WELSH MISSION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AMBASSADORS OF HOPE

MINGLING, MINISTERING, WINNING CONFIDENCE, TEACHING, INVITING TO FOLLOW

JANUARY - JUNE 2026

PROMOTING SOCIAL INTERACTION WITHIN CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES

MOTHER'S DAY JOY

To celebrate Mother's Day, Newport members knocked on doors in the streets surrounding the church, offering handwritten cards and flowers. One resident was so touched by the young man who came to his door that he wrote to the church expressing his appreciation for the kindness shown to his family. His 76 year old mother was "absolutely delighted" by the unexpected act of kindness.



"So smart, so polite, so gentle in his manner, . . . melted me and nearly brought a tear to my eye. That young boy brought a little light into our home yesterday, and I won't forget it."

FAMILY FUN DAY

Ystrad Myanch Family Fun Day

A bouncy castle, football match, children's arts and crafts, Cardiff Pathfinder drum corp, a smoothie bike supplying fresh nutritious drinks, all topped off with free vegan burgers ensured everyone who turned up from the community had a great day.
For a more detailed report https://adventist.wales/news/ystrad-mynach-family-fun-day



Activities for the children were based on the days of creation.

FATHER'S DAY





Newport held it's second Father's Day Community Barbecue where local families and church members enjoyed food, fellowship and fun.

Father's Day was celebrated by the third annual Gospel in the Park event in Newtown. Children's arts and crafts, hair braiding, balloons, a soup kitchen and a smoothie bike added to the gospel music which was the main feature of the event. The Town Mayor spoke words of encouragement and acknowledged the work being done in the Newtown community.
For a more detailed report https://adventist.wales/news/gospel-in-the-park-21st-june

GOSPEL IN THE PARK



"The combination of practical service, community interaction, and Gospel music allowed us to demonstrate God's love in a meaningful and accessible way."



Newtown Mayor Councillor Margaret Lewington enjoys a go on the smoothie bike

MUSIC IN THE PARK CARMARTHEN

Another Music in the Park event took place in June in Carmarthen organised by the local youth leader, Jasmine. It brought together young people and musicians from different churches to engage with the wider community through music, hospitality and friendship. Food, a hair station, books and a plant station created a welcoming environment in which people could mingle and interact. The presence of the local Mayor further highlighted the community-facing nature of the initiative.





PORT TALBOT COMMUNITY PROJECT

Practical Help ***Genuine Relationship*** ***Spiritual Hope***

The Community Services department has been working closely with Port Talbot Community Project to understand how the church can become more intentional in serving the needs of its communities. A food bank serves communities across Port Talbot, Swansea, and Bridgend but its purpose goes beyond simply providing food. The project is designed to build meaningful relationships with people.

It partners with organisations already working closely with vulnerable individuals and families. These include:

- Social Services
- Job Centres
- Refugee support organisations
- Primary healthcare services, including Health Visitors
- Housing associations
- Other community and support agencies



"Volunteers have an opportunity to meet people, listen to their stories, understand their circumstances and offer friendship and encouragement."

GLOBAL YOUTH DAY



In March, Swansea church hosted the Welsh Mission Global Youth Day. Community Services partnered with Youth Ministry to provide the necessary food items and resources to prepare care packages, while the young people played an active role in packing and delivering the parcels to families within the community.



The practical activities were followed by reflection, singing and social interaction.

PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS OR INITIATIVES

RECOGNITION BY KING CHARLES

The commitment of some of our members to volunteering and supporting community initiatives has been recognised beyond the church. They were acknowledged at the Maundy Service in St Asaph, North Wales, where they received recognition from King Charles personally. Their community work has also been recognised in Cardiff through Race Council Cymru, with a certificate from the Home Office acknowledging their contribution to community service.

PROMOTING HOLISTIC WELL-BEING



Newport vegan fair



Hereford vegan fair

Newport's health department participated in the Newport Vegan Fair at the end of May. The event fell on a Sabbath, preventing the sale of goods but the team used the opportunity to engage the community by offering free homemade vegan snacks.
The recently purchased smoothie bike - shared between Newport and Hereford - proved to be a major attraction, drawing visitors to the stall, sparking conversations about health, lifestyle, and faith. Literature was distributed, and meaningful connections were made.

Newport has established weekly community walks held every Sunday. Open to church members and local residents, this provides a space for physical exercise, social interaction and emotional well-being.

