


HIGHLIGHTS

of the Church in Wales' Governing Body meeting
at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lampeter
on 11-13 September 2018



**New film shows how churches
are reaching out to people of
all ages across Wales**

See page 4

Contents

Page 1

Presidential Address.

Page 3

Evangelism - A Framework for Healthy and Joyful Mission.

Page 4

Faith in Evangelism Film.

Page 5

Evangelism, Pioneering Ministry and Growth report.

Page 6

St Padarn's report.

Page 7

Same-sex relationships.

Page 9

Times and Seasons launched.

Page 10

Report of the Standing Committee. WODS.

Page 11

Anglican- Methodist Covenant.

Page 12

Reports from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and the Representative Body.

Page 13

Question Time.

Page 14

Worship and Collection. Our Visitors. Never too young to campaign.

Published by the Representative Body of the Church in Wales on behalf of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales, September 2018.

No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior permission from the Publications Manager:

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales, 2 Callaghan Square, Cardiff. CF10 5BT

All pictures are © of the Representative Body of the Church in Wales.

Presidential Address

Play your part, great or small, in spreading the Gospel message, urges Archbishop John

Strategies and policies for growth put forward by Church leaders will remain “heady aspirations” without the commitment and contribution of individuals at all levels of church life, warned the Archbishop of Wales in his Presidential Address.

Archbishop John Davies said evangelism was the Church's core business – “its story and its song” - and everyone had a contribution to make, whether they saw themselves in that story as ‘bit-part players’ or as main characters.

He encouraged church-goers not to underestimate the gifts and resources they had but to offer them freely in the service of Christ.

The Archbishop, who is President of the Governing Body, said, “The Bishops may articulate particular visions and seek with others to develop policies and strategies, but these will remain mere plans, heady aspirations, unless individual potential to contribute to the overall evangelistic task is encouraged, recognised and affirmed.”

He added, “In our churches and communities there may be people who feel like bit-part players, who feel they can't contribute much, if anything at all, to our story and our song or to the good of wider society. They may feel that they lack talent, gifts or resources; they may feel too old, too inexperienced, too anything! But around us there are wonderful stories of people who may have felt just so, but who, with some encouragement, the right question being asked, have engaged with some local activity that has seen a project blossom and flourish.”

The Archbishop acknowledged that there were challenges ahead. He said, “The challenges facing church and society today are significant, even daunting, and the resources may appear to be meagre, completely inadequate in fact; but placed in the hands of Jesus by willing participants, situations are turned around and challenges overcome. Doing what Jesus instructs, playing a small part in telling the story and singing the song, helps in hopes becoming fulfilled.”

He reminded members that the Church was well resourced and that miracles could happen when those resources were offered generously to others.

“Our Church, as I have affirmed in the past, isn’t possessed of meagre resources but of significant ones, human, material and financial. We also have the resource, much envied by some, of a presence in every community across our nation.”

Referring to the familiar biblical account of the miraculous feeding of the crowds, the Archbishop said, “These resources are our five loaves and two small fish, and our calling is not simply to keep them for ourselves, but to offer them, to use them in telling the story and singing the song, and by doing so, to feed the spiritually hungry, and help to carry the people with beaten-up and broken lives.

“Achieving this demands a readiness to listen attentively and openly to the instructions of Jesus

as to how resources should and must be used - this really matters. Trusting that he can use what we have and what can be offered, however meagre we might think it to be, and trusting each other as the inn-keeper trusted the Samaritan, and as the disciples on the hillside trusted Jesus is vital. The potential value of offering our resources and playing our part, any part, small or large, in telling the story and singing the song of the Kingdom, and encouraging others to do so, must never be underestimated.

“So, for the ongoing rehabilitation of our witness and our mission, let me encourage you and, through your commitment, encourage both our churches and our communities to look for and recognise what we all have to offer for the flourishing of the

Kingdom’s values; and let me also encourage you to be excited by the knowledge that miracles will happen when, in trust, in faith and in generosity, we tell the story and sing the song.”

To download the text of the Presidential Address visit:
www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/governing-body/meetings/12-13-sept-2018/





