirian Roberts (eirian.roberts@ebcpcw.cymru) for copies.



At the end of August Carys Davies, Dorcas Co-ordinator for the North, will be retiring. We will be very sad to lose her but of course we pray God's blessing on her for this new season. Carys has contributed immeasurably to the Women's Department over the past twelve years and we thank the Lord for her many gifts and for her faithful, humble and joyful service.

Sarah Morris

Trefeca Looks Ahead with Gratitude and Hope

Over the past year, visitor numbers have continued to rise, returning groups have increased, and a broader range of people are discovering Trefeca as a place of welcome, retreat, Christian hospitality and Gospel opportunity.

Central to this progress remains the dedicated work of the small staff team, whose warmth, flexibility and care help to create the distinctive atmosphere experienced by guests. Visitors come from across the Church and the wider community, many with questions about faith, the history of Trefeca and the story of Howell Harris and the Welsh Revival.

Looking forward, Trefeca will place an increasing emphasis on Christian learning, retreat and formation. A significant new development will be the proposed Theology Study Weeks, delivered in partnership with the Candidates & Training Department. These will offer opportunities to study theology within a context of prayer, worship, community, hospitality and mission.

Preparations are also beginning for 2027, which marks the 275th anniversary of Howell Harris establishing the Teulu at Trefeca. A programme of worship, teaching, historical reflection, retreat and community engagement are being developed, and it is great joy to know that the General Assembly will be held at Trefeca for this special occasion.



One example this is the commissioning of a commemorative Trefeca Chair, using traditional local materials and artisan skills.

Conservation and responsible stewardship remain important priorities, including proposed work to the Howell Harris House and continued fundraising for the wider estate.

The Trustees express their gratitude for the prayers and support of the Connexion. As Trefeca approaches this significant new chapter, it does so with humility and confidence, trusting that God continues to have a purpose for this historic and living place.

The Revd Wayne Adams



Mission Committee



Jonathan Hodgkins

Jonathan Hodgkins, Keystone Pioneer Worker

Thank God for the many opportunities to serve our community and demonstrate the love of Jesus! Over the past year, we have provided food for families through the Food Hub, hosted a fun day for more than one hundred children, supported someone in learning English (and passing her B1 exam!), and had the joy of working with Troy, the Northern Presbytery youth worker, in our youth club.

At Keystone, we have also had the opportunity to invite new people to hear the gospel. Many of those who attend are stepping into a church for the very first time, and it is an incredible privilege both to support them in practical ways and to share the love of Jesus with them.

Sioned Roberts, Mission Programme

I have truly enjoyed this past year—it has been a very blessed one! I really appreciate all the support I have received from Andras, Heledd, Sarah, and the rest of the team. Their door is always open, they care so deeply for everyone, and I am so grateful to have them walking alongside me on my journey of faith.

My main focus has been working with children and young people—in Sunday schools and local schools. Baby Basics is a charity that provides essential items for families and new mothers in need, such as clothing, toiletries, Moses baskets, and other baby essentials. This ministry genuinely changes people's lives. Hearing the testimony of one mother was a huge encouragement to me as she



Tim Heeley

shared how grateful she was to receive the care package and support, since she had no family or friends to help her during that season of her life.

Tim Heeley, Mission Programme

The first time I led worship as part of this ministry was at Soar Chapel, Nercwys, in June 2025. There were six people in the congregation, together with Huw, my wife, and me. As we began to worship, the singing formed a beautiful four-part harmony, but I began to sense that the chapel was full. Alongside the nine of us singing, we could hear another choir singing as well, accompanied by rich instrumental music. The following day, when I returned home from work, I asked my wife if there was anything she had noticed at Nercwys. She replied, "Oh, so you saw the angels too. I didn't mention it because I thought that if I had seen them, you surely would have seen them as well."

Morgan Williams, Anglesey Outreach Officer

The Alpha Course has just come to an end, and it has been a wonderful opportunity to take a deep dive into the Christian faith with a number of people from the chapel. The monthly men's breakfast has also been a great success, and it has been encouraging to hear testimonies of God's work in the lives of young men. Please pray for the plans that are ahead. First, at the end of August, we will be running a four-day Holiday Club. Then, in September, we will be launching a new informal service in Llanfairpwll, with the aim of reaching out to people who do not normally attend chapel.

Steffan Morris



Morgan Bryn



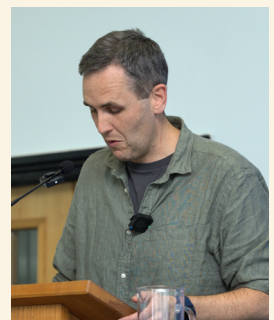
The Davies Lecture 2026

'Calvinistic Methodism and the new Wales'

The Revd Dr Andras Iago, BA, MA

To view the lecture in Welsh visit

<https://youtu.be/HuCsNV0Uf6s>



EBC Films

There are now over 730 films on Youtube! They can be viewed via the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbq8MrpmPxSSkwt4Hh6VYMw/playlists>

These are the most popular films since the last Assembly.

