

Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit
Charity No 1134882
Report of the Trustees For The Year
Ended 31st August 2016

The Trustees submit their annual report and the independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2016.

Legal and administrative information

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

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

Superintendent Minister: Rev Howard Long

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

Organisational Structure

The Swansea and Gower Circuit is made up of eleven churches. These are - Pitton, Horton, Reynoldston, Murton, Mumbles, Sketty, Brunswick, Penlan, Wesley, Morrision, Clydach. There are approximately 600 members, numerous worshipping adherents and community 'contacts'.

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

Other office holders (voluntary) include

Circuit Stewards – Mr Derek Norton, Mrs Heather Coleman, Dr Bob Alderdice,

Circuit Treasurer – Mr Martin Gregson

Circuit Meeting Secretary – Mrs Diane Norton

The members of the Circuit Meeting are the Managing Trustees. During the year 2015/16 the following people served as members of the Circuit Meeting. **(To be completed)**

Mission and Purpose

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

services the local Churches in the support, deployment and oversight of the various ministries of the Church, and in programmes of training.

Priorities for the Methodist Church

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

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

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

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

Swansea and Gower Circuit Policy

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

- Express the Gospel through worship, word and action in ways that will speak to the needs and culture of the people around us.
- Nurture Christian understanding and lifestyle through fellowship groups, study groups and prayer groups in the Churches.
- Encourage growth in church membership through worship and evangelism, mission and pastoral care.
- Support existing chaplaincies and develop other chaplaincy work wherever possible.
- Work in partnership with other churches wherever possible in order for us to share in God's mission more effectively.
- Play a full part in the work of the Methodist Church in Wales while being inspired and challenged as part of the worldwide Church of Christ.
- Be sensitive to environmental issues and be good stewards of our natural resources.

This policy was agreed at the Circuit Meeting on June 18th 2015

Review of the Year

Staffing : There were no staff changes at the beginning of the new Methodist connexional year (Sept 2015). A service to mark the retirement of Rev. Pam Cram, was held at Clydach (Capel y Nant) in July 2016

Circuit Leadership Team: Dr Bob Alderdice stepped down as a circuit steward

Local Preachers: Two accreditation services took place in the year Cynthia Mumford (March) and Caroline Buckler (July)

Forward Planning : The Superintendent and Circuit Officers continued to support Brunswick, Morriston and Penlan in their forward planning.

Ogof Adullam Drop-in Centre: The project continued to support 25-35 guests on three evenings during each week. The circuit made an application for grant support from the Mission in Britain Fund, Wales Synod and the circuit to employ the project coordinator and assistant coordinator on a part-time basis. The project supported Swansea Night Shelter by opening on Saturday afternoons during the period that Swansea Night Shelter was open

Gower Youth Worker: The circuit supported this ecumenical appointment with a grant of £1000 over two years.

The Circuit Project ZrJ Trust (supporting orphans in Zimbabwe) : The official launch was held at Brunswick in October and fundraising events were held throughout the year

Safeguarding: The Circuit welcomed two new Circuit Safeguarding Coordinators: Mrs. Lynne Taylor (administration) and Mrs Pat Davies (referrals). Foundation and Leadership training took place.

Property: A redevelopment scheme took place at Wesley Church. The remedial work at Uniting Church Sketty (dry rot) was completed in February. A disabled toilet was installed at Brunswick.

Marriage and Relationships Conversations: These took place in various churches with feedback sent to the Connexional Marriage and Relationships Task Group in February.

Wales Methodist Synod. The circuit was fully represented at all Synod meetings including the annual Synod in Newtown (Sept 2015), the Synod policy committees in Newtown and the Ministerial Synod that met in Abergavenny in March 2016. The Superintendent Minister chaired the Synod schemes and grants committee which met three times during the year in Cardiff.

