



Summer Season 2010 Newsletter

Warm greetings during the season of the year when Cytûn is at its busiest in terms of bringing the churches together to witness. This newsletter is written a few weeks after a highly successful churches' tent at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Llanerchaeron. It is also written on the eve of our presence as churches at the Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells. We will then move on to Ebbw Vale for the National Eisteddfod in August. Please call by to see us as we witness, share fellowship, offer pastoral care and worship together.

We thank God for the rich blessing we have already experienced this year and ask for your prayers as we seek to provide a platform for the work of the churches in witnessing and providing pastoral care at these national events. Please pray for Rhian Linecar as she takes the staff lead for Cytûn concerning this work.



Recent Highlights

Recent highlights in the Cytûn calendar have been many and varied. Of great blessing was the May pilgrimage of the Catholic Community to Douai in France to commemorate Saint John Roberts from Trawsfynydd. It was a rich time of fellowship, prayer and pilgrimage.



Cytûn received a letter of thanks from South Wales Police for endeavouring to keep communities together around the visit of the Welsh/English Defence League to Cardiff on Saturday 5th June. The Peace Vigil arranged by Cytûn on the Senedd steps was well attended on the eve of the protest and brought several faith communities together.

Towards the end of June, Cytûn was asked to help Cardiff City Council in crafting the memorial services for Armed Services Day. We worked closely and successfully with chaplains to prepare for a day that attracted some 50,000 to 80,000 people and was televised globally.

Accountability

Cytûn has also sought to provide a degree of direct accountability to its member churches and denominations and sister agencies by attending: CTBI's Board Meetings in Manchester and London, supporting denominational ecumenical officers' meetings, being welcomed at the Union of Welsh Independents in Carmarthen and the Baptist Union of Wales in Llanelli. Cytûn's work was also set out before the meeting of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales held in Leeds and at the meeting of the Bench of Bishops of the Church in Wales held in Llandaff in June.

Cytûn was warmly welcomed at the meeting of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in Loughborough. A matter of great joy for the Welsh delegates was the granting of a special award to the work of the Asylum Justice Team based at City Church, Cardiff. I was pleased to contribute to the debate on child detention.

Local Support

Recognising the priority given in the Cytûn Workplan to supporting local ecumenism, support has been given to specific ecumenical endeavours and acts of worship throughout Wales. Since Easter, staff support has been given to the work of local churches in: Bangor, Penarth, Clydach, Barry, Wrexham, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Aberdare, Pontypridd, Pontyclun, Efail Isaf, and Bridgend. Support was also given in Cardiff to the pioneering work of the Reverend Irvan John in building newer ethnic minority Christian communities throughout Wales.

A paper will be put to the Cytûn Board in September setting out a draft commitment to local and regional ecumenical endeavours. It would be a great help if local and regional expressions of ecumenism could let me know what they would like to receive from Cytûn as a national ecumenical instrument.

Faith and Order

Cytûn continued to further the work of the Commission of the Covenanted Churches particularly through Rhian Linecar's work at meetings of the Cardiff East Ecumenical Mission Council.

Generally, she has acted as a link person with the Commission and recently organised and attended a meeting between the Mission

Council and the Leaders of the Covenanted churches where visions for the future of the partnership were discussed. Rhian continued to service the Commission of the Covenanted Churches and the Free Church Council. She also went to Birmingham as a member of the group revising the Ecumenical Officers' Training for 2011 and attended the Kirchentag in Munich on behalf of Cytûn. A report will be given at the Cytûn Board meeting in September.

Church and Society

There have been a number of key developments in our public square work as summer approaches. Geraint Hopkins takes the staff lead for this work within Cytûn. He has been sending regular briefing notes to our churches regarding the Welsh Assembly Government's policies and consultations. Please contact Geraint for further details.

The Welsh Assembly Government has announced its legislative programme in the Senedd, which is set in the context of difficult and painful cuts to the Assembly's budget projected in the years to come. WAG has announced that it will be taking as much of the cuts announced in the Chancellor's 2010/2011 Budget this year, to minimise the level of cuts that would otherwise be carried over to next year. Ministers have, however committed to ensure the capital spend in health, education, housing and social care is protected.



Cytûn's International Work

Cytûn was pleased to host a visit by Naim Ateek, Director of Sabeel, Palestine and the Friends of Sabeel UK on 1st July 2010. Sabeel is a Christian Liberation Theology organisation, based in Palestine, which advocates non-violent means of achieving social justice in the Middle East.

Naim was accompanied to the Senedd by the Convenor of the Friends of Sabeel UK, Mrs Ann Clayton, and members of FoSUK. They were welcomed by Geraint Hopkins, Policy Officer of Cytûn and Dr Brian Gibbons, Assembly Member for Aberavon and former Cabinet Member of the Welsh Assembly Government. Dr Gibbons and Geraint outlined the concern expressed in the Welsh Assembly and Welsh churches respectively for the continuing injustice experienced by so many in Palestine.

The Cytûn International Forum, chaired by Rev. Christopher Gillham of the Congregational Federation met in Cardiff recently. They

discussed the situation in Israel and Palestine, and in particular the recent attacks on the flotillas attempting to break the embargo of Gaza. They received a report on the sadly-aborted planned trip to Syria by the Cytûn International Forum, which was spoiled by the eruption of the volcano which disrupted all flights leaving the United Kingdom at that time. They agreed that in principle the visit should be rescheduled.

Rev. Canon Robin Morrison, Bishops' Adviser on Church and Society, Church in Wales gave a report on the 10th Anniversary of their dialogue between the Anglican church and the Muslim community in Wales, which was celebrated recently by a dinner at Cardiff City Hall which was addressed, among others by the First Minister, Carwyn Jones.

A brief discussion was held on Albania, and it was agreed to make contact with the Albanian Embassy in London to enhance the churches' links with that country to learn more of its economic and social development since its emergence from the Communist bloc. It was agreed to hold a future meeting in Aberystwyth University to enable easier access to speakers from their excellent International Department. The Forum also agreed to seek meetings with the Albanian, Syrian and possibly American Embassies in London, followed by a meeting with the new Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, William Hague.

Annual General Meeting – Just a final reminder that Cytûn's next Annual General Meeting / Enabling Group will be held at 11.30 a.m. in Llandudno on 19th October 2010. Further details will be sent to the members nearer the time.

Have a blessed summer,



The Reverend Aled Edwards OBE
Chief Executive of Cytûn

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