

Voice of the ASSEMBLY 2022



“How many loaves do you have? Go and see ...”
Mark 6:38

“Good to be back!”



The New General Secretary The Revd. Nan Wyn Powell-Davies

An interview with Nan Wyn can be viewed on
<https://youtu.be/bwxnD6XQut4>

“Thank you Meirion!”

The Moderator thanked The Revd. Meirion Morris for his work over the Past 10 years, as the General Secretary, and wished him well for the future.



Nan Wyn's First Assembly

My husband Huw asked me what I wanted of my first General Assembly. My reply to him- pure and simply- was this , ‘...I just want it to be a happy Assembly !’ Indeed, we had a very joyful Assembly. This can be ascribed to all those who made the Assembly a success, that is :the Office Staff; the contributions of the various Departments and the Board and especially the very jovial and committed congregation, at Salem Canton.

Being able to deliver my first Assembly Board Address as General Secretary, was a privilege for me. However, it was my predecessor who had carefully prepared the very detailed and thorough report. My debt of thanks to my dear predecessor, the Rev Meirion Morris, is a great one. We were given the opportunity at the beginning of the Assembly, to express our gratitude to him.

As I prepared for the Assembly, that verse from Esther 4: 14 , came to mind:

‘... And who knows but that you have come to a royal position for such a time as this?’

The story of Esther in the Old Testament, emphasises the strength of the Lord Himself, as He leads and encourages us, to use those blessings which He has bestowed upon us , to help others. We do not always want to take our responsibilities seriously. However, we should at all times seek our Lord, so that we do only that which is correct, at the correct time. We, as a Church- and as individuals- have been placed on this part of the earth, at this time, in this season, to serve this generation.

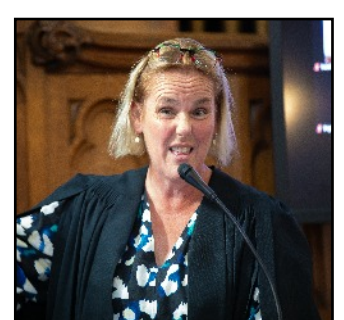
During this next year, I look forward to a number of things: getting to know some of you a little better; to continue learning more about our Seeds of Hope appeal; to take responsibility to give, to pray and to respond to those colossal challenges posed by Climate Justice in our world. We all know only too well, that it is always those people who live in the most extreme poverty, are those who are worst affected by it.

I look forward to visiting the various Presbyteries and Departments, in order to encourage you to seek opportunities to be ground-breaking in your ministries and to think both differently and challengingly about what it means ‘... to be a church.’

Therefore, as part of a team, I am as ready and humble as Esther was, to step into my responsibility ‘...for such a time as this.’ It will not be in my strength but in that of the Holy Spirit and always, solely in order to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.



Gogledd Ddwyrain Presbytery
(Nan's husband+!)



The Revd. Evan Morgan Moderators Address



'How many loaves have you got? Go and look!' This was the text Rev Evan Morgan had chosen for this year's General Assembly. As he continues in the chair until the 2023 Assembly, he did not deliver a farewell sermon, but rather a powerful, challenging sermon based on 'the Feeding of the Five Thousand'. (Mark6:44)

The main burden of the sermon was the necessity for a response –in the name of Jesus Christ- to the present-day needs of our society. Despite the general complaint that the Covid 19 pandemic damaged the life and work of our churches, it also provided us with an opportunity to foster innovation and venture, inspiring us to encourage one another. Energy, enthusiasm and workers are still prevalent in our midst today. The preacher suggested that it is our duty- one and all - to realise this. We were encouraged to look for new opportunities and resources and to be aware of those challenges God has in store for us. He emphasised that the parable illustrates what is possible when we put our trust in God and act in faith in his name. The significance of the parable is the key which opens the door of service and in our devotion to this service, we will see our faith strengthened.