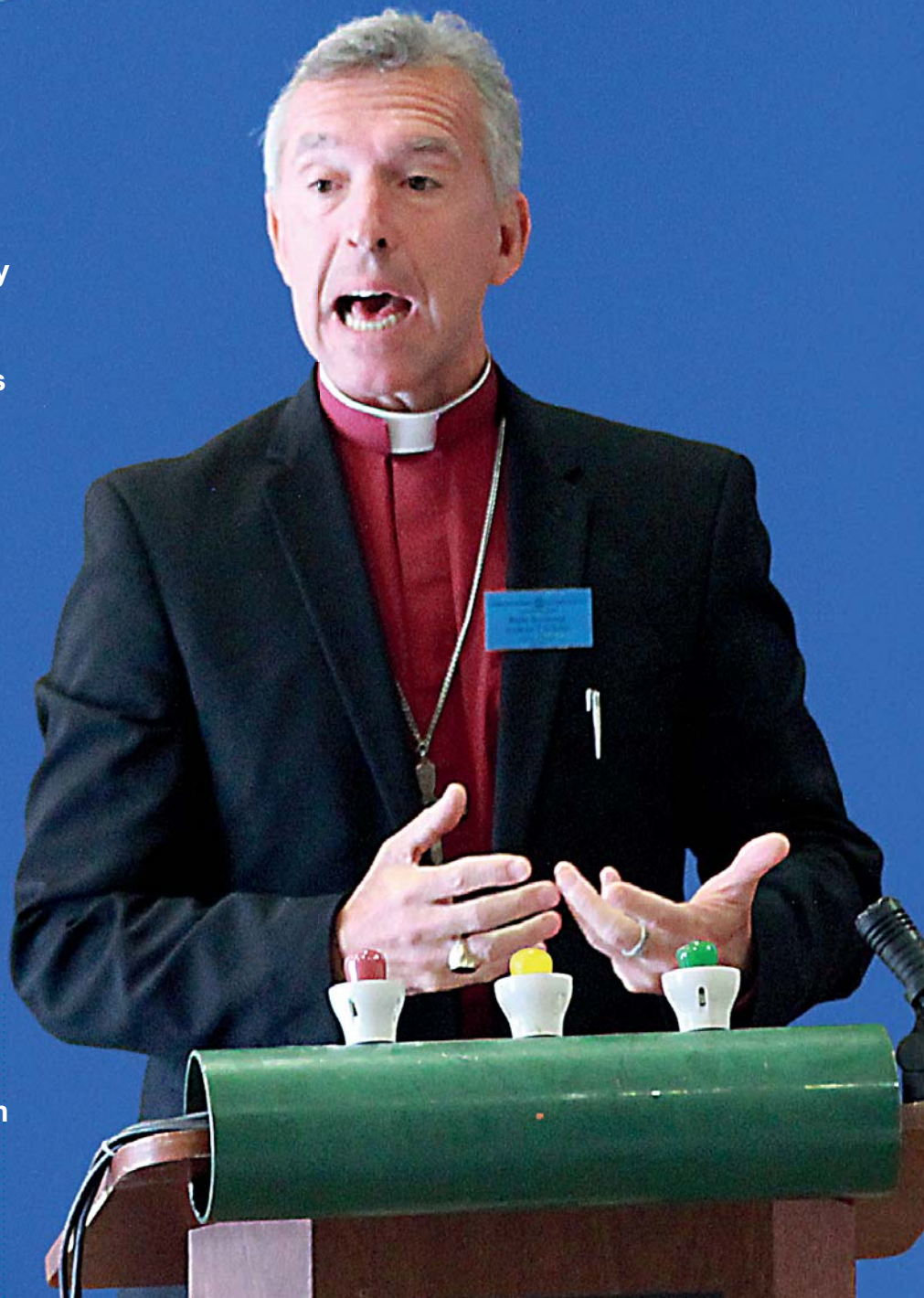
Evangelism

A Framework for Healthy and Joyful Mission

There is neither a blueprint for mission across Wales nor only one way of doing evangelism, said the Bishop of Bangor, Andy John, as he presented a report from the Evangelism, Pioneer Ministry and Church Growth Group.

Instead, the group has suggested a set of guidelines or “disciplines” for healthy and joyful mission at the four levels of Ministry and Mission Areas, the Dioceses, Pioneer and Planting and the Province.

Bishop Andy said, “The disciplines invite Ministry and Mission Areas, Dioceses and the Province to prioritize the work of evangelism within their own life. Even within these three structural units there is the potential for broader more pioneering and networking developments which might involve ecumenical partners, mission agencies, looser affiliations and networks than are currently common.”



Ministry and Mission Areas

A renewed commitment to worship and outreach must happen locally if there is to be any authentic commitment to evangelism, said Bishop Andy. He said much good work was already taking place through the use of festivals, life events, buildings, schools and a connection to the wider community. "If a local congregation loves God, it will show," he said.

Dioceses

Dioceses needed strategically planned initiatives to focus resources for evangelism in a targeted way, said Bishop Andy. This included Church Army partnerships, already running in four dioceses, and mapping.

"The impact on the local can be transformative because faith works – it enriches those involved, challenging but also animating the local in their own faith."

Pioneer and Planting

This was the most exciting and uncertain area of evangelism, said Bishop Andy. "Whether café church or Resource church, the evidence is that careful but bold initiative takes faith and witness to communities of people who would never otherwise encounter Christ.... although there are in every diocese good examples of this kind of ministry, it's clear that we need to accelerate the mixed economy of church to prioritize the level, extent and commitment to pioneering work."

Province

Bishop Andy outlined the progress of the Evangelism Fund Group. He emphasised that the Fund was for initiatives to enable the church to witness effectively in a well resourced way. They also had to be well targeted, "This is not a slush fund for all and sundry but a release of resource to stimulate and enable witness to Christ," he said.

Faith in Evangelism Film

From school lunch clubs to community meals - new ways of being church were highlighted in a film launched as part of the report on Evangelism.

The film featured six projects, one from each of the Church's dioceses, to show how churches across Wales are reaching out and taking the Christian message to those around them.

The projects featured are:

The Lounge – a lunchclub at Cefn Saeson secondary school, Neath;

Sanctuary – pioneer ministry on housing estates and to the farming community around Llanidloes;



Reminiscing café – events for people with dementia in Newtown;



Food With Friends – community meals and events in Gorseinion;



Inclusive church – promoting an open and welcoming church at Rumney, Cardiff;

Puppetry – entertainment with a Christian message for children in and around Lampeter.

The film is now available to watch or download from the Church in Wales website at: <https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/news/church-in-wales-films/>



Evangelism, Pioneering Ministry and Growth debate

This year, the Membership and Finance report was presented as part of Bishop Andy's presentation on the Evangelism, Pioneering Ministry and Growth report. He said he was encouraged by two of its statistics: the increase in attendance at midweek services, which suggested that new kinds of Christian gathering were bearing fruit; and the gentle increase in young people aged under 17 – "That mustn't be a fitful figure, but a normal investment in young people to hear the good news," he said.



Seconding the motion, Archbishop John urged church volunteers not to be daunted by evangelism projects, "Please don't give up – these imaginative schemes are run by normal people who just have a love of the gospel."

