

FFWPU UK 2022 In Review Spotlight: Wales, West Country And West Midlands

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Let's take a look at how the year of 2022 went for our communities across the UK. For our last Spotlight we have Wales, West Country and West Midlands! If you would like to see more, check out our annual report.

End of Year Reflection - Elliot Y.



Elliot and Viola at the Berlin Peace Road representing UK

I am struggling to put into words the excitement and difficulties that 2022 has brought for our community. However, I can competently articulate the lessons that we have learnt this year.

This year saw the merging of three communities into what is known as the WWW Holy Community

(Wales, West Country and West Midlands). This was an incredible initial challenge, not only for everyone in the community, but also for myself as a "new" FFWPU Pastor. What has inspired me time and time again is the dedication of members who strive to share God's love and True Parent's grace with others, whatever the cost, whether we were three separate regions or one larger region.



I would be lying if I said that I did not question whether FFWPU has a place in modern society...it indeed does! God is a living God, and His truth is living and breathing, too. Next year, our goal is to create a loving environment where we can share the Divine Principle and the love we have for our Heavenly Parent.

I see an urgent need for our community to return to our spiritual roots. We should be proud of our identity and proud of our Founder. We are indeed a church, which aims to create a holy community where we gather to share our love of God.

We must move on from the mindset of conversion and the idea that others must come to us. Rather, we must go to others to give, to serve and to love. The idea of sharing True Parents' grace and blessing to a third of humanity is a humongous task.

Let me finish with a thought experiment. Our "movement" is comprised of various branches aside from FFWPU, for example WFWP, UPF and YSP (just to name a few), the goals of which are ultimately to share True Parents' blessing in various forms. Is it still unreasonable then, that a third of the people we know could relate to a part of our movement? You can call me crazy, but with faith, anything is possible.



Community Fishing Trip

UPF and WFWP - Testimony by Patricia E.

We held a series of family evenings every two months, studying Principles of Peace on such topics as "A Heart of Service", "The Root of Conflict", "God's Work in History" and "Growth of the Heart". We held the meetings in our home, where we can create a warm, welcoming atmosphere, and forty to fifty people attended each time. Together with UPF and WFWP, our community also held three interfaith meetings, in a Unitarian Church in February (on the right), and at the Al Mahdi Institute in June and November.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our different faith communities to come together, and for ourselves and other faith leaders to have a platform to share our thoughts on a particular topic. Interfaith prayers, devotional music and creating new friendships made it a really valuable experience, and a good step towards a "holy community". On 14th August, we had a fitting tribute to our co-founder, Father Moon, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of his ascension to the eternal world. Many good friends joined our local community as we paid our respects and remembered the amazing contribution that he made towards a world of peace.



End of Year Reflection - Viola D.

Looking back on 2022, a highlight was organising the WWW Getaway in Wales in July (pictured on the right). We had a chance for a few days to really be ourselves and get to learn more about each other through nature. On the 10th and 11th December, WWW held its first Christmas weekend, with the aim of bringing our three communities closer together.



The weekend was full of Christmas cheer as we gathered for a family evening with games and pizza, and 30 people attended on the Sunday to share lunch together followed by Christmas carols and a quiz, which some of the neighbours popped in for. I would like to thank all involved for making the weekend possible. It was a challenge, but it was a great way to celebrate the "heart of Christmas". For 2023, WWW HC will do its best to bring joy to our True Mother through our activities and collective efforts.



