

SUMMER CIRCUIT MEETING 2015

CIRCUIT PROJECT – AMELIA FARM TRUST

Events have taken place around the circuit, in aid of the Amelia Trust Farm. They have included a coffee morning, a cake flower-making demonstration with the sale of home made goods, quizzes, communion collections and a day at the farm in Clydach. Other fund raising events may have taken place, but I haven't been made aware of these. The Amelia Farm is still our project until the new project is launched at the Missions Weekend in October. I think that the total raised should be around £3,000.

I met the new director, Karen Turnbull, a few weeks ago. She will be writing to all the churches in the Vale, as more volunteers are needed to help in the coffee shop. In that letter she will also ask for help with weeding etc., in the prayer labyrinth.

If anyone would like to visit the farm, even if you are not able to do any gardening, please let me know so that I can arrange to take you next time I go, with the proviso that the weather is suitable!

Janet Neilson

TY CROESO

Activities at Ty Croeso have continued more or less as before, with these main activities – Drop In/Food Bank, Book Club, Welsh conversation group, and Bereavement Support Group.

As reported in March, we had been exploring possible relocation to the Forge Fach Resource Centre. This has not been possible.

Early in the year we became very concerned about the financial viability of the project, as we were down to funds for only a few months' rent (our main cost). Our treasurer sent in a number of grant applications, two of which were successful, with another two pending. We also received a number of generous donations from individuals and organisations. The current situation is considerably better.

Our latest venture has been a Families Anonymous group, support for relatives of those who have a drug or alcohol dependency. The first meeting saw our small venue packed out and we may have to consider using another venue. On the recommendation of SCVS a further application for funding is being made for this specific project. This will either pay towards our rent, or pay for booking a larger venue, as well as supplying all the resources for the participants.

ALL WE CAN

1. In relation to the Nepal Earthquake Disaster, you may like to support the campaign to have Nepal's debts cancelled to release funds for rebuilding. Extensive losses to infrastructure mean that development will be set back at least 10 years. Currently 5% of Nepal's income goes on debt repayments. Before the quake Nepal was already 145th of 187 nations on the development index. See www.jubileedebt.org.uk or write to Jubilee Debt Campaign, The Grayston Centre, 28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT Also, there is general information about All We Can's partners in Nepal on their website at www.allwecan.org.uk/asia/nepal
2. The Nepal Disaster appeal continues – it costs £50 to provide trauma counselling for two weeks; and £11 to supply a much needed tarpaulin.
3. See our report on the recent 'Doing All We Can' conference in Connect magazine.
4. Make sure you pick up the All We Can resources for your church after the meeting.
5. If you have an 'All We Can' enthusiast, or someone who might be interested, in your church, please put them in touch with me so I can target information more effectively.
6. Please note that Alan Cram is now an 'All We Can' speaker and can be invited to speak on their behalf at meetings or services.

Pam Cram

Report Of Local Preachers' Meeting Brunswick 01.06.15

1. The meeting was attended by 23 members.
2. It was agreed to give Huw and Cerys Davies a "Note" to preach.
3. Positive reports were given on the progress of preachers "On Trial": Cynthia Mumford, Caroline Buckler and Sue Raad.
4. Selina Taylor was interviewed by Rev Howard about her calling and journey of faith. The meeting agreed that she should be recognised as an accredited local preacher: her recognition service will be on August 20th, 7.30pm at Pitton.
5. The Rev Howard Long congratulated Rev Lesley and all those involved in the celebration weekend of Sketty Uniting Church. Development projects at Wesley, Morriston, Murton and Brunswick were noted.
6. Rev Howard reported that:
 - a) The Rev Andrew Walker will be on sabbatical from 23rd July: Revs Gill Evans and Malcolm Guest to share oversight of Gower Churches.
 - b) Trainee Minister Liz Harris would be on placement in the Circuit for one month.
 - c) Rev Bruce Sawyer, who candidated from this Circuit, will be ordained in Liverpool Cathedral on June 28th. Rev Pam will be attending.
7. Huw Davies reported that Ogof Adullam is attracting up to 30 guests, 3 nights a week.
8. Rev Howard led a short discussion, assisted by Safeguarding Officer Jean Lang, on the recent report on historical abuse in the Methodist Church.
9. Ken Allison would be attending the meeting on June 6th about the new LP training course.
10. Forthcoming lectures, LP study groups, preaching resources etc were noted.
11. The meeting concluded with a presentation by Quentin Hawkins on "Fasting".

Alan Cram 11.06.15

18.06.2015 Circuit Meeting Report

Morrison Methodist Church

As Morrison Methodist Church did not secure any of the large grants to enable them to do their big scheme, they have done smaller parts of their scheme.

Phase 1:

New kitchen, provision of a disable toilet and improved other toilet, solving the problem of water ingress on back wall, making new front side entrance, new heating and decoration of two ground floor rooms and the partitioning off of the damp area under the front steps has completed this phase of the work.