Following on from Bishop Andy's presentation, 17 people stood up to comment on it.

The Revd Steven Bunting

(Swansea and Brecon) described projects run by his parish, including candlelit meals for wedding couples, a night shelter for homeless people and a holiday hunger club which fed 185 children over the summer. But he warned the church growth could be crippled by parish bankruptcy.

"Our church is growing and it is exciting but the thing that is paralysing us is a huge building that is falling down and a parish share we can't pay – we could be bankrupt by the end of the year. In midst of the challenges of evangelism we need to look at how we can support parishes in deprived areas."

The Revd Naomi Starkey (Bangor) asked about equipping church members for evangelism so that they went beyond volunteering to reflecting on their faith.



She was also concerned about the need to reach out to young people and recommended learning from free churches. "They are gathering in families and doing evangelism incredibly effectively and we want to learn from them," she said.

The Revd Dr Adrian Morgan

(co-opted) said the challenge was getting people from the place of encounter to a lifelong discipleship.

He said, "I am surprised how abnormal it is for people to open the Bible and pray together and do the bread and butter stuff of church. People don't know how to pray.... We have to use every resource we have at our fingertips to engage people really well so they can share the gospel of love with others in their community." Evangelism didn't happen by accident, he added, there had to be a strategy in place or else the church was "nothing more than a Rotary Club with a spire".

The Revd Adam Pawley (St Asaph)

suggested a film at a future meeting to hear how people had come to faith to show "how we explain to our friends how much God means to us".

The Revd Dean Roberts (co-opted) said that for him this item was the "highlight" of the Governing Body. "We are talking about what truly matters, the re-evangelism of this nation," he said. He described how small changes in his church had made a big difference – moving Messy Church from a Sunday to afterschool on a weekday, for example, meant that it had grown from 12 to 50 people in a month.

Among the stories of successful projects, the Revd David Morris (Llandaff) gave an honest account of one which had failed - a dementia café which hadn't



drawn people in. "Initially parishioners were demoralised but the experience of training and the excitement of preparing was formative. We do need to be bold in venturing but some initiatives won't always be successful because not everything works in all areas. We are now looking for new opportunities to meet the needs of the community," he said.

Daniel Priddy (co-opted) said

the challenge was to get the whole church doing evangelism. "If this were happening everywhere we would be in a different position

to where we are now. How are we going to get those not on board with evangelism to be involved? We want these stories but we need to challenge our brothers and sisters who are not doing this sort of mission and who don't see it as part of their church life, to be involved in it."

The Revd Joel Barder (St Davids)

said the church needed to widen its relationships with other churches.

"Statistics show that most of the churches growing are free churches – these are not members of Cytûn. How do we talk to them? I would love us to be equipped to talk to them, learn from them and work with them."

Responding, Bishop Andy agreed that the spiritual vitality of the church led to evangelism and that more materials were needed to enable people to share their faith with confidence.

Motion:

That the Governing Body do welcome, affirm and endorse the Report of the Evangelism, Pioneer Ministry and Church Growth Group and take note of the Membership and Finance Report.

The motion was passed unanimously.

St Padarn's

“Going from good to outstanding”



Something good is emerging for the long-term at St Padarn's Institute, according to its Principal, the Revd Professor Jeremy Duff.

But, presenting the college's annual report, he told Governing Body, "We're good but we're not outstanding...yet."

Learner numbers continued to increase, especially through the Theology for Life programme which had seen a 70% increase (134-227) in the last year. The 2018 intake for Formation for Licensed Ministry (ordained and lay) showed 20% growth on the previous year (31-37) including an increase in those training full-time. The 2018 intake for postgraduate study also looked to be significantly higher than in 2017.

“A culture of listening, improving and changing has been set,” said Prof Duff.

A new Doctor of Ministry programme was about to launch with the University of Wales Trinity St David. It would provide a flexible range of pathways for those seeking further academic research on the practice of ministry.

St Padarn's had also invested in staff with an expertise in youth and children's ministry. As well as training ministers and providing a networking resource for those working in this area, it had launched a new MTh in Youth and Children's Ministry which was attracting significant attention across the UK.

It was developing a positive reputation, as shown by registrations on postgraduate programmes from external students, requests from dioceses elsewhere in the UK to support their learning or provide consultancy and winning a prestigious contract to supply

high-level theological training for armed forces chaplains.

Meanwhile, the college was to remain on the St Michael's site for the next 10 years. Costs had decreased substantially since the decision to close the conference centre business and the college wanted to focus on improving formation and learning for the Church, not changing buildings.

Among St Padarn's long-term aims were Welsh language theological thinking and learning, ecumenical working and accessibility.

“The Church has been very good historically at training Pauls and not so many Peters – where is our ordination training that doesn't rely on university level study?” he asked.

There was a mixed reception for the report. Canon Patrick Thomas (St Davids) praised the college's efforts to develop its Welsh-language provision, including the aspiration to develop original materials in Welsh, as opposed to translations.



Revd Zoe King (Llandaff) described the report as “flimsy” and was disappointed by the lack of detail, in respect of both what students were studying and their achievements, and staff numbers and turnover. “This report gives us headlines, rather than a detailed plan. We want to make St Padarn's the best it can be,” she said, “but without information clearly before us we cannot do so. My recommendation is to ask for a clearer report in April.”



Bishop June Osborne (Llandaff) said she had been impressed by the openness and honesty shown by the Principal and his staff during a difficult first couple of years. “The staff listen very hard to our diocesan priorities and work with us very energetically,” she said. “A confident church needs a confident training institution and I think

we are well on the way to that.”

Ruth James (Monmouth) – a Theology for Life student herself - bemoaned the relative lack of access to resources available to part-time students based in the dioceses, rather than at the college in Cardiff.



