

ISSUE 6 – NOVEMBER 2024

The Welsh Mission Newsletter

NEWS, UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE WELSH MISSION



Welsh Mission Day of Fellowship

THREE MORE BAPTISMS | CHILDREN'S DAYS



NEWS IN BRIEF

The Welsh Mission Newsletter

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The Good Work Continues

It was nice to meet some of you at the Welsh Mission Day of Fellowship in September (pg. 11,12). The day is something I look forward to attending every year because of fellowship, as the name suggests, it's a day filled with fellowship and I enjoy getting to see friends that have not been seen for far too long. The presentations by Dr Kayle de Waal were excellent and were filled with useful information – the tricky part will be putting it all into practice. That said I believe the Welsh Mission is doing a lot in terms of disciple making as laid out in the pages of this issue.

Part of being a disciple of Christ is to reach those who need God's love the most, such as those who are living with various kinds of trauma. This year's enditnow campaign laid out some ways we can do just that and it was even written by two of our Welsh Mission members (pg. 7).

Children are the future of our church and so it has been encouraging to read of all the things going on to keep children engaged in church life and more importantly to learn about our Saviour. The Holiday Bible Schools put on in Newtown and Ystrad Mynach were well received (pg. 4) and Children's Days were organised by the Welsh Mission Children's department (pg. 10). Many of our children and youth are Pathfinders and last quarter they were involved in World Pathfinder Day events in Carmarthen, (pg. 6). Six of our churches are holding baptismal classes due to an increase in interest

from young people and we had two such youth dedicate their lives to Jesus through baptism last quarter (pg. 8).

After the departure of two pastors in the last year, it's great to hear that two new pastors have been appointed within the Welsh Mission (pg. 6), you can read even more about one of our new pastors in this issue's Pastor Spotlight (pg. 13).

Just as the world around us is forever changing we are looking to make a bit of a change with this newsletter, so the next issue is likely to be a little different than you may have been used to. Going forward we're looking to include more member-generated content, in other words less from pastors and sponsors reporting on their events and more from you. We'd also like to bring you more information on upcoming events and programmes from the Welsh Mission churches and beyond. This might be more difficult to do than say so please bear with us on this.

Timothy Mertens
Welsh Mission Communications Sponsor

I welcome any stories or feedback you'd like to share, for inclusion in the next issue. Send stories to communication@adventist.wales. Please note stories may be edited for clarity, brevity, or consistency.

Church Cleanup

On 19 September, the Wrexham members under the leadership of Elder Ziva, took the initiative to clean the church premises they rent each Sabbath for worship. The Methodist church praised the members for their willingness to do this.

It also gave them an opportunity to interact with neighbours around the church (dog walkers) and explain about who they are and what they do every Sabbath in the building and extend invitations to the neighbours to worship with them.



Cardiff Refurbishments

Cardiff has continued its refurbishment programme to upgrade the church, improving the aesthetic and bring it in-line with current Health & Safety Standards. Three boilers have been serviced, 22 radiators checked, underfloor heating checked, men's, ladies and accessible toilets have been refurbished. Quotes for secondary glazing are in progress. Alarm and CCTV systems are in the process of being overhauled to modern high-definition cameras and online monitoring. The members have all noticed the changes and commented that the work has created a positive atmosphere for the next, larger phase of building work to be undertaken.

Grateful living

Hereford, Rhyl and Wrexham churches were visited by Crystal Knight, the WM Stewardship Sponsor, during August. Crystal used sermons from the Grateful Living series, encouraging the members to reflect on the unique talents God has given each of them to use for His glory, and to recognise how their own personal testimony can be used as a tool to evangelise and serve the Lord.

European Pastors Council

At the end of August, the Welsh Mission pastors travelled to Serbia to attend the European Pastors Council (EPC). The EPC is held every 5 years and all the pastors from across the Trans-European and Inter-European Divisions attend workshops and plenary sessions to assist with professional development. The chance to fellowship and network with several hundred colleagues was a real blessing.



Supporting Even More Homeless

The Night Shelter ministry at Cardiff church has grown in recent months with more homeless and near homeless people being supported, due to more resources being invested into this ministry. Up to 38 people are turning up every Sunday for meals, showers, clean clothes and a little social time. Work has begun to prepare for overnight provision during the winter period including purchases of warmer clothing.