This has given the opportunity for lettings to outside groups, apart from the music teacher who has continued to rent rooms for music teaching during the whole time work has been done. From the autumn there is a 30 week let for 2 sessions per week (one following the other) of Welsh Classes. It is hoped that as more people realise they could rent the premises there will be more regular bookings.

Phase 2:

Phase 2 has started and the Church Council has given permission for funds that have been raised to be used to purchase an internal stair lift, to enable less able members of their congregation to reach the worship area and for the purchase of some more chairs for down stairs. The lift should be installed and the chairs purchased by the end of the summer.

The back garden of the premises has major problems with weeds, and its steepness. Quotes are currently being sort to have a membrane put down to suppress the weeds and make the garden low maintenance.

Once phase 2 is completed fund raising will continue to raise moneys, so in the long term the front steps can be removed, a new front entrance, with internal stairway to the worship area and a car park can be created.

Heather Coleman

11.06.2015

METHODIST HOMES REPORT

Thank you to all the churches in the circuit for their continuing support of Methodist Homes. The total raised during 2013 -14 was £1038 -45 a decrease of £55 -25 over the previous year..

Methodist Homes Sunday this year was on 14th June when the theme for the year was Who is my Older Neighbour? which invites us to focus on the often from individuals, church and community groups, legacies and trusts raised £5 million which was used as follows.

45% Live at Home / Befriending support

25% New life-enhancing facilities.

15% Chaplaincy services.

15% Music Therapy and reflexology.

The Spring edition of Methodist Homes magazine Heart and Soul have been distributed to all churches.

I would be grateful if the treasurers of the churches which distribute envelopes in the pews on Methodist Homes Sunday would kindly follow the procedure for sending me their donations and Gift Aid envelopes in due course. Also, would the treasurers of the churches which make an annual donation out of church funds please send the cheques to me so that I can keep an accurate account of all monies sent to Methodist Homes.

Thank you all for your continued support of Methodist Homes.

Sandra Pengelly
Circuit Treasurer Methodist Home.

To all ministers in the Wales Synod,

10th June 2015

Dear Colleagues,

**Re: Amelia Methodist Trust Farm
25th Anniversary Celebrations**

**Chair of Synod: Rev. Dr. Stephen Wigley
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Further to my letter of 25th March, I am pleased to say that the new Director of the Amelia Methodist Trust Farm, Karen Turnbull, has settled in well into her new appointment and we look forward to welcoming (and hearing from) her at Synod in Newtown on September 19th.

Karen joins us at a busy time, as this year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Amelia Methodist Trust Farm. We shall be celebrating this with a series of events across the next 12 months, starting with a special re-union event on Saturday June 20th for many of those who have been involved with the Farm, whether as supporters, staff or volunteers over these last 25 years.

We have much to celebrate and give thanks for as the Farm has developed, building on the initial generosity of Bob and Ethel Huggard, the pioneering vision of Rev. John Stacy Marks and more recently with the development of its educational programme under Deacon Lorraine Brown. We are grateful for the way it has touched and transformed the lives of so many young people and offered a place where all can share in the goodness of God's creation.

We're also aware of new challenges and opportunities which lie ahead – and to respond to them we will need the continuing support of those who have been so generous with their time and talents over the years. We hope that our 25th anniversary celebrations will offer the chance to share this story in a variety of ways – and to encourage that continuing engagement with us.

But we will need new supporters too and so we plan to use this opportunity to share the news of Farm more widely, both across the Methodist Church and other communities in Wales. To this end, Karen will shortly be writing to you to share something of our anniversary plans and also to suggest ways in which individuals, churches and indeed circuits can support the Farm, whether in terms of visiting, volunteering or offering financial support on a regular basis.

So I hope you will feel able to respond positively to Karen's letter when it comes and share it with folk in your circuit and churches. The Amelia Methodist Trust Farm is a good news story

about our being the 'Church in the world' – I trust it can continue to depend on our support.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen

Rev. Dr. Stephen Wigley, Synod Chair

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 realizing this priority, the Methodist Church will give particular attention to the following:

- 1. Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer.*
- 2. Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor – in Britain and worldwide.*
- 3. Developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved.*
- 4. Encouraging fresh ways of being Church.*
- 5. 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 and will be reviewed periodically

CIRCUIT MEETING SUMMER 2015

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN (MWiB)

Easter Offering

The amount raised for Easter Offering this year was £2,153.32.

Thanks to everyone who contributed and to all church treasurers and those who dealt with the gift aided envelopes.

There are two Quiet Days being held in the near future. On July 24th the day will be at Tondu Methodist Church. The day will be led by Rev Catherine Jenkins (Cardiff). The cost will be £5. Bring your own lunch.

The other Quiet Day is at Nicholaston House on Tuesday 6th October. The cost will be £20, which includes all drinks and a cooked lunch. The theme is "Welcome to the Feast". Booking forms are now available.