- 2026 Easter Message – Glynis Owen. <https://youtu.be/1JcVlyq-bLQ>
- CVM (Christian Vision For Men) Cymru (Cymraeg) <https://youtu.be/jYEnQX7OsFk>
- CVM (Christian Vision For Men) Cymru (Saesneg) https://youtu.be/Y_Gal0rakj8
- Hope in Blaenau Gwent. <https://youtu.be/f2U1x1DIZHY>
- A Christams Message – Glynis Owen. <https://youtu.be/xtR5ilbAlt4>
- Hope in Ringland. <https://youtu.be/UvgaTXqOZl8>
- Gobaith ym Mhontypridd. https://youtu.be/j1MIG4Go_PY
- Hope in Pontypridd. <https://youtu.be/nUhpFkzABhU>
- A Christmas Song from Trefeca. <https://youtu.be/rjUNfbRipd8>
- Capel Coffa William Williams. <https://youtu.be/c37MJ7M-5Jg>
- William Williams Memorial Chapel. <https://youtu.be/Wy9NRd2zybl>
- HIV Lesotho. <https://youtu.be/LVnfDHgEMFE>
- 'I'll throw my heavy burden down.' Can gan Pat Thomas. <https://youtu.be/Bm6HLznXSaU>

15 O FFILMAU NEWYDD EBC - 15 NEW PCW FILMS



Holi hwn a holi...Thomas Ellis Williams.
An interview with...Thomas Ellis Williams.



8 ffilm am Parc Arts, Trefforest.
8 films about Parc Arts, Trefforest.



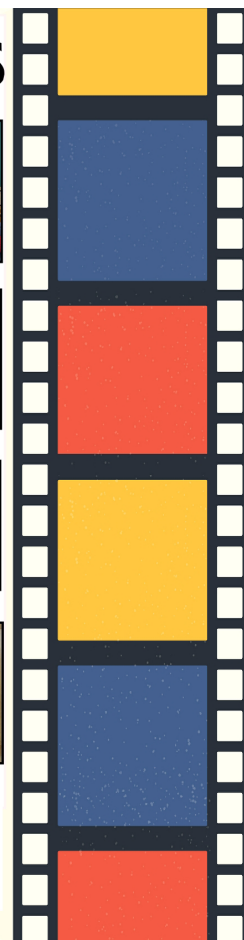
Cyfweliad gyda'r Parchg Jonathan Hodgins ac eraill o Quayside, Cei Conrah.
An Interview with The Revd Jonathan Hodgins and others from Quayside, Conrah's Quay.



Ein Pregethwr gwadd heddiw yw...Thomas Ellis Williams.
Our visiting preacher today is...Thomas Ellis Williams.



<https://www.youtube.com/@ebcpw8450>



Church and Society Department

During the year we have done the following work:

1. Supported broadly the principles of the Welsh Government's homelessness bill
2. Continued to raise the challenges of access to banking in local communities across Wales, and how this has an adverse effect on rural churches and the sustainability of communities; also how this causes polarisation in society on the means of using money (cash or online payment).
3. The matter was raised in the meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Faith in the Senedd, when the Trussell charity came to hold a seminar on food poverty in Wales. HM Treasury in London has opened a call for evidence on the matter, to which the Connexion needs to respond.
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/access-to-banking-services-review-call-for-evidence/access-to-banking-services-review-call-for-evidence#objectives-of-the-call-for-evidence>



5. We are grateful to everyone who has corresponded with their Westminster MPs on the assisted suicide bill (Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill). By now the bill has fallen. We shall need to look carefully on the progress of the Welsh Government's strategy on mental health and suicide prevention from now on.
6. We have learnt more about the Connexion's restructuring.



As Department Officer I have assisted individual members with following local interest in church and society matters, and been helping those wanting to resurrect local committees.

I have also started to support someone who is setting up a Christian and bilingual charity for serving women who are sectioned to mental health wards. There is a great need in this area, not least as there is always the potential in this field for denigrating faith as an aspect of mental illness rather than being of value in the patient's life.

Last, but not least, I have been carefully monitoring the campaigning for the Senedd elections, along with the changes in work processes that came in with the new voting system. Senedd committee chairs will be voted in in due course, and it will be possible to work out in the next few weeks where inquiries on matters of interest to the Connexion can be directed. Also the Senedd Cross-Party Groups are expected to be formed and established in the next few weeks. We are waiting for the Welsh Government to publish its programme for government.

Dr Carys Moseley

Candidates and Training Department

The Department met twice since the last Assembly. In the light of the discussions regarding Restructuring the central role of training was emphasised, and the need for formal training, in- service training, theological training, and the necessity to bring people together for learning and training purposes was underlined.

It was decided that the Department would review the materials for the training of elders and how such training is delivered. It is intended to establish a pattern of two weeks of theological study per year at Trefeca College for anyone who is interested.

During the past months four people followed the Sacraments Course in Welsh and fourteen in English. A

training course for elders on reading the Bible and prayer was held in Newtown.

The Department continued to support our students at Cardiff Baptist College, and those on the Mission Programme. A grant was given to Souled Out and the Coleg y Bala Gap Year.

Sincere thanks to the Academic Director and the Training Coordinator and everyone else involved with the Department's work during the year.

