

Denbighshire Welsh Church Act Fund 2023-2024

The Welsh Church Act 1914 is an Act of Parliament under which the Welsh part of the Church of England was separated and disestablished. The Welsh Church Act Funds were set up from the proceeds and assets, distributed amongst the former County Councils in Wales and further divided between the Unitary Authorities following their creation in 1996. In 2005, the Denbighshire County Council asked DVSC to administer the Fund.

The project must have met one of the following criteria (Grant priorities):

1. Relating to or based on church-run premises.
2. On the theme of dementia.
3. On the theme of loneliness and isolation.
4. Promotes wellbeing.
5. Supporting people with learning disabilities.
6. Volunteer Community Activity

In 2023-2024, 26 organisations applied for grant funding, totalling £12,702.67. There were a total of 11 successful projects funded across Denbighshire, totalling £5,290.97.

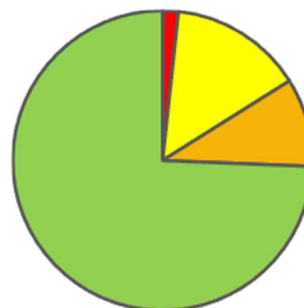


The Denbighshire Welsh Church Act Fund 2023-24 funded the following projects:

1. Work in Progress: £480.00
2. The Bridge CommUNITY (Rhyl Foodbank): £500.00
3. Cynnig: £496.22
4. Good News in the Community: £500.00
5. The Denbigh Churches: £400.00
6. Wintergreen UK CIC: £500.00
7. Cylch Meithrin a Ti a Fi Gwyddelwern: £489.68
8. KIM Inspire: £450.00
9. The FDF Centre for Independent Living: £480.00
10. Cylch Meithrin Prion: £494.97
11. Rhuddlan Town Community Association: £500.00

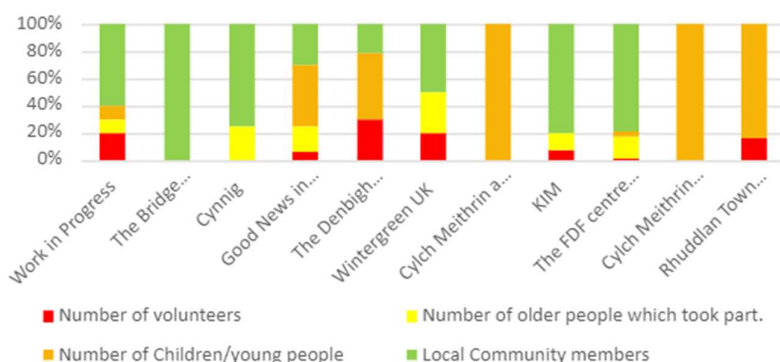
Number of Beneficiaries WCA 23/24

Overall, 33 volunteers contributed to the funded projects above, and 1,886 beneficiaries benefitted from the activities. In total 1,919 people benefited. To see a full breakdown of volunteers from the individual projects, please see Appendix 1.



■ Number of volunteers
■ Number of older people which took part.
■ Number of Children/young people
■ Local Community members

Beneficiaries from the Welsh Church Act Fund 23 24



The following graph shows each project and which beneficiary group it focused on.

The primary outcomes achieved, including any publicity provided by the projects funded by this grant, have been highlighted below; this information has been taken from the monitoring reports provided by the organisations:

1. Work in Progress

The purpose of the group receiving this grant was to pay for the group's room hire fees for 16 weeks at £30.00 per session. The result was that the group could make the sessions free for the people attending; this allowed more people the opportunity to attend.



2. The Bridge CommUNITY (Rhyl Food Bank)

This group received these funds to purchase food, which would be distributed through the food bank in Rhyl. The main benefit was that they could purchase more food than they normally could. The current cost-of-living crisis resulted in the increased need for food banks, especially in the high-deprivation area of Rhyl. The group says that due to this grant, they have increased their membership by over 40 people and have increased opportunities by being able to open on a Wednesday evening.

3. Cynnig

The grant provided a 5-week arts and crafts course for vulnerable adults with complex needs. The project aimed to promote socialisation, increase confidence, and provide an outlet for creativity. The course ran from Cynnig's activity room in Denbigh, and participants completed at least one project to take home. At the end of the course, participants received a certificate. Additionally, this activity promoted independent living skills by encouraging public transport to access the course and supporting those who attend with support workers to complete tasks independently where appropriate.

Number of beneficiaries	Outcomes they achieved from the funded activities
6	Created two projects to take home.
1	The participant could travel independently to the session by the end of the course.
1	Stopped requiring 1:2:1 support during the session due to increased confidence.
2	Participants started joining the large weekend day trips due to gaining confidence in attending the arts and crafts course.
1	Participants started attending HWB Denbigh
3	Parent carers gained half a day of respite for five weeks

4. Good News in the Community



The Group received the funds from this grant to hold an extra warm hub day each week and purchase food that would go towards their food bank. The group says that through this grant, 45+ people came along to their warm hubs, where their needs were met.

All service users who attend the organisation's warm hub receive company, meals and a social space to chat; this reduces the attendee's loneliness and social isolation.

5. The Denbigh Churches

The grant was used to pay for the services of Isa Lamb of King's Garden to provide three activity days aimed at local families and children of all ages, based within and utilising the natural resources present within the churchyard at St Marcella's Church, Denbigh.

