

the TREASURY

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WALES

Highlights of the Autumn Meeting of the Association in the East

Early on in the proceedings of the Autumn meeting of the Association in the East, which met in Penrhyn Bay and Llandudno on Wednesday, 25th and Thursday, 26th September, Revd Marcus Robinson quipped that he likes to refer to the Association in the East as the Association in the Feast! The hospitality in Llandudno and Penrhyn Bay certainly didn't disappoint; with some lovely meals and great fellowship enjoyed by all.

However, there were several other highlights to the two days as well:

Monica O'Dea was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament on the Wednesday evening, and beforehand Revd John Dowber took the opportunity to confer with her.



Mark Dowber
(Penrhyn Bay)

Monica shared the impact that Esther 4:14 ('Who knows whether you have come to your position for a time such as this') had in her decision to become a minister and spoke about how her experiences in life – the good and the bad - had helped equip her to minister to others. At the Ordination service Revd

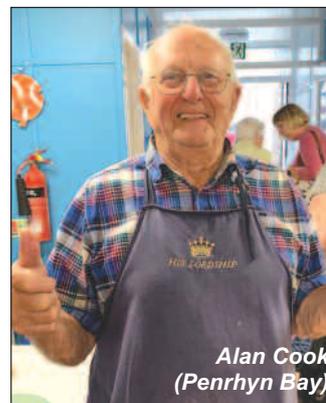


Revd Monica O'Dea
with family and
friends after her
ordination service

Jonathan Kirk in delivering the Address on the Nature of the Church reminded us from 1 Corinthians 12, that we are the body of Christ, and we don't cease to be that even if we are, like the church in Corinth, far from perfect. The challenge came to love the church as Christ's body, even with its many flaws!

Revd Iain B Hodgins then went on to speak on the nature of ministry in the Charge to the Ordinand. He asked: 'Who is sufficient for these things?' Of course the answer is: Not!! But we can say with the Apostle Paul: "It is not I, but the grace of God that is at work in me.'

The meeting recommenced the following day as we remembered and gave thanks for the years of service of those who have died, and those who are still with us and continuing to serve after 40, 50 or even 60 years! Since two ministers who are marking fifty years since their ordination at Nant Hall, Prestatyn in 1959 were unable to be present, greetings had been conveyed to Revd Bruce Nelmes and Dr Eryl Davies. But of course we, most of all, gave thanks for Jesus' service to us,



Alan Cook
(Penrhyn Bay)

at the cross by celebrating Communion together where Revd Brian Reardon asked the question: *What did Jesus carry on the way to the cross?* Of course He carried plenty of things, not least the cross itself. But more than that he carried the hopes, disappointments, and most importantly of all, the sins of all his people.

The meeting closed with a presentation on the State of the Cause in the Northern Presbytery introduced by Revd Jonathan Hodgins. It was great to hear about all the wonderful work going on there. He left us with three good prayer points: The Northern Presbytery has



Kath and John
Hammond
(Llandudno)

1,000 members in an area of Wales where about 700,000 people live. Please pray God might give us a vision on how to reach these people.

Whilst we are doing lots to reach out to young people and families, we currently have an average of three children in Sunday School per church. Please pray for our young people and families.

Across all the churches in the Northern Presbytery we currently have only ten fellowship groups (Bible Studies, Prayer Meetings, etc). Please pray that these vital works might be able to grow, flourish and increase in number.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

WESTERN GWENT DISTRICT MEETING

Despite problems with weather and traffic, a goodly number praised God for his amazing goodness and grace, at our annual Harvest Service. Five of the group of churches met at Paran, Manmoel.

Prior to the service, Revd Wayne Adams introduced himself, Nicola Roylance and Moses Tumukunde, as mission workers, aiming to develop the District to become a mission partnership. Revd Lee Dutfield read from Psalms, followed by a thought provoking sermon, questioning

our appreciation and thanks for God's unfailing goodness. An offering was taken and a donation was sent to Save the Children.

All harvest produce and other tangible donations will be taken to local food banks. Refreshments and the usual tremendous fellowship followed at the village hall.

TWO MILLS

Mrs Freda Davies was ordained as an elder in Two Mills Presbyterian Chapel on Wednesday, 2nd October in a service led by the Moderator of the Association in The East,

Revd Brian Reardon, and the Moderator of the Northern Presbytery, Revd David Jones. Prayers were led by members of Two Mills: Mrs Mary Williams, elder (who is Freda's mother) and Mrs Gwenda Edge read from Titus 1. The Presbytery Clerk, Mrs Margaret Jones, presented Mrs Davies with a book and framed certificate of ordination. Mrs Joyce Tomlinson accompanied the hymn singing on the chapel organ. Several

members of Freda's family and elders and friends from Clubmoor, Moreton and the Presbytery joined the congregation and enjoyed refreshments in the recently refurbished meeting room. The small chapel enjoys lively Sunday evening fellowship and community use during the week. Recent improvements include new disabled access, with new carpets due to be fitted in the chapel shortly.



SOULED OUT 19

by Esyllt Roberts

17 years old from Waunfawr, Caernarfon

Souled Out 2019 - where do I begin? This was my second time at *Souled Out* and yet again, it was an amazing five days; definitely one of my annual highlights! It was a week that was filled with joy, fun, hope and most of all, God's love.

On arrival, I was greeted by familiar faces, but also new faces who became friends over the week. There really is a sense of family and community at Coleg y Bala where one is surrounded by fellow Christians.

The theme this year was 'Radical'. Over the week we explored different aspects of living radically for Jesus. Each day was filled with worship, teaching, fun activities and good food! The teaching this year was led by various speakers, all of whom taught us more about the amazing life Jesus has given us. One of my personal highlights was Ben Franks' talk about David and Goliath. Two



points that stayed with me was that David chose not to let his age or inexperience decide how God could use him and also that David chose to be himself. Along with the teaching, there was worship led by various people and this year I had the opportunity to play my flute! Worship at *Souled Out* is always a highlight and I was certainly blessed by being part of the band; it never fails to give me goose bumps! And as if this wasn't already enough, there were various seminars over the week discussing topics that help strengthen your faith. This year I heard Dai Hankey in his

seminar: 'The rear-view mirror: lessons to my younger self'. He went through the 25 things he would say to his younger self and this was both challenging and encouraging for us as young people.

The week was also filled with social activities where I got to know people better. We were spoilt over the five days by activities such as inflatables and mini golf on 'Sunday Funday' and live music with a disco on another night. One afternoon, I took part in the Stand Up Paddle boarding, while others chose to go to Bounce Below, or simply had a nice relaxing

afternoon watching a film.

All in all, *Souled Out* is a week where you simply feel like one big family. I feel like I've experienced God's love through the people here and I'm so thankful for what He's doing in Bala and for the team who organise this amazing event each year. There'll always be a warm welcome for you to come next year. I already can't wait!

For more information about this work with older youth and young adults, please contact Meryl Walters in Coleg y Bala for a chat on 01678 520565 or email info@souledoutcymru.net

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