The Revd Dr Elwyn Richards



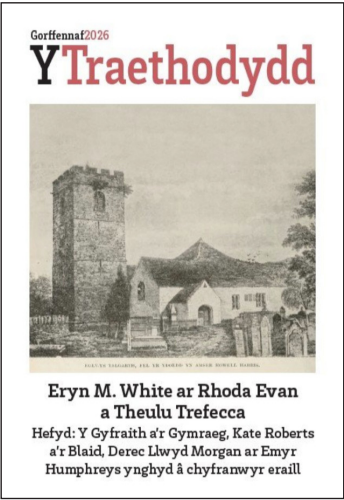
Publications Department

Y TRAETHODYDD

Y Traethodydd celebrates its 181st anniversary with a soft relaunch at the National Eisteddfod in Llantwd. The editor asked the denomination for support in this and advertising space was sought from Golwg and Barn. Cytun were also contacted with a request to advertise the relaunch amongst the other denominations. (Cytun were mentioned as a suggestion, unsure if they were contacted)

Financing the magazine (publication) has become harder since the grant from the Welsh Book Council was rescinded.

The panel continues to review (open to discussion) the opportunity of moving the publication online but has not yet reached a final decision.



Y Traethodydd remains important to us as a denomination and, as the oldest printed Christian publication in Wales since 1845, to the nation.

The panel therefore continues to support Y Traethodydd with a funding grant of £5,000 a year for 3 years.

CENN@d

Welsh interdenominational publication Cenn@d celebrated its fifth anniversary in March and the panel thanked the



editors Huw Powell-Davies and Marian-Beech-Hughes, for their diligence in continuing to publish weekly editions throughout the year. Those wishing to read Cenn@d including its back issues can do so on ebcpcw.cymru. They can also subscribe to a paper copy.

THE TREASURY

The English language denominational newspaper The Treasury is published monthly. The editor is thankful



to have a small group of contributors writing regularly including a regular contribution from the Moderator, Glynis Owen, a minister, Revd Dr Michael Ward, and a church member, Olivia Thorn.

Cenn@d - costs

2025 - £36,134

2026 - £31,924

We pay 70% of the cost = £22.5k

Treasury - costs

2025 - £3956

2026 - £3711

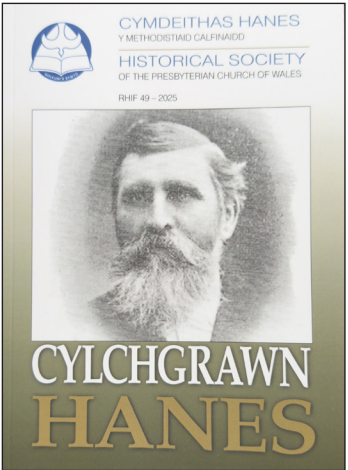
CRISTION



Cristion requires a new representative. The panel have approached a few people but nobody has yet come forward to take up that vacancy.

THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL

Rhidian Griffiths reported that the Historical Journal continues to receive good amounts of material for publication and seeks to augment that with more ecumenical articles which would help readers understand the history of different denominations.



APP GWEDDI.PRAYER

Online the panel is pleased to see the launch of the prayer app Gweddi.Prayer. The app is bilingual. Volunteers across our presbyteries send Rhian prayers for

the month. The app offers information regarding news and events. It enables use of links, documents and videos to share information and prayers.

There are some presbyteries who do not have volunteers and were still seeking.

The panel looks forward to seeing details of user interaction in due course.

WEB PAGE

The panel is delighted to hear that the website ebcpcw.cymru has been redesigned. After obtaining four quotes the denomination commissioned Webbox to build the site at the estimate cost of £35,000 (£30,00).

The panel looks forward to the launch which is planned to coincide with General Assembly.

HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS

As well as continuing to produce a series of preaching videos entitled "Our Visiting Preacher Today is..." and bespoke videos on PCW ministries, Head of Communications, Revd Gwyn Rhydderch has organised a series of meetings discussing Arts and Culture (this was mentioned in the meeting but as far as I'm aware there hasn't been action on this). He has invited various stakeholders to take part to consider how the Church can best use the creative gifts God has given us.

The Revd Jonathan Hodges



New Appointments July '25 – June '26

Several new workers were also welcomed during the past year:

- **Marjorie Thomas** as Community Worker in Mid Wales and Borders;
- **Elain Rees** as Youth and Families Officer in Arfon;
- **Llinos Mai Morris** as Schools Work Pioneer;
- **Tim Heeley** as Pioneer Worker in Flint;
- **Rhodri Phillips** as Community Outreach Worker in the Glanamau/Brynaman area.

It was also encouraging during the year to welcome two ministers from other denominations to minister among us. Following discussions and an appropriate process in the autumn, Rev Wayne Adams was accepted as a minister within the denomination, with the Department expressing thanks to the Lord for him and his ministry.

In addition, Rev Owen Griffiths was accepted as an ordained minister within the denomination.



The Revd Owen Griffiths



The Revd Wayne Adams

Christian Aid

The General Assembly is an opportunity to express a deep gratitude to PCW members for every donation, act of support and prayer over the past year.

After 80 years of service, Christian Aid continues to provide urgent humanitarian assistance and long-term development support to the world's poorest communities, responding to crises in Myanmar, South Sudan, Lebanon, Gaza, the West Bank, the Democratic Republic of Congo and, most recently, Venezuela. The long-term presence of our partners in these countries enables rapid response, and our support as a denomination sustains lasting hope.

