

SW Synod Pastoral Committee Report to Synod March 2023

Pastoral committee are mindful of the many faithful people who make up the churches of the Synod. We pray that the work of the committee continues to support the varied worship, loving service and deep prayer being offered across the South West.

Deployment in Somerset

An exploratory meeting was held at Wells on Saturday February 25th, looking at the churches across the whole county in the light of a number of retirements over the last year and in the 18 months to come. Ideas were shared about the possible benefits of sharing ministry, and it is hoped to form viable but flexible pastorates to week new ministry in the near future. As ever, pastoral committee needs to be mindful of 'fair shares' of stipendiary ministers and we are very grateful to all those people who offer leadership in other ways - through oversight, local leadership and companionship of churches.

Church Changes

The following church has closed since the last Synod:
Kingswood United Church (URC & Moravian) - Bristol

The following building has been declared redundant:
Elmore URC – the congregation are worshipping in St George's community centre, Tiverton

Ministers' movements

Revd Jessica Ashcroft-Townesley has been granted a Certificate of Limited Service – to serve the URC from the United Church of Christ in the USA. She has been called to Dawlish & Kingsteignton and will move to Kingsteignton in June 2023.

Revds Peter and Viv Henderson will be moving out of the Synod in due course to be nearer to family in Eastern Synod. We appreciate all they have given to the life of the South Western synod over many years.

Ruth Whitehead

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