Hereford church participated in the local council's Vegan Fair in March, selling a variety of vegan foods and drinks. Many visitors returned specifically for the popular poke pies and homemade lemon juice, demonstrating the church's growing reputation within the community. The fair provided opportunities for conversation, connection, and positive representation of the church.

In April, the Hereford church organized a free community health check, engaging visitors in conversations about lifestyle, wellness and faith. This strengthened the chuch's reputation as a caring presence within the community and demonstrated practical ministry in action.

PROMOTING HOLISTIC WELL-BEING





Health Expos and exercise sessions have allowed the Swansea church to promote healthy living and wellbeing.

The Health Ministries Sponsor has supported various church health initiatives, including a Men's Health Awareness programme at Cardiff and Health Emphasis Days at Aberystwyth and churches in North Wales.

The local council in Swansea has provided funding on two occasions to assist with community projects, the exercise club, youth activities and improvements to the kitchen equipment at the Swansea church.

Newport Church has established a meaningful connection with *Eden Gate,* a Newport based charity dedicated to supporting the homeless through holistic care. The operational leader was invited to speak during the Sabbath service, giving members a deeper understanding of the charity's work and inspiring several individuals to explore volunteer opportunities.

Dr Hezron Ottey from the Telford church held a first-aid training on 19 April 2026 which taught members how to do CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and use the mobile automated external defibrillator (AED).



Telford Ghana health ministries organised a trip to Colwyn Bay where members were able to engage in some physical exercise.

In May, the young people were involved distributing literature focused on mental health.

PROVIDING BIBLICAL TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP

The Children's Ministries Sponsor has developed a programme based on the story of Samuel, entitled "Speak Lord."

This has been taken to five churches.



Supplies for the Easter packs for outreach

The programme allows the children to take part in tableaux or narration of the Bible story, be involved in interactive prayer activities, participate with musical items and have an extended children's story. Some churches have also chosen to have an afternoon programme where the children pack craft materials, a Bible story and invitation to a future children's event, thus performing an act of service which can be shared with the community.



Children from the Hereford church

"The Youth Department exists to empower, inspire and equip young people to live as Ambassadors of Hope. Youth ministry seeks to develop a Christ-centred movement of young people who experience genuine friendship, serve their communities, build meaningful relationships, engage with biblical truth and develop a personal and growing relationship with Jesus."



Shola Semakula with young people at Carmarthen

The Youth Department has supported local leaders through encouragement, participation and speaking engagements.

In January, a Welsh Mission Youth Leaders Training Programme provided an important opportunity to invest in those who are directly responsible for nurturing young people within their local congregations. The training was led by British Union Conference Youth Director, Pastor Nj, who encouraged youth leaders through biblical reflection and prayer, while also providing practical guidance drawn from his experience of working with young people.

Throughout January - June 2026, youth leaders across the Mission continued to organise local programmes, socials, and youth-focused initiatives.

PROVIDING BIBLICAL TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP

In February, the Youth Department used Valentine's season to address the topic of relationships by offering a Relationship Weekend "Built to Last." This was hosted by Newport church.



Interactive activities, open discussions and practical seminars addressing the realities of singleness, dating, engagement and marriage helped young people navigate the real-life questions they face.

The programme created space for young people to consider how their relationship with God influences the way they relate to themselves and to others, endeavouring to equip young people with greater self-awareness and healthier relational foundations. There was intentional reflection on relationships, spirituality, personal patterns and mental wellbeing.



PROVIDING BIBLICAL TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP

Newport, Hereford & Llandrindod Wells district have a Tuesday evening baptismal Bible study via Zoom. Open to individuals preparing for baptism and already baptised members who desire to deepen their understanding of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, the group has grown to include family and friends from outside the Welsh Mission. Covering foundational doctrines, practical Christian living, and the meaning of discipleship, the class ensures that new believers are well grounded and long-standing members are continually nurtured.



Swansea Agape Meal brought members together in fellowship and love

PRAYER & REVIVAL

Hereford, Telford Ghana & Wrexham churches all held revival programmes and special prayer events. The prayers have resulted in people returning to church.

The Youth Department facilitated an online Week of Prayer after Global Youth Day.

During June young people in Wales were able to participate in an online prayer session organised through Public Campus Ministries, connecting them with students and young adults from across the wider British Union Conference.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Telford Ghana members participated in family week in February where marriages were strengthened.

