

Voice of the Assembly 2025



Highlights of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Wales 2025

Reflections on the General Assembly



The Assembly was held at Gloddaeth Church in Llandudno this year, for three days, 7-9 July. The arrangement of celebrating our Ministry and Mission on Monday evening continued, followed by a period of wonderful fellowship between us around the tables in the company of friends from other denominations from Wales, Britain and internationally. We had hoped to welcome Yasmine Rishmawi from Bethlehem to share her experience with us before we approached the Lord's Supper, but due to ill health she was unable to come to us.

'What do these stones mean?' (Joshua 4:6) was the title used at our buildings conference at the beginning of

April in Llandudno, and during the Assembly we had the opportunity to welcome a representative from CADW to address us. Following the decision at Assembly, the scrutiny group will meet soon in the Autumn to act on the decisions of recent months. The time is ripe now for us to start acting.

The comments discussed in the Policy and Strategy Group on restructuring were presented, with the emphasis on empowering the work locally which remains at the heart of the discussion. We want to engage more effectively locally, and do so by training and encouraging vision within those communities. The diverse nature of Wales with its language, landscape, and rural and urban contexts means that there is no 'one size fits all' solution to serve our purpose, and so our planning for the future must better empower local people to find local solutions.

It is now obvious that the courts of the Connexion need to be restructured. We have seen time and time again this year how our lack of resources in people makes us ineffective and makes it increasingly difficult to maintain the structure. It is clear that tidying up our current structure is not an adequate solution.

During the Assembly we were treated to two excellent lectures. In our History Lecture on Tuesday the Revd Dr Densil Morgan spoke on the subject, 'What does Emrys ap Iwan have to say to the twenty-first century?' 'My journey in mission and prayer' was the subject of the Davies Lecture, as the Rev. Eleri Edwards, Manchester reflected on her life's journey in the post-World War II period, the opportunities she had to be part of the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar and the influences that have had an impact on her life.

At the Moderator's Valedictory Service on Tuesday evening, representatives of the Church in Mizoram Northeast India, where Aneurin (or Pu Zolawma as he is known by



the Mizos), took a prominent part in the service, as the Synod Moderator and other friends read and prayed at the beginning of the service.

By reflecting on the theme of healing to the nations from the leaves of the tree of life, Aneurin urged everyone in the whole Church to continue to be part of bringing healing to the nations in the name of Jesus Christ. We were blessed at the end of the service in several languages, including Taiwanese by the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, the Rev. PAN En-Sheng, and in Mizo by the Rev. R.C Lalnghaklana. The Holy Spirit was at work among us, and

the opportunity for the nations to bless one another made a deep impression on me; there was also many a tear shed by the congregation.

We wish Glynis Owen well as she was set apart to lead us as Assembly Moderator, God willing, for the next two years. We congratulate the Rev W. Bryn Williams on being becoming Moderator-elect for 2027-2029. We also congratulate the Rev Paul Morgan on his election as Treasurer of the Assembly.

The Revd Nan Powell-Davies
General Secretary

Ministers and Past-Treasurer of the Assembly who have passed away since the last Assembly

1961 - Revd E Elfyn Richards
1967 - Revd Robert W Jones, BA
1981 - Revd Eifion Wyn Williams
1992 - Revd Jim Clarke, BAdd
1994 - Revd Geraint Jenkins
Mr Idris Hughes



Moderator's valedictory address

The address can be seen on Youtube in Welsh:
<https://youtu.be/1UkEXOZDvl8>



Glynis Owen

Moderator 2025-2027

It was a great privilege to be installed as Moderator of the General Assembly in Llandudno and to begin to serve the Church in this role for the next two years. The Presbyterian Church of Wales has always been part of my life, for as long as I can remember. My grandparents came to Bethel Church, New Tredegar in 1909, from Mid Wales and it has been my family's church ever since. Both my parents grew up in the Rhymney Valley and whilst my father's work took us away, Bethel was the one constant to which we frequently returned. In time my aunt and uncle also became Elders there and it was with great sadness that, as Moderator of Presbytery, I had to close it last year.

I was born in Manchester, brought up on the north coast of Scotland, in Warrington and on the Wirral. I came to faith personally at the age of 17 and felt that my vocation was in teaching. After studying in London and Bristol, I taught French in Sheffield and Croydon, before returning to Wales in 1983 as Deputy Head of Howell's School, Llandaff. After nine years there, I became the Training Consultant for the Girls' Schools' Association then worked as a Registered Inspector of Secondary Schools for the next 15 years.



The Revd Aneurin Owen inducting the new Moderator



Since coming to Cardiff, I have found my spiritual home at Trehill Presbyterian Church, founded as a Society by Howell Harris in 1740 and a place of faith and fellowship ever since. We are a church family and support one another through good times and difficult times. Its worship and its members have sustained me for nearly 40 years.

When I was 20, I felt that I could begin to take Services in my local church and I have felt ever since that leading worship is a great privilege. There have been times when I could only do that in the school holidays but when I had a little more time, around the age of 50, I decided to go to St Michael's College, Llandaff and benefit from more training. I thank the Presbyterian Church for commissioning Elders to administer the sacraments, so that I am now able to take Services of Holy Communion, especially as a number of churches locally are now pastorless.

I have also found great joy in working with so many others in the Courts of our Church. Serving as Clerk and Moderator of the S-E Wales Presbytery and as Clerk and Moderator of the Association of the East has enabled me to get to know so many people who serve faithfully in our church. I hope to get to know people even better in this new role. We have challenges to face but we also have opportunities and I look forward to our working together to serve God as His Church in this land of Wales.

Glynis' film can be viewed on Youtube
<https://youtu.be/X04TL-8wsh0>



"Your hair is whiter than mine!"



What are they thinking about?

GWEDDI.PRAYER APP

We are pleased to report that the new mobile prayer app of the Presbyterian Church of Wales, Gweddi.Prayer, is very near to completion. The purpose of the app, which can be used in either Welsh or English, is to encourage prayer throughout the denomination by making it easier to share prayer points and information and enabling individuals to organise their prayer diary to suit their unique needs.

Gweddi.Prayer does this through its three prayer diaries.

1. The national prayer diary will share items for thanksgiving and prayer that are relevant to the life of the denomination as a whole.
2. The local prayer list will be arranged according to the presbytery to which the user belongs. It will provide the user with news and encouragement to pray for within that presbytery.
- 3 Each user will also be able to create their own prayer list which will be entirely confidential to the individual who created it. Using the inbuilt calendar, they will be able schedule their prayer, praise and thanksgiving to suit the pattern of their week or month.

Notifications from each of these prayer lists will be sent to the user to remind them of the items for prayer or thanksgiving that have been scheduled for that particular day. Prayer requests belonging to any of the three prayer diaries may also be linked to audio and video content as an additional aid to prayer.

Gweddi.Prayer also contains a News and Events pages on which the denomination can keep each prayer partner up to date with all that is going on.



We pray that when it is launched on google Play and Apple App Store Gweddi.Prayer will prove a blessing to many within the Presbyterian Church of Wales.

As the team charged with encouraging prayer within the denomination, we are very grateful for the support we receive from across the church. The various innovations we have introduced have been met with enthusiasm and this, in turn, has been a great encouragement to us.

Having launched the monthly National Prayer Meetings last October we have been blessed to share these precious moments of prayer with each other. Each month we have been led by someone different; each one bringing something unique, and each one enriching the prayer life of the denomination.

In June this year we had our second Week of Prayer. This had a more intense schedule of events than the inaugural event last year with national prayer meetings each weekday evening. This included a four hour long prayer meeting on the Thursday evening, and events organised by individual churches throughout the Connexion. In this way, much was asked of the members of our church, but, we are delighted to report, much more was given. Attendance throughout the week at the various events was very encouraging, but of greater encouragement was the sense of joy at seeking God's face together.