Christian Aid Week was a particularly special highlight this year, with Janet Ngombalu and Jane Wathome visiting Penarth and Wrexham, offering us a direct insight into the work of partners in Nairobi and, through a live virtual service, connecting schools in Wales with students from Beacon of Hope. All our activities during the Week—the walks, coffee mornings, baking, and frugal lunches—all demonstrate our faith in action and enable us to create and sustain a lasting change for our neighbours.

PCW also took part in the global call to pray for peace in the Middle East, and the Just Peace resources are available to support us in our prayers and future actions:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/inspire-your-church-act-just-peace>

We were challenged at the Assembly to join as a full partner in The Just Peace Coalition:

<https://justpeacecoalition.com/> and to support the Time to Act campaign, building on our commitment to just peace. Are we ready and willing to accept that challenge?

We have had many opportunities to campaign on behalf of our neighbours:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/restore-campaign>

The Restore campaign highlights how the climate crisis and the debt crisis intertwine and are keeping millions trapped in poverty. Kenya is a particular example.

Are we ready to act and accept the invitation, as churches across Wales, to raise our voices for vulnerable global neighbours—promoting climate and debt justice, nurturing peace, and recognising the dignity of every individual?

The Global Neighbours accreditation scheme in Wales has grown this year, with five primary schools achieving their first awards. New resources for schools are available, including the special song Global Friends by Martyn Geraint, which reflects our mission to love our neighbour:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/canu-dros-gyfiawnder>

Last year EBC committed to the Faith Will legacy campaign, an initiative recognising that gifts in wills are a meaningful way to bless the work of the church locally and create lasting change globally. Although conversations about legacies can be difficult to begin, the campaign offers sensitive and practical ways to support members—and we will hear more about this in 2026.

Finally, almost four years since the launch of Seeds of Hope, it is time for us to consider a new denominational appeal in partnership with Christian Aid.

Once again, this is an opportunity for us to show—through our actions, our giving and our prayers—that we all truly can make a difference.

Cheryl Williams



The positives from the 2025 Ministry and Mission questionnaires

The 2025 Ministry and Mission questionnaires that were returned noted that:

- 626 children attending 67 Sunday Schools
- 354 attending 24 outh Clubs
- 1720 attending family services at 81 locations
- 88 Infant Baptism
- 16 groups for Parent and Toddlers
- 110 causes running, helping or hosting Foodbanks
- 21 Warm Spaces
- 109 'other outreach' including coffee mornings, groups for older people and community lunches

Resources Department

With this year's General Assembly being a 24hr event, the Resources Department Report, like many of the other business type reports, needed to focus more on those items which needed decisions and approval rather than those which were more for information. This doesn't mean that those items which weren't debated aren't important, they are still part of the Voice of the Assembly so I will try to highlight many of the key items here.

Salaries and Stipends 2027

In line with inflation, the Assembly agreed a **3% increase in stipends and salaries** as from the 1st Jan 2027.

Mission and Ministry Contribution 2027

"Ministry and Mission Contribution" is a bit of a mouthful, so let's call it the levy. It's the contribution all members are asked to make towards the cost of funding our denomination in general, and Ministry and Mission in particular. In common with most years, setting the levy for 2027 promoted quite a discussion around how the levy is arrived at.

The levy is the largest, but not the only source of funding to the Connexion, the income to run the PCW comes from

- Contributions (i.e. The levy).
- *Investment income**
- *Donations, legacies and grants**
- *Sale of property**
- Rental income from centrally held properties.

The levy inevitably increases year on year, partly because of any increase in stipends and salaries (3% for 2027) and partly because our membership is reducing at an average rate of 8% per year over the last 5 years. Therefore, the increasing costs are being shared between fewer people. But that isn't the only complication. When trying to decide in July of this year, what contribution we need to ask

people to make to cover the costs for the following year, we don't know how much we are going to receive from other sources next year. We have very little control over; investment income, donations & legacies, and particularly the total value of properties we will sell next year, all of which can vary significantly. So, when setting the levy, we need to try to predict what percentage of our costs we need the levy to cover. We call this "the multiplier" (it sounds better than "best guess"), last year's General Assembly set the multiplier for this current year at 0.72, i.e. the levy should cover 72% of the cost of ministry and mission. The recommendation from the Resources Department was to set the multiplier at **68.5% for 2027**. The recommendation to reduce the multiplier came as something of a surprise but it was explained that the connection is due to receive a one-off pension surplus sum as the Pension Scheme is being wound up. Consequently, this windfall income means that the levy only needs to cover a smaller proportion of the costs.

A suggestion from one of the delegates was that because our levy is lower than many other denominations, we should keep the multiplier at 72% or even increase it to provide more funding for Ministry and Mission, was discussed. There was some sympathy for the sentiment of this suggestion, but the reality of the situation was that the reason the Resources Department recommended a reduction was that many of our churches are in financial difficulty and the amount of unpaid levy is increasing every year. The figure at the end of 2025 was over £0.553 million. The concern was that if we increase the amount we ask members to pay, via the levy, the increase in unpaid levy may result in there being less for Ministries and Mission. Therefore, the recommendation that the multiplier is set at **68.5% and that the Mission and Ministry Contribution for 2027 is as shown in the following table, was accepted.**

	Association in North and South	Association in East		
	2027	2026	2027	2026
Full/Part Time Ministry	£215	(£209)	£298	(£289)
Pastorless	£141	(£137)	£259	(£251)
Other Denominations	£74	(£72)	£102	(£99)

Ecumenical Contributions 2027

Every year the connection makes financial contributions to a variety of organisations we have partnership and close working relationships with. Some of these payments are to support the work of those organisations and allow us to benefit from the partnership. Others, such as the safeguarding panel are because the organisation provide a service that we pay for.