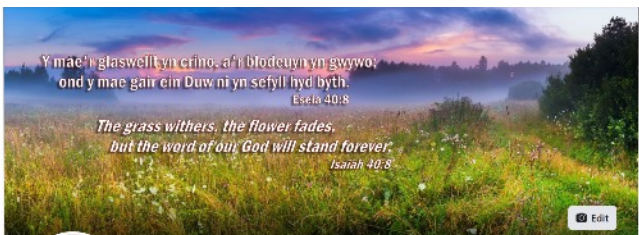
The service (in Welsh) led by the Moderator, can be viewed on:
<https://youtu.be/CfITV1JDrEs>



Môn Presbytery

PCW Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/EBCPCW>



Who is Wayne Adams?

The new Assistant Director of Ministries



A short film by Wayne introducing Himself, can be viewed at:

https://youtu.be/QzdZOxZ_GWM

“For the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. Covid-19, conflict and the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival”

Hungry for justice - Christian Aid Week 2022.

The aim of “Seeds of Hope”, launched in 2021, is to raise funds during the year to support our partner, Christian Aid, to work with their partners in countries where Climate Justice affects the lives of communities and our neighbours.



Thank you so much for raising awareness of the Appeal, and even more importantly, thank you for taking up the challenge of raising money. So far, we have heard about several coffee mornings, car washes, sponsored walks, and a few other challenges.

It's not easy. Daily we are reminded that people can't afford to heat their homes this winter; the cost of living and food prices are rising and the support available is inadequate.

It crossed my mind that the target set - £17 per member or £250,000 for the PCW - is too much for us. Even though the appeal has been extended to the end of March 2023, it is a fair question as we all face so many challenges.

However, when 698,000,000 people live on less than £1.45 a day - less than the price of a litre of petrol, weekend newspaper or a high street coffee, partly because of our choices, what should we do? What can we do? We must hit the target!

We can't ignore the floods in Pakistan. Over a third of the country is under water. Here are communities that are suffering the impact of the climate crisis, even though they are producing less than 1 % of the greenhouse gases that are warming the planet.



Our choices are partly responsible for the injustice of the climate crisis. Among these are: turning up the heat a fraction, using single- use plastic, using the car for short journeys, seeking bargain clothing, thus creating the need for cheap fashion, to name only a few.

We have met and got to know, Lole, Rose, Jennifer, and Safia in Kenya. A chance to listen to them and see the impact of the climate crisis on their lives. Also, an opportunity to see how the support Christian Aid provides makes a difference to their lives, their families, and their communities.

The impact of the injustice of the climate crisis is also visible in Honduras. We will find out more about this by meeting Marlen and Yadira over the next few months and seeing how they face challenges daily.

By facing our challenge of raising money in support of Seeds of Hope, we recognise our responsibility and our part in the injustice of the climate crisis. We must respond to the long-term need of the global communities most affected by the injustice.

Every gift. Every action. Every prayer. Every one of us can change lives.

Cheryl Williams (PCW & Christian Aid Appeal Co-ordinator)



Cheryl Williams, Mari McNeill, The Revd. Evan Morgan and the Revd. Nan Wyn Powell Davies

The Davies Lecture

‘Climate Change: The Hand of God or the Hand of Man?’



The Revd. Dr. Diane Stirling

The lecture can be viewed on
<https://youtu.be/1unr4WJA-aw>

Commemoration of Ministers, former Missionaries and past Moderators, who have passed away since the last Assembly.

Revd Trefor Jones, Revd Ieuan Lloyd, Revd D. Haydn Thomas, BA. Revd T. Leonard Williams, Revd John Davies Hughes, Revd Eifion G. Jones, Revd Aerwyn M. Pearce, BA . Revd Mima Morse Mrs Beryl Jones, Mrs Ann James and Mrs Morwen Higham



Update on GOLUD

Carys Davies

The GOLUD scheme exists to equip the church to help those who are living with dementia, to treasure their faith and their life. How?