Gweddi.Prayer, the denomination's mobile prayer app is almost ready to be launched and this has been covered elsewhere in Llais y Gymanfa. But we are keenly aware that an app of this kind will be inaccessible to some members of the church, and so we will soon be starting work on a series of prayer pamphlets. These will accompany and assist our prayer partners on their journey through the year in prayer. Attractively designed, they will be filled with prayers, Bible passages and encouragements suitable to particular moments within the Christian and Connexional calendar.

The Revd Owen Griffiths

What do these stones mean? Reflection, Proposals and Actions following on from the Buildings Conference.

Background

The General Assembly in 2024 approved the formation of a Working Party on Buildings with a remit to progress the work that had been started by the Policy & Strategy Sub-Group on Buildings during 2023/24. For many years there had been a widespread acceptance that whilst our buildings estate was an asset, trying to maintain it was diverting an unsustainable amount of time, effort, and money away from our core activities of ministry and mission. One of the reasons why this situation has developed is quite simply because we love our home church, whatever condition it's in. We're emotionally attached to the buildings where we found faith, got married, baptised our children and probably where we hope to have our funeral.

Overview of the Conference

The Working Party met during Autumn 2024 and realised that policy change alone would not solve the problem. Our members need to understand, and support why making better use of our buildings is so essential for the future; hence the conference on buildings was planned for April 2025 with the strap-line "What do these stones mean" (Joshua 4: 6).

The General Secretary provided an overview of April's conference, which everyone agreed was hugely well attended, well organised, and was both informative and beneficial to all those attending. 18 invited speakers made presentations at the conference (plus CADW who made a presentation at the General Assembly), the presentations provided:

1. inspiration via good news stories,
2. evidence why our current buildings estate is unsustainable, how and why we must make better use of the buildings we have, and how we might repurpose those buildings we no longer need.
3. Ideas for adapting, and/or repurposing our buildings for greater community use.
4. Ways of managing change to avoid decline.

Videos of all these presentations are available on our website.

What do we do now.

It was pointed out that whilst the conference was successful and informative at raising awareness of the issues with our estate, all the problems still exist, it didn't change anything! We were reminded of the words in the fourth verse of Pamala Pettitt's hymn "I have a dream a man once said" *"So dream the dreams and sing the songs but never be*



content. For thoughts and words don't ease the pain; unless there's action all is vain, faith proves itself in deeds."

Unless positive action happens with the way we manage and use our estate, April's conference will have been in vain! Given the very large number of chapels, churches, and houses we own the question was asked, who's going to do all that work and what's the plan for achieving it? The answer of course was, no one or two individuals could do it. The reality is that the people best placed to bring about positive change in the way we use our buildings is everyone in our local chapels and presbyteries. Different situations need different solutions; local people know the local situation better than anyone. But it's unlikely to be achieved without plenty of support.

How can we support you? Information Required.

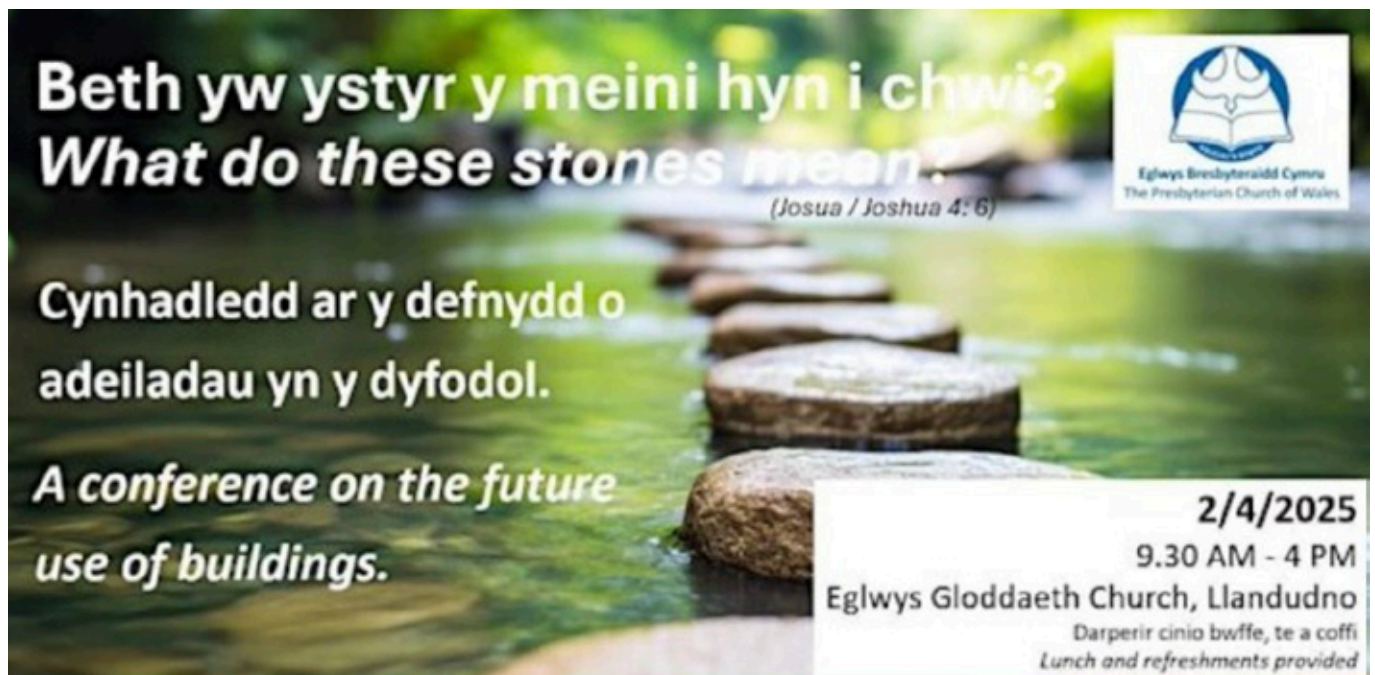
A lot of informed decisions will need to be made, and by definition, informed decisions need information.

1. Local churches need information about what can be achieved and how to go about it.
2. The Properties Board (consisting of your representatives from your Presbyteries and Associations) need information about the wishes and ambitions of the local church, together with their potential and opportunities for future development.

Therefore, the Working Party on Buildings is planning to produce information packs for Presbyteries and local churches with information such as guidance on what can be done, sources of help and expertise, funding sources, guidance on options available, how to develop a plan, and any other information as necessary.

Do we know our estate?

There is recognition that we need to know our estate better, centrally we don't know a lot about the reality on the ground for our local causes. The proposal is that we conduct a survey of the potential and intentions of the individual causes. This will initially be via a questionnaire



Beth yw ystyr y meini hyn i chwi?
What do these stones mean?
(Josua / Joshua 4:6)

Cynhadledd ar y defnydd o adeiladau yn y dyfodol.
A conference on the future use of buildings.

2/4/2025
9.30 AM - 4 PM
Eglwys Gloddaeth Church, Llandudno
Darperir cinio bwffe, te a coffi
Lunch and refreshments provided

Eglwys Brechlyteraid Cymru
The Presbyterian Church of Wales

sent to all churches asking questions such as, the wishes, ambitions and plans of the cause, the existing use made of the building, potential opportunities for sharing or merger (with our own denomination, or ecumenically), existing resources, the needs of the local community, etc.

Possible Developmental Changes

To be successful there will need to be other significant and important developmental changes.

1. We will need to appoint staff and/or external consultants to develop a detailed portfolio on every building in our estate and possibly help as a development officer.
2. We have a lot of houses, many of which we rent out, unfortunately in many cases we have a poor track record at managing these effectively, socially and even legally. There is potential for forming partnerships with housing associations to reduce the risk of both bad publicity and prosecution for both the local trustees and the denomination.
3. The price we get when we sell a building we no longer need, is often very low, and can result in damage to our reputation if they subsequently become holiday homes or Airbnb's. Many of these could have been developed for social housing or been repurposed as a long-term investment source of income, rather than simply selling the building. The PCW is not a property developer, but we could form a partnership with an ethical property development organisation who could do that on our behalf.
4. Our Book of Order already allows some of these developments, but some suggested changes will inevitably require changes to our rules to remove potential barriers to progress.

