



Eglwys Efyngylaidd Gymraeg Caerdydd

Cardiff Welsh Evangelical Church

CARU DUW, CARU CYMRU A CHARU ERAILL



Cyfarfod dros dro yn Y Tabernacl,

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Cardiff Welsh Evangelical Church: A Vision for Mission

Our Opportunity

Our church was founded in 1979 with the vision of establishing an Evangelical witness through the medium of the Welsh language in Cardiff. This grew from the conviction that a Welsh-language church was essential for the capital city of Wales, not only to allow people to worship the Lord freely in their mother tongue, but also to reach the growing number of unchurched Welsh-speakers in the city, many of whom are so passionate about their heritage that it would be nearly impossible to reach them through any other language.

Cardiff is a city of approximately 350,000 people. The 2021 Census data showed that Cardiff had the highest growth in the number of Welsh-speakers of any local authority in Wales. By now, almost 15% of the city's population can speak Welsh, and in parts of west and north Cardiff that percentage is frequently above 25%, reaching almost 50% in some neighbourhoods.

Cardiff has 15 Welsh-medium primary schools spread throughout the city, together with three Welsh-medium secondary schools. In addition, Cardiff's universities and further-education establishments offer an increasing number of Welsh-medium modules. There is also a range of opportunities for adults to learn Welsh, supported by the Welsh Government, who have a target of one million Welsh-speakers by 2050.

As the capital city, Cardiff provides a strategic point to influence the rest of the country. It is home to various national bodies and institutions, not least the Welsh Parliament. It is also a major media hub and commercial centre. Since Welsh is an official language in Wales, there are numerous opportunities for Welsh-speakers to gain employment in the capital, in both private and public sectors, and many are drawn here from all parts of Wales.

Our Situation

The church has grown over the years and providentially we were able to purchase our own building in central Cardiff in 1997. While that building was a great improvement on previous locations, as the church grew, several deficiencies in terms of size and location became increasingly obvious. The building is in an area of the city with relatively few Welsh-speakers, parking has become incredibly difficult, and the limited facilities were restricting our ability to meet together and serve others. Prior to the pandemic, we had already come to the conviction that we should seek more suitable premises for our existing needs, which would also provide the potential to develop and extend our ministry. The pandemic meant that we were unable to use our own building for a considerable period, but the door opened for us to rent a larger building in an area of the city with a much higher percentage of Welsh-speakers and with no parking problems! We are still currently using this location for our main meetings and have already seen an increase in attendance since this change to a more suitable location.



Our Future

We have now taken a step of faith and recently sold our own building, despite not yet having found a new permanent location. We already have vital ministries, including to children and young people, and hold a range of evangelistic activities, and we dream of having a new permanent location which will be a hub of activity and support, building bridges into the community and creating further opportunities to foster relationships and share the gospel.

Our hope is that when a suitable property or plot of land becomes available, we will be able to move quickly. Through the proceeds of the sale of our old building, and money already set aside as a church, we have approximately £500,000 in our building fund. While this is a significant sum, the property market in Cardiff means we face an extraordinary challenge. However, given Cardiff's strategic role in Wales, its vibrant Welsh-language community life, and the significant growth in Welsh-medium education, thus creating future generations of Welsh-speakers our church can reach, we are more convinced than ever of the validity of the founding vision of our church and that the fields are white for harvest.

Your Part

First of all, through prayer. We are completely dependent upon the Lord in this, as in all matters, and are open to his guidance.

**"Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain"
Psalm 127:1**

But we have great hope. We already have some generous friends who see our vision and support our plan. You can join them by either pledging or giving now, as we seek where God will lead us. We do not want to put any limits on what God might move you to give, but we can envision a path to our end goal that might look something like this:

250 gifts of £100 = £25,000
100 gifts of £500 = £50,000
50 gifts of £5,000 = £250,000

We would be immensely grateful for any amount you might give. And of course, any gift you give might well be multiplied as we approach various trusts and grant-giving bodies who will be encouraged to contribute as they see your generosity. It is possible to give quickly and easily by following this link:

www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/cronfaadeilad/oneoff

Alternatively, cheques made payable to 'Eglwys Efengylaidd Gymraeg Caerdydd' may be sent to our administrator:
**Rhiân Evans, 487, Coed-y-Gores,
Llanedern, Cardiff, CF23 9NU.**

If you require any further information or assistance, then please feel free to contact Rhiân at rhan.evans@cwmpawd.org or myself at emyr.james@cwmpawd.org
If you do not wish to receive further communication from us, then please let us know.

With our thanks as a church, and wishing you every blessing in Christ,

Emyr James (Minister)



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