



Newsletter

Special Edition

Report by the Irish Delegates
and Observers



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Welcome GFS and Early Arrivals in Wales



My dear Friends,

I am happy to open this Special 'World' edition of the Newsletter. Usually at the Central Council Meeting after World Council a report is given. To give World Council justice would be time consuming, so members in attendance have contributed, hoping that others will get a flavour of our time away – there may be some repetition but please excuse this.

The 21st World Council was hosted by GFS Wales, with some assistance from GFS England. This important event was well organised, there was a great atmosphere throughout and World business was led in a relaxed manner. Seventeen countries were represented and it was lovely to meet with members from the various countries, get to know them, learn of their culture, see their national dress/uniform and hear their stories. The Love for GFS, its Faith and Fellowship were the visible and important threads of connection among the delegations.

Grace Healy, Hazel Gumley and Jean Lindsay came for the whole duration. Gloria Good, Florence Higgins and Pamela Strong came part time. Emila Corrigan was with us for a few days during the opening sessions and similarly the closing sessions, with Hazel Corrigan attending International Day. Anne Healy stayed off campus with her Dad for a few days. I am most grateful to these ladies for attending World Council and for contributing as they did.

The weather was brilliant, in fact it was overpowering at times but no one complained. Despite a little rain there was no need for coats. This was a real Blessing.

The Junior Delegates were a lovely bunch of girls, with a real connection between them. I think the highlight of their activities was a very inspiring Service which they compiled. We were all delighted to have witnessed it one night before bed-time. Michelle, our Junior Delegate did GFS Ireland proud. She was most helpful in all situations, and did whatever was asked of her.

Thank you to all Dioceses for sending gift and stall donations which were used on International Day, to Anne Healy for taking additional supplies from the office by car, and the Administrators for their help prior to the event.

Thank you to Central Council for sending me as Senior Delegate. It was a real privilege for me to represent our Country and I am grateful for this opportunity. It was a wonderful experience that I will treasure.

I hope everyone will enjoy reading this Newsletter and thank you to the members who contributed.

Yours in Christ,

Sylvia.

World Team

World President: Rev'd Glenys Payne Vice President: Emila Corrigan

Secretary: Rev'd Kay Warrington Minute Secretary: Catriona Charlesworth + Maggs Hughes

Treasurer + World Chaplain: Rev'd David Payne

Conference Chaplain: Rev'd Timothy Williams.

Countries in attendance

Australia, England, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Korea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Wales, Zambia, U. S. A.

Clergy in attendance

Australia: Rev Cheryl Selvage, Rt. Rev'd Kay Goldsworthy, Archdeacon Michael Hillier
Rev'd Sonia Roulston. Japan: Rt. Rev'd Eisho Uehara.

Papua New Guinea: Rev'd Isaiah Masida. USA: Rev'd Rowena Kemp.

Wales: Rev. David Payne, Rev'd Glenys Payne, Rev'd Kay Warrington, Rev'd Tim Williams.

Zambia: Rev'd Robert Sihubwa

Greetings

Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall – Patron of GFS in England and Wales

Primate of Australia – [The Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinell](#).

Archbishop of Perth – [The Most Rev'd Roger Herft](#).

Anglican Church, Papua New Guinea – [The Most Rev'd Clyde Igara](#), Archbishop and Primate.

Anglican Bishop of Port Elizabeth, South Africa – [The Most Rev'd Bethlehem Nopece](#).

Parish of St Paul's Anglican Church, Port Elizabeth – [Rev'd Mark Barth](#) - Incumbent Priest-in-charge.

Episcopal Church of Central Philippines, Inc. – [The Most Rev'd C. Twickenham](#).

Bishop of Freetown, Sierra Leone – [The Rt. Rev'd Thomas Wilson](#)

Bishop of Wellington, New Zealand – [Rt. Rev'd Justin Duckworth](#)

Bishop of Popondetta, Papua New Guinea – [Rt. Rev'd Lindsley Ihove](#)

Archbishop of York – [Dr John Sentamu](#) – Primate of England and Metropolitan

Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough, [The Most Rev'd Dr M.J. Jackson](#), - Primate of Ireland

and Metropolitan

Archbishop of Armagh [The Most Rev'd Richard Clarke](#) – Primate of All Ireland

The Episcopal Church, USA – [The Most Rev'd Katharine Jefferts Schori](#), - Presiding Bishop

[The Rev'd Canon Libbie Crossman](#) - Provincial President of MU Australia.