Pathfinder Investiture

On 20 July there was an investiture at Swansea church where young people received their class achievement certificates and awards for work completed earlier in the year.

Personal Ministries

In July 2024 the WM Personal Ministries started a new website designed to inspire and equip church members to become disciple makers of Jesus Christ. The website includes:

- stories of individuals whose lives have been touched by God,
- news from local churches engaging with the community, under the Reflecting Hope initiative,
- online classes

Find out more by visiting the website: www.personalministrieswales.org

Studying for Baptism

There has been an increase in young people asking about baptism. Six churches are now running dedicated Bible study classes for the youth in preparation for baptism.

Cardiff church alone has 7 candidates being prepared for baptism and has started having baptismal classes multiple times a week.

Pathfinder Camp

From 23-26 August, Newtown and Telford Pathfinder clubs camped together in the Welsh countryside. Several activities were planned for the weekend, as well as many awards for both Adventurers and Pathfinders. The rain over the weekend tested the children's ability to camp in rainy weather but the food provided enough energy for the kids to enjoy the camp.

Friendship Evangelism Seminar

Pastor Sam Ouadjo, the BUC Ministerial Director, led in a Friendship Evangelism Seminar in the Carmarthen church from 19-21 July to teach and empower the church to engage and build relationships with their neighbours, work colleagues, and community. As friendships develop, members have the opportunity of leading their friends to Jesus.

Telford Ghana Choir Day

Telford Ghana church had a 'Choir Day' on 14 September to celebrate the choir of the church and the evangelistic work they continue to do for the district.

The day was primarily an attempt to connect with the neighbouring churches and to evangelise them through the medium of music. The feedback was positive and their pastor, Lawrence Ofei, shared a word of encouragement on the importance of praise and gratitude.

To the Beach

Newport church took advantage of the short breaks of sunshine during the summer and went to Barry Island to enjoy beach football, the sea and the nearby amusement park. This trip allowed the church to connect outside of the church walls and get to know one another on a social level.



Holiday Bible Schools

Two churches ran Holiday Bible Schools during August. Newtown church ran their school from 12-16 August. They chose the Children's Health Expo theme to guide their activities, introducing the children to eight natural laws. Through banners, games, and crafts, the children experienced each law as it works in nature – nutrition, exercise, water, sun, temperance, air, rest and trust. The health expo, designed for 7–11-year-olds, aimed to help them apply these laws to their lives.

Pictures of animals engaged in different activities, helped the children understand how the laws affect the animals' way of life and a visit to the Small Breeds Farm on Thursday was not just a fun outing but a highly educational experience. An exciting obstacle course on Friday helped provide an emphasis on exercise. The children were having so much fun that even

the adults couldn't resist joining in! Each child received a medal for attendance and participation.

For Ystrad Mynach, it was their first Holiday Bible School, led by Elder Jane Wells, the Children's Ministries Leader. Six community children joined the activities during the week. This was part of the follow up to the May Family Fun Day in the local park.



Wrexham hosts a world-class choir

The Wrexham and Llandudno Junction groups collaborated to host the Good Christian Ensemble, a choir visiting from the Philippines, who were competing in the World Choir Competition at the Eisteddfod at Llangollen.



The choir had been scheduled to perform on a Saturday afternoon, so they chose to forfeit their slot to honour the Sabbath. The organisers accommodated this by rescheduling their

performance to 10 pm. The choir were able to spend Sabbath providing a beautiful music concert for the church members and their friends at a Methodist church in Wrexham.

Community Health Fayre

The Telford Central church, working in partnership with Shrewsbury & Telford NHS Trust, presented the first of their very own annual Community Health Fayres on Sunday, 14 July at the Millenium Village, Telford. They collaborated with many other agencies to promote health and wellbeing on the day.

Members from Newtown and Shrewsbury assisted in educating people on how to live a healthier lifestyle through the eight laws of health and some healthy food demonstrations. The smoothie bike was as popular as always, allowing participants to combine exercise with a delicious smoothie. Copies of The Eight Laws of Health magazine and the book Ministry of Healing were distributed.

The church has established many meaningful relationships with various agencies and community members. This was evidenced when



members of the police force attended the church unannounced on a Sabbath. The church has also been invited to attend community meetings, and many of the agencies are willing to attend future events.