Making it happen.

The Working Party on Buildings are scheduled to meet on the 18th September when we will start to plan how to

implement the things we have outlined in this report. A task of this size and importance will clearly take time to fully plan and implement, but all those at the Assembly (and those reading this article) were challenged not to wait until the Working Party has finished everything in their remit, we are all urged to start thinking and above all talking and planning about the future of our buildings. The burden of managing and maintaining our estate has been the elephant in the room for far too long.

If we start to have those conversations now you will be in a much better place when the questionnaire about your buildings start to arrive.

“WHAT DO THESE STONES MEAN?” Joshua 4:6-7

The Revd Gethin Russell-Jones interviews The Revd Neil Kirkham about the renovation of Gloddaeth Church, Llandudno.

https://youtu.be/3gj-Bg_d1Wo

Steve Wynn



Children and Youth Department



Hedd Morgan

It is a time of change for the Children and Youth Department, with Rev Bryn Williams leaving his role as chairman, where he has steered us conscientiously and in a gospel centred manner since 2013. We gladly welcome his successor, Elin Williamson, to the role. We also thank God for the appointment of Elain Rees to Bangor and Felinheli, Robyn O'Connor to South-East Wales, and Troy Wright is now working with Gloddaeth, Llandudno and is expanding his role to support Northern Pioneers with their youth work. Catrin Hampton returns from maternity leave, and three new students step into Coleg y Bala's gap year, Deborah Parry, Shaina Boyce and Sioned Roberts, with Tomas Gwynfor also serving there for a period.

We enjoyed a blessed team day in Wrexham in mid-May 2025, with the theme of 'spiritual support' looking at where our help and support comes from in our roles. There was time to hear about the team's work, with an opportunity to pray for each other as well. We thank Nia Williams and Siwan Jones for organizing the day, and it was a blessing to have the guidance of our new Chair, Elin, to start the day in praise and devotion.

In terms of the team's outreach, the situation *is* varied - reflecting the gifts and calling of the workers, the availability of volunteers, the drive of the churches, and other factors regarding the local context of the work. It is a cause for thankfulness to be able to report that the work inside and

with schools continues to be a growing and prominent element for the team, including activities that arise from those school relationships, such as Easter courses for schools at Coleg y Bala, workshops in the chapels such as 'Easter Cracked' and 'Christmas wrapped Up', and several Open the Book teams. The team also find there is scope within the curriculum itself for welcoming school groups, such as the requirement for pupils to observe a (mock!) Christian wedding ceremony. Groups from Sunday Schools have resumed, with small numbers attending on the whole, but new work is also flourishing with the goal of building from different angles/ages, including new groups for babies and their carers, and groups for young people to explore their faith more deeply.

Courses in Coleg y Bala continue to see the Lord's hand blessing them, and we rejoice in stories of those giving their lives to Christ for the first time, and others responding to the call to step out into mission and evangelism in their own lives. The Children and Youth team again express their gratitude for the work of Coleg y Bala, which always enables occasions to spend extended time with the children and young people from the local area.

We pray for God's guidance again into the next year, that He will raise a generation again to love and follow Him.

Catrin Hampton

New appointments July '24 – June '25

Morgan Bryn Williams, Môn Mission Faciiltator, Môn Presbytery
Tim Healey, Flintshire Mission Worker, Gogledd Ddwyrain Presbytery
Elain Rees, Children, Youth and Families Worker in the Bangor and area Pastorate, Arfon Presbytery
Thomas Williams, Mission Outreach Worker, Eglwys y Crwys Cardiff, Morgannwg Llundain Presbytery
Marjorie Thomas, Arloeswr Cymunedol Llanymddyfri, Henaduriaeth Mid Wales Borders

End of Term/ Resignations/ Retirement July '24-June '25

Corey Hampton – December 2024
The Revd Watcyn James – October 2024
The Revd Gerwyn Roberts – September 2024
The Revd Ian Sims – March 2026
The Revd Brian Huw Jones – December 2025

**Every gift. Every action.
Every prayer—each of us has
the power to change lives,
make a difference,
and uphold hope.**

This year, Christian Aid is celebrating 80 years since its founding after the Second World War. The charity has responded to crises and helped develop communities worldwide. Christian Aid Week was launched in the 1950s to raise funds, and our ongoing support has made a lasting impact on communities around the globe—our faith in action. Thank you.

“Believe me, when you helped the least important person who belongs to me, you helped me.” Matthew 25:40.

Over the past year, Christian Aid has acted globally by:

- Responding in Myanmar after the earthquake.
- Supporting displaced families in South Sudan with financial aid and food.
- Providing training and support to women in Afghanistan to produce silk and saffron.



The Revd Anna Jane



Cheryl Williams and Llinos Roberts

- During Christian Aid Week, focusing on indigenous communities in Guatemala facing the effects of the climate crisis.
- Standing alongside partners in Gaza in challenging circumstances, where our partners respond daily by sourcing mattresses, blankets, and supporting people to grow food between tents.

Throughout all this work, standing together in prayer, action, and giving lifts spirits and sustains hope for our global neighbours and partners.

As well as praying and calling for a lasting and just peace, we can encourage the UK Government to introduce measures to fairly tax polluters in order boost funds so that communities can adapt to the climate emergency and to cancel unjust and unsustainable debt. Cancelling debt of low income countries could release billions of pounds that could be spent directly on health and education programmes.

Reflecting on this special anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate our role and to consider how, as individuals, churches, and communities, we can recommit to sustaining hope.

This year, the Presbyterian Church Wales, the Union of Welsh Independents, and the Church in Wales are committed to supporting Faith Will, launched in 2023. A third of Christian Aid's voluntary income comes from gifts in wills, totalling £15 million in the last financial year—a practical way to put faith into action.

We all leave a legacy that endures beyond our immediate presence. Through our words, support, and deeds, we can make a lasting impact—and this is the aim of Faith Will: a legacy left behind, a commitment to continue acting today for tomorrow.

Every gift, whether in an envelope, online, or as a legacy in a will; every action, whether raising our voice, signing a petition, or standing together; and every vigil and prayer—everyone has the ability and the will to change lives, to make a significant difference, and keep hope alive.

Cheryl Williams

SUMMARY OF THE REV R O ROBERTS' SERMON BEFORE THE COMMUNION

Gethsemane

Mark 14:32-50

"Abba! Father! Everything is possible for you. Take this bitter cup from me".

Jesus was very worried about what was ahead of him when going to the cross. But even so, drinking the "cup" was his biggest concern. It meant suffering God's righteous wrath for sin and being separated from his Father. "My God! My God! Why did you leave me?"

Jesus is always alert to people's need for deliverance - physically or emotionally. He saw people's spiritual need for reconciliation with God. The disciples were sleeping when they should have been awake to Jesus' need and their need for deliverance from the enemy. Being busy can tire us and prevent us from giving priority to the Lord. The Church can be busy with its organisation forgetting our people and our world. "Keep awake, and pray."

Through his sacrifice, Jesus showed his love for us and his perfect love for his Father. He fulfilled the law and brought us to God. There was no love in Judas' treacherous kiss. Judas left himself without light or hope. What about us? Let's be careful not to be superficial in our response to the Lord, nor to want Jesus to follow our 'agenda', "Thy will be done" should be our prayer.



If we hurt someone we love, we will hurt too. We remember Peter's tears of repentance and Jesus' mercy towards him "Do you love me more than these?" He asks us this too.

Jesus stood firm to his Father's plan. He finished the work to open a way to the Father. The "church" left Jesus in the hands of the enemy. The gospel is a call to trust in Jesus and stand by faith. A call to speak like Peter at Pentecost, awakened to the meaning of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Standing for the Lord filled with love for each other and our world that has yet to experience God's grace.

We pray that we may be church that is alert, full of love and has the courage to stand.

You can listen to the sermon using the link below

<https://youtu.be/ZKL9b8nvYyU>

MORNING WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Due to Nia Wyn Williams' mother being unwell, she could not lead the Morning Worship and Prayer. The Tuesday morning worship was led by her husband Bryn and her son Morgan Bryn delivered her meditation on the Wednesday morning.