Telford Family Ministries hosted a family camping weekend in March. Pastor Anton Botha shared a three-day sermon series on building God-fearing families in the community and the church, assisted by Dr Vasanth Rao Nandipamu. A dedicated children's programme ran during the weekend. Feedback was positive: "the programme was thoughtful and engaging. We felt united in prayer, faith and fellowship."

I*n May, Family Ministries launched a new video podcast entitled Remedy. This has been created to support marriages and families by providing practical guidance, encouragement and spiritual support. https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=6KD3ZQUbUNQ*

PROVIDING BIBLICAL TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP

BAPTISMS

Kyle's story

"Although I grew up in an Adventist home, I never truly engaged with church life in Zimbabwe and often felt disconnected from spiritual activities. After moving to England, I struggled to find a sense of belonging and gradually drifted away from regular worship. Everything changed when I first visited Newport church in 2024. I felt a warmth and love I had never felt before in any church.

As I became more involved, praying publicly for the first time, and preaching my first 13th Sabbath sermon, and later delivering a message on forgiveness for Children's Day, I discovered confidence, purpose, and joy in serving God.

My first Pathfinder camp also had a profound impact on me. Despite the cold weather, I really enjoyed it and it was during that camp I made the decision to give my life to God and repent for my sins."

Kyle's story reflects a journey from uncertainty and disengagement to belonging, growth, and personal conviction.

Michela appealed to others who may be struggling with indecision to realise that 'the time is now; choose Jesus today.'



On 4 April 2026, Kyle Anesu Hwehwe and Michela Anotida Mudimu were baptised at Newport, having completed studies with Elder Lareng Toteng.

Michela's story

"Growing up in an Adventist home, my early understanding of baptism was shaped more by expectation than personal conviction. Over time, I began to recognise my own spiritual need. I realised that seemingly small distractions - particularly the constant pull of my phone - had become a form of idolatry that drew me away from God and weakened my spiritual life. Through prayer, reflection, and the influence of youth ministry, I realised that repentance is not only about avoiding major sins, but also about surrendering the subtle habits that push us away from God.
My turning point came when I acknowledged that these 'small foxes' were hindering my relationship with Christ."

Michela's story highlights the quiet but powerful work of the Holy Spirit in calling young people to deeper commitment and intentional discipleship.

PROVIDING BIBLICAL TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP

BAPTISMS

It was at a community choir practice that Ystrad Mynach church member, Loraine, began making friends with Denise who had already begun her spiritual journey of discovery through reading the Bible. Denise started attending church with her new-found friend and commenced Bible studies with Pastor Adriana Fodor. The Holy Spirit impressed a burning desire upon her heart to be baptised and her baptism took place on 2 May 2026.



Pastors Jeremy Johnson, Adriana Fodor, Denise, Loraine



PastorJeremy Johnson, Gabe, Sarah, Pastor Adriana Fodor and elder Jane Wells

Sarah met Gabe, another of Ystrad Mynach's members, when she was going through a difficult time in her life. Gabe became a friend, a source of encouragement and support and showed Sarah how depending on God could help her with the challenges she was facing. After an invitation to attend church, Sarah became a regular attendee and committed her life to Christ in baptism on 18 July. The song *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* resonated with Sarah's life and with joy she shares about what the Lord has done for her within the family and at work.

Both ladies were born and raised in the beautiful Welsh valleys. Brought up within Christian homes they embarked upon a quest to seek God for themselves and get to know Him and grow their very own personal relationship with Him.

PROVIDING BIBLICAL TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP

BAPTISMS



On 30 May 2026, three ladies publicly declared their commitment to Jesus through baptism.

Nandi Ncube from the Wrexham Company and Vivian Asare and Docea Abena Bonsu from the Telford Ghana church.

The baptism was held at Abraham Darby Sports Centre, Madeley, led by the interim Welsh Mission President Pastor Max McKenzie-Cook, assisted by the local pastor Lawrence Ofei.

Combined baptismal classes for Telford Ghana and Wrexham led to these baptisms.



On 14 March 2026, five members of a Fijian family publicly committed their lives to Jesus in baptism at the Telford church. Pastor Anton Botha baptized Sakiusa Sukanaivalu, Leilani Sukanaivalu, Terence Sukanaivalu, Jejiana Velavela Sukanaivalu, and Matavuso Kotoiwasawasa Sukanaivalu.

Head elder, Paul Mclean, had studies with this family and is continuing to study with them, helping the family deepen its understanding of Scripture and remain connected in faith after baptism. The family expressed heartfelt thanks to the Telford congregation for the love, practical help, constant prayer, and support they received throughout their studies. They described the church as a home away from home.

