

## Baptist Union of Wales Annual Conferences 2021

Due to Covid-19, it was not possible to hold the usual Annual Meetings this year again, and therefore a combination of face-to-face and Zoom meetings were arranged.

### **MOMENTUM : A Wave of Prayer to "Change the Atmosphere"**



**The new president of the English Language Wing, the Revd Steve Wallis, Newbridge-on-Wye.**

A short service to begin the 'Wave of Prayer' took place at one of the earliest Baptist places of worship in Wales on the Gower at Ilston and

travelled to 11 different hubs where churches gathered online and in person to pray.

Each of the prayer hubs, received prayers of blessing from the previous hub and sent prayers ahead for the next wave of prayer gathering.

Many of these prayers were transported in a special box made for the occasion and at the final destination in Bridgend the box was opened and prayers from all hubs were shared in the closing celebration on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June.

At this final event, over 160 people representing churches from across Wales, met virtually on Zoom to thank God for the prayers offered, to remember those who had lost loved ones in this past year and to ask God to change the atmosphere in our nation. Special thanks to the Revd Tony Peck, General Secretary of the European Baptist Federation (EBF) who inspired us with his

message about planting seeds of hope in the soil where God has called us.

If you would like to view the videos of the Ilston service or the closing celebration you can find them here:

<https://buw.wales/momentum-2021/>

### **WELSH LANGUAGE WING "God's Hour is Calling"**



**The new Welsh Language Wing President, Miss Aldyth Williams, Seion Newydd, Morriston.**

The Union's Business Meeting was held on Monday, 21 June, followed by the Presidential Service and the Ministry Service via Zoom, on 21 and 22 June,

Mr Rhodri Darcy and the Revd Dylan Rhys, Union of Welsh Independents, are thanked for filming and editing and the Revd Simeon Baker for facilitating the technical arrangements. (Both services are now available on the Union's Facebook page.)



**The Reverends Mark Fairweather-Tall, Judith Morris, Simeon Baker and Dr Rosa Hunt at the beginning of the 'Wave of Prayer' at Ilston.**

# The Welsh Language Annual Conference 2021 sponsored by the West Glamorgan Association



**Mr David Peregrine presided at the service at Seion Newydd, Morriston and the opening devotion was led by Miss Meinir George and the Revd Derek Rees.**

Mr David Peregrine gave thanks for the privilege of serving as President over the past two years and referred to some of the highlights.

The General Secretary was responsible for the Induction of the new President, Miss Aldyth Williams, and the Induction Prayer was offered by the Reverend Eirian Wyn.

Aldyth, a native of Morriston, Swansea, and a former teacher, based her address on the words seen on the clock in the vestry of Seion Newydd, "God's Hour is Calling". These were the words that had extended an invitation to the faithful members for over 170 years. She challenged the congregation to use every opportunity wisely to respond to God's call and urged everyone to accept the invitation and to respond in love with energy and enthusiasm. The service included two musical items by the organist Huw Tregelles Williams, namely 'Prelude on Rhosymedre' (R Vaughan Williams), and 'March on Nun danket alle Gott' (Sigfrid Karg-Elert).

Before Mrs Sarah East offered the closing prayer, Aled, a pupil from



**Revd Judith Morris, BUW General Secretary, inducting the new president Miss Aldyth Williams at Seion Newydd, Morriston on June 8th.**

Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr, was thanked for creating a wooden copy of the clock with the words 'God's Hour is Calling' carved on it.

**The service, under the presidency of Miss Aldyth Williams, was held at Carmel Pontlliw, in recognition of the tireless work of its Minister and Secretary of the West Glamorgan Association, the Revd Vincent Watkins.**

The opening prayer was offered by the Revd Derek Rees and the devotion was led by the Revd Glandwr Roberts and Mr Trevor Davies.

The General Secretary led a period of reflection to commemorate former Presidents and Ministers who had died during the year, namely Miss Einwen Jones (Former President) and the Reverends W J Lewis, Dr D Hugh Matthews, and John Roberts. A prayer of remembrance was led by the Revd Geraint Morse.

The Revd Vincent Watkins took his text from the well-known verse described as the 'Heart of the Gospel': "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16). He referred to the richness of the Wonder, Excellence and the Network of God's love.

Vincent was thanked for a timely message and the service was closed in prayer by Mr Nigel Davies.

Special appreciation and sincere thanks were expressed to the President, Miss Aldyth Williams, together with the West Glamorgan Association for all the preparations under difficult circumstances. It had been a great encouragement and blessing to be a part of the meetings.



**The Revd Vincent Watkins, guest preacher at the Ministerial Service at Carmel, Pontlliw.**

# BUW Annual Business Meetings 2021

**Challenges and positive news:** In presenting the Annual Report at both meetings, the General Secretary, the Revd Judith Morris, referred to the significant challenges facing the Churches as a result of Covid-19. Several churches had already decided that they would not reopen in the future, and it was likely that others would follow. But despite the difficult context, officials had a lot of positive news about the work of the Union and the Corporation.

**Vice-President:** The Revd Dr Densil Morgan, Vice-President 2021-22 for both wings was introduced and prayer was offered by the Revd Eirian Wyn.

**Trustees:** Appreciation was expressed for the contribution of Mr David Evans who had completed his term as a Trustee, whilst at the same time Miss Delyth Williams was welcomed as a new board member.

**Climate Sunday:** Reference was made to the COP-26 conference which would be held in Glasgow in November and the opportunity for all churches to hold a Climate Sunday Service.

**Cenn@d:** It had been great to welcome the new weekly on-line newspaper published jointly by the Baptist Union of Wales and the Presbyterian Church of Wales.