The members have worked together to plan and support these community outreach endeavours and have been encouraged by the significant attendance from the community.

Better Bible Studies

Pastor Samuel Semakula is helping members at the Newport church to get back to a systematic reading of the Bible, both individually and as a church.

They are going through the book of Acts, and he has shared how to read portions of text using exegesis vs eisegesis. They have been taught how to read the text by investigating the sociohistorical, political, religious, and financial issues the text was addressing and to understand who the original audience was. Reading the book of Acts is helping the church to understand how the early church went about

evangelism and outreach, so they can be biblically informed in their endeavours.

They also hope to discover the joys, opportunities and pitfalls of when a church begins to grow as seen in the books of Acts. It was originally planned to have these studies on a Sabbath afternoon at Newport church, but they have switched to Zoom on Tuesday evenings, which has allowed Hereford and Llandrindod Wells members to benefit. Members are now applying exegesis to their personal studies and have said it has enriched their Bible study.

World Pathfinder Day

The main event of the quarter was World Pathfinder Day, held in Carmarthen on 21 September. Pathfinders from across the Welsh Mission gathered in the main High Street where the focus for the day was outreach through book and literature distribution. God answered their prayers for dry weather – the rain came only when the last car left! In total 150 Steps to Christ and other pieces of literature were given out.



There was a positive response from the public, some of whom even requested prayer right on the High Street. A 74-year-old resident of Carmarthen commented that she had never

experienced anything like the Pathfinder event. As well as literature distribution, the Pathfinders visited two Care homes where they sang and interacted with residents.

Welcome Two New Pastors to The Mission

After a lengthy search and recruitment process, we welcomed two new pastoral team members to the Welsh Mission in July.

Lawrence Ofei, who graduated with his master's degree from Newbold College in the summer, has taken on a new role as an intern pastor for the Telford Ghana and Wrexham congregations. He replaces Pastor Louis Amakye at the Telford Ghana church who retired at the end of June.

Pastor Anton Botha (Pastor Spotlight, pg. 13) and his wife Thea with their children Tiaan and Antonette joined us from South Africa where he has been pastoring for the past ten years. They are serving the Telford/Shrewsbury/Newtown district.



Pastor Lawrence Ofei



Pastor Anton Botha and his family

enditnow Stays Local

enditnow® is a General Conference worldwide initiative and has its own emphasis day in the church calendar which falls on the 4th Sabbath of August annually. This initiative is co-sponsored by other departments of the General Conference: Children's Ministries, Education, Family Ministries, Health Ministries, Ministerial Association and Youth Ministries.

This year we were privileged to have the resource packet "Go Find My Sheep" written by our very own Joanna Daniels with contributions from Samantha Fessal for the seminar entitled "The Trauma Informed church" and children's story written by Tamara Lawrence. The resource packet was distributed worldwide by the General Conference, so it was an honour to have Joanna choose to stay local and deliver presentations primarily in the Welsh Mission throughout the month of August.

On 10 August Joanna worshipped with the Newport Church for their Women's Day, organised by Women's Ministries leaders Ruth Manyela and Flopper Tshuma where the women were treated to a lunch by the men.

On 17 August Joanna and Samantha led out at Cardiff Church Women's Day, hosted by Esther Chinedu Onyekwere.

The Resource packet includes practical ways in which the Church can make the experience of a traumatised individual less 'traumatic'. The Sermon material reminds us to seek out these hurting people - being a disciple of Christ.

The Seminar has an empowering message as it describes five ways the Church can help traumatised people heal and find community. These include:

- Having an informed team
- Having awareness of barriers
- The need for effective listening
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Continued support for individuals who have experienced trauma whether inside or outside the church.

It is recognised that the topic is a difficult one - however it is a current worldwide issue - and what was presented was a conversation starter and an awareness building exercise so that members can start to think about how they can be more practical in helping traumatised people to heal, especially as trauma can result from a multitude of experiences not just abuse.



Gratitude was expressed to Joanna for being willing to discuss such a sensitive topic, with the programme being recognised as informative and thought provoking. For more information on the Enditnow® initiative go to the website: women.adventist.org/enditnow-initiative

Three More Baptisms

The Welsh Mission grew again in the last quarter with baptisms of

CHELSEA

Newport church celebrated the baptisms of two young people during the summer. On 24 August, Chelsea Nyasha Beni was baptised by Pastor Samuel Semakula after receiving baptismal Bible studies led by Elder Victor Mbvundula.