The meditations can be viewed on the links below (in Welsh):

The Revd W. Bryn Williams

<https://youtu.be/V1-tCP8-QvI>

Morgan Bryn Williams

<https://youtu.be/GsvERNCYv8>



The History Society

The Society will publish a further issue of the *Historical Journal* in the autumn. This issue will include the text of Revd J. E. Wynne Davies's Historical Lecture delivered at the 2024 General Assembly on 'The Forgotten Mission', the history of the missionaries who worked in Brittany. This is a theme that has been neglected, and having the lecture in print will, we hope, bring about renewed interest in the story.

At the Assembly in Llandudno we enjoyed a lively and comprehensive lecture by Professor Densil Morgan which discussed the message of Emrys ap Iwan for our own day. We look forward to welcoming Dr Gareth Evans-Jones of Bangor University to deliver next year's lecture.

The committee has reached an agreement with the National Library to digitise the *Historical Journal*, and we hope to make it available to researchers on the Connexion's website. The *Historical Journal*, which began publication in 1916, is a mine of valuable information about the history of Methodism in Wales. We look forward to realising this exciting development.

We also hope to open discussions with the other denominational history societies to explore the possibility of creating one journal for all the societies, so that all can benefit from the research carried out into aspects of denominational history in Wales.

The Historical Society is responsible for the historical artefacts on display at Coleg Trefeca, where exciting new developments are under way. The items on display attract the attention of visitors from many countries, and we hope to discuss ways of enhancing the exhibition by providing more background information.

Dr Rhidian Griffiths



The Historical Society Lecture

'What does Emrys ap Iwan have to say to Wales in the twenty-first century?'

The Revd Dr Densil Morgan

To view the lecture in Welsh visit

<https://youtu.be/VAgqiaSrnXs>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WALES

**NATIONAL PRAYER
MEETING, FROM HOME,
ON ZOOM**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
THE REVd OWEN GRIFFITHS
OWEN.GRIFFITHS@EBCPCW.CYMRU
07811727540

**FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH
7.00 PM TO 8.00 PM**

ZOOM LINK:
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/86840505238?pwd=ShO6MHRb5MNbPv2INjU5RARNQCISj.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86840505238?pwd=ShO6MHRb5MNbPv2INjU5RARNQCISj.1)
MEETING ID: 868 4050 5238
PASSCODE: 259186



Coleg y Bala

The reader is reminded that the object of the Coleg y Bala charity is to establish a Christian training centre for children and young people. Historically, the work at the Coleg is carried out by the Children and Youth Service of the Presbyterian Church of Wales (PCW), leaving the charity to provide the necessary resources for training and mission among children and youth.

It was reported to the Assembly that the charity's trustees had started discussion with a potential partner who is enthusiastic for developing the college's mission into the future.

A detailed site inspection of the Coleg revealed a programme of work that will need attention before or as a result of creating any new partnership at the Coleg. All the conditions of the Conditional Planning Permission were met, to erect the extensions to the Coleg's chapel, build a new kitchen, additional bedrooms over the kitchen and expand the canteen by extending it to the existing kitchen. It will be necessary to consider whether the extensions can be funded, further than demolishing the old bicycle shed, by the Coleg's kitchen, so as to 'start' the development to give the Planning Consent longevity of more than 5 years.

The financial situation continues to be fairly good, thanks to PCW sponsorship. The financial position would be poor without donations from individuals and the sponsorship of PCW.



The Revd Huw Powell-Davies

The contribution of the Gap Year Students continues to be a great blessing. The Gap Year Students at the moment are Deborah Parry from Caernarfon, Shaina Boyce from Pontypridd and Sioned Roberts from Bala. Twm Edwards from Llanuwchllyn went to Japan to be a missionary among young people, after a short term on the Gap Year scheme.

The Assembly heard the good news from the Coleg in an interview of the 3 current Gap Year Students, by Angharad Clwyd. Listening to them describe their progress in faith was thrilling.

Hywel Davies

www.facebook.com/collegybala



The Davies Lecture

'My journey in mission and prayer'

The Revd Eleri Edwards

The lecture will be available to view on Youtube in September.



International

Mizoram

Rebecca and Nan visited the Mizoram Synod and the sisters' celebrations in Mawplang, Meghalaya in December. It was also an opportunity for them to make contact with a group of Refugees from Manipur who had been displaced in Aizawl Mizoram.

As a result of the visit, Rebecca was invited to preach in her home congregation in Mission Veng on Sunday evening before returning home. She was congratulated by the elders of Mission Veng and their blessing was given on her ordination with the Presbyterian Church of Wales.

Our Moderator, Owain and Joseff Edwards and Lleuwen Steffan visited Mizoram in February and March this year. A virtual lesson was given to learn Welsh in the Theological College; this will be established as a regular event in the Autumn.

Following Lleuwen's *'Lost Hymns'* project, and the privilege we had as a Denomination to contribute to the project, Lleuwen spent a lot of her time with Mizo musicians listening and composing together. She had the opportunity to perform many times, in Churches, homes, Hospitals and at the celebrations of the KTP and the Women. She also made a firm connection with the Recovery work on K Ward at Durtlang hospital. Virtual sessions have started jointly with Cynnal following her visit.

Owain and Joseff had the opportunity to work together with the KTP Youth organisation during their visit.



The representatives from Mizoram

Manipur Appeal

The Manipur Prayer Appeal continues weekly via zoom on Friday mornings at 9.15 am.

We congratulate everyone on their efforts collecting money for the appeal, we hope to give an interim update at this year's Assembly. The Appeal will end at the end of 2025, we wish everyone well in their endeavours during the remaining months. We have already been introduced to some of the

faces of the Appeal, Robert and Kimteii. Following Rebecca and Nan's visit to a refugee camp in Aizawl, we also had the opportunity to welcome Dr Shokhothang among us in May, and in particular at the Association in the North and at the 'Celebration of Mission' in Oswestry.

Japan

Richard Brunt and Miriam Watling joined the EPJM (English Presbytery Japan Mission) in Japan in November '24. The team visited several different mission projects encouraging and assisting some of Japan's Christian leaders. It was a privilege to work together with the leaders of Singapore, and especially with Charles and Molly Chua. They noted how difficult it is to witness to the Gospel in Japan, and how important it was to stand together with Christian leaders there.

Taiwan

Richard Brunt joined the PCT General Assembly in April.



The representatives from Taiwan

Myanmar

The political situation remains fragile. Mizoram continues to receive refugees mainly from Myanmar to the North of the state. CWM has now stepped in to administer Agape Hospital, which is the hospital normally administered by the Church, which is located in Kalay in the East of the country. Doctors from Korea and Japan, in particular, help with the administration and necessary further training of the hospital. It is now more than four years since the military coup overthrew the democratic government elected by the people. The political situation has led to a serious human rights crisis, with thousands killed or arrested. The economic situation continues to deteriorate daily. Within the CWM family we continue as a Church to condemn what is happening there.



HEAD OF PROJECTS AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

I was listening recently to Aled Hughes' programme, on Radio Cymru, discussing Y Galeri Caernarfon's twentieth anniversary. When discussing the 'Cofiwch Dryweryn' graffiti shown above, Aled said, "...Waw, there's power in art!" The 'Cofiwch Dryweryn' graffiti has been a part of the revival of Welsh nationhood."

Doesn't God like the arts? Isn't the Lord the creator of fine art? We read in Exodus 31:1-5:

"Then the Lord said to Moses, "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills — to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts."

To bring glory to Himself, God gave Bezalel the talent to create art in the Tabernacle!

We must not forget that 65% of the population are mainly visual learners. However, rarely does our presentation of the Gospel include pictures or stories. Matthew 13:34 tells us that Jesus' teaching was filled with pictures:

"Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable."

The truth communicated visually is far more powerful than the truth communicated verbally alone!

PROJECTS.

The Community Art Exhibition was a joint project between Lois Adams, a community artist from Cardiff, Pwllheli Pastorate and Tudweiliog Chapel.



