



CAPEL UNDODAIDD GELLIONNEN A'R GRAIG GELLIONNEN & GRAIG UNITARIAN CHAPEL

AGM - MINUTES

Tuesday 30th July 2026 6.30pm Gellionnen Chapel

Attendees:

Members - Mike Sheehan, Rory Castle-Jones, Joe Blurton, Robert James, Jane Hallett, Megan Price, Sandra Beynon, Marian Littlepage, Eleanor Greenwood, Eleanor Bishop, Bronwen James, Jenny Barker, Beti Wyn Williams, Carol Nicholas, Elen Catrin, Olivia Golightly.

Non Members - Lydia Burnhams, Rica Kaufel, Jenny Philips.

1. Welcome

Mike lit the chalice candle and welcomed all with a short reading from the Bible. Mike thanked all who put in so much work to achieve so much happen in the previous year.

Rory then led a short prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence

Sarah-Marie Gregory, Hayley Rowden-Cooper, Jack Annable, Sue Elizabeth, Rhys Castle Jones, Sian Evans.

3. Previous AGM Minutes

All agreed that they were a true record and were accepted.

4. Chairperson's Annual Report

Mike reported that last year Rory became a full time Minister the first time since the 1980s. This was made possible from the GA Innovation Fund. Mike thanked all involved with the original and revised bid as there was a lot of work to do this. Match funding was found to cover the whole role but more funding is needed for the next four years. Fundraising for this is underway.

We now have a Health and Safety Policy and Mike is the H&S Officer. The organisation will be moving to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. We have been active in other churches had representatives in GA and South East Wales Society. Gellionnen is seen as a role model as we are thriving.

Lots of community engagement during the month including coffee morning, dog walk, coffee morning etc which helps us connect to other people and this has had a positive impact on the congregation growing.

Tending the Flame Festival last year and Celebrating Iolo Morganwg which were well attended. Approx 250 people turn up each month for service, community days as well as other events.

Mike thanked Rory for his inspirational leadership during the last year and we would like to grow the membership which increases about 3-4 per year by offering other spiritual events. All the above has taken a lot of volunteer hours.

5. Secretary's Report

Sandra reported that we've have two wedding booked this year and two booked for next year. A meeting to discuss the new wedding laws will be organised. Sandra will be standing down as Secretary this year and will pass on all the necessary information and contacts to the new person.

6. Treasurer's Annual Report

Robert first thanked Marian for counting all the cash collections. He reported that we have kept our capital and kept afloat during that year. He submitted an in depth financial record 2024-2025 to all members and the highlights include:

Income from collections and standing orders £13,086.48

Sales inc weddings, funerals, HMRC refund and donations £1,729.88

Local Giving - £1,015.47

Total Grants Received - £27,177.00

Invested Funds - decrease to £5,040.61 compared to £5,838.38 in 2024

Donations included to Ty Olwen, DPJ Foundation, Kendal Unitarian Church and Unitarian College. Distribution of toy and food hampers to the value of £8,840.30

The accounts have been audited and signed off by Ferguson and Peters, Chartered Accountants.

He thanked all who donated at Sunday services, the increasing monthly standing orders and for the voluntary work that have all been vital to the running and growth of Gellionnen and Graig.

7. Sub Group Reports

7a - #Blessed

Sian reported - Over the past year, our youth group has remained active in supporting both our local community and the Graig through a variety of initiatives. We contributed to and supported the 2025 Christmas Appeal, helping to make a difference during the festive season and Gwennan once again successfully led the Backpack Appeal. We have deep cleaned and decorated the Graig on two occasions, helping to keep it welcoming and well maintained. We also organised two highly successful line dancing events, each attracting over 80 attendees, with one event raising more than £700 for the Graig.

We also took our annual youth service where we guides the congregation into making origami hearts. Alongside these larger projects, we have continued to strengthen our friendships and sense of community by meeting up for the local pub quiz every fortnight. We continue to support one another and look forward to supporting the Chapel and Graig however we can over the next year.