Carys Davies, Sarah Morris & Christine Hodgins

Dementia Friends sessions are held to raise awareness of dementia. Feel free to contact us if you wish to arrange a session at your church / presbytery or on zoom for an hour.



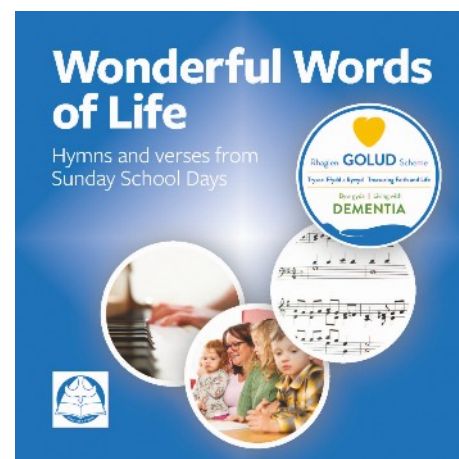
As churches, ministers and church leaders we want to minister appropriately to those living with dementia. For this reason, Golud launched a resource pack at The General Assembly to offer guidance with giving practical and spiritual support. The pack includes:

A **GOLUD Handbook** for churches and church leaders with guidance to nurture a dementia-engaging church.



6 Key Steps to Making a Dementia Friendly Church, published by Pilgrims' Friend Society. Available also in Welsh.

CD Wonderful Words of Life:
A collection of familiar hymns, verses and prayers from Sunday School days to sing along and recite.



Treasured Prayers:

a bilingual book of familiar verses and hymns to inspire prayer and remind us of God's love and promises. The pages are full of images of well-known destinations in Wales to recall happy memories of past visits.



Golud Co-ordinators

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The Presbyterian Church of Myanmar

It was a great privilege to have the company of the General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Myanmar. Rev Ram Thanga was invited to join with us on the Tuesday afternoon by means of a zoom call. This was not an easy task because- with the exception of a few



hours in the evening- there was no electricity! This is a daily occurrence in Myanmar. We continue to use this means of communication in order to speak daily with Rev Ram Thanga, The General Secretary of PCM (The Presbyterian Church of Myanmar.)

News of the heart-breaking situation in which both the church and the whole country, find themselves, continues to reach us daily. This follows frequent, public protests across Myanmar, since the army seized control of the country on 1st February '21. In order to pray together about the situation, a virtual prayer meeting for all CWM churches, was held in March '22.

By this time, thousands of people, including young children, have been killed and thousands of others have also fled from neighbouring states. During the conflict, the state of Chin -which borders on Mizoram- has been targeted. Apparently, this is the poorest and least developed state in Myanmar. To all intents and purposes, this is the home of the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar. Frightful images of people- including children - lying dead on the streets, have been shared with us. One such image was that of a young 10 year old boy, who was shot dead as he picked up plastic for re-cycling, from the street.

This year, as a symbol of solidarity with PCM Church and a heart-felt desire for justice on their behalf , the PCW Ladies have sent a donation to the church there. Following his heart-rending interview from the Assembly floor, with the Chaplain of the Assembly- Rev Richard Brunt- a sum of £650 was collected for the Church.

The Revd. Nan Wyn Powell-Davies



Northern Presbytery

Moderator Elect 2023-2025



The Revd. Aneurin Owen



Myrddin Presbytery

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Handbook has been updated and you can now read it on our website. Soon, you should receive new pages to add to your existing file. As you add your new pages, why not read the handbook again and remind yourself of your safeguarding policy. The individual church safeguarding statement is another tool to help with safeguarding locally.

We are promoting Safeguarding Sunday this year and hope that many churches will get involved on November 20th or choose another Sunday. You can find information, resources and our special film on the Safeguarding Sunday page of our website.

We are changing how we deliver training, to increase capacity for volunteers to attend training, every 4 years. A team of volunteers are nearly ready to deliver basic safeguarding training across Wales so please request this training via the panel office.