Anglican Church, Korea – [The Most Rev'd Paul S. Kim](#) - Bishop of Seoul and Primate of Korea.

Zambia Anglican Council

Bishop of The Diocese of the Highveld, Southern Africa - [Rt. Rev'd David Bannerman](#)

Joy Parkin (GFS World President 1990-1993)

Dilys Fowler (GFS World President 1984-1987)

Agnes Young (Connor Diocese)

It was very nice to receive these Greetings. Their encouraging words meant a lot to everyone in attendance. They were read by Kay Warrington, World Secretary at the opening of Council and then displayed for the duration. The Greeting from the Duchess of Cornwall was read but, due to protocol it could not be displayed; this is to prevent reproduction.

Sylvia.

World Council Opening Service

On the morning of Sat.26th July we set off through lovely Welsh countryside for Brecon Cathedral for the opening service of World Co. 2014.

Before the service we enjoyed a packed lunch at the adjoining school. Brecon Cathedral is a beautiful, large, old building in attractive grounds with a tea and gift shop.

There was the usual excitement before the service as we all roared in our uniforms. The service was conducted by the Right Reverent John Davies, Bishop of Swansea and Brecon. Local dignitaries attended including the High Sheriff in a remarkable suit. The Bishop spoke of GFS past and present and the potential for growth and tried to greet as many people as possible. The address was interesting and humorous. The Bishop came though the congregation and greeted as many people as possible.

A youthful choir provided beautiful music. A bit of Welsh was mingled throughout the service. Afterwards we were refreshed by mouth-watering tea and scones with jam and departed for Swansea.

Gloria



Mrs Emila Corrigan, Mrs Gloria Good, Mrs Jean Lindsay, Mrs Hazel Gumley, Ms Michelle Armitage (with banner) Mrs Sylvia Quinn and Mrs Grace Healy at the Opening Service

World Project

As World Vice President I was responsible for the World Project. Thankfully the Australian team offered to look after the project as it was based in the Solomon Islands. GFS is very new to the Solomon Islands and it was a difficult project as there were no organisational structures in place.

After a lot of soul searching and discussions GFS Australia offered to act as mentor and supporters of GFS. Australia will continue to hold the funds which have been raised for the project. GFS and MU are working close together however the aim is to establish a separate body with their own constitution. Training will then be assisted by GFS personnel over the next 3 years.

World Project 2014-17

There were no applications this year. However on hearing the report from GFS Japan where the details following the Tsunami were presented it was decided to offer help to displaced members. Over 12,884 lives were lost and 2,640 still missing. The nuclear problems still continue and over 140,000 people had to leave the area to escape the ill effects of radiation.

GFS Japan launched 2 outreach projects:

1. To provide sewing machines to women's groups
2. Monthly kids days

A \$20,000 budget was agreed by Council. This will supply 6 industrial sewing machines, sewing supplies, refreshments, activities and travel for the 'Kids Days'

Emila

Speakers

During World Council there were special speakers. All were very interesting and encouraging.

The Right Reverend John Davies, Bishop of Swansea and Brecon: Bishop John complimented the GFS on its good work; over the years GFS has enhanced the dignity of young women. He told us that we were on a 'Common Purpose', to pay attention to each other, to consider ourselves as 'Sowers of the Seed'. He used Bible quotations and mentioned people in Biblical times to illustrate his encouragement.

Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the Queen and Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons: Rev'd Rose, born in Montego Bay, told us of her journey in Ministry. She encouraged us in many ways: Faith needs **not** be kept private but take it public. She encouraged us by using the following quotations: "Do not go where the path leads, but go where there is no path and leave a trail", also a 'No Limitations' rule –(1) I will achieve, (2)I will excel, (3)I will overcome obstacles,(4) I have the potential for greatness.