At the last General Assembly, it was agreed that since the total was a significant sum we would undertake a review of relevance and benefit of these relationships. This work has been done, and the list of recommended contributions were presented to the Assembly. These identified a number of organisations where it was felt there was duplication with similar work to that carried out by other organisations we support, particularly Cytun. The new recommended list showed savings of £8000 compared with the 2025/26 list. A plea was made, and an amendment was agreed, to continue with the £750 contribution to the Free Churches Group as it was felt that being a member of that group was of benefit to the connection. **With this amendment the recommended list of contributions was agreed.**

Age of Debt

This is the term given to the difference between the amount we should receive from the levy and what we actually receive, based on the membership figures supplied by our churches.

Age of debt over the past four years:

This is clearly a significant concern. The report identified four different possible categories for the reasons for churches non-payment of the levy.

1. Perpetual nonpayers over many years.
2. A legacy debt for a period of time remaining on the books, but the churches are up to date with current payments. This could be due to a number of administrative issues with change of treasurer's or access to bank accounts etc.
3. Standing Orders not updated – this is a common problem, many of our elders and treasurers are getting more elderly and are struggling to get to the nearest branch with Standing Order forms. This is not helped by local bank closures.
4. Churches no longer being able to pay.

Statistics

Membership

Total Membership: **11,430**

Members under 25: **275**

Number of Causes: **443**

There has been an annual reduction in membership of 8% over the last 5 years.

Other things of note within the Resources Department report include:

- An encouraging report on the increased use of Coleg Trefeca and the plans for 2027 and beyond.
- A report outlining the work recently undertaken to refurbish the house at Coleg y Bala ready for when Lois and Ben Franks and family move in to take up Lois's new role to further develop its work as a centre for training and mission for the children, young people and families of the connection. The report also recognises the tireless work of Owain and Sian Edwards over almost 20 years.
- An update on the current and planned development of

Presbytery	Diwedd 2025/ End of 2025	Diwedd 2024/ End of 2024	Diwedd 2023/ End of 2023	Diwedd 2022/ End of 2022
Arfon	£4,650	£10,106	£10,775	£5,713
Conway a Dyfrdwy	£42,728	£56,402	£37,606	£34,724
Dyffryn Clwyd	£62,725	£59,702	£34,963	£48,122
Gogledd Ddwyrain	£9,506	£10,246	£7,685	£7,088
Gorllewin Gwynedd	£55,479	£60,493	£53,437	£45,018
Mon	£38,186	£35,969	£31,895	£32,451
Trefaldwyn	£34,316	£30,219	£26,740	£24,918
Ceredigion a Gogledd Penfro	£122,568	£179,025	£161,211	£148,479
Morgannwg Llundain	£91,119	£81,951	£54,324	£35,692
Myrddin	£7,169	£9,384	£8,243	£10,803
Mid Wales and Border	£22,597	£19,123	£11,602	£1,753
Northern	£15,830	£16,137	£20,055	£20,001
South East Wales	£15,090	£9,011	£9,132	£6,979
South West Wales	£9,195	(£1,715)	£2,426	£9,983
Other Denominations	£12,165	£9,772	£7,299	£5,851
Totals	£553,330	£579,852	£477,409	£437,783

Capel y Bont, and the grant application that has been made to the Welsh Governments Community Facilities Programme.

- Concern that a growing number of our local churches are still not fully compliant with the legal requirements for renting out Chapel House and former Manse.

Steve Wynn

The Historical Society

The Historical Society lecture delivered by Dr Gareth Evans-Jones from Bangor University at this year's Assembly was an examination of aspects of 'the Welsh conscience' in relation to the response of Christians to complex political problems, ranging from the clearing of Epynt in 1940 to the tense situation in contemporary Gaza. The lecturer gave a thoughtful analysis of these questions, and the response of believers steeped in the teachings of the Bible. The lecture is expected to appear in the *Historical Journal* in 2027.

The 2026 *Historical Journal* will include Professor Densil Morgan's Historical Lecture on Emrys ap Iwan delivered at the Llandudno General Assembly in 2025, together with articles on Henry Richard the Apostle of Peace, John Roberts 'Minimus', the first secretary of the Foreign Mission, and the missionary Isaac Hughes.

The work of digitising issues of the *Historical Journal* from 1916 to 2018 has been completed, and we thank the National Library for their co-operation in the project. We hope to make the digital files available on the Connexion's website, so that the riches of a century and more of studies on the history of Methodism in Wales will be freely accessible.

Dr Rhidian Griffiths



The 2026 Historical Society Lecture 'From Capel Celyn to Palestine: The Welsh Conscience?'

Dr Gareth Evans-Jones, MA

To view the lecture in Welsh visit

<https://youtu.be/gL60Gh7wJG4>



"Faith not fear"

Following the Buildings Conference, the General Assembly this year wished to have a better understanding of our estate and reaffirm our purpose.

We acknowledge that, along with other faith organisations, we are facing challenging times and would encourage stepping out in faith not fear, with hope for the future of the denomination and its witness.

