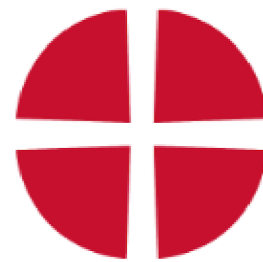




Cardiff Methodist Circuit

The Methodist Church in Cardiff & Caerphilly



CHANGES IN PASTORAL CHARGE

Statement read in all Cardiff Circuit Churches on Sunday March 19th, 2023

At the Circuit Meeting on Wednesday March 8th it was announced that we have not been able to have a minister matched with our circuit to replace Rev. Dr. Kofi Amissah who is leaving at the end of August. We did, however, accept an offer from the Rev. Dr. Stephen Wigley who will take on a ½ time appointment in the Cardiff Circuit from September 1st, 2023, for two years. We also heard that the Rev. Laura Evans will be offered a two-year part-time appointment in the circuit from September 2023.

This has resulted in the Circuit Leadership Team looking again at how ministers are best deployed and today we announce the following changes from September 1st, 2023:

- Rev. Cathy Gale will take on pastoral charge of Cyncoed and St. Andrew's.
- Rev. Dr. Stephen Wigley will take on pastoral charge of Whitchurch and Llandaff North, working jointly with Rev. Laura Evans at Llandaff North.

Pastoral charge will remain the same as this year in all other churches.

We also wish to let the circuit know that the Circuit Meeting was informed that the Church Council of the Rumney Methodist Church, after much thought and prayer, has taken a vote to cease to worship. More details will follow on this, but we are all asked to pray for the congregation at Rumney at this difficult time.

Several churches in the circuit hold worship that is accessible online.

On Zoom:

Weekly from Radyr Methodist: for log in details contact radyrmc@gmail.com

Once or twice monthly from St Andrew's Methodist:
for log in details contact office@cardiffmethodist.org.uk

On Facebook Live

weekly from Wesley Methodist Canton

Details can be found on their Facebook Page www.facebook.com/wesleycardiff

On YouTube (Live)

Weekly from Church of the Resurrection, St. Mellons.

You can join from their website www.cotr.org.uk



WHAT HAPPENED AT CIRCUIT MEETING?

The meeting took place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th March on Zoom due to an unexpected fall of snow in some parts of the Circuit. This was unfortunate but unavoidable.

Kofi led us in devotions, using the Message version of Jeremiah 10-11. We were reminded that God knows the plan even if we don't yet. It's up to us to follow God's lead.

We took apologies and approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

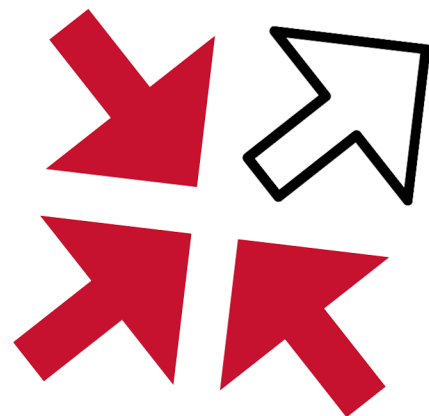
It was noted that Cathy will be on Sabbatical in June, July and August this year. A small committee will ensure Cathy's responsibilities are fulfilled, and Kofi and Judith will cover the role of Superintendent while Cathy is away.

Attendance at the last **Circuit Service** was fantastic – especially regarding children and young people. The feedback we've received will be taken into account for future planning, and the next one will be at **Wesley, Caerphilly on Sunday 28th May. Come if you can!**

The Circuit Leadership Team report entitled 'Forward in Hope' was accepted by the meeting.

The report is too extensive to include here. If you would like to see a full copy, please contact the Circuit Office.

The report proposed the creation of three focus groups to explore three key elements of Circuit life: property, community, and vision, in order to help discern our future path. The Leadership Team will be looking for people to join these groups, and the people who volunteered during the Away Day in November have not been forgotten and will be contacted.



We were unsuccessful in receiving a name for the Presbyteral appointment covering Cyncoed and St Andrews. However, Rev'd Stephen Wigley, who is standing down as Chair of the Wales Synod Cymru has offered to provide a half time appointment in this Circuit for two years, and we are also in the process of extending Deacon Laura Evans' involvement in the Circuit for a further two years. This consistency will hopefully assist us at this time of change. The meeting agreed.

Rev'd Judith Holliman comes to the end of her initial five years appointment here in September 2024, and the discernment process for Judith officially begins in May this year. Please keep Judith and her family in your prayers.