Mrs Lynne Tembey, Mothers Union Worldwide President: She told us of her shy beginnings and of her journey with Mothers Union. She spoke about the work of Mothers Union, and of its closeness to our Society. She encouraged greater connection between our two organizations. We were delighted that Lynne took time out and stayed with us on campus for the last few days of the Conference.

Sylvia

International Day

I am greatly privileged to write a report on GFS World Council International Day and Craft Demonstration that took place in Swansea University, Wales on Friday 30th July. There were about 10 – 12 tables set up. Jean Lindsay and I with the help of Grace Healy set up the Ireland table as Our President Mrs. Quinn and our Junior Delegate Michelle had to attend meetings. We made a wonderful job of our table and I have to say it was beautiful. I would like to say a big 'thank-you' to all leaders and girls of GFS in Ireland, North and South for all the gifts that were sent over, all the different ideas which were brilliant.

Craft Demonstration: I did a shamrock key-ring and it went down great. I made the shamrocks out of filo which I baked in the oven about three or four weeks before I went, then varnished them with nail polish, which took a bit of time to dry. I got green beads of different shapes and sizes. The doors opened at 1.00pm until around 5.00pm. We were very busy making key-rings; not a huge turnout of children but all the delegates and observers wanted to bring a shamrock key-ring back to their country. I also had a dragon fly which didn't go down, the shamrock was very popular. I would like to say 'thank-you' to Jean for all her help.

International day went very well; we all met some old faces and made new friends.

Hazel



International Day



Group after the opening service

The Closing Service

I was indeed privileged to attend the Closing Service of the 21st World Council of the Girls Friendly Society which was held in The Collegiate and Parish Church of St Mary, Swansea on Sunday 3rd August 2014. During the Service, Canon Val Gribble from Australia was commissioned as the new G.F.S. World President by The Archbishop of Wales, the Most Revd Dr Barry Morgan, who also gave the address. Following the commissioning of Canon Val, the Archbishop blessed a new stole which was presented to the G.F.S. World Chaplain, Revd Isaiah Masada from Papua New Guinea. Other members of the World Team were also commissioned.

The Service commenced with the Hymn: "O' Lord, all the world belongs to you". During the singing the Banners from all countries represented at the Council were carried up the aisle by the delegates. The liturgy was beautifully ordered. Young members from the UK and U.S.A. contributed in song and dance. Our junior delegate Michelle Armitage did us proud with her theatrical talent, in a sketch entitled "Family Connections"

We enjoyed the "Welsh" refreshments that followed-Welsh Cakes, Bara Brith, etc. Absolutely scrumptious!

The host country organised a shuttle bus service to transport us from the University to the Church. It was a very poignant event to share our common bond and mission with members from north and south and east and west.

Florence

Reception with The Lord Mayor of Swansea and the Gala dinner at Swansea University.

All of the GFS participants and the Delegates met for a reception with The Lord Mayor of Swansea who addressed the gathering welcoming them and wishing them well. Fiddlebox also serenaded the crowd as all had their final chats before leaving after a successful conference and sharing of ideas.

The Gala Dinner followed in the Refectory, A celebration of Glenys' time as World President. The closing dinner was an opportunity to share in what had been achieved over the past week of living together and to be encouraged for the future 3 years.

Fiddlebox played throughout the evening as we all enjoyed a beautifully presented meal and some wine. The starter was a medley of fruits, followed by Turkey and Ham and we finished up with a medley of deserts, tea and coffee.



Speeches followed and thanks was given to the outgoing President Glenys Payne and good wishes to the incoming World President Val Gribble. Serving Through GFS is Canon Val Gribble's Theme for her term as World President and she explained how she planned to do this.

Fiddlebox resumed play again a few people got up to dance around the tables.

Many of the folks said their goodbyes as some were leaving early in the morning. All left this wonderful occasion of fellowship support and friendship to go off to their various countries until the next world council in Hobart, Australia in 2017.