We believe our churches and chapels are called to be **centres of mission and beacons of Christ** in their communities. Each place of worship should shine as a house of prayer, a home of welcome, and service, where faith is lived out in ways that transform lives. Therefore, our focus is the **light we bring into people's lives, the hope we kindle in our neighbourhoods, and the witness we bear to Christ.**



Our vision is for every chapel and church to be outward focused and be:

- **Spiritually vibrant** – rooted in worship and discipleship, equipping people to live and share the gospel with faith that inspires hope.
- **Community engaged** – actively identifying and serving their community by responding and adapting to local community needs with compassion, justice, and hospitality.
- **Sustainably managed** – with buildings that are adaptable, environmentally responsible, and financially viable.
- **Welcoming buildings** – suitably supporting the churches outreach, mission and ministry.
- **Collaborative in mission** – working alongside other churches, community groups, and partners for greater impact.

As the Bible Society's report titled Quiet Revival reminds us, beneath the surface of modern life there is a deep, often hidden openness to prayer and Scripture. Our calling is to nurture that quiet revival, helping it to grow into a living, visible faith that renews people, families, and communities.

Recent research from the Bible Society's Quiet Revival shows signs of new growth, with monthly church attendance in England and Wales rising from around 8% in 2018 to 12% in 2024. The sharpest rise is among 18–24-year-olds, where attendance has grown from 4% to 16% — and among young men in that age group it has leapt from 4% to 21%.

"Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."
(Acts 14:17)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
(Matthew 28:19-20)

Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel

Over recent years there has been a growing understanding of the importance of safeguarding within the Christian Church, and the Charity Commission clearly states that safeguarding needs to be a governance priority, not an optional extra! Many of our churches understand this but there is still room for improvement.

We continue to use the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse to monitor and improve our procedures. In line with this, we published our [Guidance On Responding Well To Survivors/ Victims Of Abuse](#) this year and we see an increase in local safeguarding leadership, with more local safeguarding co-ordinators, training courses for local co-ordinators and some upcoming training for the Presbytery safeguarding person.

Our resources facilitate safeguarding processes but, of course, they are only effective if used locally. We promote the importance of [safer recruitment](#) and the local church's responsibility to ensure that their volunteers do regular training and a DBS check every 4 years.

Every year since lockdown we have seen an increase in [DBS applications](#), indicating that work with children and vulnerable adults is going strong in many churches. We introduced thirtyone:eight's online DBS service alongside



Panel Diogelu Cydenwadol
Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel

SAFEGUARDING
in this Church
...we take it seriously

If you have concerns about a child or vulnerable adult or need safeguarding help, information or advice

Panel Diogelu Cydenwadol
Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel
01745 817584 / 07957 510346
post@panel.cymru

Out of office hours (and weekends)
call the thirtyone: eight helpline
0303 003 1111 **thirtyone: eight**
Creating safer places. Together.

IN AN EMERGENCY : CALL 999

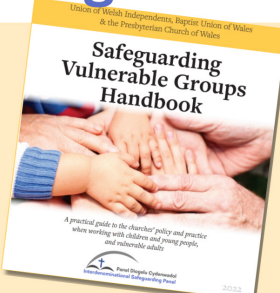
Visit the Panel website for more information or use the QR code to report a concern
<https://panel.cymru>

our local SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR is :




Safeguarding is...

PROTECTING vulnerable people from abuse, neglect and harm.
RECOGNISING the signs and symptoms of abuse and **RESPONDING** appropriately. It is **PREVENTATIVE** as well as **PROTECTIVE** and involves **PROVIDING SAFE ACTIVITIES** and **APPROPRIATE CARE**.



If you have concerns about a child or vulnerable adult or need safeguarding help, information or advice



Panel Diogelu Cydenwadol
Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel
01745 817584 / 07957 510346 **panel.cymru**

childline
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

Hourglass 0808 808 8141
Safer ageing - Stopping abuse

thirtyone: eight 0303 003 1111
Creating safer places. Together.

Live Fear Free Helpline
0808 80 10 800
call • text • live chat • email

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL: POLICE 999 OR SOCIAL SERVICES

Our local SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR is:

our own paper process, allowing a quicker turnaround and access to digital id checking. Unfortunately, this is still not available in Welsh.

[Training](#) remains a core priority and ensures awareness of the safeguarding policy and how to respond to concerns. Training promotes key resources such as our code of conduct for volunteers and recruitment checklist. New Welsh Safeguarding Training Standards specify that ministers and volunteers should now repeat safeguarding training every three years.

It was another busy year with thirty-nine [safeguarding cases](#). Most required advice from our safeguarding officer with 12 referrals to statutory agencies or other support. We fund access to out-of-hours support through the thirtyone: eight helpline, ensuring that help is always available.

The Panel employs two part-time staff and has received an income of £29,000 per annum from each of the three denominations since 2023. This will need to be reassessed as 2026 marks the end of the 3-year funding cycle.

Thank you for working together with us this year to make our churches safer places for all.

Julie Edwards

The Presbyterian Church of India Celebrates its Centenary



During April and early May, Nan and I had the privilege of visiting North-East India on the occasion of the centenary celebrations marking the establishment of the Presbyterian Church of India as one united church under a General Assembly. The celebrations were held in Shillong, Meghalaya, with thousands gathering from the twelve Synods that make up the Church, representing around 1.6 million Christians across the region.