Julie Edwards
Safeguarding & Training Officer



Dyffryn Clwyd Presbytery

Church & Society Dept.

The Moderator's powerful sermon was still resonating in our ears. It gave us impetus to reinforce our efforts, "... to carry my brother's burden".



Issues considered during the year included end-of-life palliative care. Reference was made to the consultation on the Constitutional Future of Wales. Changes in education were noted and the renaming of Religious Education. The subject name will change - from September onwards-to "Religion, Values and Ethics." Also changing is the Act which prevents corporal punishment of children. We learnt also of the phased rollout in Wales, of free school meals for some of the youngest children in primary schools. This will happen from September onwards - This news was well received. Reference was made to: the ongoing work relating to cost- of- living problems; the safe use of social media; the victims of the Ukrainian war and the aftermath of that War; homelessness and the use of property and buildings owned by the Connexion.

The intention to convene a meeting on the horrific topic of Human trafficking/ sexual exploitation, was highlighted. This will be arranged before the end of October. A well-attended meeting is wished in order to raise awareness and identify the way forward.

During the discussion at the Assembly, reference was made to problems arising from gambling and in particular " online gambling". The Department will consider this during the year.

Bronwen Morgan
Chairperson

The Mission of the Church of God: Optimism or Pessimism?

Moderator, your Agenda for these days of deliberation, debate and decision reflect the constant tension which lies at the heart of our Christian calling. This tension begs a question: Are we a people of optimism or pessimism concerning the mission of the Church of God?



If pessimism about the world and its people, the earth and its future, permeates our calling, then we may choose to separate from it, to imagine that our mission is restricted to being rescuers of the lost, that our interest in public affairs is transitory and of little significance to the Kingdom of God, that our call to those who would be disciples of Jesus, is to come out from among them and be a separate holy people unto God.

On the other hand, if optimism about the world and its people, the earth and its future permeates our calling, then we may chose to engage with it, to see our mission to be like salt and light for its transformation, that our interest in public affairs is central to our following of God since righteousness exalts a nation, and that our call to those would-be disciples of Jesus is to be agents of the world's renewal and redemption.

We are both stewards and heirs of a new heaven and a new earth - and an optimistic people!

My prayer for this Assembly is threefold.

1. That we be committed to pray expectantly for God to move among us as a people. This is his work, not ours.
2. That we be ready to plan intelligently for a different future than we can yet recognise. Closures may release resources to start new work.
3. To yield submissively to the sometimes disturbing will of Christ as he discloses it to us. To walk by faith, not by sight.

*Address of The Very Rev Dr David Bruce,
The Presbyterian Church in Ireland*



Arfon Presbytery

Morning Devotions

The theme of the two morning services at this year's General Assembly was 'Jesus Christ, yesterday, today and forever' (Hebrews 13:8). Two videos were shown during the services focusing on the way in which different churches in London are working together and their efforts to reach out to the community. In the Bible, Faith and hope, are never solely restricted to the future. We know that they will be completely fulfilled tomorrow, but are given a foretaste of that today. The churches have seen the opportunity to respond positively to the challenge of caring for neighbourhood, community and creation, through a new relationship with God in Jesus Christ. We give thanks for their witness.

*The Revd. Richard Brunt
London*



The Historical Society Lecture

'Gratitude and Joy Beyond Limit: The Shillong Hospital 1913-1927'



The Revd. Dafydd A. Jones

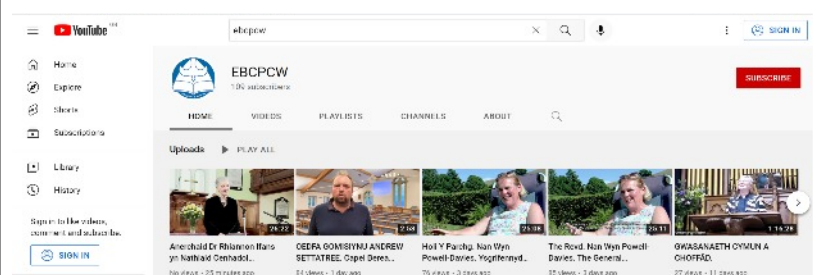
The lecture can be viewed on
<https://youtu.be/eKM-9kuOgec>
(In Welsh)



