

Church of the Living Hope AGM Leadership Report 2024

The Leadership Team currently consists of Andy Bookless, Helen Bookless, Linda Lewis, Graham Andrew and Shirley Harrison.

Our 2 main roles are to seek the Lord for His leading and guidance for the CoLH, and to serve the congregation. We do this in several ways. The Team meets once a month to pray, reflect on how things are going and to discuss any changes we feel led to make using our 5 year aims as a guide.

As well as meeting monthly (usually at Linda's house), we also go to Ffald-Y-Brenin on occasions for the day to pray and seek God's guidance. Every other month some of us meet with other local leaders at Regional Leaders meetings organised by New Wine Cymru (NWC) as well as attending an annual conference for church leaders across Wales, again organised by NWC.

We continue to benefit from regular teaching sessions with Julian Richards and Rob Jones from NWC. This has been opened up to others within the church who hold leadership roles e.g. in children's work, worship, hospitality, trustees etc.

To update you from the Leadership Team Report from 2023:

- Last year we were considering entering a float in the local carnival, which we have done for 2 successive summers now. These have been thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who took part, in particular the children and young people, and hopefully has raised our profile to the local community and brought in the light of the Kingdom.
- The clipboards and felt pens for children attending evening services have proved to be really beneficial
- Welcome packs have been put together and distributed to newcomers to our meetings
- We were hoping to have weekly meetings on the green at Gellsiwick over the summer holidays last year, but mainly due to bad weather there was no uptake for this
- We continue to have some street outreach, particularly at key times, such as Christmas (carol singing in the local pub and outside the shops in Hakin): Easter (Easter egg hunt on the beach at Gellsiwick) or more recently in connection with the Healing Cafes. Linda heads up a small team of people who go prayer walking around the local community most weeks, usually on a Friday
- The Fun Day last year was very well attended, and although we didn't hold one this year it is probably something we will arrange again in the future
- We held a Church Away Day last year with Rob Jones encouraging us in deepening our faith through prayer and worship and had a truly blessed time of worship, learning and fellowship
- At the time of the report last year an Alpha course was underway which led to 3 baptisms and others growing in their love and knowledge of Jesus
- We discussed the possibility of implementing a daily bible-reading plan. Although this hasn't been implemented yet, it's something, which is still very much on our radar, as well as other ways of helping people to be disciples of Jesus. Watch this space!
- Since the previous meeting there have been 2 presentations to inform and update us all on our link with Panzi Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo

In addition, throughout the last year:

- We had a small group from CoLH that have gone into the local comprehensive school to present the GSUS live programme to year 7 pupils, alongside other Christians from other churches
- A number of us have joined with other churches throughout Pembrokeshire via the annual Prayer Breakfast as well as Castle Praise in Pembroke
- We hosted an evening of Worship and Praise led by Greg David in November last year, again, joined by other Believers from around the county
- We continue to hold our regular weekly prayer meetings and Growth Groups, as well as an extended time of prayer, worship and seeking God once a month, and a half-night of prayer 2 or 3 times a year
- 'Come and See' Sundays once a month; a reminder to continue inviting others to church to hear the Good News of Jesus
- Several online and face-to-face meetings with leaders and members of ACE (Anglican Convocation Europe) as we pray and consider the possibility of affiliating with them
- A training session in preparation for the Healing Cafe outreach events we are currently holding. This was, and is, open to everyone with an interest.
- Our morning gatherings continue to take a different format each week, particularly geared towards those who are seeking or new to the faith. The children and young people are a rich blessing to our meetings and take an active part through prayers, readings and worship. We would welcome others who have a heart for seeing young people come to Jesus to come alongside them and help root and establish them in their faith.
- In the evenings it's been a blessing to have had a variety of speakers from other churches on occasions, and we give thanks for new people the Lord is bringing in to all our meetings young and old alike

This isn't an exclusive list of ways we are trying to reach out to others and make disciples. If any of these have caught your attention and you're not already taking part, please let one of us know and we can give you more details. Also, feel free to pass on your ideas and thoughts, we are the body of Christ and we all have a part to play in this exciting time as we seek and look forward to what God has planned for His Church.