The celebrations were a powerful testimony to God's faithfulness through the generations and to the deep historical relationship between Wales and the Church in this part of the world. We were reminded of the work of missionaries from Wales, especially Thomas Jones of Beriv and his wife Anne, who arrived in the Khasi Hills in 1841. Despite the challenges, losses, and great sacrifices faced over the years, the Gospel has taken deep root among the many tribes and communities living in that region.

It was an emotional experience to see representatives from so many tribes and communities worshipping together in unity, bearing witness to the grace and strength of Jesus Christ. In particular, it was moving to see representatives from the state of Manipur present despite the serious conflict and tensions that continue in that area. We had

the opportunity to listen to their stories, to share about the appeal and prayers of the Presbyterian Church of Wales on their behalf, and to reaffirm our partnership and support for them.

During the visit, we also had the opportunity to visit Gordon Roberts Hospital in Shillong and see the development work taking place there, as well as discuss plans with John Roberts Theological College. It was encouraging to see the work going from strength to strength and to witness the relationship between Wales and the churches of North-East India continuing to flourish and bear fruit.



On returning home, we were grateful for the privilege of being part of this historic celebration and amazed at the unity of the church amidst cultural diversity and major political challenges. The relationship between the Presbyterian Church of Wales and the Presbyterian Church of India continues to be a valuable partnership of faith, friendship, and shared witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Revd Huw Powell-Davies

Coleg y Bala

Good news about Coleg y Bala was announced at this year's Assembly, that the Children and Youth Service had committed to running and funding a specified number of courses at the college each year. A budget will be presented to the Children and Youth Service, by the Ministries Department, from 2029 onwards, to maintain its work in the college and among the churches nationally. The current method of funding the college will continue until the end of 2028, before the new system takes place in 2029.

This news about the funding of the work at the college ended the uncertainty about how the college was intended to be funded, on the eve of celebrating 60 years of ministry among children and youth at the college. It was also announced that the Department of Ministries would appoint Lois Franks as one of its pioneer officers, over a period of three years, to lead new strategic work on developing a business plan, marketing and sustainability. Lois is originally from Cardiff but currently lives in Pontypridd with her husband Ben and 4 children. Lois was a member of the Gap Year Scheme at the college during 2007-2008. She learned Welsh while then working at the college and is now fluent in Welsh.



At the end of April, Owain and Siân Edwards retired as Managers of Coleg y Bala. Thanks were expressed to them for almost 20 years of tireless work as managers, a period when thousands of children and youth benefited from their leadership and gentle shepherding. An advertisement will be published in the near future for an Operations Manager at the college, to manage the centre as a residential centre. The Connexion's thanks were also expressed to the early pioneers who ventured to establish the college as a Children and Youth Centre and the Reverend Dafydd H Owen, the first Youth Chaplain, who died aged 90 in April this year, was especially remembered.

Tŷ'r Coleg was recently renovated, for the accommodation of Lois Franks and her family. That involved installing new central heating pipes and radiators throughout the house, to replace those installed over 40 years ago and which proved inadequate over the years, and redecorating the house internally. Lois and her family will relocate to Bala within weeks with a view starting her job on 1 September this year. The Resources Department is thanked for the generous supplementary funding, which was almost sufficient to meet the cost of the renovation work.

Hywel Davies

PCW Youtube

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Dashboard

Content

Analytics

Community

Languages

Content detection

Earn

Customisation

Audio library

Search across your channel

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The improved Content tab helps you track video performance, earnings and notices in one place

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Video	Notices	Visibility
AN INTERVIEW WITH...THOMAS ELLIS WILLIAMS The Revd Gethin Russell-Jones interviews Thomas Ellis Williams, a former barrister from Caerdydd, about his ministry at Eglwys y Crwys, Caerdydd.	Potential earning li...	Public
Darlith Adran Hanes. "O Gapel Celyn i Balesteina: Y Gydwybod Gy... Darlith Adran Hanes Y Gymanfa Gyffredinol "O Gapel Celyn i Balesteina: Y Gydwybod Gymreig" Dr GARETH EVANS-JONES, MA 6ed Gorffennaf 2026...	—	Public
Darlith Davies - "Methodistaeth Galfinaidd a'r Gymru newydd". Y P... Darlith Davies Y Gymanfa Gyffredinol "Methodistaeth Galfinaidd a'r Gymru newydd" Y PARCHG DR ANDRAS IAGO 6ed Gorffennaf 2026 Capel y Porth...	—	Public
HOLI HWN A HOLI...THOMAS ELLIS WILLIAMS Y Parchg Gethin Russell-Jones yn holi Thomas Ellis Williams, y cyn	Potential earning li...	Public

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbq8MrpmPxSSkwt4Hh6VYMw>

Children & Youth Department

Naturally, the focus of our presentation this year was the changes underway at our Children and Youth centre, Coleg y Bala.

Firstly, the heartfelt and immeasurable thanks and the vast appreciation to Owain and Siân Edwards, who have devoted themselves to caring, serving, mentoring and sharing their home and lives with so many of us, testifying to the tender and kind care of our Lord Jesus. Their legacy, through the power of the Spirit, can be seen across our country, in churches, clubs, schools, families and individuals who thrive in their faith and their walk with the Lord. May the Lord richly bless their future endeavours, as they have blessed us.