Morgannwg - Llundain Presbytery

PCW YouTube Page

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbq8MrpmPxSSkwt4Hh6VYMw>



Editing & Typesetting
The Revd. Gwyn Rhydderch



Children and Youth Dept

It was a pleasure to report to the Assembly that the Children, Youth and Family activity has once again resumed, been re-inspired and flourished across our Presbyteries. Despite the frustration of not being able to meet face- to- face, it was reported how thankful the team were for modern technology and for the ability to meet online to share fellowship and show care for one another, throughout the Covid period. We were able to pray, prepare and train together. This included a very encouraging session with the missionaries Keith and Lynn Smith. It was reported that things were gradually returning in practical terms, as restrictions eased. Many of the resource work started during the pandemic, has continued, such as resources and videos by mail and online. The Children and Youth team are enthusiastic and active in their response to Christian Aid's 'Seeds of Hope' appeal. In addition, visits to schools have now resumed in many places, with pupils also coming to our buildings. We look forward to the future, confident in the One who has led us thus far, through a time that has shaped and changed all of our ministry. For the sake of Jesus' name and in prayer to see the lives of a new generation transformed by His grace.

Hedd Morgan



Communion and Commemoration Service



The Communion Sermon:
The Revd. Gwenda Richards

The service can be viewed on
<https://youtu.be/GcmbMC6dnX4>
(In Welsh)



Gorllewin Gwynedd Presbytery

PCW Twitter Page

<https://www.facebook.com/EBCPCW>

← EBC - PCW
3,790 Tweets



EBC - PCW
@EBC_PCW

Eglwys Bresbyteraidd Cymru - The Presbyterian Church of Wales

Edit profile

Candidates and Training Dept.

The former Secretary of the Department, the Rev'd Brian Huw Jones, was thanked for his service.

The students were congratulated on their work and it was noted that two of the candidates are now open to receiving a call.

Discussions are ongoing within the Department, regarding provision of pastoral care to newly ordained ministers and the appropriacy of using psychological assessments in the process of accepting candidates. The Chair of the Dept, Prof Eryl Wyn Davies, has been chairing an interdenominational panel (PCW, Union of Welsh Independents, Baptist Union of Wales) looking at how best together to provide training for candidates for the ministry.

The provision for the training of elders and lay leaders online, was also noted and reference was made to the Worship and Preaching Course, which 12 people had completed in 2021. The grants that had been allocated were listed and it was stated that the basic grant for students following the Mission Programme had been raised in response to the increase in the cost of living.

The Assembly had been informed of the retirement of the Training Co-ordinator, Mrs Delyth Oswy-Shaw, and sincere gratitude was expressed to her and appreciation of her work. Amongst the responses from the floor of the Assembly, was a call from Conwy Dyfrdwy Presbytery for more consideration to be given to training for elders.

The Revd.Dr. Elwyn Richards
Secretary



Publications Department

It was good to have an opportunity to give a brief summary of some of the Department's main activities at this year's General Assembly. Two Welsh publications would gratefully benefit from further support, namely *Y Traethodydd* and *Cristion*. *Y Traethodydd* (<https://www.ytraethodydd.cymru/>), established in 1845, is the longest-running Welsh literary journal and its four annual issues contain important scholarly articles. *Cristion* (<https://www.cristion.net/>), a colourful interdenominational publication, is published six times a year, with a different theme for every issue.



Subscription details for both publications can be found on their respective websites.

Reference was also made to two other publications which are available, free of charge, in digital format on the PCW website.

The Treasury, under the editorship of the Rev. Iain Hodgins, with the support of the Rev. Jonathan Hodgins, continues to be a lively monthly publication and contains news from the churches and a variety of articles. This link takes you to the September issue: <https://www.ebcpcw.cymru/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Treasury-September-2022.pdf>.