**Ministry:** In presenting the Board's report the Revd Marc Owen referred to the students who had been accepted for ministry training, as well as those who had finished their studies. Since the start of lockdown regular meetings had been held through Zoom with our ministers as a means of support.

**Mission:** The Revd Simeon Baker, Director of Mission, referred to the Mission Training which had attracted

a good number of participants during the year, along with the workers who had come from abroad to assist our churches. A partnership had been established with Scripture Union Cymru to try to reach the 95% of children and young people who had no connection with our churches.



## **Revd Kath Miller: "Pioneer Lead"**

As part of the Mission Board's plan of work, the Revd Kath Miller has been invited on a part-time basis as 'Pioneer Lead' to develop the Union's response to the context of decline and chapel closure. Kath had been leading the work at New Hengoed for a number of years and was keen to use that experience as a catalyst for new thinking as to how the BUW could discover pioneer leaders for future mission in Wales and to help us find new ways of being church. Kath is currently learning Welsh and will be underpinning her role with a Masters course to reflect theologically and contextually as Baptists in Wales.

**Finance:** An encouraging report was received from the Finance Officer, Mr Nigel Vaughan who noted that 93% of the churches had paid the Consolidated Budget last year with the same number having contributed for this year. Significant financial savings had been made by holding all the Union's meetings via Zoom which also meant a reduction in the CO2 emissions. Furthermore, a decision had been made not to invest in companies involved in fossil fuels.

**The Corporation:** It was noted that the Welsh Baptist Union Corporation had celebrated its centenary this year and the General Secretary had invited ideas as to how the milestone could be marked. Glyn Nest Home had celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last year and the Revd Irfon Roberts was thanked for his service as Chair of the Management Committee. Mrs Helen Wyn, the Corporation's Co-ordinator, reported on the sales of chapels, together with a new process introduced to consider the possibility of mission and commercial arrangements for the buildings when a cause ended. Significant financial investment had been made in providing a loan to establish a Mission House in Tonteg. Appreciation was expressed to Mrs Rosemary Morgan on her retirement as a Director of the Corporation.

## **Congratulations!**

**Congratulations to the following on gaining awards at the South Wales Baptist College:**

Sian Elin Thomas: The Thomas Phillips Award for Christian Doctrine.

Jon Brewer: Award for Pastoral Studies.

Mervyn Rigg and Misha Pedersen: Biblical Studies Award

## **BUW'S NEW WEBSITE**

**Remember to visit the  
new website:**

[www.buw.wales](http://www.buw.wales)

# Welcome to our Overseas Workers!



**Anna Ketchum**

Travelling all the way from Oklahoma, USA, to Wales, we welcome Anna Ketchum who arrived in Carmarthen in June to support Penuel Baptist Church in their mission and ministry. Anna has visited Wales and Penuel on a number of occasions over the years and felt called by God to spend an extended time working with the church.

Anna says "It is strange and amazing to me that after so many years, God has finally opened the door for me to

be in Wales for a longer-term ministry. When I came to Wales for the first time in 2014, I knew I had a desire to come to live here and work with the church, but I could not have imagined the ways God would work in order to bring me here. Seven years is a long time to wait for something, but it was also seven years of God slowly confirming at each step that he had equipped me to be of use to the Welsh church and that he had been preparing a place for me at Penuel. I am so full of joy and thankfulness to finally be able to step into that place and to continue to discover what God intends for my time here."

"We are thrilled to see God calling and enabling Anna to serve with us in Carmarthen. We are expectant and encouraged that God calls his people for a purpose, and we look forward to seeing his purposes fulfilled. God has answered our prayers in leading Anna to Penuel, please pray that we'd all grow in our knowledge and experience of the Lord together", said the Minister of Penuel, Revd Aron Treharne.



**Jeff and Linda Kim**

We are also looking forward to welcoming Jeff & Linda Kim from Los Angeles, USA who arrive in Newbridge, Gwent at the start of August. Jeff & Linda will be based with Revd Peter Cho and Tabernacle Baptist Church for an initial six-month period of adjustment to Wales before seeking God's guidance as to where they might serve in a local church longer term.

Please pray for both Anna and Jeff & Linda as they come to serve us here in Wales.

## Welcome to Carwyn!



**Mr Carwyn Graves**

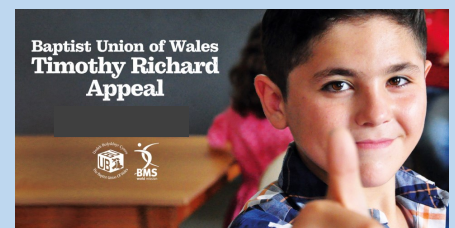
We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Carwyn Graves who will begin his new role as the Mission and Digital Communications Officer in August 2021.

Carwyn lives in Carmarthen with his wife and family and will leave his role with Wycliffe Bible Translators where he has held a number of roles since 2017. He is the vice-chair of Mission Assist and publicity officer for Cymdeithas y Cymod (The Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales). As a linguist his first language is Welsh and is fluent in German, French as well as English having graduated from Oxford University with a 1st class Modern Languages degree. If you want to know about 'Welsh Apples' – Carwyn is a published author and authority on the subject, he also has an impressive vegetable garden.

He is a member of Penuel, Carmarthen and is looking forward to working with the churches and Associations to face the challenge of mission here in Wales. A new focus in

the role will be to help us communicate more effectively in a digital world.

Speaking about his appointment Carwyn said: "I am greatly looking forward to working with the Baptist family in Wales in the years to come, especially to serve alongside in order to share the treasure we have 'in jars of clay'."



**Thanks to all who contributed to the appeal. The final total was: £35,128.00**

**NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER & E-MAIL FOR THE OFFICE:**  
**Telephone number: 0345 222 1514; E-mail: post@ubc.cymru**