Artists from all backgrounds and abilities were invited to present work on the theme, 'In the beginning'. Lois Adams visited four local schools and led art workshops. The fruit of the children's work was a prominent part of the exhibition. Around 500 people and children visited the exhibition during the week.

This is an excellent way to create a relationship with people who are interested in art.

FILMS.

Steven Spielberg once said:

"The older I get, the more I look at movies as a moving miracle. Audiences are harder to please if you're just giving them special effects... but they're easy to please if it's a good story."

As I film, my prayer is that the viewers would be blessed by these films, also that they would be useful for the churches. There are now about 700 films on YouTube!

I would like to thank The Revd. Gethin Russell-Jones and Rhian Melhuish for her excellent work and efficiency.



ARTS COMMITTEE?

I proposed in the Assembly that we establish an Arts Committee within our denomination to promote art and Christianity. The proposal will be discussed in the next Publications Dept.

The Revd Gwyn Rhydderch



Candidates and Training Department

It was with sadness that we heard in July last year of the loss of Mr. Idris Hughes who served as treasurer of the Department since its establishment, and we extend to his family our heart felt condolences. Thank you to Mr. Cliff Williams for his willingness to succeed him as treasurer. We also wish Miss Glynis Owen, one of the trustees of the Department, our best wishes as she begins her term as Moderator of the General Assembly.

In light of recent developments regarding Coleg y Bala future training needs were discussed. Formation training was emphasised, and it was suggested that the vision of the Department regarding who needs training and for what purpose should be refined. It was also maintained that training should strengthen a sense of Connexional identity and an appreciation of PCW membership. It was concluded that this requires a clear vision, an appropriate syllabus, significant financial commitment, appropriate pastoral care, and appropriate trainers. It was therefore decided that a sub-committee be established under the chairmanship of Professor Eryl Wyn Davies to consider the way forward.

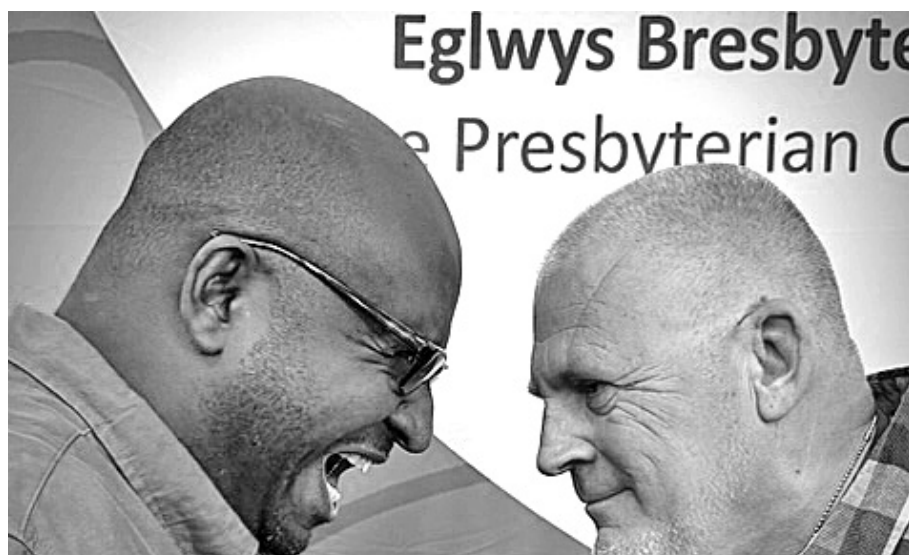
Appreciation was expressed for the work of the South Wales Baptist College providing training for some of our students, but disappointment was also expressed because



Cardiff University is placing the College in such an uncertain position by proposing that theological education at the University should be withdrawn.

Whilst discussing the applications for grant support that had been received during the year it was decided that all grants awarded by the Department should be reviewed and their outcomes assessed. The provision of Welsh language in the workplace training was discussed, and the process of receiving candidates and how expectations regarding the needs of the churches and the likelihood of receiving a call should be considered. It was decided that ensuring an appropriate dyslexia assessment when required would become part of the Department's policy

The Revd Elwyn Richards



The Assembly bouncers!

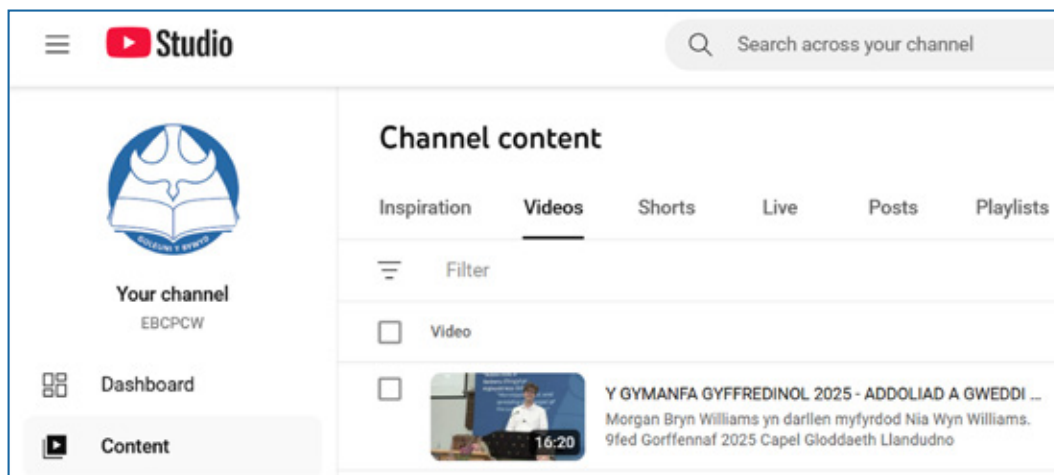


The General Assembly's new Treasurer



The Revd Paul Morgan

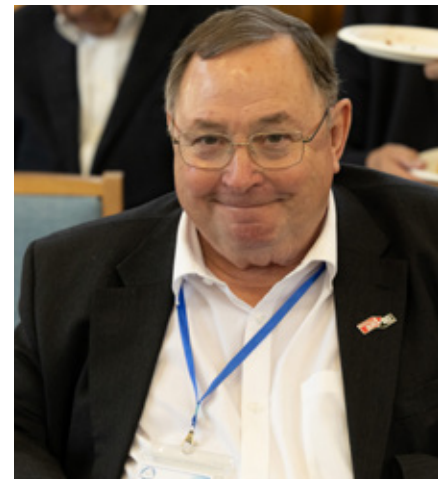
PCW Youtube



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



What are they talking about?



The Publications Department



Every Wednesday morning, without fail, a new issue of *Cenn@d*, PCW's Welsh publication, is published and distributed digitally. Grateful thanks are due to the team who work to enable this: our diligent editors, the Revs Huw Powell-Davies and Aled Davies, together with our regular columnists, the designer, reviewers, all who contribute news or reports about local events, and Connexion staff. *Cenn@d* is available, free of charge, on: <https://www.cennad.cymru/>

PCW's English-language monthly is *The Treasury*, and the Rev. Jonathan Hodgins is responsible for editing and designing the publication, as well as contributing articles on a regular basis. The end result is a lively, varied and colourful magazine, dealing with current religious affairs, and including reports and news from the churches. You can read a digital copy at: <https://www.ebcpcw.cymru/en/treasury/>.

The *Traethodydd* is the oldest Welsh-language journal still being published. It was established in 1845 and aims to discuss cultural issues. This year, under the excellent editorship of Professor D. Densil Morgan, it has again succeeded in publishing contemporary articles of a high standard on literature, religion and the arts. For further details, visit: <https://www.ytraethodydd.cymru/2025/06/26/y-traethodydd-gorffennaf-2025/>

We continue to support the bi-monthly magazine *Cristion*, with Rev. Dr Elwyn Richards serving as Chair of the Publishing Board. It's a pleasure to welcome the new editorial team – Heulwen Evans, Eurfyl Lewis a Sian Elin Thomas – and congratulate them on their interesting and relevant publication.