Chelsea's mother, Ruth Manyela, shared how Chelsea has been a prayer warrior since she was a very young child, waking her Mum up to pray for her older siblings to be able to come to the UK. At the age of 5 she saw God answer that prayer as the family were reunited. Chelsea shared how different struggles over the years made her feel separated from God. This had an impact on her schoolwork, but she then went back to prayer and was able to feel God's

presence in her life again. She received excellent grades in her exams and was accepted into Bristol university. Chelsea mentioned how the weekly Bible studies helped her get closer to God and helped her understand the importance of having a personal relationship with God for herself.

ZIKO

Pastor David Rancic had the joy of returning to Newport to baptise Ziko Nyengani on 7 September. Pastor Rancic had seen Ziko grow from a young child to a youth preparing to start university. They had made a promise to each other that the day Ziko decided to get baptised, he would call Pastor David to baptise him, and Pastor David said wherever he was in the world, he would honour that

request. Friends and family travelled from as far as Scotland to share in Ziko's special day. Strong influences on Ziko's decision for baptism had been a Christian upbringing at home, church life and Pathfinders.

The impact of lockdown and not being able to attend church in person began to wear away at his relationship with God, but he was moved by

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a sermon from Pastor Warren Gillin (SEC Youth Director) and responded to the altar call.

Word on Hope TV channel and read the Bible at home.



Ziko had also been part of the weekly baptismal Bible studies led by Elder Victor. During those studies, he realised even more his need for a Saviour and his deep desire to spend eternity with Him.

ILEANA

On 24 August, Carmarthen church witnessed the baptism of Ileana Stefanescu. Ileana is from Romania and comes from a Christian Orthodox background. While in Romania in 2000, Ileana encountered the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) church for the first time and started Bible studies. Her wish was to be baptised, but various obstacles hindered her from taking that step. She began to watch and listen to God's

In 2019, Ileana's daughter sent an email to Pastor Adriana Fodor expressing her mother's wish for an Adventist pastor to conduct her funeral when the time came. Pastor Fodor visited Ileana and they started Bible studies together. Several times Ileana mentioned her desire to be baptised as she knew the teachings of the SDA church are based on the Bible and she had accepted

Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Saviour. Twenty-four years from her first encounter with Adventists, she was finally baptised. Her story is a testimony to the grace and power of God. Ileana is 88 years old but although she may have been preparing for her death, God was preparing the way to give her eternal life.



Children's Days

Newport church held a Children's Day on 13 July with the theme 'Little Lights Shine in Newport'. The children, under the guidance of the children's department, led out in the whole Sabbath services. The children shared how they were able to shine the light of Christ to their friends and at school and in their local neighbourhoods. Group and individual songs, memory verses and a powerful sermon entitled 'Let Your Light Shine' by Tino Makore blessed those attending church. Tino gave different examples of how young people and children from the Bible were able to shine the light of God.

the prayer. Five mini sermonettes from different children were well presented and built on each other. Programmes such as these and 13th Sabbath help the children to grow in confidence and makes them feel part of the church.

Eileen and Kenroy Mckenzie led in a Children's Health Expo at Wrexham on 7 September. They spoke about the Adventist health message and the importance of passing these teachings to our children. Reaction was very positive with church members feeling encouraged to practice the health principles shared.



Hereford church had its Children's Day on 27 July, using the theme 'Fiercely Faithful' with Deuteronomy 7:9 as their key verse. The children made the service very interactive by engaging the whole church. When it came time for the pastoral prayer, they handed out arts and crafts material so those attending could create ladders that were based on the skit they had done at the beginning of the service with a contemporary twist to the biblical story of Jacob's ladder. Each person was invited to use every step of the ladder as a prayer point during





WM Day of Fellowship

We held our annual Day of Fellowship in the beautiful facilities and surroundings of Rougemont School, Newport on 28 September.

Dr Kayle de Waal from the Trans-European Division was our guest speaker and gave two presentations on discipleship in the morning and a presentation with a prayer focus in the afternoon. These were recorded and can be accessed via YouTube.