Officers have now been appointed for south Wales. They are –
Chairman – Sandra Williams (Cardiff); Vice Chairman – Janet Neilson;
Secretary – Mary Williams (Carmarthen/Resolven) and Grace Sollis (Porthcawl).

Janet Neilson

A REPORT TO THE CIRCUIT ON THE CHARITY THAT SIPERIRE IS PATRON

The name of Charity is called Zambuko ra Jehovah. This means "Bridging the Gap with Christ". At present the Trust is caring for 30 children who have been disadvantaged by the death of their parents from HIV Aids. The area of operation of the Trust is in Zimbabwe at Nangabwe School in Chivu. This is about 250 miles from Harare the capital city of Zimbabwe.

How did this all start? I had a vision where I felt that God was calling me to care for children who have been made Orphans due to the HIV/Aids epidemic. This was in 1995 some 20 years ago. I was very much troubled by this because I did not know how, when and where this was to be.

However in 2004 I started caring for 12 Orphans on my own. I was sending them money for food, school fees and general up keep. This is when I was working as a nurse before I pursued my calling to the Ministry.

When I was now in the Ministry in 2010 I told my church about my vision to care for children made Orphans from HIV Aids and that I was caring for 12 children on my own. The Church members had compassion and so a committee was set up to look into this. When I went to Zimbabwe I had instruction from the Committee to select the children who were in great need. It was agreed that we select 30 children. The church was to be responsible for their care for 5 years while I was their minister.

The committee then registered this charity. The registration no is 1141495.

The Objectives of Zambuko ra Jehovah were to:

1. Feed the 30 selected Orphans .
2. Provide the children with clean water (a borehole was drilled)
3. Educate the selected children up to "O" level
4. Provide the selected children with clothes, uniforms, school shoes and stationary.

The Goals of Zambuko ra Jehovah Trust were to:

1. Raise funds for the Trust.
2. Provide the children with survival skills.
3. Alleviate mental and physical pain and poverty from the orphans.
4. Meet the orphans at their point of most need
5. Build an Orphanage for the children in the long run

When I came to Swansea the Coventry church continued with Zambuko ra Jehovah project. Their promise was to keep on supporting it for 5years. This five years is up this year 2015. The committee will be coming to hand over Zambuko ra Jehovah this year.

Here in , Swansea, thankfully, we have set up a Committee of 11 people with Win Hawkins as the chairperson, Julie Davies as Secretary and Stella Mugabe from Murton as the Treasurer. The committee members are Howard Long, David Taylor, Mary Jeremiah from Sketty, Sybil Smith, Glenys Evans, and Carol Fardore. Continuing members are Julius Mugadzaweta and Siperire Mugadzaweta as Patron.

Proposal

The Circuit Missions Committee proposes that Zambuko ra Jehovah Trust be the new Circuit Charity. In order to support the new trustees in their fundraising efforts the Mission Committee proposes that the circuit support the Trust for a two year period from October 2015.

BRUNSWICK METHODIST CHURCH REPORT TO CIRCUIT 18th JUNE 2015

1. QUINQUENIAL REPORT

The results of the Quinquennial report, have enhanced our need to go forward with plans to look at ways and means of re-development of the lower ground floor.

We are now in the process of making consultations with members of the Sandfields Community, Counsellors, the users of the church and the architect.

However the main stained glass windows in the Church facing St Helens Road need our urgent attention and the Property and finance are already making enquiries.

2. BRUNSWICK CHURCH OFFICE : Brunswick Church Office is now in use for meetings as it is much warmer than the other areas. The property and Finance team agreed to purchase 25 comfortable chairs for the office.

3. OGOF ADULLAM : Ogof Adullam is now very busy. They are in need of more volunteers. They are now using part of the main hall as an overflow.

4. TOILETS: For hygiene purposes it was agreed to use paper towels in all the 6 toilets and in the main kitchen. Liz Davies volunteered to purchase these.

5. UNITAS: Churches Together in Central Swansea had a bring and share lunch at St David's Priory Hall. A number of Brunswick members attended.

6. THE HILL CHURCH : They are still worshipping at Brunswick.

7. THE ASSYLUM SEEKERS AND THE REFUGEES : These are still coming every Friday for fellowship, for English lessons and art work and for food.

7. BIBLE STUDY: Every 1st and 3rd week of the month we have a bible study on Thursday at 11am.

8. FAN (Friends and Neighbours): We still meet every Wednesday at 10.30 am and we encourage all those who are lonely to come and join us for a chat and a free cup of tea/coffee and biscuit or cake. The Cardiff group visited us and we had a lovely time. We learnt ways of monitoring the group and they also learnt humility and hospitality from us. We were tasked to assist Bridgend to form a new group and we have started helping them.

9. PRAYERS: Every Wednesday we meet at 11.30 am for prayers. Everyone is welcome.

Warm regards, God bless you.

Reverend Siperire Mugadzaweta