



Trinity 2009 Newsletter

Warm greetings in the name of the One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We trust that these notes will be a source of encouragement. We also ask for your prayers at a time of blessing and change.

First, the significant challenge. Ongoing conversations around proposed changes at CTBI and the way in which national instruments will be funded have meant a great deal of work in terms of providing a fair and up to date financial formula for Cytûn's member churches and denominations. Over the past few years, Cytûn has benefited from being funded through a 'common pot' distributed through CTBI. It has been decided that the national instruments should now return to being funded directly by their member churches. This work is challenging and ongoing.

There have been many blessings. Public celebration and acts of worship have also been high on Cytûn's agenda. This year, the Urdd decided that the opening celebration of the Eisteddfod in Cardiff should be a multi cultural and multi faith event. Cytûn was asked, building on the organisation's experience of enabling such national events, to assist the organisers. It is anticipated that the Urdd will return to a more traditional format next year. It was interesting to observe how non-Christian faith traditions saw the Christian faith's commitment to creation and the environment in a new light. Acts of worship are also being planned. Cytûn has been asked once again to assist the Police Federation in arranging the UK National Police Memorial Day Service to be held in Saint David's Hall, Cardiff on 27th September 2009.

Arrangements for ensuring that access to worship remained free of charge at the Bala National Eisteddfod have also gone well. Cytûn has worked with the National Eisteddfod authorities by collecting the names of those who want tickets for the opening worship. Those who have applied for tickets by the end of the May deadline should be receiving their order over the next few days. Please contact the office for further details regarding gaining free admission tickets to this service.

On a pastoral note, the Reverend Peter Trow has been very much in our prayers at Cytûn. He has not been well of late. We hope and pray that Peter's health will see some improvement soon. His work in enabling some significant thinking on developing sponsoring has been greatly appreciated as has his liturgical work. We would ask for your prayers for Peter and his family. Some of Peter's time has

been gifted to Cytûn through the generosity of the United Reformed Church.

Faith and Order Issues – At this time of focusing on the Trinity it's good to underline that much of Cytûn's ongoing activity is centred very much on worship, witness and ministry. The work of the Free Church Council and the Commission of the Covenanted Churches has acquired a new energy and sense of direction. Rhian Linecar takes the lead in Cytûn on faith, order and witness issues and has worked hard during the past few weeks in:

- Facilitating the churches' witness at for the Urdd Eisteddfod, the Royal Welsh Show and the National Eisteddfod
- Running the churches' Tent at Urdd National Eisteddfod in June
- Representing Cytûn at St David's Day Service and Parade in Cardiff.
- Representing Cytûn at the Lightship Chaplaincy Forum
- Attending meetings endeavouring to establish a full time chaplaincy during the Royal Welsh Show
- Supporting the CTBI Ecumenical Officers' Training at Launde Abbey
- Playing a part in supporting the CTBI Writers Group and being involved in follow-up as part of the team writing and finalising the material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2010
- Being involved, with the Urban Mission Development Project and other bodies, in the planning of a day on 'Urban Refreshment' on June 17 2009 – a day of prayer and conversation about Christian presence in towns and cities in Wales
- Responding to feedback from denominations concerning previous *Welcome to Wales* courses and being involved in discussions with several denominations about jointly creating a new *Welcome to Wales* course with clearer learning outcomes; this means that the course mentioned in the last newsletter will not happen this autumn.

One of our other ongoing projects is seeking to ensure that Wales marks the 'Edinburgh 2010: Witnessing to Christ Today' ecumenical event commemorating the key Edinburgh 1910 World Missionary Conference. More information will be available over the next few months.

Public Issues - Significant work has been achieved in the public arena. Cytûn has been playing its part, in partnership with other faith communities, in putting in place a suitable response to any possible flu pandemic. Faith communities in Wales will work with

the Welsh Assembly Government in distributing information and ensuring that churches in particular are well informed.

Cytûn's presence on the All Wales Convention, serving all of Wales' faith communities, has continued to be felt as the consultation period on the National Assembly's powers draws to a close. It is anticipated that the Convention will be publishing its findings in the autumn. It was significant that the Welsh Assembly Government requested a nominee from Wales' faith communities to serve on the Convention.

Cytûn's National Assembly Policy Officer, Geraint Hopkins, continues to serve Wales' faith communities on the Welsh Assembly Government's Third Sector Partnership Council and has taken the lead on Cytûn's behalf in the context of a number of initiatives:

- Established new **Churches' Property Advisers Group**, an ecumenical initiative to coordinate work on historic buildings and relations with Cadw
- Agreement to work with **Dolen Cymru** to prepare the Churches for a celebration in 2010 of 25 years of the Wales-Lesotho Link
- Facilitating the International Forum's response to the **Sri Lanka civil conflict**, with a view to protecting religious minorities
- Working on the next phase of the consultation on **Presumed Consent for Organ Donation**
- Work with the RADAR Group's Election Campaign Committee to produce values statement on **how elections should be fought**, without intolerance and racism, for example
- Giving higher priority to co-operation with **Christians Against Torture**.

RNIB Appeal – A further reminder! At the Cardiff National Eisteddfod in 2008, Cytûn and the RNIB entered into a partnership launching a joint appeal hoping to raise sufficient funds to produce the Bible in Welsh Braille. It would be encouraging if the £5,192 needed to produce Matthew's Gospel in Braille could be raised by the Bala Eisteddfod. Cheques may be sent to the RNIB Cymru, Trident Court, East Moors Road, Cardiff, CF24 5TD. Tel: 029 2045 0440.

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