- 1st presentation on discipleship: <https://youtu.be/HyBfDJCJRbE>
- 2nd presentation on discipleship: <https://youtu.be/Uebn8UXnl8>
- 3rd presentation on discipleship and prayer: https://youtu.be/npSAB_vG4t0

Martin Walters coordinated the praise team and musicians who were excellent, and we were

blessed to have SEC media assisting with the audio.



Eileen and Kenroy Mckenzie, with the support of a dedicated team and parents, led out in a programme for the children. Kenroy spoke to the children about God as their protector, and Eileen and Paris McKenzie spoke about Jairus' daughter. Sarah Mwamuka from the Newtown

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church gave a special presentation to the children about prayer.



Pastor Samuel Semakula spoke to the teens and Pastor Jeremy Johnson led activities for the youth during the first part of the morning. Attendance was good and it gave a chance for our young people to meet with old friends and make new ones.

Special mention was made of the members from Llandudno Junction in North Wales who hired a coach and set out at 5 am to be present for the Day of Fellowship.

Lunch was a bring-your-own affair, with many members choosing to sit outside and eat in the autumn sun. Many members brought enough food to share – fruits and cakes were particularly noted as they were passed around between tables.



In the afternoon a host of musical gifts were on display as items from churches across the mission were presented. Items were given by individuals as well as small groups and church choirs. Additionally, a short report was given by the Pathfinders highlighting the growing number of clubs and members within the mission .



Pastor Spotlight

Tell me a little bit about yourself (name, age, nationality, family etc.)

My name is Anton Botha, 48, South African. My family and I immigrated from South Africa to the UK on 1 July 2024. My wife is Thea, our son is Tiaan (16), and daughter Antonette (8).

Which church/es are you currently pastoring?

We as a family are pastoring Telford, Shrewsbury, and Newtown churches.



What would you say is your favourite verse or phrase and why?

Favourite phrase/quote is found in the Ministry of Healing p143,

“Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, follow me.”

Have you always been a pastor, or did you have other employment before?

I haven't always been a pastor. Growing up as a soldier's kid, my whole life revolved around the South African Air Force (SAAF). Even after school, I joined the SAAF and worked as an aircraft electrical technician for 16 years, until the end of 2011. After I resigned from the SAAF, I went to Helderberg College to study theology and I graduated in 2015, to start ministry in 2016.

What drew you to ministry and specifically becoming a Pastor?

When I was a youngster, I wasn't a Christian at all. In my adult life I became one and was baptized. From the time of my baptism, I felt the call to ministry but looked at my own abilities and I couldn't see a way to go study. Only after a miracle happened in my and Thea's life did we realize God is calling. When we depended on His abilities, we could make it at college. We became a pastoral family because we have love for people just as Jesus also loved people. He inspired us to go into ministry, so we use his ways to teach us to minister to people.

Finally, tell me something interesting that people may not know about you?

Something interesting about me is that I love photography and nature. As a family we love discovering new things and new places, and to share new experiences with each other. We love to meet new people and see where we can help them meet Jesus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating
85
years

A JOURNEY OF GRACE

BUILDING ON OUR FOUNDATION, STRENGTHENING
COMMUNITY, EMBRACING A VISION OF GROWTH.

- A CALL TO WORSHIP -
FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER
18:30 - 19:30 (with light refreshments)

- SABBATH PROGRAMME -
SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER
10:30-12.30
13.00-14.00 (lunch)
14.30-16.00 (afternoon programme)

SWANSEA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 WM, SM, IM LAY PREACHERS COURSE

10:00 - 13:00

Sundays

19 January

2 February, 16 February

16 March, 30 March

On ZOOM

Meeting ID: 837 950 3372

Password: 135787

Contact

For more information contact

Pr Adriana Fodor at:

07398 867275 or

afodor@adventist.wales

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Our Newbold College presenters



DR IVAN MILANOV

19 January



PR IVANA MENDEZ

2 February



PR JONATHAN HOLDER

16 February



DR LAURENCE TURNER

16 & 30 March

Schedule

19 January - Expository sermon (1) - How to do Exegesis. Tools and resources

2 February - Expository sermon (2) - Steps of sermon preparation. Sermon outline

16 February - Topical sermon. Sermon delivery. The preacher

16 March - Preaching Biblical Narratives (1) - Old Testament

30 March - Preaching Biblical Narratives (2) - New Testament

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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