



Cardiff Methodist Circuit

The Methodist Church in Cardiff & Caerphilly



WHAT HAPPENED AT CIRCUIT MEETING?

The Circuit Review: 'Forward in Hope' is ongoing and a document compiled by the Circuit Leadership Team, which has already been circulated to all churches, was received and accepted by the Circuit Meeting.

The next step is for all churches to hold an **open meeting** as an opportunity for all those involved in the life of the churches to have their say and ask questions. These meetings will be attended by members of the Circuit Leadership Team.

The meeting looked at a first draft of next year's Circuit budget. Inflation increases mean that we need to raise £340,000 from the assessments paid by the churches of the circuit, £60,000 more than last year. Our hope is that church finances have now recovered sufficiently from COVID that we can meet this amount. The Circuit Meeting did agree to support certain activities related to mission from circuit reserves for this year.

A spreadsheet analysing current church assessments, set against varying criteria. - attendance, giving, surplus - is available to aid discussion. It is only intended as a discussion document as churches consider their assessments for next year. Ideas on how to improve this document, including more accurate data, are welcomed.

Our ministers are our biggest asset and therefore deserve our full financial commitment. The Circuit cannot continue at current funding levels, since Circuit reserves have absorbed stipend increases in recent years. The Circuit is all our churches, and we are asked that each church prayerfully consider it's giving.

DATES OF WHOLE-CHURCH MEETINGS:

(contact a steward for timings)

- Cathays** - Wednesday 17th April
- Conway Road** - Thursday 18th April
- Cyncoed** - Wednesday 1st May
- Llandaff North** - Tuesday 16th April
- Llanishen** - Sunday 12th May
- Radyr** - Wednesday 22nd May
- St. Andrew's** - Saturday 27th April
- Taffs Well** - Sunday 21st April
- Wesley, Caerphilly** - Sunday 28th April
- Wesley, Canton** - Wednesday 24th April
- Whitchurch** - Tuesday 16th April

Please make every effort to attend and have your say

ECO CHURCH

A couple of weeks ago bleary eyed and half asleep, I was arranging the socks on the drying rack by our back door. A movement out of the corner of my eye made me turn my head. There, sat on our backstep, less than a metre away was what I first thought (in my sleepy state) the largest cat I'd ever seen. It took me a moment to realise that it was not a moggy but a fox. The fox paused and stared in through the window at us, eyeing up my daughter's breakfast and demonstrating that it clearly felt at home before sauntering down to the bottom of the garden. This was the first fox that I'd ever seen at such close quarters and it made my day. It was a moment of wonder at the beauty and diversity of God's creation.



Life can be full of these snatched moments of marvel, when we get a glimpse of the beauty, magnitude, or our lack of understanding still at the inner workings of God's creation.

At this week's Circuit Eco Group meeting Vera Ruddock from Llanishen started our opening worship by asking us to think of a moment which has caused us to pause and marvel at God's creation. It was a good opener as it helped us to remember why it's so important that we take steps as Methodists to look after God's audacious and complex creation.

At the meeting we discussed ideas of what we could do as individual churches and as a Circuit to support and encourage each other in our activities to prevent climate change and spread the message of caring for God's creation. If you're thinking of becoming an Eco Church and would like to find out more or would like some support on your Eco Church journey please get in touch. The group is hoping, among other things, to develop a draft Environmental Policy as a proposal for the Circuit.

We're an open group and keen for anyone who would be interested in making their church or the Circuit greener to be involved.

Sarah

for more information please contact **Vera Ruddock**, see circuit plan for email address (local preacher).

The next meeting will be on **Zoom on Thursday 9th May.**

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Interested in becoming an Eco Church?
You may already meet some of the criteria!
Find out here:
<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>

AN UPDATE ON TRINITY

If you've walked passed Trinity it will come as no surprise to hear that the building work is in full swing. It's really rather difficult to miss! The building is undergoing a complete internal refurbishment to help us better serve our community. Among other changes there will be a number of meeting rooms for use by our many groups, new toilet facilities, a well-equipped kitchen and the whole place will be fully accessible to all.



Of course, the building is currently closed and all this work has meant finding temporary accommodation. **The office has moved to Parkminster URC on Minster Road.** Please contact Fflur for information on where groups are currently meeting.

In the meantime there is plenty going on. A community activity programme is about to start which will include a **Tales of Trinity Exhibition at the Cardiff Story Museum from September 2024.**

Visit our website and social media channels for updates on the work:

-  @TrinityCentreCardiff
-  @TrinityCentreCardiff
-  @trinitycentrecdf
-  www.trinitycentre.wales

Contact The Trinity Centre on:

-  enquiries@trinitycentre.wales
-  029 21321120

 **Trinity Centre**
Canolfan y Drindod
Four Elms Road, Piercefield Place, Cardiff, CF24 1LE

AND YOU COULD BE A PART OF IT!