According to our Handbook of Order and Rules, the aim of the Publications Department is: 'to ensure effective communication within the Connexion and to promote publicity and public relations'. During this last year, I believe that the Department has made a valuable contribution towards fulfilling this aim.

As my term as Chair comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone for their unstinting support – it has been a privilege to partake in this important work. Best wishes are extended to the Rev. Jonathan Hodgins as he takes on the role of Chair.

Marian Beech Hughes

The General Assembly Moderator elect 2027-2029



The Revd W. Bryn Williams

TREFECA

It was a joy and privilege to report to the 2025 Assembly on the many blessings we've experienced at Trefeca since the last gathering, and to share some of our hopes for the future. We give heartfelt thanks to the Lord for His faithful provision, and for the goodwill, prayers, and practical support we've received from so many across the Connexion in recent years.

As I stood before the Assembly, I was struck by how many smiling faces belonged to people who had visited Trefeca in recent months. Their presence was a visible reminder of the growing support we've received—through visits, word-of-mouth encouragement, and above all, prayer. These expressions of care affirm the special place Trefeca holds in the hearts of many.

One particularly moving moment came during a brief conversation with the Reverend Eleri Edwards (Madagascar), who once lived at Trefeca. She spoke vividly of the profound personal impact the place had on her and emphasized the importance of Trefeca remaining a house of prayer for the future.

Over the past year, we've welcomed more than 1,500 visitors. Many have joined us in prayer in the Huntingdon Room, visibly moved by the thought that Howell Harris and his many notable guests likely prayed in that very space. These moments of connection—past and present—continue to shape the spiritual atmosphere of Trefeca.

At the Assembly, we highlighted that our mission is rooted in offering generous Christian hospitality to all who come, whether they belong to a church community or not. This has only been possible through the dedication of our hardworking staff and the unwavering support of our Trustees. The result is that people leave Trefeca feeling spiritually uplifted and physically refreshed.

We also acknowledged that much work remains. Our conservation and restoration plans are progressing well, and we are already beginning to prepare for the 275th anniversary of *Teulu Trefeca* in 2027. We hope to partner



with the Historical Society and the National Library to celebrate and showcase our rich and varied history.

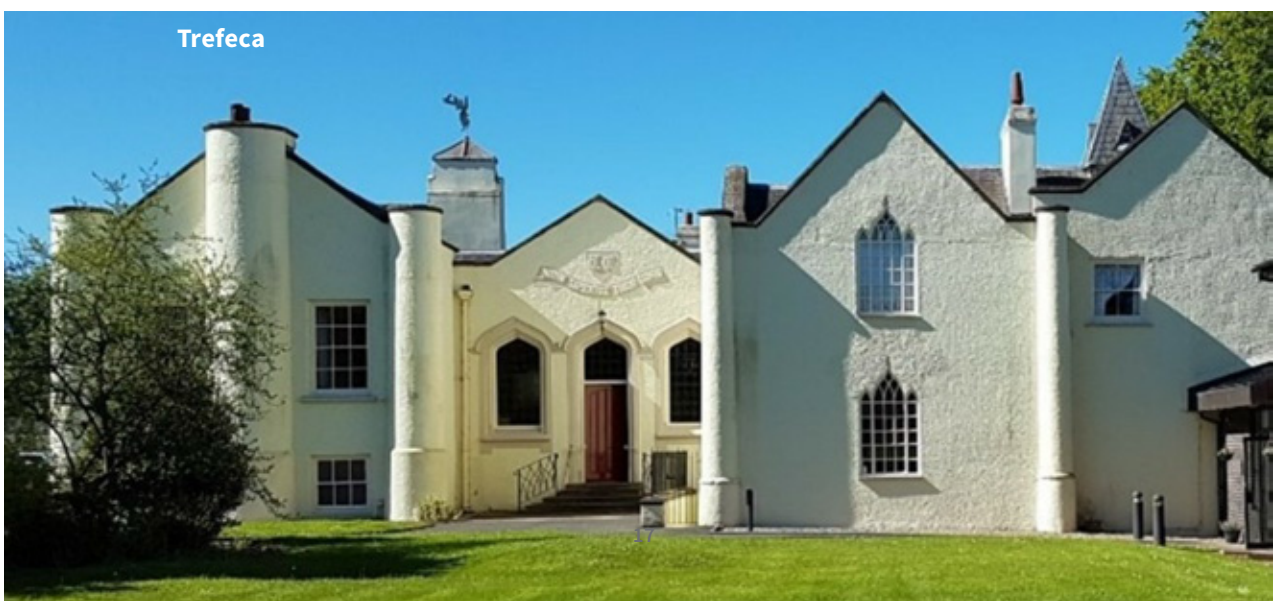
There is a growing sense that Trefeca's story is especially relevant to the Connexion at this time. By God's grace, we pray that He will continue to use this place to bless both current and future generations. In the language of business, people speak of "unique selling points"—and Trefeca's uniqueness is plain to see. Few places in our land can claim such a rich and continuous spiritual heritage.

While we draw strength from the past, we are also looking ahead. A key focus for the coming year will be developing a programme of retreats and activities to support the spiritual life of the Connexion and the wider church and encourage individuals and churches in their walk with the Lord.

On behalf of everyone at Trefeca, thank you once again for the many ways you lighten our load—through prayer, visits, and individual financial support. Please continue to uphold us as we seek to minister to the many. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 1:5, we are truly grateful for your partnership in the Gospel.

Rev Wayne Adams

<https://www.trefeca.org/cy>



Church and Society Department

We are grateful once again on behalf of the Church and Society Department for a year's work on behalf of the Connexion, giving thanks for all our members. We have been and are continuing to work on the following topics:

We give thanks for the work of our rural affairs officer Dorothy Williams, who has been ready to monitor the development of agricultural policy which affects Wales, and correspond with politicians on this. We are also grateful for Patrick Thomas, one of the Connexion's workers and members, for having agreed to assist the Department as is needed on matters relating to Additional Learning Needs. We know that there is interest in this field in the Connexion, and we believe this will be a valuable addition to work on education in the Connexion.

We drew attention to our response to the increasing problem of access to banking in Wales, which has attracted an inquiry by the Welsh Affairs Committee in Westminster. We intend to continue to try to persuade them to release a complete report on their inquiry, or to resurrect the inquiry, as this affects churches' work, as well as increasing the risk of polarisation in society regarding the use of money.

We are aware of the increasing problem on violence in society near or relating to schools, but also possibly in relation to churches. This comes in the wake of our response to the attack in Amman Valley School last year. We are

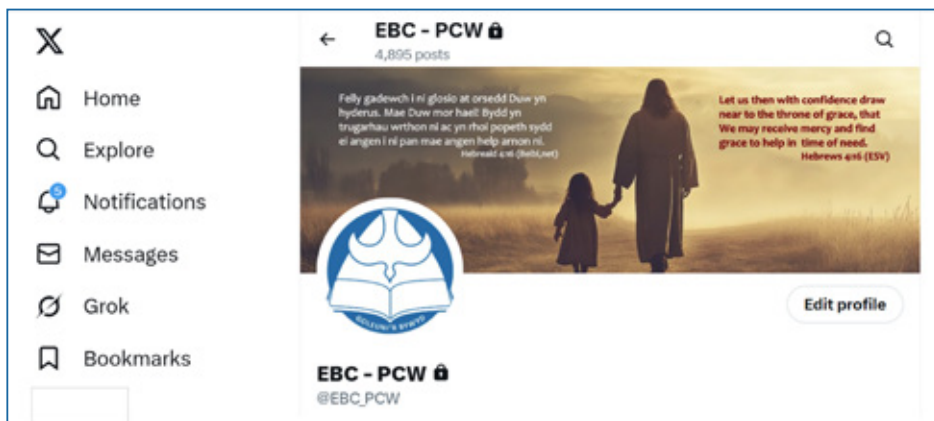


aware that some kind of ministerial work is already being done in several places across Britain, so we are looking to see how policy/church and society work would handle the challenges in a suitable manner.