In response to all the comments, Prof Duff said St Padarn's reported to several bodies and he asked for clarity about what format the GB would require its report in the future. He added that the issue of online resources was being addressed with publishers.

Ministry Development

A thorough overhaul of the discernment process is about to start, according to the report from the Ministerial Development Group submitted to Governing Body.

The group is to explore the whole process, the people involved and their respective roles, the purpose of each stage of the discernment process and the outcomes expected at each stage. This will help improve the efficiency of the process and allow training to be focused as needed.

In addition...

- Curacy - the Bench has asked the group to undertake work mapping different approaches to curacy. The bishops want to form an accurate picture of the models of curacy in use around the Church and assess how the realities of modern ministry and lifestyle are reflected and accommodated;
- CMD - a series of listening days has been organised in dioceses to establish what the St Padarn's CMD programme should aim to achieve, what training should be prioritised, and how it should be arranged;
- The Standing Doctrinal Commission has presented the Bishops with the findings of an investigation of the theology of ordained ministry, particularly in light of recent changes to the nature of ministry prompted by the 2012 Church in Wales Review. The findings will be published in an edition of Theology Wales.

Same-sex relationships

Three years after the Governing Body last considered same-sex relationships, the subject was brought back onto the agenda by the bishops.

“The view of the Bench has changed and we are now united in the belief that it is pastorally unsustainable and unjust for the Church to continue to make no formal provision for these in committed same-sex relationships”.

The Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church was invited to address members about the process developed and adopted in Scotland which last year voted to allow same-sex marriages in its churches. His address was followed by a question and answer session, an open discussion and then a private ballot.

Introducing the item, Archbishop John stressed that there was no motion and it would not bind the Church to anything.

He said, “Your bishops want to move forward, but not in any particular direction. We want you to say you understand that it is unsustainable for us to remain in a state of limbo and give us the opportunity to do further work on how we can help those in same-sex relationships.”

He described the Church in Wales as a family. “Every family has difficulties, sometimes trivial sometimes more serious,” he said. “The hope is that they will be able to live respectfully with their differences.” In his address, Bishop Mark Strange stressed his intention was to offer a process, not a recommendation, as to how people should vote. “It’s a process

for anybody to have a conversation, and to find the space for that to happen,” he said.

The process he described took several years and involved many conversations at every level with people on both sides of the debate – a “cascade” process. He was confident everyone had the chance to listen and to speak.

“We realised it would be impossible for us to sit back and say nothing when same-sex marriage became legal,” he said. “I was very anxious that there would not be a slow creeping forward, that things would start to happen before we had the opportunity to have the debate,” he said.

“We knew that we would have to have that debate.”

He added, “The question we asked was what would happen IF we were to move forward and what did we need to do for you to remain in the Church? It was a question we asked of those who wanted no change and those who would leave if we did not change.”

Meanwhile, there were canonical, doctrinal and liturgical issues to consider. “The doctrinal and liturgical committees considered a number of possible routes that might allow movement without any indication of direction.”

Eventually, a strategy emerged that could be placed before the General Synod. It included an opt-in principle whereby only clergy licensed to do so by the Bishop could conduct same-sex marriages, and only in churches where the church council had also indicated they supported the change.

It also proposed no changes to the Prayer Book or the rules about



changing liturgy. “We decided marriage was marriage for all, regardless of gender,” the Primus said.

But even after the change was approved, the conversations continued. “If there are issues that require conversation, that has to happen,” he added.

“If you cannot reach the point when you can weep with those who oppose you, there’s something wrong with the process,” Bishop Mark concluded.

“Spend as much time as necessary so that whatever is debated is debated with love. I offer a process, not just for you to have a conversation, but for everyone in the church to have a conversation.”

Questions

Members then questioned Bishop Mark on the SEC’s decision. Dr Robert Wilkinson (St Davids) wanted to know if opting in to be licensed was a “one-way street” for clergy or could they also opt out again? Bishop



Mark explained that licensing was done in five-year chunks so if a congregation decided they did or didn’t want to hold same-sex marriages there was a regular process whereby they could change and there was no issue with clergy opting in or out.

The Archdeacon of Meirionnydd, Andrew Jones (Bangor), wondered if Bishop Mark would go through the whole process again and to what extent it had been a “deeply pastoral achievement”?

“I would go through it again but there are things I would tweak,” replied Bishop Mark. “It has been costly for many people. But we can no longer



pretend there is not an issue. I am deeply moved by the process we have gone through but it needs people who are very pastorally sensitive."

Responding to a question on the number of marriages that had taken place, Bishop Mark said same-sex marriages were not recorded separately from other marriages. However there had not been a huge influx - in his diocese there had been five.

Gareth Erlandson (St Asaph) wanted to know what impact the decision had had on church growth. "A couple of congregations are considering their position," said Bishop Mark. "In some we have seen growth and in some we have not experienced people leave. Our primary mission is to bring people to Christ - we have no indication at the moment that this decision has stopped that mission. We will probably find out in two or three years, not now."

The Revd Dr Adrian Morgan (co-opted) admitted he was profoundly torn on the issue and asked what pastoral support was in place to help people like him. "The decision could only have happened if we had been able to demonstrate that we were equally pastorally caring for clergy on both sides of the issue," replied Bishop Mark. "There are a significant number of in-built processes to ensure people are not penalised for their opinion. Nothing can stand between the priest-in-charge and their conscience. We are part of a church which is to do with including, not excluding."

The Revd Dean Roberts (co-opted) feared a change in Wales would cause confusion and a "bit of a lucky dip" over which church same-sex couples could marry in. Bishop



Mark compared the position to that of remarriage after divorce which some priests accepted and others didn't. Priests were expected to refer couples to the diocese for help finding churches where they could marry.