The building has undergone a multitude of changes since Newport Road United Methodist Free Church was first built in 1896/97 but it has always been a hub in the community. Do you have a connection with Trinity? Perhaps you remember the bringing together of Broadway, Roath Road and Newport Road Methodist Churches in 1950. Or maybe you worshipped there, attended Guides or Boys Brigade, or came along to one of the many groups.

If so we'd love to include your stories in the exhibition.

Contact us on **talesoftrinity2024@gmail.com** to share a story or volunteer to be part of shaping the exhibition

The work of Trinity is still ongoing and we are very grateful to those churches and individuals who continue to collect toiletries, gather other donations and support us financially. Your contribution is vital. Please contact the Centre for more information on how you can be part of this important work.

The community project will also involve local schools, so don't be surprised if you hear about Trinity from your younger relatives and friends!

With grateful thanks to our funders, including:



THE WORLD CHURCH GROUP

The World Church Group (previously Circuit Mission Group) has in the last six years comprised of seven people representing the following churches in the Circuit: St Andrew's, Conway Road, Radyr, Cathays and Llandaff North Methodist Churches. Two people have stepped down from the group in the last fortnight. The viability for this group has been questioned as there has been a lack of support from Circuit Churches.

This long running group has held Prayer Breakfasts vide zoom, supported one church in South Africa with 'The men at the roadside appeal 2022' and held two joint Circuit Mission Services (once with missionaries who have returned home from South Africa and another with our Circuit Minister who has retired to Capetown, South Africa). Contribution to the group is sadly lacking. It has left the group constantly asking how this group can reach out to Circuit Churches to get excited and engage with the group? What world church connections, mission partners and is/are 'live, across the world in each of our local churches? Can we share stories to celebrate?

We need new faces and varied gifts to steer this or sadly for the group to come to an end AND to encourage the focus on Eco Churches instead. To engage with us, please contact Pauline Tang or Gill Peace. All are welcome.

LET US KNOW YOUR NEWS!

If your church's activities, events and stories are not featuring it's because I am not receiving articles!

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

Email me at laurajevans@me.com with your stories by 7th June 2024
or give me a ring on 07542 879512 to discuss.

I assume that all photos I am sent have been obtained with permission.

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



ONLINE WORSHIP

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

On Zoom:

Weekly from Radyr Methodist:
contact radyrmce@gmail.com

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

On Facebook Live

Weekly from Wesley Methodist, Canton:
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 IS METHODISM?

The Four 'Alls' of Methodism

"All need to be saved.

All may be saved.

All may know that they are saved.

All may be saved to the uttermost."

A traditional summary of Methodist teaching



Methodists have always been clear that no-one is beyond the reach of God's love. Throughout our history, we have affirmed that salvation is there for everyone who turns to God, and not just for a chosen few.

NEXT TIME

OUR CALLING

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

What it means and why it matters.



1

"All need to be saved"

No one is perfect. As it says in Romans 3: 23 'All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.' We all need God to save us from our human weaknesses.

2

"All may be saved"

No one is beyond the reach of God's love. Jesus' life, death and resurrection opened the door for everyone. We can all find the way to forgiveness, hope and peace.

3

"All may know that they are saved"

Salvation is a gift from God. One we cannot earn. It has nothing to do with what we have done (or not done) and everything to do with God's grace.

4

"All may be saved to the uttermost"

There are no limitations on what God can do in the life of God's followers. God's Spirit can work huge changes in us and through us.

SO WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- There are still people in our communities - and perhaps in our churches - who believe they are beyond the reach of God's love.
- Endless 'doing' will not make God love us any more. Salvation is a gift without strings.
- Our mistakes do not render us unloveable.
- Nothing is impossible with God.

Members of **St Andrew's** were joined by some folks from St Thomas', the Church in Wales in our locality, to sing carols at the Birchgrove pub just before Christmas to raise money for Action for Children.

It was a great community event as we sang for about an hour spreading Christmas cheer.



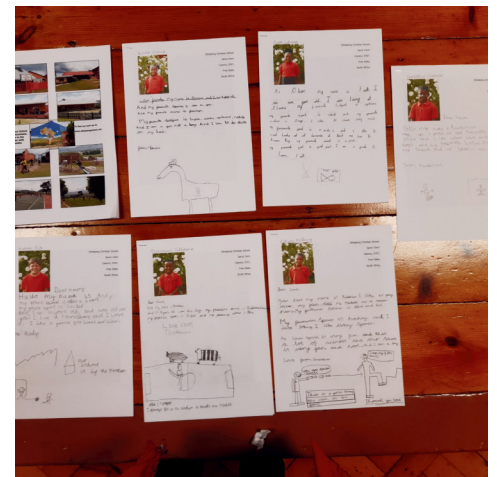
Each Friday in Lent, **Wesley Caerphilly** hosts a lunch with the proceeds going to Christian Aid. A different denomination volunteers to take responsibility for making and serving soup each week.