The most recent of our publications, the interdenominational Welsh-language weekly *Cenn@d* (<https://www.cennad.cymru/wpcontent/uploads/2022/09/Rhifyn-80-Cennad.pdf>) is well received amongst our congregations. Thanks are due to the editors, the Rev. Dr Watcyn James and the Rev. Huw Powell-Davies, together with Rev. Aled Davies (Baptist Union of Wales).

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the office staff for their unstinting support at all times.

Marian Beech Hughes
Chair



Women's Department

There have been many encouragements over the past year. The Bible Studies on Zoom continued to be very well attended, as we studied the Psalms and the Lord's Prayer. Being able to come together around God's Word with ladies from every part of Wales has certainly been a blessing. The Carol Service on Zoom was also a successful and joyous occasion. The 3 Mission Rallies that were held in person were a special source of blessing and encouragement. The worship, the addresses and the fellowship over tea, was wonderful. At the Rallies, we launched the new Theme *Hope in Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega*, and once more the accompanying Resource book was very warmly received.

The mission collection this year was £24,230 and we are privileged to continue to support 6 international mission projects as well as home mission projects as the need arises. But we are also aware that many of our women are in small churches that have suffered greatly during Covid and we face the challenge to encourage and help them. Once again we see the Lord's guidance in our choice of theme - our hope lies in Jesus, and to him we look for wisdom and grace in every aspect our work.

Sarah Morris
Secretary



Conwy a Dyfrdwy Presbytery



South East Wales Presbytery



Trefeca College

In the 1960's the PCW had the vision of using the old Preparatory College as a centre to build God's

people in the Christian faith. Under the direction of the Reverend John Tudor, the first Warden and his wife Nerys, followed by a number of conscientious Wardens, the college doors were opened to individuals and groups from within PCW and beyond, including secular groups. Everyone who spent time there, testify to the blessing they received in the tranquility of the area.

The PCW decided that it could no longer sustain the centre and invited agents from outside to use the site, with the understanding that the PCW could arrange activities as before. The Trustees were pleased to understand that the agent, from within PCW, agreed to honour the above request as part of its activities. Trefeca continues to be owned by PCW.

This change means that 4 members of staff, Mair Jones (Manager), Richard Castle (Deputy Manager), Linda Marcheselli and Donna M Turner (Cooks) will lose their jobs. We thank the four of them for their loyalty throughout the years and wish them well for the future.

Despite the sadness we thank God for using the home of Howel Harris to inspire hundreds of people, thereby keeping the flame of our Christian testimony, alight in Wales.

The Revd. Trefor Lewis
Chairperson

Coleg y Bala

Significant expenditure is expected before the winter on maintenance, after condemnation of the main central heating boiler early this summer. Expenditure of over £80,000 must be faced on essential, work which must be completed before winter, on the boilers and water heating alone. We must also catch up with work that was not undertaken during the pandemic.



If it were not for the maintenance, the College's good, taking into consideration those savings made during closure of the College in 2020-21, pandemic Business Support Grants, the Furlough Scheme, PCW grants, gifts by friends of the College and digging deep into reserves. Sufficient funds are in hand to meet the exceptional costs mentioned but there is little money in reserves for the future. In view of expected funding cuts by PCW, the College needs to know what the Children and Youth Sub-Committee requires of the College after the end of 2024, in order to plan for the future.

The post of Deputy Warden was recently advertised and it is hoped to be able to interview candidates soon. Without a Deputy Warden, there has been an acute shortage of staff to run courses and protect the College premises when the Joint Managers are absent.

Hywel Davies
Secretary



The Healing Ministry

Our Summer School was held between May 23rd - 26th 2022. The arrangements were made in faith that the Covid situation would allow us to meet. We were not disappointed, over thirty faithful and several new friends attended. We were pleased to be able to have the freedom to be in fellowship with one another once again.