The service closed with a moving contribution from the Fijian members, who sang “Why Me Lord” in their native language. They then invited the congregation to join them for the chorus in English. This shared song brought together different cultures and generations in worship, leaving the congregation with a memorable expression of gratitude to God.

PROVIDING BIBLICAL TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP



A Welsh Mission Worship Night, hosted by Cardiff church took place in June. Young people from across Wales and Bristol gathered around the theme and scripture of Psalm 117, creating an atmosphere of worship that celebrated both the unity and diversity of the wider youth community. The evening incorporated spoken word, testimonies, prayer and a broad range of musical expression.

More details can be found at https://adventist.wales/news/welsh-mission-worship-night

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A NEW CHURCH PLANT IN THE WELSH VALLEYS



A group of young families, all having the same desire and passion to share the Bible and its truths with the community in Merthyr Tydfil, was formally recognised by the Welsh Mission Executive Committee in January 2026.

Under the leadership of Pastor Jeremy Johnson, the group was formed by the mother church, Cardiff, assisted by Ystrad Myanch church.

The group has already started planting seeds in the local community. The leader, Tudor Bostan and his wife Ana, have opened their home to the local community children, holding weekly Friday night vespers and a Bible study for them, along with food.

https://adventist.wales/news/merthyr-tydfil-new-church-plant

PROVIDING BIBLICAL TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP

STEWARDSHIP

Welsh Mission Stewardship Sponsor, Crystal Knight, attended the Church Treasurers' and Clerks' Training weekend in Hinckley Island in May. She supported Cathy Boldeau (BUC Stewardship Director) and Pastor Alex Mareniuc (SEC Stewardship Director) with a presentation entitled TRUST.

T - Transparency
R - Responsibility
U - Useful Information
S - Systems, Time & Order
T - Trusteeship

The British Union Conference (BUC) have created a Time resource which can be found at https://redeemtimenow.org/



More details can be found at https://adventist.wales/news/training-church-clerks-and-church-treasurers

PATHFINDERS

A major milestone occurred for Hereford on 28 February 2026 with the launch of its first-ever Pathfinder and Adventurer Club. Supported by the Pathfinder Sponsor, Jonathan Nyengani, the ceremony drew clubs from across the Welsh Mission, including the Cardiff Drum Corp. After the induction service, the young people marched through the local community, distributing literature and engaging with residents.



Hereford Pathfinders and Adventurers



Hereford Pathfinders and Adventurers

Newport launched their own Drum Corp in January, providing a dynamic way to develop discipline, teamwork, and musical skill. On 6 June, they went out into the local community, attracting attention from residents and passers-by. Members walking alongside the drum corp handed out literature and engaged in conversation.

Telford Ghana Pathfinder ministries have been active, ensuring children and young people are learning about God with special emphasis on God as Creator.

PROVIDING BIBLICAL TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP

AREA DAY OF FELLOWSHIP

Jane Wells, the Children's Ministries Sponsor, along with Sabbath School teachers and volunteers provided a programme for the children at the area Day of Fellowship in May at Rougemont School, Newport. The children followed the theme of the divine service which was based on the rebuilding of the city walls under the leadership of Nehemiah.

There was an Open the Book enactment of the building story and children helped to make a model of the city walls using blocks.





Tribute to Pastor Allcock as he retires - left to right: Pastor Graham Allcock, Pauline Allcock, Pastors Jeremy Johnson, Adriana Fodor, Samuel Semakula and Max McKenzie-Cook.

photo taken by Don Chihwayi

Local pastors and congregations led the event with support from the Welsh Mission.

Thanks were given to Pastor Graham Allcock as he retired and Pastor Max McKenzie-Cook was welcomed as interim President.

Pastor McKenzie-Cook, the speaker for the morning took his inspiration from Nehemiah's story, and encouraged members to honestly see what needs fixing, find courage, and return to rebuilding our church life.

A fuller report, including a link to watch the morning service can be found at https://adventist.wales/news/repairthebreach

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Thanks to all the pastors and sponsors for your contributions to this report. Special thanks to our assistant Communications Sponsor, Crystal Knight who, since April, has updated the Welsh Mission website adventist.wales with news articles and posters advertising events. She has also submitted articles to *The Messenger* so a wider audience can see what God is doing within Wales and the border counties.