It was also wonderful to hear from Angharad Clwyd, who shared about the feast of courses available for the children, youth and families of our churches over the summer. It is a



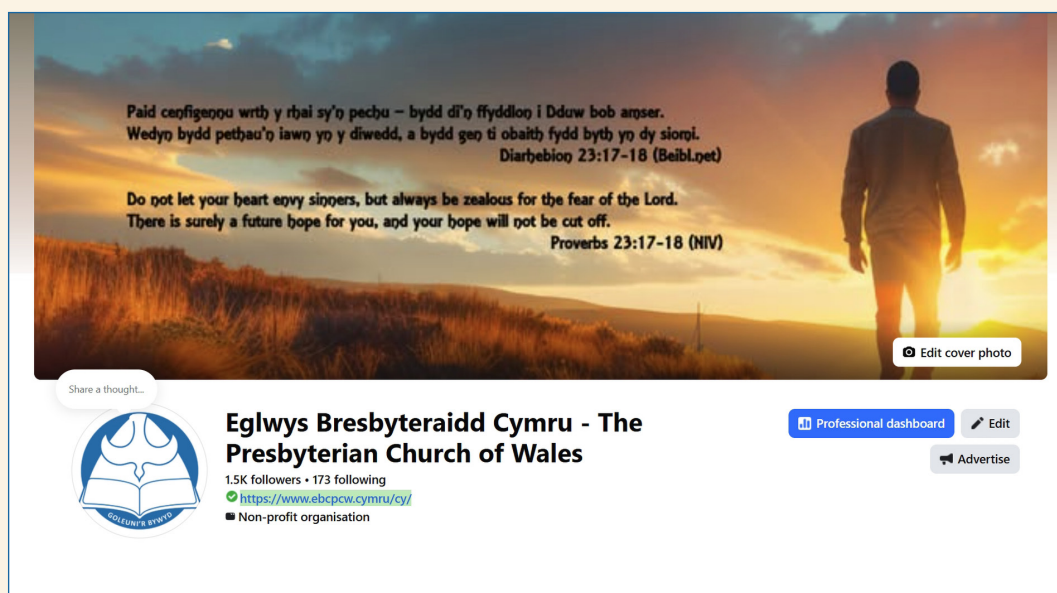
priceless opportunity and a valuable resource for leaders to encourage their congregations to attend these courses, and through them receive God's blessings in abundance through the activities, and a time of friendship, prayer, worship and learning from the Bible.



Finally, Nia Williams interviewed Lois Franks, who is taking over at the Coleg from September. She and the family will settle in Bala, a decade after she was a student on the Gap Year scheme there. Lois' heart for Wales and the Welsh in the light of the gospel was clear, and we pray fervently that the Lord blesses their new chapter there.

Catrin Hampton

PCW Facebook

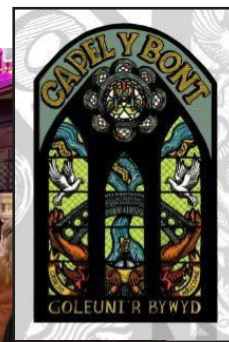


<https://www.facebook.com/EBCPCW>

Capel Y Bont

Film about an inclusive faith community in the heart of Pontypridd

<https://youtu.be/nUhpFkzABhU>



Summary Report of the Work of the Welsh Sunday Schools Council, 2025

2025 was a busy and productive year for the Welsh Sunday Schools Council and Cyhoeddiadau'r Gair. Opportunities arose to visit presbyteries, denominations and churches across Wales, organise resource evenings, attend denominational and national festivals, and strengthen partnerships across the Christian denominations. During the year, the Director, Aled Davies, also enjoyed a three-month sabbatical following 35 years of service.

Work continued to develop contemporary Welsh-language resources for children, young people and churches. A wide range of materials is now available for Sunday Schools, children's clubs, worship and school ministry. The challenge now is to encourage churches and local areas to make full use of these resources through greater local and ecumenical collaboration.

Nine new books were published during the year, covering themes such as prayer, devotional reflections, pilgrimage, personal faith journeys and climate change. Significant progress was also made on the 2026 publishing programme, with several new titles in preparation, including scholarly works, biographies, children's resources and the **Bible in 10** project.

Development continued across the Council's five websites, with new sections added to ysgolsul.com and cristnogaeth.cymru, hundreds of downloadable resources uploaded to gair.cymru, and preparations made for the relaunch of gobaith.cymru. Welsh Christian Television also expanded its content through new podcasts and contemporary Welsh-language music.

The Council was represented at a wide range of events, including the Urdd Eisteddfod, the National Eisteddfod, the Royal Welsh Show, denominational conferences and training events. Seven Gee Medals were presented at four different locations in recognition of the faithful service of local volunteers.

Work also continued with the *Roots* worship resources, including the launch of a redesigned website and updated publications, while the weekly Welsh-language worship resources remain available. The Council also attended the London Book Fair and international meetings relating to Christian education.

The Council remains grateful to its officers, trustees, partner organisations and denominations for their financial and practical support. Despite the challenges facing churches across Wales, the Council remains committed to supporting new initiatives, strengthening ministry among children and families, and serving churches by providing high-quality Welsh-language resources while encouraging greater cooperation across the denominations.

Aled Davies, Cyfarwyddwr/Director
Cyngor Ysgolion Sul / Cyhoeddiadau'r Gair