7b - Social Events

Megan reported - The purpose of the social and events team is to organise, and plan events throughout the year at Gellionnen chapel, the Graig Hub, and other locations. To create an annual calendar of events for Gellionnen chapel. To organise volunteers and helpers for events. To publicise events and engage with the local community.

The following is a summary of our activity since the last AGM.

Many people have attended our meetings throughout the year, as the meetings are open to everyone. I'm not going to list all of the people who have attended as we'll be here forever!

Our events - Pub club - this takes place on the first Thursday of the month, and we have visited lots of different pubs in the area, having a drink and a chat, and sometimes, eating together.

Trips - We had our annual Christmas trip, visiting Chester and Shrewsbury. There has also been a recent trip to St Fagons. Margam Abbey tour

Outreach - Summer Solstice walk, historical talk and walk on the mountain

Environment- Various tidy up sessions in both Gellionnen and the Graig. Mountain mutts walk which is held monthly

Charity/Campaigning - Christmas hamper appeal and Toy service. A quiz held at the Dillwyn to raise money for Moorfield eye hospital in conjunction with hashtag Blessed.

Other events - Our Christmas meal at The Dillwyn with party games. Spring Cleaning and maintenance days. Performances from our choir under Lawrence Bowen. Our fabulous Line dancing event which saw 80 people dancing and The Graig hall coming alive!

Big thank you to the lovely Rhys for being my substitute and right hand man, taking all the notes and organising everything when I am unable to attend. And thank you to all the people who hosted the meetings which in themselves have become an opportunity for us to have a cuppa and sometimes eat together. Diolch.

7c - Worship Leaders

Rory reported that this group for anyone who leads, takes part or has interest in leading worship. They meet about four times a year and offer support and guidance with fifteen people currently in the group to share books, resources and training courses. As Rory is full time he will be taking more services meaning that there are 17 services for others to lead. There is opportunities for lay leaders to lead at other Unitarian churches. Jenny will be completing her Unitarian College online course on Sunday and Rory congratulated her.

In September there is a day of training for Lay worship leaders and this is open to all with 15 people already signed up. Rory invited anyone who is interested to come along to the group or have a chat with him.

7d - Safeguarding

Jane reported - There is little to report as little has changed in the world of Safeguarding that affects Gellionnen. We are a small group comprising Mike, Eleanor B., Rachel, & myself. We have not met in 2026 as there has been nothing to share/report.

We remain organisational members of 31.8. A national safeguarding organisation specialising in spiritual/religious groups and organisations who produce a useful website and offer training online, both webinars & e-learning. I have completed the Safeguarding Lead course & Mike the Safeguarding for Trustees course. I would encourage all trustees to undertake the safeguarding for trustees course. Many thanks to Eleanor Bishop who undertook the acquiring of DBS checks for all where necessary.

No safeguarding incident has been reported during the year. The creation of a safeguarding email is needed. safeguarding@gellionnen.org would be the appropriate address with the mails automatically forwarded to the Safeguarding Lead, myself at present.

The need to include children in the policy as child numbers have increased since originally written has been agreed and the policy is being adapted at present.

A file marked SAFEGUARDING allegations exists. There is nothing in it.

7e - Maintenance

Joe reported - New pipes being installed at the Graig in order to allow the heating to be provided from the boiler in the chapel. Thanks to Vale for the funding and to Robert for organising the works.

Replacement pump delivered in the kitchen at Gellionnen.

Works undertaken to tidy the peeling paint and mouldy ceilings in the bathroom at Gellionnen so that the space feels cleaner and more inviting. Thanks to Jack for this.

New padlock and keys for the main barrier at Gellionnen following the accident. New keys are here to distribute to key holders at this meeting - and we will fit the new lock following the meeting.

The alarm has been serviced and a tampering sensor replaced on the secondary door at Gellionnen. Big spring clean at Graig Chapel prior to the GA holding their meeting at the Graig Hall.