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

- Prepared the preaching plan and organised acts of worship in each of the circuit churches Sunday by Sunday.
- Arranged three Circuit Services – Mission (launch of Circuit Project October 2015) Easter Offering (April 2016) Cymanfa Ganu at Clydach (July 2016)
- Arranged four Circuit Meetings dealing with business relating to the Circuit and to formulate plans for the future including agreeing the budget and church assessments for the financial year 2015/16
- Arranged 6 meetings of the Circuit Leadership Team to discuss the life of the Circuit
- Arranged 18 meetings of the Circuit ministerial staff.
- Arranged four meetings of the Local Preachers and Worship Leaders

This report was approved by the Circuit Trustees on 8th December 2016

REPORT OF CIRCUIT MISSIONS COMMITTEE TO CIRCUIT MEETING, 8-12-16

Will Church Treasurers please note that Dianne Price is no longer World Mission Treasurer, following her move to the Midlands, so for the time being, please send any cheques for World Mission to me, Sybil Smith, so for now I am treasurer for both World Mission and Mission in Britain.

Thank you , Sybil Smith, Secretary to Circuit Missions Committee

Ty Croeso.....A Place of Welcome

Ty Croeso continues to offer an open door for any who care to call by for the various services we offer, and we have been accepted to be a part of a network of 'Places of Welcome': the first in Wales and a pilot for developing others in the Principality. These are simply places where anyone can drop in, have a free cuppa, and find a friendly welcome. The network started in the Midlands and is spreading rapidly, with a website to indicate where all the Places of Welcome are.

Another new venture is 'Tea and Hymns' which is held in Capel y Nant hall. The first was on November 30th, with a Christmas theme. Invitations were sent to local care homes, but also to seniors groups, Age Cymru, etc in the hope that we can reach individuals who could be helped through the singing and the companionship. On the day, nearly 20 residents from 2 local care homes arrived with their carers, together with a dozen other people from local churches. We sang around 6 carols and hymns, some in English, some in Welsh. Tea and mince pies were provided by our very own Wesley Guild. It was obvious that the event was very much appreciated by all the guests. Tea and Hymns will become a regular event in 2017!

Recently we had a stall at the Community Council's Christmas fair, selling bric-a-brac and spreading the word about all the various services we offer. Sadly, we still find there are people in the area who don't know we're here, so these events are very helpful and worth the effort even if we don't sell much.

Our other regular activities continue, not maybe with large numbers, but greatly appreciated by those who come: the Foodbank, Bereavement Group, Families Anonymous, Credit Union, Siop Siarad and Healing Café. We're always on the look-out for new ways of using the Ty Croeso premises, and have been exploring possible lettings to a mental health agency and a seated exercise trainer.

Thanks to our treasurer, Eurig, we've recently been very successful in fund-raising, receiving two significant grants totalling £3,000. We also received an amazing £1,500 from Capel y Nant from their charity fund-raising last year. We continue to be supported financially by INCO (the nickel works), and by local regular giving. All this not only keeps the roof over our heads, but also affirms us in what we are trying to do in service to our community.

Pam Cram (Chair)

Report from the Preachers' Meeting 05/12/16 Morriston

1. 20 Ministers and Preachers present
2. Various members and friends who are suffering ill-health were remembered
3. Preachers "On Note": Cerys Davies and Sue Raad received favourable reports on services taken; Sue has successfully completed Section A of the course. Assessed services were confirmed as Jan 1st (Cerys) and Jan 15th (Sue).
4. Various concerns and issues from around the Circuit were recorded, including Brunswick (dry rot), and Penlan and Mumbles Churches (leafletting); the need for another Circuit Steward following the move of Mike Price to the Midlands.
5. Rev Leslie reported that Safeguarding retraining for all would commence in 2017.
6. Rev Howard acknowledged the grant from Mission in Britain enabling the appointment of Huw and Cerys Davies as Co-ordinators of the Ogof Adullam project.
7. Rev Siperirie reported briefly on her visit to Zimbabwe and the Circuit Project
8. Rev Leslie gave an update on the Night Shelter (to run Saturday evenings in January in Uniting Church Sketty, and other venues on other nights)
9. Rev Howard announced that Mission Partner Julia Edwards (Fiji) would be taking part in the service at Brunswick (Feb 5th, am) and speak at a Circuit event on Monday Feb 6th at Mumbles, 7.30pm.
10. Rev Leslie reported on a very successful and moving return visit to Uniting Church by the Mosque.
11. Caroline Buckler led the final devotions.

Alan Cram