Our first guest lecturer this year was the Rev. Wes Sutton of Acorn Trust lecturing on the Holy Spirit. **There is no doubt that our churches and all of Wales, need a living touch of the Holy Spirit to revive us.**

Mrs Cheryl Williams gave a lecture on 'Dementia', a lecture that opened our eyes to the victim's world. We thank her for the way she was able to convey this terrible condition.

We had a varied programme as usual. We congratulated Nan Wyn Powell Davis who came to stay overnight with us and to lead us in Communion. We thanked her for her service and wish her well in her new role as Secretary General.

There was a great response to the Summer School and everyone was blessed to be there as part of God's family. We look forward to next year when the Healing Ministry celebrates 70 years since it began 1953.

In our Annual General Meeting, held during the Summer school, Mrs Gwen Wildman and Mrs Bethan Richards were elected. As a committee, we contribute to various charities annually - Cynnal, Healing the Nations and Tir Dewi presently.

We hope that all **Presbyteries of Wales** will endeavor to send two representatives from their Presbytery to this important Ministry.

Nerys Rowlands
Secretary



Trefaldwyn Presbytery

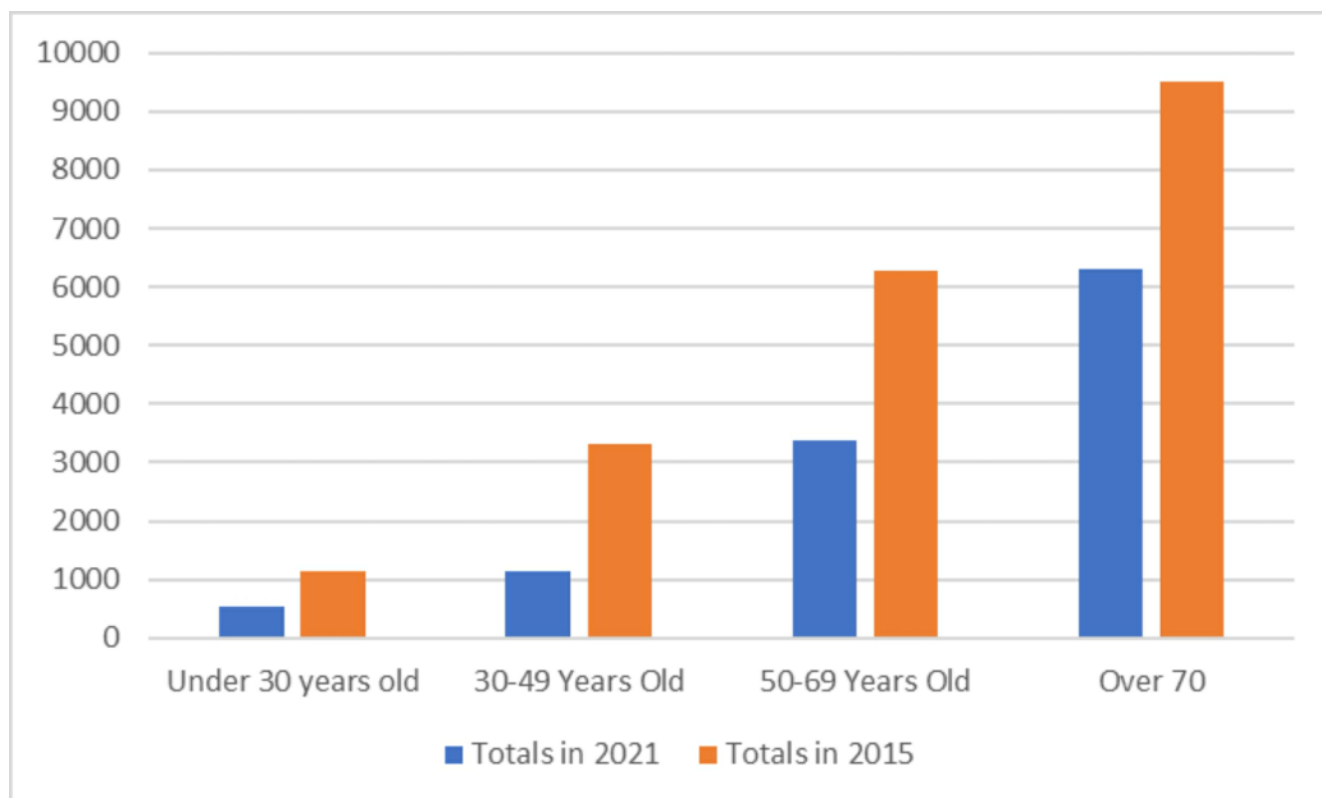
The Connexions Membership

The membership in 2021 was 15359, which is an 8% decrease from 2020. The average annual decrease over recent years has been 4%.

This year's statistics form had a question on the demographics of the membership. The table below shows the results compared to the 2015 results (which is when this survey was last carried out).

	Under 30 years	30-49 Years	50-69 Years	Over 70
% in 2021	5	10	30	56
% in 2015	5	15	29	44