This year we revived a feature originally introduced by Rev. Alana Lawrence where a guest speaker is invited to give a 10 minute talk on a topic of interest following the "meal". Our own Dave Kitchen set the ball rolling on the first Friday, when Wesley was in charge, talking about his book "Bible in 10". On 8th March our local MP and shadow minister for the Middle East and North Africa, Wayne David, shared his thoughts about the current situation in Israel and Palestine and the need for compromise and collaborative working. Other contributors are our local clergy including Rev. Evelyn Bhajan.

It's good to be able to join forces in sharing the work, having a time of fellowship together, comparing the merits of "Hairy Bikers" and Delia Smith" soup recipes and hopefully will raise around £1,000 for a good cause.

The **Boys Brigade** have also been busy - renewing their connection with a school in South Africa.

The 1st Caerphilly boys Brigade and Girls Association have also successfully steered 3 girls to obtain their Bronze award and Presidents Badge and 1 boy to get his Silver award with 2 other boys who are away at university and should finish theirs this summer.



Circuit Service for Pentecost



Sunday 19th May

10.30am

St. Teilo's Church in Wales High School,
Circle Way East, Cardiff, CF23 9PD

Ample parking available on site

At Christmas, **Wesley, Canton** held a lunch and also went out carol singing for Action for Children. The proceeds from both events totalled £800.

Then on 02 March we held our monthly coffee morning where we also sold daffodil badges and small knitted baskets holding mini easter eggs, raising a total of £352 for Marie Curie.



If you have nothing to do on the first Thursday of the month, why not join our TLC (Thursday ladies club) at Wesley, Canton. We have a varied programme of quizzes, guest speakers, crafts and true life story films. We also celebrate Christmas and the summer with a meal out.

We meet at 7pm with a 'God Spot' and finish around 8.30pm with tea / coffee and last month Lyn treated us to some of her home made melt in the mouth biscuits. All this for £1.

Food and friendship are never far away from this group!

† **CARDIFF METHODIST COMMUNITY CHOIR**

THE WE BREATHE AIR

an Easter reflection

**GOOD FRIDAY
29th March**

**HOLY SATURDAY
30th March**

7:30PM START

**WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
CANTON, CARDIFF, CF5 1BA**

FREE ENTRY, THERE WILL BE A RETIRING COLLECTION

  @wearecmcc

The fellowship at **Llandaff North** wish to extend our very grateful thanks to our friends from **Rumney Methodist Church** for the particular gift of your Communion Rails/kneelers. We can assure you that as we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion we will be able to reflect that part of Rumney's heritage now 'lives on' at Llandaff North.

Praise God for all that is past and trust Him for all that's to come. We continue to hold you and the Ely and St. Paul's folks in our prayers.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Rev'd Dr Stephen Wigley



1.) What job do / did you do?

Before I became a Methodist minister, I worked for an American bank in London (Citibank) and then for a Housing Charity in Notting Hill.

2.) What are your hobbies?

I enjoy playing golf (badly) and listening to music, especially Jazz.

3.) Tell us one surprising thing about you.

My family allege that I have a slight weakness where Jaffa cakes are concerned.

4.) What is your favourite food?

Italian in general and arancini (stuffed rice balls from Sicily) to be specific

5.) How would you spend an unexpected £1000?

As advised by my very wise and loving wife, Jenny

6.) What is your favourite verse in the bible?

John 21.25 'But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.'

7.) What is your ambition?

If I get to my 80's and still have as much energy and enthusiasm as my Mum has at 91, that will be quite an achievement.

8.) Please tell us a bit about your family (incl. pets)

I'm married to Jenny and we have a cat called DeeJay, two grown up children Andrew (married to Jess) and Crash (partner Nikita) and one grandson Luca, with another grandchild on the way.

9.) What is your favourite TV programme?

'Would I lie to you?' especially when Bob Mortimer is on it.

10.) Who do you most admire?

I think Pope Francis has done a pretty impressive job as a Christian leader in very challenging times

11.) What one item would you rescue from your home?

It's a toss-up between my alto saxophone and my golf clubs!

12.) What are your favourite books?

I've enjoyed the Inspector Montalbano books by Andrea Camilleri (especially on summer holidays in Italy.)

13.) What is the best advice you've been given?

I don't know that I've been given it directly, but I've learnt over the years to appreciate the truth that 'the grass is never greener on the other side of the fence'.

14.) What is the best thing about being part of The Cardiff Methodist Circuit?

Having such lovely colleagues and living so close to our immediate family.

15.) What is your favourite hymn/worship song and why?

StF 498 'God of all power and truth and grace'; a classic Charles Wesley hymn, with a lovely tune (Ombersley) - and a longstanding family favourite.