The beneficiaries participated in fun educational activities within the church building. They participated in a scavenger hunt based on the life cycle of the fox and a session where they learned to identify bird calls and make them themselves.

All attendees (children and parents) also received a picnic lunch on each occasion, provided free of charge (this was considered especially important as the activities were run during the summer holiday period when many parents struggled financially).



6. Wintergreen UK CIC



This group used the funds to run taster sessions working with wood in collaboration with The Willow Collective. The group said that from the funded activities, the beneficiaries achieved the following outcomes:

- Providing a creative outlet.
- Exploring a new idea.
- Building Community.
- Developing a new skill.
- Promoting physical and mental health.
- Raising awareness of working with veterans and understanding their needs.

Two Veterans organisations and one Community organisation (Wintergreen, Woody's Lodge, and The Willow Collective) benefitted from the project. They commissioned the local community bakery project Use Your Loaf to provide cakes/bread for the sessions.

The Veterans benefitted from using a person-led approach. The activity had meaning to the Veterans and fitted well with the refurbishment happening where they live.

All partners commented that the project was valuable to them collectively and on an individual basis.

The staff at Alabare, Homes for Veterans Cymru project felt their well-being was supported and recognised the benefits of nourishing their creativity. The staff also commented that seeing the Veterans on their caseload in a different setting was helpful, experiencing something different to the day-to-day.

7. Cylch Meithrin a Ti a Fi Gwyddelwern

The grant has been used to purchase items to create a sensory corner for the children. The sensory corner is a lovely addition to the Cylch Meithrin. It allows the children to play in a calm and relaxing environment.

By adding a sensory corner to the learning environment, we are promoting the emotional well-being of the children. The group says that research has shown that sensory play has many benefits for children.

8. KIM Inspire

The grant enabled the group to deliver a “zines” workshop with a local freelancer, Lowri Kirkham. The programme was delivered to a group of women who had all been referred to them for help with their Mental Health—many have anxiety, depression, loneliness, bereavement, or dementia. The group was guided through making individual zines (mini magazines).

https://issuu.com/gobaithgaleri/docs/kim-zine_5

‘The project gave the women a chance to express themselves and over the weeks it was amazing to see their confidence increase. It gave them something to look forward to, and connections were made.’



9. The FDF Centre for Independent Living

The funds were used to cover travel expenses for the organisation's volunteers and 2 Independence support workers to visit groups in the community in Denbighshire to raise awareness about the support available for all disabled children, young people, and adults. This included advice, information, advocacy, befriending, benefits, housing, health, employment and transport, blue badges, letter writing, and signposting.

The two workers and volunteers attended more than 50 groups, including community coffee mornings, foodbanks, church groups, and 'Doris' the Mind bus. They supported physically disabled people, those with poor mental health, learning disabilities, and dementia. They also completed PIP forms, ESA, UC, and housing benefits, including applications for adaptations and housing applications.

One success story was a referral for a gentleman with physical disabilities and poor mental health; for three years, he had been supported by a local organisation trying to secure a Personal Independent Payment award; he was refused his initial application, then refused mandatory reconsideration and then rejected his appeal.

Before Christmas, in desperation, he came to us; our worker contacted him and gathered his evidence, and then she accompanied him to his appeal. He won the full rate of PIP with a 10-year award going forward, which is the equivalent of £10k per year, which then releases the opportunity to apply for other benefits up to £10k per year = £200k potentially, and he was also awarded three years back pay for his initial application of £25,500

The benefits that can be achieved can be life-changing. During this project, we supported more than 300 people and met with about 1200 people.

10. Cylch Meithrin Prion

The grant the organisation received was to purchase resources to ensure the children are exposed to toys representative of diversity and inclusivity. The resources which were purchased included the following:

- Multicultural anatomically correct dolls
- Children of the World multicultural carpet
- Multicultural Dolls clothes
- Pretend and Play dish set.

The group says that the beneficiaries now have culturally diverse resources and representatives of various backgrounds to ensure that children and parents feel included and represented.

11. Rhuddlan Town Community Association

This organisation used the funds to create a sensory garden in Rhuddlan. The children from the local school were invited to help create the sensory garden; 26 children were in attendance. The children planted seeds and discussed the different stages of growth. This project was an excellent opportunity to bring the community together, as it involved local businesses, members of the community, and children and young people.



“As the weather has improved and become warmer, we have been able to open the doors to the groups using the Centre and encourage the use of the sensory garden. We can sit and take refreshments with them, talk about and share details of the plants and point out the different items on the walls and hanging down spiralling in the wind; encourage the touching of the herbs in the planter so they can smell the wonderful aroma of the thyme, mint and rosemary to name a few!”

“Everyone is so pleased; thank you.”

APPENDIX 1

Number	Group	Number of volunteers	Number of older people which took part.	Number of Children/young people	Local Community members	Total
1	Work in Progress	4	2	2	12	20
2	The Bridge CommUNITY	0	0	0	150	150
3	Cynnig	0	2	0	6	8
4	Good News in the Community	6	20	48	32	106
5	The Denbigh Churches	7	0	12	5	24
6	Wintergreen UK	2	3	0	5	10
7	Cylch Meithrin a Ti a Fi Gwyddelwern	0	0	22	0	22
8	KIM	1	2	0	12	15
9	The FDF centre for Independent Living	8	250	50	1200	1508
10	Cylch Meithrin Prion	0	0	25	0	25
11	Rhuddlan Town Community Association	5	0	26	0	31
Total		33	279	185	1422	1919