

*In 2018 the Baptist Union of Wales launched a new 'Mission Project Grant' scheme. Here is a report from New Hengoed Chapel, East Glamorgan after significant work is now completed refurbishing the chapel with grant funding. The Mission Project Grant was given towards the appointment of a part-time youth worker. Here is there report together with some photos of the work undertaken.*

Danielle Llewellyn was employed as our youth worker and started work in October. Whilst waiting for her DBS we have encouraged her to make contact with other community groups, to introduce herself and raise the profile of the chapel as a community facility. She has also been risk assessing and session planning.

Youth reopened on a Tuesday evening three weeks ago and we were overwhelmed with the number of young people who came in. The place had been closed for 13 months, but they returned as if they had never been away, brought new people with them and demonstrated joy and thanks for the new building, plus a commitment to volunteering. It was a joy to see how important this project has been in the lives of these young people and their families and their obvious long-term commitment to it.



We are taking it slowly at the moment, just opening on a Tuesday, so that Danielle can build her own relationships with the young people. Carl and I have been attending to support everyone in as much of a hands-off approach as we can (that's hard!)

We have young families and youth all together in the one session. Again, it's the same old problem of the younger ones being friends with the older ones and struggling to police the divide in age groups. In the New Year we hope to have an hour for the families and an hour for the youth. At the moment, however, the youth are enjoying the new layout, making use of the sofas and having space for themselves up on the balcony now that it is safe to use.

In the New Year, we will be rolling out a new programme:

- Youth x3 per week
- Breakfast Club
- Cafe
- Mental health groups (in association with Growing Spaces)
- Parent and toddler
- Knit 'n' natter/craft group



Danielle is also liaising with other community groups to use the building and we have, in the week, made links with a Carers charity with a view to them operating a satellite support/information group from the building.

All of this is designed to meet the needs of the community - needs that have been identified over the last 10 years. We will be building on the relationships of trust that we have made and working alongside other professionals to bring transformation to lives of individuals and the culture/well-being of the whole community. We believe that God is a God of new beginnings, hope and renewal. Through this work, this can be a reality in the lives of people now as God's Kingdom is made manifest through very practical interventions and the love of God's people.



Please pray for wisdom on our part, that we continue to listen to God's leading and not try to do things our way.

Please also pray for workers - as always, the fields are ripe...

Please pray for Katie, as she continues to discern God's call on her life; for Carys as she works tirelessly to keep everything going, organise everyone else and raise money; and Danielle as she settles in her role with us.

Please pray for God's love, peace and joy to be made known by every street, every home, every family, every person in this community.

We are extraordinarily grateful for the love and support of the whole Baptist family, who have walked with us every step of the way to this point.

Rev Kath Miller