Discussion

Canon Steven Kirk (Llandaff) said love was



the foundation of all human relationships and on that basis his parish had decided four years ago to support same-sex couples. "Their experience of life had taught them to be concerned for how to support two people in a community of love... It's about living the life God called us to live because he made us out of love and to love. Of course it's unsustainable for the church to make no provision - I just hope it is not too late."

Sarah Mulcahy (Monmouth) told of



her 17-year-old daughter, who had recently come out as gay. It wasn't a problem at school but it was at church - she could not understand why she couldn't marry in the same church in which she had been baptised and confirmed. "All she asks is to be accepted for who she is," she said, adding, "It is not for us to judge, it is for God."

The Revd Rosemary Hill (Llandaff)

described her experience as an organiser of Pride Cymru, and how she had come across a couple frightened that they



wouldn't find someone to baptise their child, children disowned by parents and others self-harming due to homophobia. People would not see the church as inclusive until an LGBT couple were able to marry within it, she said.

Dr Heather Payne (Llandaff) said the Church needed to deal with disagreement and address it, so that it was not paralysed into doing nothing. She believed that this was an important issue, but that it should not divert us from other important issues, like poverty and mental health.

Ruth James (Monmouth) said the debate was about love. "The bishops are giving us an opportunity to say to the LGBT community, 'Come in - we will find a home for you because you too are loved'. How could we turn it down?"

Robert Wilkinson (St Davids) said people had to take into account what was meant by love and whether it was always doing what people wanted. He said very creative thinking would be needed to protect those who opposed

same-sex marriage on theological grounds.

The Rev Dean Roberts (co-opted) said some of his colleagues were scared to speak publicly on this issue, because they feared that they would not be given preferment or become an incumbent when they finished a curacy. "There are a lot of silent voices," he warned. He also asked why the GB was still talking about the issue of same-sex marriage, when numerical decline was much more pressing?

Archdeacon Mounes Farah (St. Davids) believed scripture was clear that marriage was between a man and a woman. "Anything beyond that is defined by scripture as a sinful life. That's a hard word to use, but we do need to be able to call each one of us to a life of repentance."

The Revd Adam Pawley (St Asaph) said the biggest question for him was how we read scripture and its authority in our own lives. "I find it difficult to write off what I read in the scriptures, even though I would like to and it would be easier to," he said.

The Rev Dr Jason Bray (co-opted)

told of how the line from the prologue to St. John's Gospel - 'And without him not anything was made' - had helped to free a man struggling with his spirituality. "Scripture doesn't always constrain us - it can set us free," he said, adding. "Blessing nuclear warheads, hunts, battles - these things happen. But if I have a same sex couple in a loving relationship I cannot bless that union."



Ballot

In a secret ballot members were asked to agree or not with the statement:

"It is pastorally unsustainable for the Church to make no formal provision for those in same-sex relationships."

It was an indicative ballot only and the Bishops did not take part. 76 members agreed and 21 disagreed.

New liturgy Times and Seasons launch

From blessing Advent wreathes to hot cross buns, new liturgy to enhance worship throughout the year was launched by the Bishop of St Asaph, Gregory Cameron.



Times and Seasons which has been six years in preparation, is an online bilingual resource for those looking for more creative and evangelistic worship.

Bishop Gregory said worship needed to be joyful, creative, encouraging participation and offering engagement with God. It also had a teaching role and needed to be attractive to those on the edge of church life, so that it could help draw them in. This new resource was not compulsory but could be used where churches believed it could enhance their worship.



Archdeacon Jonathan Williams (Monmouth), chair of the Standing Liturgical Advisory Committee, introduced the bilingual materials, and explained that the first set of materials were for use from Advent until Epiphany. They included prayers for Advent wreathes, carol services, blessing of Christmas trees, crib services and the New Year. Further materials for use between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost and then through to the Kingdom Season would follow soon.

He reminded members that this new material was not about using new words for the sake of them, but rather that these materials were being offered to enhance worship, stir hearts, lift eyes heavenwards.

“Beware of liturgical indigestion,” he warned. “These are more tools, please use them wisely and pray that God may use them to draw us closer to him”

The Rev Dr Adrian Morgan (co-opted) commended the work of the committee, but emphasized the need to take appropriate time and care when preparing translations of English texts into Welsh. “Don’t underestimate the crisis we are facing in the Welsh language,” he warned. “Translation deserves equal time, energy and effort that we give to producing the English – it is not acceptable to rush that process and do the work on the back of a cigarette packet.”

Archdeacon Mounes Farah (St Davids) said it was very exciting to have new liturgies, but wondered whether these were not just more of the same as we already have. He asked if younger people had had an opportunity to contribute to the preparation of these materials and whether consideration had been given to less formal liturgical material for people who worshipped in less formal ways.

Pam Odam (Bangor) said that there was much mention of new materials for eucharistic services and asked about material for services which were led by lay people.



Revd Steve Bunting (Swansea and Brecon) agreed with the need for materials for less formal liturgical settings and asked the committee to consult with National Estate Churches in England. “We need working class liturgy for the generation of people who have never been in church,” he said.

Revd Miriam Beecroft (Bangor) told of interviewing Welsh speakers about their experience of liturgy, and how they complained about the literary nature of the language. She urged the use of Welsh in liturgy that was less literary and more contemporary.

Replying, Bishop Gregory said the Bishops and SLAC took their commitment to bilingual worship provision very seriously and welcomed the fact that the Governing Body was holding them to account.

He also highlighted the difficulty in finding appropriate liturgical translators and the difficulty in appointing a Provincial Director of Welsh Language and Mission. But he added that the inclusion of materials for Plygain services was being prepared in Welsh, and would be translated into English.