Our thanks to Wales for a wonderful conference

Pamela



World Council 2014

Greetings in a happy symphony of languages echoed around Swansea University as members of the Girls Friendly Society welcomed one another to their 21st World Council. This meeting, held every three years, is an occasion for 'Inspirational Learning Together' (Council Theme), conducting business, rekindling and making friendships, entertainment and above all growth in our Christian faith.

The opening Service, in Brecon Cathedral was conducted by the Rt. Rev'd John Davies, Bishop of Swansea and Brecon. GFS banners were carried by delegates in national costume or uniform and made for a very colourful and impressive procession into the Cathedral. Our own Junior representative, Michelle Armitage read a lesson, and the singing was led by a young and very enthusiastic Grammar School Choir.

Council business included reports of GFS work from various countries present. Australia delivering training in Papua New Guinea, and helping the Solomon Islands draw up their constitution. Japan visiting the Philippines to encourage them, despite suffering under their own troubles. In fact in a deeply emotional report, that had us all in tears, Japan detailed the destruction of the 2011 tsunami and earthquake and expressed thanks for support from the World GFS Emergency Fund.

African countries reporting growth with over 7,000 in South Africa. Ireland with around 2,500 members topped the western countries, most of which have under 1,000. Wales has about 50 in four branches, so having World Council was a massive effort for them.

In turn each country led the daily early morning Holy Communion Service, while a different one would conduct evening worship. The variety of languages, liturgies and hymns added a richness that made these times very meaningful in a global sense.

The Council chaired by Glenys Payne the out-going World President made the following decisions:

1. The new World Project would help survivors of the Great East Japan Tsunami Disaster.
2. A World Youth Exchange would be piloted and would become an on-going part of GFS.
3. A Facebook page would be set up and run by the World Youth Officer, Tegan Hudson from Australia.
4. A web site for GFS would be piloted for three years.
5. The 2020 World Council would be held in South Africa.

Council was not all work and by the way of light relief we were treated to inspirational speakers for some of the sessions. Mrs Lynne Temby, World President of the Mothers Union addressed us, and pointed to many areas where GFS and MU can continue to work together. The Bishop of Swansea and Brecon encouraged us in our support of girls and women everywhere, but especially in parts of the world where the status of women is still suppressed. The Rev'd Rose Hudson Wilkin, Chaplain to the Queen, urged us to listen to our young members and equip them for the challenges they face. Tours also featured when we visited the Welsh Senate and also a trip to St. Fagans Folk Park, plus a memorable outing to the parish hall where Glenys Payne runs her small branch. There we were served a delicious meal, met young GFS girls and past members and were entertained by a choir.

Every evening was 'chill-out' time with entertainment ranging from Welsh choirs and folk groups to a girl saxophone group and even a disco. However the highlight was a hilarious Thursday 'skit night' when each country showcased their talent. Michelle did us proud with her Irish dancing and we sang 'Molly Malone' and 'I'll tell me Ma' with real gusto! What a great pity Agnes Young was not with us as she always came up with a 'show-stopper'. Many were asking for you Agnes and send you best wishes – so take a bow!

Friday 1st August was International Day. Everyone was rushing around with posters, bunting, flags and goods to be displayed in readiness for visitors after lunch. Thanks to the generosity of our Dioceses the Irish table had an abundance of souvenirs, and tea towels galore decorated the background stand.

Papua New Guinea and some African countries like Zambia had native crafts, beads and bags etc. for sale. Japan did paper folding with the girls and had costumes for dressing up. The girls loved the dresses (kimonos) and even Rev'd David Payne was game for the modelling. Making koala bears with the Australians also proved very popular. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the old and young who attended were bowled over by the warmth of the delegates and the interactive experience offered at the stands.

As part of the activities Wales ran a work shop that day where girls could make cards, pictures and hot favourite loom band bracelets. Ireland also hosted a busy work shop thanks to Hazel Gumley, who had made nearly one hundred clay shamrocks ready to be wired with beads to make 'bag zip pulls'. Her other craft was a dragon fly made from beads and pipe cleaners. Both proved so popular that we ran out of shamrocks. The day was a 'rip-roaring' success and an excellent way to promote GFS.