There is an issue with the rainwater collection into the tank which has been difficult to assess due to the dry weather. Please only use rainwater from the tank for the toilet and for washing up only use water from bottles and left over hot water from the urn. Robert thanked Geraint for filling the tank during the dry weather.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to volunteering during the last year, to all sorts of contributions I haven't mentioned, including all those who regularly clean the chapel spaces and tidy the gardens and graveyard. Thanks in particular to Jack and Sue and to Sandra, Robert and Bronwyn, Ian and Leslie and of course to Rory who does much work slightly unnoticed. Thank you all.

All thanked Joe for organising and working on so much during the last year.

7f - Graig

Robert reported that progress is slow but steady. New oil tanker delivered and the piping for the heating in the hall is underway and should be ready by next week. An agreement has been made about all the renovation that is needed but still have yet to appoint an architect. The hall can be rented out now there is heating, but there needs to be the relevant paperwork set up for renting.

Rory reported that the Graig project is so big that a sub group was set up and have met twice (Robert, Rory, Mike, Lydia and Joe) to organise work needed. Jane asked about the garden and Rory stated that there has been up and down volunteer capacity and now that the rear fence is secured the focus will be on the front garden as we have limited capacity. There have been other ideas for the rear garden including allotments but work needs to be done to make it accessible.

7g - CIO

Eleanor B reported that she has been working to move the organisation to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, a different legal form of a charity which can have a corporate body. This means the organisation will take on the liability instead of individuals. CIOs must be registered by the Charity Commission and must produce accounts. Key change is the constitution and she shared the existing one from 1994 and a template for the new one. She stated that we are at the setting up stage and working on the Objects and Powers to make sure our purposes are still relevant.

She is making members aware at this AGM of the changes and at the end of the process the existing charity will close and move to a CIO.

Robert called the motion and Jane seconded to change the name on the CIO to Gellionnen and Graig Unitarian Chapel and a majority voted to change to this - motion carried.

8. Questions & Discussion including Vision Document

Rory had shared a 'Our Vision for 2030' document on how we can develop to be a thriving church by 203 with work in three areas:

Growth

Working on our welcome, integration of newcomers, and development of new leaders

Developing the Graig Trebanos Community Hub

Becoming a family-friendly church

Growing our Rites of Passage

Small groups for connection (e.g. 'Soul Stories', 'Living Spiritually')

Increase spiritual offering (e.g. 'Meditation on the Mountain')

Health & Resilience

Developing new leaders and succession planning

Developing Ministry Team with deacons

Adapting our structures, culture and way of working from a small to a medium-sized congregation

Financial Sustainability

Creating new income streams – hall rentals, rites of passage, legacies

Changing culture of congregational giving (e.g. regular standing orders to allow budgeting), fundraising

Move to a budget-driven approach (“how much do we need to raise to do what we want to next year?”, rather than retrospective (“how much did we raise/spend last year?”))

9. Proposal for Auditors

Robert suggested to continue to use Ferguson and Peters, Chartered Accountants again for this financial year Sandra proposed and Jane seconded - motion carried.

10. Present Committee Stand Down

All stood down

11. Election of New Committee

Chair - Mike Sheehan

Deputy Chair - Eleanor Bishop

Secretary - Jenny Barker

Deputy Secretary - Sandra Beynon

Treasurer - Robert James

Deputy Treasurer - Marian Littlepage

Safeguarding Officer - Jane Hallett

Inclusion & Outreach Officer - Eleanor Greenwood

Deputy Inclusion & Outreach Officer - Joe Blurton

Minutes Secretary - Eleanor Greenwood

H&S Officer - Mike Sheehan

Social & Events - Megan Price

Rory thanked all of the Trustees who have continued in post and also to all who have stood down, for all their hard work and support and especially to Sandra who has done a sterling job as Secretary for many years.

12. Any Other Business

None