Bishop Gregory added that there was much new non-eucharistic material in *Times and Seasons* and even material, which had been prepared for use during the Eucharist, would also be suitable for use in other services, including those led by lay people. He also reminded members that the brief of SLAC was the production of texts, but that it now also needed to consider preparing material for people who wanted to worship in a less formal liturgical manner. The committee was only at the very start of that journey.

Report of the Standing Committee



In her presentation, the chair of the Standing Committee, Lis Perkins, highlighted key areas of the report.

Church in public life

It had originally been intended to bring a general motion to the GB inviting the Church to participate in public life. It was clear however, that members were already convinced that

the Church really should do things in public life - it was a matter of what to do, not if we do it. The Committee was planning ahead to include the discussion of specific subjects at future meetings. Mrs Perkins invited members to suggest ideas for such discussions and to write to John Richfield at the Provincial Office with them.

Centenary Celebrations

Churches are being encouraged to open their doors to their communities to celebrate the contribution made by the Church in Wales to Welsh life over the past 100 years. Other events and projects backed by the Standing Committee are:

- A series of films on the theme Our Church in Wales, allowing an opportunity for people across a broad spectrum of society to reflect on how the Church has touched their lives.;
- Parish 2020 projects – under the title Challenge 100 – 100 challenges for 100 years, parishes will be challenged to undertake a variety of activities focused on community outreach;
- The Archbishop has invited the Archbishop of Canterbury to spend three days in Wales in 2020 to join the celebration of the Centenary – he will attend part of the Governing Body meeting in Llandudno in April, visit a school and an event in the Senedd hosted by the Welsh Government;
- Celebratory Services – there should be a significant service in each cathedral and a Provincial service held in Brecon Cathedral;
- To hold an event specifically in the Welsh language, perhaps in conjunction with one of the Eisteddfodau in 2020, or to sponsor the hymn-writing competition at the National Eisteddfod;
- an academic conference is planned together with a book to reflect of the legacy of the past 100 years.
- the Committee agreed to not hold such any large scale event in conjunction with the Centenary celebrations, while not ruling out the possibility of holding a large-scale evangelistic event at some time in future.

Centenary Appeal Fund

Two projects have been identified for long-term financial support from a Centenary Appeal Fund, one overseas and one in Wales.

The overseas support is centred on



South Sudan and is being developed in partnership with Christian Aid. The proposal is to sponsor a key post

within the Episcopal Church of the South Sudan's Justice Peace and Reconciliation Commission.

The theme of the home project is housing and homelessness.



Housing Justice Cymru has been selected as the appropriate charity to help. Three areas of support are proposed: night shelters, mentoring and befriending, and training for church members.

Word-wide Anglican Communion

Dr Heather Payne from the Diocese



of Llandaff was appointed to represent the Church in Wales at the Anglican Consultative Council.

All of the Committee's three recommendations were approved.

Support for clergy families



The trustees of the Church in Wales Widows' Orphans' and Dependants' Society (WODS) are to consider extending the scheme to include divorcees.

Responding to a request from Naomi Starkey (Bangor), The Venerable Peggy Jackson, presenting the society's annual report to Governing Body, agreed to table the request at a future trustees' meeting but it would be up to them to decide.

Archdeacon Peggy reported that, in 2016/17, the Society made grants totalling £75,000 to bereaved families in need. Minimum guaranteed incomes were £14,660 for widow/ers and £2,660 for orphans. "Clergy households work quite differently from others," she said, "and many find themselves in crisis when a cleric dies. "The Society acts as a safety net to prevent severe hardship among those whose contribution is too often unseen and unsung."

Anglican-Methodist Covenant

Unity with the Methodists is back on the agenda in the Church of England as conversations between the two took place this year.

The Bishop of St Asaph welcomed



an old friend of the Governing Body to explain what was happening and possible implications for Wales.

The Secretary of the Methodist Conference of Great Britain is the Revd Canon Gareth Powell who comes from Neath. Introducing him, Bishop Gregory said the goal of becoming one church for Wales had remained elusive over the years but perhaps now was the time to breathe new life into our Covenant.

In his address, Canon Powell introduced the Mission and Ministry in Covenant Report - a joint report from the Church of England and Methodist Church. While it didn't propose the structural union of the two churches it did suggest two actions.

Firstly, the two churches make a formal declaration of a new stage in their relationship. Secondly, they take two new formal commitments to each other: sharing in the ministry of the historic episcopate; and welcoming presbyters and priests from either church to minister in either church.

Sharing in the ministry of the historic episcopate would require the president of the Methodist Conference to be ordained as a Bishop, and be known as the President Bishop. Concentrating oversight at this level in one person is a change for the Methodist Church, but would mean that the Church of England could recognise the Methodist Church as sharing in the historic episcopate.

Welcoming presbyters and priests from either church to minister in either church - an inter-changeability of ministers - would require the Church of England to introduce legislation to enable Methodist presbyters to minister in the Church of England for a limited time without episcopal ordination. This would need to be seen as a "bearable anomaly", which is a generally accepted phrase in ecumenical theology and practice.

Canon Powell said the proposals, now being considered by the two churches, had the potential to transform their

ministry and mission. He added that the Methodist Conference was very clear that similar conversations needed to take place in Wales and Scotland.

Summing up, Canon Powell wondered what John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, would have made of the proposals. He suggested Wesley would have wanted us all to remember that each of us was a follower of Christ, and he would have recognised that the challenge of mission and ministry was similar for all followers of Jesus. Canon Powell added that Wesley might want to challenge us over our too easy acceptance of the scandal of our disunity, which led to the duplication of many resources. The Mission and Ministry in Covenant Report reminded all Christian denominations that our call to unity was about faithfulness to Christ. These proposals required graciousness to admit the possibility that in Christ things would be different.