Each church involved in stationing will have representation on the Circuit Invitation Committee which will be chaired by Cathy, with Alexis as co-chair and taking over fully when Cathy goes on sabbatical.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted and we agreed to sending the accounts to the Charity Commission.

The Property Report was accepted. It was acknowledged that there is a lot going on property-wise and the meeting thanked Steve McElven for his hard work in this regard.

The Local Preacher's Meeting report included news of a new monthly evening service, led by Local Preachers. Ministers are especially welcome! **On 30th April an evening service** will include the celebration of Roger Yeo's 60 years of preaching, and Anthony Thomas' 40 years in the pulpit.

WHAT HAPPENED AT CIRCUIT MEETING?

The work with young people is going extremely well. **14 young people regularly attend Breakfast Church and YouthSpace.** They have been very much bound together by their prayer for James. The younger children in the Circuit are jealous of their older siblings and friends - we're looking at what we might be able to provide for them on a regular basis. Volunteers are very welcome!

Catherine was approved as secretary of the Trinity Executive, and several other people have shown an interest in joining the group. We are at a critical stage of the redevelopment and things are moving very quickly. The groups who use Trinity provide an increasingly vital service to the asylum seeking community, and at the moment we are struggling to find a venue willing to host them while the work takes place. The meeting was asked to pray for the conversations taking place in the coming weeks, and for those involved in the decanting process. At time of writing one of our main funders have agreed to a donation and the team awaits a decision from two others.

The next meeting of the **World Church Group is the 2nd May** and will focus on making our Circuit more eco-friendly. This is an open meeting and let us know if you need the Zoom link.

We were reminded of the importance of Safeguarding training. This is a legal obligation for certain officeholders in local churches. The next session will be held at 10am on 28th March.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training is now compulsory for certain officeholders. It involves unconscious bias training and is important for our development as an inclusive, welcoming church.

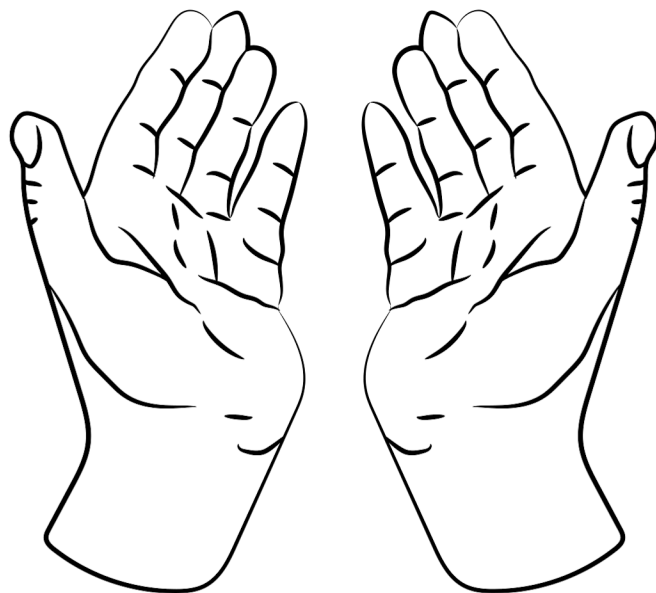
We were informed that our brothers and sisters at Rumney Methodist Church have unanimously voted that they cease to meet after 200 years of ministry, holding a final service at the end of June.

Methodist policy dictates that the Circuit Meeting endorse this decision.

The meeting held Rumney in prayer, remembering the implications of this brave and difficult decision for all involved. We then affirmed their decision to close and committed to supporting them in the coming weeks and months.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd May, face-to-face at Radyr Methodist Church.

The meeting closed with a prayer.



The collection at the Circuit Service raised £752.55 for the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital.

'The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.'

It does this through:

- Worship
- Learning and Caring
- Service
- Evangelism

www.methodist.org.uk

WHAT IS METHODISM?

All the Methodist Churches in Great Britain are linked together to form a national body that we call 'The Connexion'. Churches are grouped into Circuits which, in turn, join up to form Districts.

The Cardiff Methodist Circuit is made up of fourteen churches across Cardiff, Taffs Well and Caerphilly. We are part of Wales Synod Cymru, a bilingual district created by the joining together of the English-speaking Wales Synod and the Welsh-speaking Synod Cymru in September 2022.

This is the main logo of the Methodist Church. It reflects our deepest beliefs.

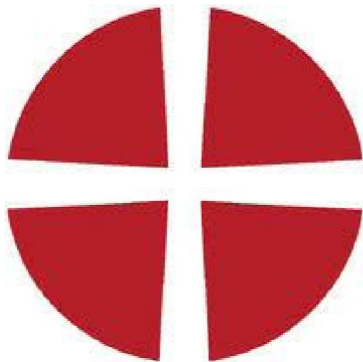
The circle represents the world. It is coloured red to remind us that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, all people can know the love of God.