As is shown in the table above, the membership in the over 70 years of age bracket now makes up more than 50% of total membership. In the period from 2011 - 2021, membership decreased by 40%, the number of elders decreased by 31%, with a corresponding 16% decrease in church buildings.



This table shows the number of church closures over the last 8 years. There were very few closures during the pandemic, but that is not unexpected as lockdown forced church buildings to close, and any decisions and discussions regarding the future were put on hold.

In the first 8 months of 2022, 23 churches have closed, which already makes it unprecedentedly high compared to other years.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (Mid August)
Number of Churches	612	600	584	566	558	556	539	516
No Closed in year	11	12	16	18	8	2	17	23

The Connexions Expenditure

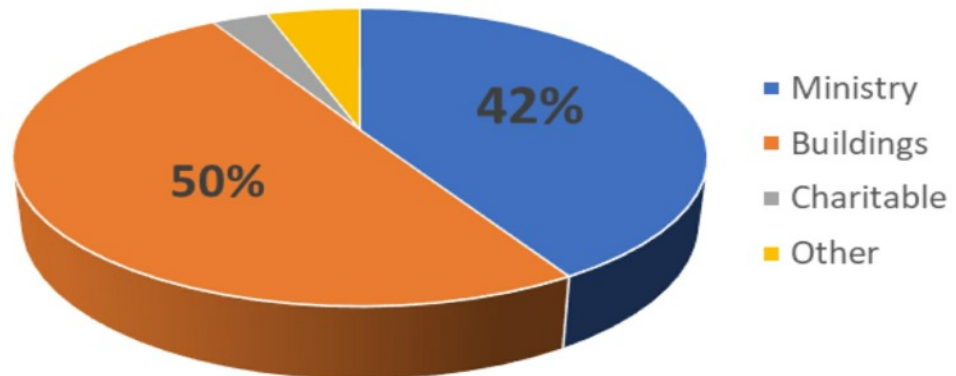
Total expenditure is categorised into the following:

Ministry, which includes Ministry and Mission Contribution (Connexional Contribution), Ministers expenses, Sunday Preachers etc.

Building costs, which include utilities, insurance, repairs and capital costs.

'Other' includes other charitable and humanitarian causes etc.

Breakdown of Expenditure in 2021



The following table shows the % Breakdown of Expenditure over time, and in 2021 the amount spent on taking care of the buildings was greater than what was spent on Ministry.

	2022 (Predicted)	2021	2019	2014	2009
Ministry	38%	41%	43%	45%	50%
Buildings	54%	50%	43%	41%	35%
Other	8%	8%	14%	14%	15%

The chart below shows the predicted cost of maintaining church buildings will make up more than 50% of total expenditure in 2022, assuming that fuel costs increase by 83% in the next year.

With predicted 80% increase in running costs