In the questions that followed Canon Powell's address, Robert Wilkinson (St. Davids) said he had attended a Church of England morning prayer service, which had been led by a Methodist lay person and wondered whether could this be an example of what might be in the future.

Archdeacon Jonathan Williams (Monmouth) told the Governing Body about the East Cardiff ecumenical area, and wondered where ecumenism was going now and wanted to know whether this new work in England was based in enthusiasm or reality.

Dr Heather Payne (Llandaff) pointed out that the Church of Ireland was now in full communion with Methodists in Ireland and asked how that worked.

Revd Martin Snellgrove (St. Asaph) reflected on the Gathering meeting in Aberystwyth in 2012. He remembered nonconformist delegates saying that the Gathering proposals would mean that they would "have to become Anglicans". He wondered whether this had changed.





Archdeacon Andrew Jones (Bangor) shared his experience of being a Presbyterian minister for 10 years, whilst also Rector of Llanbedrog. It was an experience that gave him a deep respect for the different traditions in the area, and he was still leading one service a month in a chapel. He was very thankful for this local ecumenical experience.

Canon Powell responded that there were existing patterns of joint Anglican-Methodist ministry in England, which were more developed in some places than others. Sharing resources made good missional sense and shared ministry teams were already the heartbeat of many communities in England.

In the field of ecumenism there were always places that had a huge commitment and in other places there was no interest. However, the Methodist Conference and General Synod had signalled their intent to take this seriously.

In Ireland, the scheme for interchangeability was in place, and the President of the Methodist Conference Ireland has the title 'Episcopal Minister'.

In closing the presentation, Bishop Gregory pointed out that it would be perfectly possible to have Methodist colleagues leading worship in the Church in Wales, if there was a will to do it. He asked whether the Governing Body could sign up to a similar agreement for Anglicans and Methodists in Wales. He said that it would be a nonsense if Methodist ministers could minister as Anglicans in England, but not in Wales.

University of Wales Trinity Saint David's report



The Bishop of St Davids, Joanna Penberthy, presented the annual report from University of Wales Trinity Saint David, urging members to read it. The Bishop of St Asaph suggested giving the report more prominence on the agenda next year. "This university grew out of institutions founded by the Church in Wales," he said. "Let's hear something specifically about how it is supporting us and why it is important. I want a real connection, not a nominal one."

The report was received.

The Representative Body report

Throwing money around the church would not create growth but properly funding innovative and bold ideas could make a real difference, said James Turner, chair of the Representative Body.

Presenting the annual report, Mr Turner highlighted the decision to create the Evangelism Fund, which was launched on Pentecost this year. He said that the church must be prepared to act immediately and decisively to pursue growth. A determined effort was necessary to ensure imaginative ideas for evangelism and church growth received the financial support they needed to be successful.

Moving onto the financial performance of the Church's investments, Mr Turner said it had been a good year for capital growth, with total assets now valued at £924m. That figure was misleading, he warned, as it did not represent funds freely available to spend. Removing fixed assets, such as the pension fund and property, took the total back to £456m. It was the income from this, he stressed, that was used to support the Church's mission, ministry and administration.

Mr Turner said that the funds had achieved income returns above what was hoped for. This was due to a well-diversified portfolio, long-term assessment and good advice from fund managers. The Church, he said, was doing all it could to prepare for future financial turbulence, particularly with Brexit looming large.

Mr. Turner went on to talk about the success of the

Provincial Office's move from 39 Cathedral Road to 2 Callaghan Square and the development of a business plan and property strategy for St. Padarn's Institute, that will see the Institute remain at the St. Michael's Centre site for the next decade at least. He highlighted the advent of the new online faculty system next year and the work of the Clergy Remuneration Review, which was being chaired by Dame Claire Clancy (who recently retired as the Chief Executive and Clerk of the National Assembly for Wales) and included Mary Carter (former partner at KMPG), as well as people from around the Province. He added that the working group was beginning a consultation with all clergy during the autumn.

Lis Perkins (Bangor) seconded the report and the only speaker was the Revd Steve Bunting (Swansea and Brecon), a member of the Clergy Remuneration Review group. He encouraged clergy to respond to the review when papers became available.

The motion to approve the report was passed unanimously.



QUESTION TIME



Q1. Gregor Lachlann-Waddell (Diocese of St Asaph)

Does the Church in Wales have plans to launch a comprehensive, bold and creative 'Mission in the Digital Age' provincial strategy that supports online evangelism more effectively in order to foster offline church growth?

Answer - the Provincial Secretary - Simon Lloyd

The Bench will consider at their meeting next month a thorough analysis, by communications team staff, of our current digital provision with recommendations about a strategy for future developments.

The team recommend a complete overhaul of provincial, diocesan and parish level digital resources. They want to make better and more integral use of social media. The vision is for the Church in Wales website to become a portal site based squarely on mission. It will be designed to help those people unfamiliar with us to understand our beliefs and values as well as facilitating their access to our services in the form of marriages, baptisms and funerals. It will emphasise the local, providing a robust "find your local church" function and integrating parish level social media feeds.

The Church needs to take mission to where people are and that, increasingly, is on-line. To be effective in that space, will need significant investment. If we get this right, we can effectively deliver a strategy for "mission in the digital age" and potentially reach an audience far beyond the walls of our churches.