The cross is white (like the background), celebrating the joy of the resurrection. You will see that there is no visible point at which the arms of the cross end, likewise there are no limits to God's grace.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was passionate about social justice. He preached the gospel to those whom others would rather forget. Early Methodists campaigned against slavery and were at the forefront of the provision of education and healthcare for the masses.

Today the Methodist Church continues this commitment to social justice by campaigning against racism, sexism and unethical investments and trading practices. In doing so, we live out our calling to love God and our neighbour.

As part of our commitment to 'watch over one another in love' each Methodist Church operates a pastoral system, intended to ensure that each member receives the care and support they need as part of the community. Pastoral care is offered in many different ways: some pastoral carers bring their group together from time to time for fellowship, discussion or a friendly cup of tea; some visit one another's homes or share a meal; others keep in touch by phone or letter, or chatting in church on Sundays.



To get in touch with anyone mentioned in the newsletter please contact the Circuit Office on:

office@cardiffmethodist.org.uk

Tel: 029 2039 3436

www.cardiffmethodist.org.uk

www.methodist.org.uk

CIRCUIT NEWS

On my return from Sabbatical I shared with Radyr the wish to begin a Building (Lego) Church on one Sunday afternoon a month to build on the engagement we have with families at Forest Church Juniors and to, hopefully, attract others.

I invited the church to a coffee morning at our home which was totally free on entry however exit required Lego or a donation of any size. I ended up on that day and over the preceding week with seven boxes full of Lego.

We decided to start after Christmas as there is so much going on for young families beforehand and thus on the last Sunday of January had our inaugural Building Church, eighteen children attended with their various carers.

We talked about David and Goliath, showed a Lego stop go animation of the story and then challenged our builders to create huge and tiny towers. Once built the small tower was used to reduce the large tower to rubble – or that was the plan anyway!

We then all consumed far too much pizza and went our separate ways. We had our second session at the end of February and following a request from one of our attendees we built boats – and a crocodile, made fish using offcuts from a local car wrapping factory and ate more pizza.

The families that came were to a large extent not Sunday morning church attenders but some do attend other Pioneer style events. If you are interested in attending, helping, praying for this, cooking pizza or anything else please do feel free to get in touch,

Judith



Back in 2021 **Wesley Canton** invested in and installed a Defibrillator outside the church.

Very recently on a Saturday night a man had a cardiac arrest at the close by Clive Arms pub. The staff rang 999 and were directed to get and use the church defibrillator, the nearest one, which they did successfully.

The man was subsequently taken off to hospital by ambulance and was conscious when he left. Though we have no further information on the patient, it's great news to hear it was used successfully to help save someone's life.

CIRCUIT NEWS (CONT...)



200 Years of Rumney Methodist Church

Rumney Methodist Church is celebrating 200 years of Methodism in Rumney village this year, and so our Church Anniversary Service on 12th March was rather special. We were blessed that one of our previous presbyters, Rev. Graeme Halls, agreed to return to preach on Sunday. He was with us between 1992 and 1997 and we are pleased he has retired back here in Wales and was able to lead our worship.

Although we believe the chapel was used from 1814 onwards, it was not until 1823 that Rumney (Tredelerch) appeared on the Circuit Plan, and so we always use 1823 as the official starting point for our history.

The chapel was a small square building with a fire grate and chimney at one end and high pulpit at the other. There were six pews and the building was lit by oil lamps.



On 28th October 1928, the last Service was held in the Old Chapel, and the new chapel in Wentloog Road was opened on 11th September 1929. In 1932, the Act of Union brought Primitive, Wesleyan and other Methodist denominations together into one British Methodist Connexion. Circuit re-organisation resulted in Rumney Methodist Church becoming part of the Cardiff (Roath) Circuit. By 1936, there were 162 Sunday School Scholars with 18 Teachers and Officers.



Changing times brought a change of building. After the war a joint evangelical campaign initiated by the Baptist and Methodist ministers saw a further increase in attendance. The last service in the old church was held on 11th March 1956, when six folk were received into membership, bringing the total to 182. On the 17th March 1956, the new church and classrooms were officially opened by Mrs. Sheila Gibbs of Penarth. The 1929 building became our church hall, and both buildings were used extensively throughout the rest of the 20th Century.