The Archbishop commissioned the World Team from Australia, with Val Gribble as the new World President, and Rev'd Isaiah Masida from Papua New Guinea as World Chaplain. A specially made

stole was presented to Rev'd Isaiah and blessed by the Archbishop. The whole Service was an inspiration and the procession of GFS banners from the church marked the end of a very successful World Council. Roll on Perth 2017.

Jean

Memories of World Council in Wales – July 2014

Arriving at Dublin airport extremely early in the morning, we were met by Sylvia Quinn. After a short flight to Cardiff, we took a taxi to Swansea University, the venue for World Council.

The opening service was held in the gorgeous Brecon Cathedral. The college choir sang beautifully during the service. On Wednesday 30th July, we went to the Welsh Parliament. This was followed by an extremely interesting trip to the Welsh Museum of Life. We then were provided with a lovely meal by Felinfoel GFS branch, accompanied by some amazing singing by a local choir.

On Thursday we had a craft session and we all got some new ideas to bring back home. That night we had a 'skit' night and the Irish demonstrated Irish dancing and sang some traditional songs. The next World Council is taking place in Australia in 2017 and the Australians used this opportunity to put on a very impressive display to invite all delegates to the next World Council.

International Day on Friday saw many visitors and we all received gifts from the stalls of all the countries represented. On Sunday, the closing ceremony took place in St Mary's Church, Swansea. During this service, Val Gribble was commissioned as the next World President. This was followed by a magnificent closing banquet.

I really enjoyed my time at World Council and I left with amazing memories and new friends. These memories include The Welsh Male Voice Choir, the Welsh Folk Group, morning and evening worship, walks on the beach and meeting delegates from all around the world and learning about the work GFS is doing in many lands.

World Council was a wonderful experience and many thanks to all those who helped to make it so enjoyable for me.

Grace

Report by Junior Delegate

When I first got offered this position, I was ecstatic at the idea of travelling to Wales for the GFS World Council 2014. The experience itself was nothing like I imagined. It was an experience of a lifetime. We met GFS members from all over the globe the minute we arrived in Swansea University. From places like Australia, Kenya, Japan, Sri Lanka, The Philippines, USA, UK, and many more countries. As junior delegate I was responsible for helping to make decisions on behalf of GFS Ireland, in the conference meetings we discussed changes in the guidelines, heard reports from other countries, voted for the new World Project and I am part of the new Youth Working Party which is co-ordinating the new Youth Exchange Scheme. We had a day trip to Cardiff, went to the Senedd which is the National Assembly in Wales, St. Fagan's Folk museum and we visited different branches of Welsh GFS for supper. We were introduced to Welsh Folk Dancing, and Singing. Overall the trip cannot be described in a few words. I would thoroughly recommend GFS World Council to

anyone who hasn't attended. We are all counting the days till we are reunited in Australia in 2017. A big thank you to everyone who wished me well in Wales and all in my branch in Cloughjordan for their support and to my family and friends who helped in the preparation for this trip.

Michelle



GFS Youth Exchange Programme Report

At the 21st GFS World Council from the 25th July to 4th August 2014, a new programme was introduced. That is the GFS Youth Exchange Programme. The aims of the programme are provide exposure and experiential learning, understanding of cultures in other countries, provide opportunities to worship together and celebrate the fellowship of GFS and to gain life skills on how to support each other, find solution to problem, and become self-led leaders.

The idea of the GFS Youth Exchange Programme to enable GFS members over 18 to travel to another GFS country and live for a period of time learning about their life, cultures, GFS running and then to bring home what they learnt and use them ideas in your GFS at home.

As this year there was no proposal for a World Project, it was thought this could fill the place but after careful thought and consideration it was decided that this programme shouldn't have an end date like a World Project. Youth representatives got together and decided to put forward the motion of a Youth Working Party, in which they would be responsible in communicating with their own country. A Facebook page has been set up and the Youth working party are in constant contact with each and using email as a form of communication.