Q2. Dr Marion Hughes (Co-opted)

Reflecting on the discussions at the last Governing Body meeting regarding the change in regulations allowing people to partake of the Eucharist following baptism, will the Bishops say more on their plans for the continuing role of Confirmation? What is the role of confirmation for older children and baptised adults, as for an adult / young person baptism is a public declaration of faith in itself. Is counting confirmation numbers still a helpful measure or valid descriptor of church growth? If not, what would be a useful replacement and / or additional measure?

Answer - Bishop of St Asaph, Gregory Cameron

The Bench of Bishops are committed to promoting a place for Confirmation as an integral part of Christian formation. If, from a sacramental point of view, Baptism is the entire rite of Initiation in itself into the Body of Christ, yet still we believe that there is an important role for Confirmation as a channel of God's grace to strengthen every Christian disciple on their journey of faith.

All the bishops wish to be active in promoting Confirmation in the lives of their dioceses for all disciples, and they intend that the commitment to membership of the Church in Wales implied by receiving Anglican Confirmation in Wales should be strengthened by reaffirming Confirmation as a requirement for those seeking ordination, lay ministry or office within the Province's life.

As far as older candidates are concerned, wherever possible Baptism and Confirmation should be held together, either in one ceremony, or in close proximity,

Measuring membership is no easy task. Many now attend Church more infrequently than once a week, while others participate in the weekday life of the Church. The Evangelism Group is giving consideration as to the way in which active participation in our Church can best be measured. The numbers of confirmation cannot give a full picture, but they can at least give some indication of the numbers of people who are making public profession of their faith as active disciples within the Church in Wales, since nominal Confirmation – what is sometimes known as "the passing out parade" - has become largely a thing of the past.



Q3. The Reverend Dean Roberts (Co-opted)

Are the Bench of Bishops able to explain why a Primate whose province upholds (and has reaffirmed) the doctrine of marriage as currently outlined in our prayer book, such as the Church of Ireland, has not been invited to speak on their processes for welcoming the LGBT community in the Church whilst not permitting same sex marriages, in order to complement the invitation of the Rt. Rev. Mark Strange and add to these important discussions?

Answer - the Archbishop, John Davies

The format of the discussion on same gender relationships was discussed in some detail at the meetings of the Business Sub-committee and Standing Committee earlier this year. In doing so, our focus has been on the purpose of bringing this item to the Governing Body. If the Church in Wales were to introduce ways of formally recognising committed same gender relationships, we would need to do so in a way which recognised the diversity of views on this matter and made careful provision for them.

During the Anglican Communion Primates' meeting in Canterbury, Bishop Mark spoke to the Primates from around the world about the journey the Scottish Episcopal Church had taken which resulted in a decision to authorise same gender marriage in Church. What struck me was the careful way in which this was done and the provision made both for clergy and congregations who do not agree with this decision.

Bishop Mark is here to tell the story of the journey not to propose or advocate a particular position.



Worship and Collection



The arrangements for worship were made for the last time by the Archdeacon of St Davids Paul Mackness and members of the Worship Committee.

The opening Eucharist, at which the Archbishop was the celebrant, was held in the University Chapel, organised by the Diocese of Bangor, and the Bishop of St Davids preached.

Opening Prayers on Wednesday morning were said in the Arts Hall, led by the Revd Fr John Connell of the Diocese of Monmouth.

Evening Prayer, again in the Chapel on Wednesday evening, was led by the diocese of St Asaph and the Revd Canon Gareth Powell, General Secretary of the Methodist Conference, preached.

The Revd Dr Harri Williams from the Diocese of St Davids led the Prayers and Bible Study to open the business on Thursday.

The Archbishop thanked Archdeacon Paul Mackness for his work as Worship Coordinator for the past three years, and welcomed Fr John Connell as the new Coordinator appointed by the Standing Committee from 2019.



Collection

Collections taken at the meeting will be given to Alzheimer's Society Wales, a charity that helps people who are suffering with this disease and their families and friends.

The total collection with Gift Aid was £1100.00

Welcome to Visitors

The Governing Body welcomed a number of guests from other Churches:

Cytûn & the Covenanted Churches in Wales / Cytûn a'r Eglwysi Cyfamodol yng Nghymru

Peredur Owen Griffiths (Faith, Order and Witness Enabler) also representing The United Reformed Church

The Revd Sally Thomas (Ecumenical Officer, Wales United Reformed Church)

The Methodist Church

The Revd Canon Gareth Powell (General Secretary of the UK Methodist Conference)

The Revd Dr Stephen Wigley (Chair of Synod, the Methodist Church in Wales)

The Revd Dr Jennie Hurd (Cadeirydd, Synod Cymru)

The Scottish Episcopal Church

The Most Revd Mark Strange (Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness and Primus of Scotland)

#never too young to campaign...

Elgan Beecroft may be Governing Body's youngest-ever participant. But where better to celebrate eight weeks (exactly) on God's earth?

But he's had an important role, keeping a (sleepy) eye on Mum Miriam, Ministry Area leader in the Machynlleth area. She's been attending GB for several years now and was determined to make it this time, despite still being on maternity leave.

"People have certainly enjoyed meeting him," she told Highlights. "But he has got into a habit of demanding a nappy change at crucial points in the debates!

"Many people said, 'Hasn't he been good!' referring to how quiet Elgan had been. There's a vast difference between how we welcome quiet babies and not-so-quiet toddlers in church. There's the beginning of an inclusivity debate right there!"

And Miriam later joined in a Twitter row to defend Jo Swinson when she became the first MP to take a baby into a House of Commons' debate. She said:

"Surely we just care about important debates and feel like if there's a way of not missing them then we should do our best to work around the practicalities.

*Next step
#breastfeeding
in Parliament! I'll
glad to say @
ChurchinWales
people present
were positive
about seeing my
son."*



**The Governing Body will next meet on
Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 May 2019 at
the City Hall, Cardiff.**