Our officer drew attention to the passage of the bill for legalising 'assisted dying' (assisted suicide) in Westminster. By now, very sadly, it has passed through the House of Commons. Our officer explained the dire need to continue to oppose it as it goes through the House of Lords from September onwards, and the wide-ranging effect it would have should it become law, on the most vulnerable in society and in our churches.

Dr Carys Moseley

PCW X



https://x.com/EBC_PCW



There's a growing recognition across society, of the importance of safeguarding as well as the implications of not getting it right! The church has a biblical mandate to care, protect, listen and be a safe place for all. Our safeguarding procedures are there to make sure we do this in a way that is safe for everyone.

A safeguarding audit in 2024 confirmed the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Handbook](#) as fit for purpose, recognising recent improvements including the code of conduct and safer church checklist. However, the audit also highlighted a gap between some expectations outlined in the policy and implementation in local churches. This is one reason why PCW asks each church to appoint a safeguarding coordinator who will work to make the safeguarding policy a reality locally.

The Panel provides safeguarding training for coordinators, volunteers (level 1) and ministers (level 2) to share key safeguarding information. We ensure that those working with vulnerable adults and children understand safeguarding, know that help is always available and feel supported in their role. A coordinator described a recent course as "reassuring all the way -took away the worry." Bearing this in mind, demand for level one and coordinator training is disappointing. We expect volunteers to attend a 2 hour, level 1 session every 4 years which, this is not a huge commitment in time, yet it could make an enormous difference, particularly when faced with safeguarding concerns. All training can be booked through our website and is mainly delivered conveniently over Zoom <https://panel.cymru/en/training>.

DBS checks are always a significant part of our work and 2024 was our busiest year since 2017. This shows that there still a lot of work with children and vulnerable adults happening in our churches. Alongside the paper DBS form we now also offer an online option.



DIOGELU
yn yr Eglwys hon
...rydym o ddifrif

Os oes gennych bryderon am blentyn neu oedolyn bregus neu angen cymorth, cyngor neu wybodaeth :

Panel Diogelu Cydenwadol
Interdenominational Safeguarding Panel
01745 817584 / 07957 510346

tu allan i oriau swyddfa (ac ar benwythnosau)
galwch llinell gymorth thirtyone:eight

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

MEWN ARGYFWNG : GALWCH 999

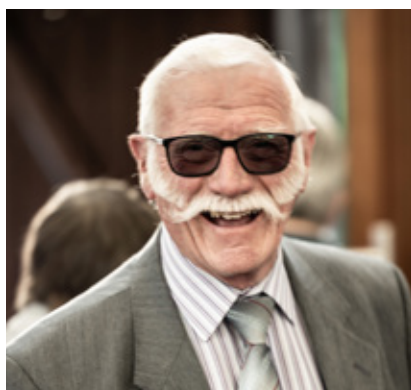
Ewch i wefan y Panel am fwy o wybodaeth neu defnyddiwch y cod QR i adrodd am bryder
<https://panel.cymru>



ein CYDLYNYDD DIOGELU lleol yw:

We deal with more cases each year and stress the importance of reporting low level concerns as well as more serious matters, so that we can offer support at an early stage. To ensure support is always available, we have partnered with Thirtyone: eight, a well-established Christian safeguarding charity, to provide an out of hours service. We encourage you to never hesitate to pick up the phone to seek advice. Office hours 07957 510346 / Out of hours 0303 003 1111. Details are on our latest [poster](#) which also includes the message that this church takes safeguarding seriously.

Thank you for commitment to making our churches safer places for all. Let us know how we can help you.



The actors from the re-filmed 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly'. You can guess who's who!

Resources Department

It is inevitable by its very nature that the Resources Department report is not going to be a “page turners”, it’s going to be full of PCW ‘business’ decisions, information and announcements. But they are important. How often have you heard someone being told about some change only for them to say, ‘when did that happen, no-one told me’. So here comes some of the key aspects of the reports, some is for information, some are decisions that were taken, but all are important.

Stipends and Salaries 2026.

It was agreed that all stipends and salaries for staff, workers and ministers would rise by 3% as from 1st January 2026. A table showing what the effect of this would be for all pay-scale points is available.

Mission and Ministry Contribution 2026.

The contribution paid by the membership to fund Mission & Ministry (often simply referred to as the ‘Levy’) is obviously going to be affected by the decision to award a 3% increase for all staff, but that isn’t the only factor that can potentially affect the levy. The ‘multiplier’ will also have an impact. The Multiplier is simply the percentage of the total cost of Mission and Ministry we are expecting the levy to raise. The decision was to maintain a multiplier of 72.5% this means that if all members pay their levy in 2026 the amount raised will cover 72.5% of the anticipated cost of providing Mission and Ministry. The remaining 27.5% is raised from other sources, mainly the sale of buildings. With a 3% salary increase and a 72.5% multiplier, **the levy agreed for 2026 is shown here.**

	Association in the North and South	Association in the East
Full / Part Time Ministry	£209 per member	£289 per member
Pastorless	£137 per member	£251 per member
Other Denomination	£72 per member	£99 per member

Grant to Coleg y Bala

It was agreed that the annual grant to Coleg y Bala’s would increase by £3,000 for 2026.

Ecumenical Contributions for 2026

The PCW pays subscriptions / annual affiliations to a variety of different ecumenical organisations; in 2025 these totalled £101,820. It was agreed to continue with these affiliations but with the caveat that the Ministries Department will review the benefits and value of membership of these organisations over the next year.

Age of Debt

This is the amount of unpaid Ministry and Mission contribution at the end of each year. The debt at 31/12/2024 was over £600,000, the highest ever year end figure, an increase of 25% on the year end figure for 2023. Only one of the 14 Presbyteries had no end of year debt. The unpaid contributions affect the cash flow and significantly increase the financial deficit.

Statistics

In 2024, 66% of congregations completed the annual statistical return online, 23% on paper and 11% were not returned. The proportion of missing data is increasing each year which makes planning very difficult.

The statistics show that current membership stands at 12,470; membership has decreased by 63% in 20 years. Since the pandemic, the average annual decline in membership is 8%.

The financial statistics for 2023 show that local congregations spent 64% on maintaining buildings and only 36% on ministry. The financial returns also show that £13 Million of local churches money was held in current and deposit accounts. In addition to this, the statistics show that collectively local congregations hold £23 million in investments. The Resources Department reminded all congregations that the Properties Board Deposit Account pays better interest than most current accounts and can be accessed as and when required unlike many deposit accounts.



Steve Wynn

Chapel House Report

It was reported to the General Assembly that of the 259 chapel houses owned by the denomination, 59 were not compliant with the legal minimum standards for energy efficiency. This means that the trustees responsible for those houses, are liable to prosecution by the local authority where these houses are located.

Cemeteries

A database of all our cemeteries is currently being created, once this is completed questionnaires will be sent out in stages to all chapels and Presbyteries with responsibility for cemeteries.

In addition, it was announced that the Law Commission carried out a consultation on burials, cremation and new funerary practices. Cytûn prepared a response regarding matters common to all churches in Wales.

Environmental Policy Leaflets

The Assembly was reminded that 10 leaflets are now available on the website (or in hard copy from the Central Office) which provide practical guidance to help us work towards better compliance with regard to our environmental policy.