As both buildings began to show signs of wear and tear we were faced with Quinquennial Reviews indicating that huge sums of money were required to meet the identified repairs, never mind provide new facilities or modern features. So In 2010 we embarked on a major redevelopment, at a cost of almost half a million pounds, which culminated in the demolition of our 1956 building and a wonderful redevelopment of our 1929 building. The new development was opened in September 2011.



(EVEN MORE..) CIRCUIT NEWS

On Saturday the 4th February, 9 excited children and 4 brave parents stayed the night in **Conway Road** Methodist Church, in aid of the Trinity Centre. Over the past few months the Junior Church have been studying Methodism, so when the call came out for fundraising ideas for the Trinity Centre it seemed a wonderful way to involve the children in the mission of the church.

Earlier in year we found a snooker table and table tennis table in one of the many cupboards. These were dusted down and missing parts replaced, and borrowed a table football. The children loved playing on these, saying they were never bored, not for a minute. We cooked our meal together, Deacon Laura joined us for dinner and afterwards we played parachute games. When we had laid out our beds in the 'New Room' we projected a film onto the wall and snuggled down to watch. There was a bedtime story and everyone settled by 10.30pm.

In the morning the children sneaked into the Sanctuary to play Uno and eat the midnight sweets they'd missed, having let sleep overtake them. That they had intended on eating a few hours earlier. Breakfast was kindly cooked for us and our lovely congregation joined us for cereals, yogurts and bacon sandwiches before the morning service.

It was a night the children (& adults) will remember forever. One 11 year old commented "It was the best sleepover I have ever been to!"

We are delighted to announce that the sleepover raised £500 for the Trinity Centre! Thank you to all those who helped and who sponsored the children.

Second, on Sunday 12th February - the wonderful Sunday lunch organised and cooked by the amazing Shelagh. We had a fab time and after expenses raised £400.

With the proceeds of the afternoon tea run by the original members of the Harmony singing group back in October of £160 it means that we as a church have raised £1060 for the Trinity Refurbishment Project.

Wesley Caerphilly 'are doing a new thing' (Isaiah 43: 19)!

On 7th March, fourteen people gathered for the first meeting of a new Tuesday Fellowship Group where we enjoyed a picture quiz, God Slot and delicious tea and biscuits together.

We intend to meet on the first Tuesday of every month from 2pm. Why not join us?

"WHEN I'M GONE"

by **CMCC**

Maundy Thursday
and
Good Friday

7.30pm at Wesley Canton



WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR NEWS!

**Don't wait for someone else to
write something about your
church or event.**

This newsletter is intended to contain news from ALL the churches in the Circuit, but I can only include the articles you send me!

Email me at laurajevans@me.com with your stories by 9th June 2023 or give me a ring on 07542 879512 to discuss.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Rev'd Alexis Mahoney

What job do / did you do? I'm Presbyterian with pastoral care of Cathays, Rumney and Wesley Canton ... and a bit at Conway Rd.

What are your hobbies? I really like eating (if you can call that a hobby!) But other than that, I enjoy ambling in picturesque places with my wife Sian...as long as there's coffee and cake involved somewhere along the line! And I also really enjoy getting into a good novel, and when I need to let off steam I pick up my bass guitar!

Tell us one surprising thing about you: Pretty much what you see is what you get, so there's nothing very surprising to tell about me really... But an interesting experience I've had (well, it may be interesting to some of you) is that I've experienced ghosts on several occasions.

What is your favourite food? Anything spicy is good by me! But I love a good fry-up too 😊

What is your favourite verse in the bible? Probably 1 Corinthians 13.4-5... But the immature me sees the funny side of Ezekiel 23.20 😊

What is your ambition? It's more of a wish/dream than an ambition, but I'd love my phone to ring and have someone from Pink Floyd, or U2, or a huge band, asking me to be their bassist to go on a world tour!

Please tell us a bit about your family (including pets) I've been married to Sian for 23 years and have a step-son called Jake, a daughter called Alice, and a son called William...and I love them all to bits! We also have a moody ginger and white cat called Molly who's getting on a bit now and doesn't mind administering the odd bite and scratch to us here and there.

What is your favourite TV programme? I'm really looking forward to the final season of 'Succession' which is due to start in March 23.

Who do you most admire? My wife, Sian...without a doubt.

What are your favourite books? The Lord of the Rings trilogy is a massive long-term favourite of mine. But I love any good novel.

What is the best advice you've been given? Make 'love' your default position in everything you are and everything you do.

What is the best thing about being part of The Cardiff Methodist Circuit? Everyone's so lovely and genuinely warm!

What is your favourite hymn? '10,000 Reasons' is a firm fave of mine, but so is 'Amazing Grace'...and so is 'And can it be'... There are too many to choose from!