We as the Youth working party will be organising a pilot program in which we will travel to a GFS country. We will learn what works and what doesn't, and to change and better the programme by using these we will update people's knowledge of the programme at GFS World Council 2017 in Perth, Australia. Over the next three we will be researching the process of exchanges and then putting the theory into practices and replacing plans that fell through with improved ideas.

Any questions, queries or updates you wish to know, I am the GFS Ireland representative in Youth Working Party so don't hesitate to contact me on my email armitagem95@gmail.com or the GFS office and they will pass it on to me. I am very excited to be part such a fantastic Working Party as begin this fantastic journey of developing this programme through research and trials.

Michelle



GFS Junior Delegates 2014 at the Closing Service in St. Mary's Church in Swansea, 3rd August 2014.

Long week-end at GFS World Council

My first experience of GFS World Council was when I was a Junior Delegate in South Africa. While there, I made friends who I am lucky enough to still in touch with through the wonders of Facebook and email.

World Council in Ireland allowed meet with some of these friends face to face for a change. Going to Council in Swansea was another opportunity to meet these friends. I travelled over on the ferry with my father for the final four days of Council.

When we arrived we were welcomed and invited to join the entertainments each evening. While watching, the Australians invited us to Council in Perth; this got me thinking that I should start saving for that trip. The Welsh Male Voice choir was fabulous.

During the day there was time to visit local sights in Swansea, Mumbles and a trip to Cardiff Castle.

The Closing Service was in Swansea and the welcome we received from the local community was lovely. The recipe for Welsh Tea Cakes was obtained and brought home to try out this side of the Irish Sea. All in all, a lovely few days away.

Anne

GFS Prayer

The GFS Prayer was said at all Services in the language each country felt comfortable. GFS Ireland led an evening Service which was kindly compiled by Rev'd Tanya Woods GFS Central Chaplain.; during which the GFS Prayer was read first in Irish and then all repeated it as usual. Our prayer was kindly translated by Archdeacon Gary Hastings, Galway.

(Irish translation)

A Dhia, ár n-Athair, beannaigh sinne

Agus gach duine I gCara-Chumann na gCailíní.

Cuidigh linn teacht I gcabair ar a chéile,

Cuidigh linn maireachtáil ar son daoine eile,

Agus ní ar ár son féin,

Mar aon chlann amháin in Íosa Chríost.

Saor sinn ónár bpeacaí, impímid ort,

Cuir chugainn do Spiorad Naomh

Chun sinn a dhéanamh glan agus naofa,

Agus treoraigh sinn uilig

Chuig lúcháir do ríochta neamhaí,

Trí Íosa Chríost ár dTiarna. Áiméan.

Plan for GFS Ireland

Delegates from each country gave a report on GFS activities over the past three years. From these we learned that GFS is really alive across the globe. All mentioned their future plans; in which I stressed that in our country we would

“continue promoting the Girls Friendly Society, increase membership where possible and encourage an even greater sense of love, understanding and fellowship among members”.

To me this is important and we must pay constant attention to the well-being of our Society and its members in Ireland.

Sylvia.

Thank you

As Senior Delegate for GFS Ireland I wish to express our Gratitude to Glenys and her team for the huge effort made for GFS World over the past three years culminating in the successful and friendly World Council. This would have been a busy period for Glenys as she was ordained Deacon just before Council – a wonderful achievement to have carried out GFS World business while studying for the Ministry of God’s Word.

We wish Canon Val and her team every blessing as they take GFS World into the future.

Sylvia

Welsh Tea Cakes Recipe

1 lb S.R. Flour 8 oz Butter/Stork 4 oz Currants/Sultanas
5 oz Caster Sugar ½ teasp Mixed Spice

Blend the above, add 1 beaten egg with 2 teaspoons milk; mix together.

Roll out ¼”, and bake.

Sprinkle with Caster Sugar.

Irish Delegates with Canon Val Gribble new World President



Welsh Traditional Dancing and learning how



Lunch Time



Entertainment



Rev 'd Glenys and Rev'd David Payne at the Senate





Handing over to Australia



At Cardiff Airport on the Way Home.