PCW Facebook

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



The Rev Aneurin Owen receiving his medal

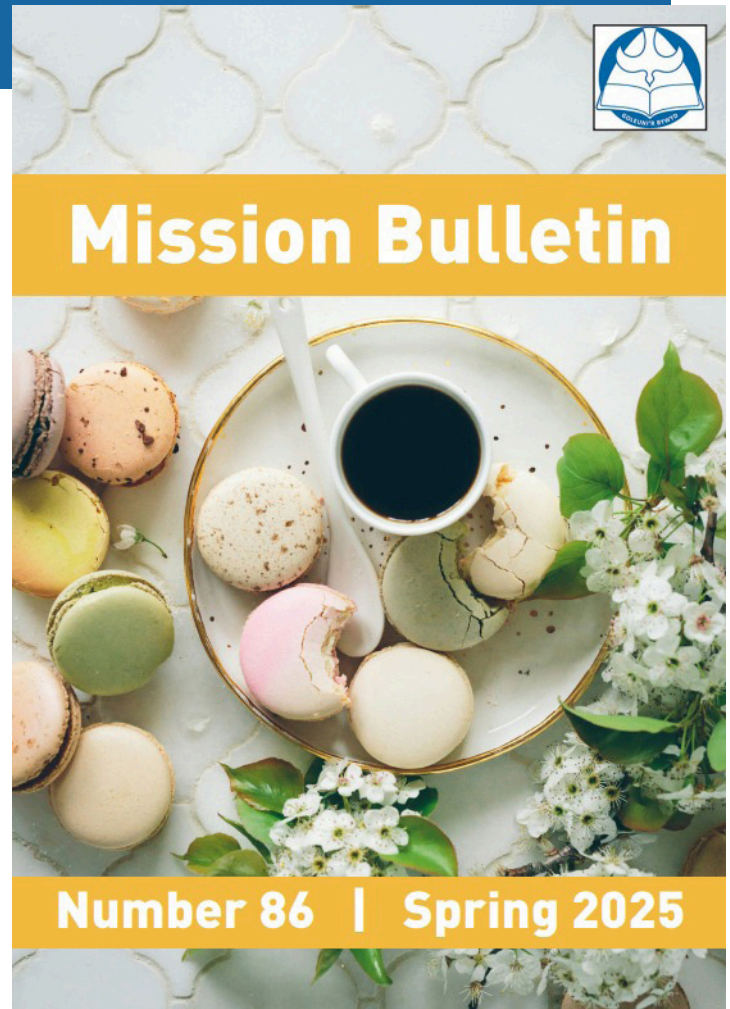
The Woman's Committee

I am the Resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even though they die. John 11:25

This verse, chosen as the Women's Committee theme for 2025/26 contains the very crux of the Gospel. Herein lies the sure hope of the Christian. Here, also, is the reason for our existence as a Women's Committee; to tell others that there is life in Jesus and to encourage one another to keep looking to Jesus and believing in Him. This is what we've sought to do during the past year. Resource books based on the Theme are available free of charge through the Officers.

This year we've raised money to support four long term international Mission Projects (HIV/Aids Lesotho, Reaching Romania, Way of Hope Hungary, EPJM Japan Mission) and given one off grants to the Manipur Appeal and Christian Hope Uganda. We have also supported mission projects in Wales (Waungoleugoed Day Centre, new outreach in Sir Fflint, Well-being officer SE Presbytery). At the time of writing the Mission Collection for 2025 was £23,000. We thank the women of our churches for their continuing heart for supporting Gospel mission and it was a blessing to join together in the Mission Rally in Abergavenny and the Celebration of Mission in Oswestry.

Our Zoom Bible Studies have continued to be a source of great blessing. This year we've been studying the parables and have been very challenged by Jesus's teaching. Without doubt, one of the highlights of this entire year was our study on the Parables of the Pearl and Hidden Treasure when we discussed that there is nothing more valuable in the world



than entering God's kingdom, and what it has cost Christ to make this possible. What a thrill we had that night to hear accounts of ten people coming to faith that very week – including eight prisoners in Swansea gaol!! Praise God, the giver of life!!

We reported last year that the GOLUD scheme was coming to the end of its term. But we are delighted to report this year that CWM has agreed to release the underspend in the budget to continue to employ Samantha Hodgins. Sam will continue to raise awareness of dementia and the faith needs of older people in her role as Older adults Chaplain. Please pray for her in this role as she seeks to serve our churches in this important ministry. One of Sam's first tasks has been to arrange a Day Conference **Grace for Every Season: Ministering among older adults**. The conference will be held in Park End church, Cardiff on October 11th. As the title implies this will be a day for anyone involved in ministry to older adults (and those of us who are in this season of life ourselves). It promises to be an inspiring day with an excellent line-up of speakers and we hope that a worthy number will attend.

Sarah Morris

WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF OUR MISSION AND MINISTRY



A worship band from Eglwys Gloddaeth led the praise at the Celebration of the Church's mission and ministry which took place on the first Monday evening of the Assembly.



Angharad Clwyd introduced this year's gap year students at Coleg y Bala in celebration of the scheme's contribution to the lives of young people over almost 30 years.



Owen Griffiths presented details of the new Prayer App which will be launched shortly.



Rebecca Lalbiaksangi and Thomas Williams were asked about their priorities in their new work and ministry in Montgomery and Cardiff.



Patrick Thomas, a worker at the William Williams Memorial Chapel in Llandovery sang a song of blessing, which he composed himself, at the end of our celebration.

The activities continued over dinner as we welcomed visitors from Churches in Wales, Britain and the world.

The Revd Huw Powell-Davies

Editor – The Revd Gwyn Rhydderch
Design & Typesetting – Gary Evans

Cyngor Ysgolion Sul and Cyhoeddau'r Gair

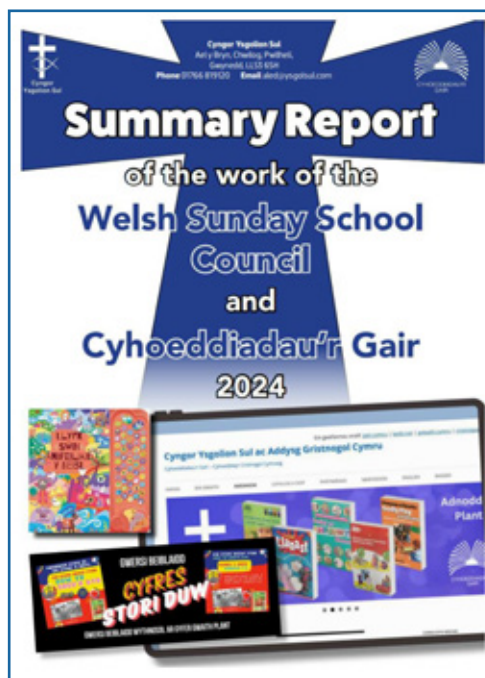


In 2019 we created a 5-year strategy plan for 2019-2024, with the emphasis on increasing our digital work / websites, while reducing our print work. Over a period of 5 years we now have 5 websites full of information and practical resources, not to mention channels on Facebook, TikTok, X and Instagram. A Christian TV channel was also created on YouTube, bringing together the thousands of Welsh Christian items that can be seen on the web.

2024 was a year where there was an opportunity to encourage and support the re-establishment or establishment of new work in communities all over Wales. Thank you for every invitation that comes - from churches, presbyteries, ministers' days, not to mention virtual meetings. There was an opportunity to organize a few resource days around the country and to have a presence at national events.

While the focus of the last 5 years has been on developing our presence on the web, and more 'digital' resources, the focus for the next two years - 2025/6 - will be on reaching out missionally with a focus on schools work in particular, by developing Christian resources for supporting the work within schools and also helping churches to reach out to their local schools in the community. We have received an endowment of charity money from the Religious Education Association of Wales, and this will be spent over the next 2 years to realize some of the above objectives.

We give thanks for the support of the officers and members of the Council for their work. Jennie Hurd's term as Chair came to an end at the end of the year, and Mererid Mair was welcomed to Chair for the next period. It is sad to record



that Idris Hughes, our former treasurer, died during the summer after a period of illness. We have now had the opportunity to welcome Kathryn Morris as a new treasurer, and we thank her for the expertise she has in the field of finance.

Following the death of Elisabeth James in 2023, who was our Honorary President, the Council at its annual meeting appointed an Honorary President to succeed her, namely Rheinalt Thomas, who has also made an immeasurable contribution to the Council's work over many years. We give thanks for the life and contribution of both Idris and Elisabeth

Thank you for every opportunity to witness for the good of the Gospel in Wales.

Aled Davies

CADW

When discussing our buildings, Aimee Henderson from the CADW organization was welcomed and she shared information with us about the development of our listed buildings.

