



Summer 2011 - Outward

Facing Ecumenism

Much of Cytûn's time and energy of late has been focused on witnessing to the Christian faith, worshipping together and offering pastoral care. This has been a source of great encouragement to us all. At the height of our busy summer season we ask for your support and prayers.

National Events

At this time of year Cytûn enables Wales' churches and denominations to witness to the Christian faith together. We do so primarily at Wales' flagship national events: the Urdd National Eisteddfod, held this year in Swansea focusing on children and youth, the Royal Welsh Show with its emphasis on rural issues and the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham profiling Welsh culture and language.

Thanks to the good work of Rhian Linecar and supporting teams from Cytûn churches and denominations, our witness at the Urdd Eisteddfod and the Royal Show was highly successful.



All the indications are positive for the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham. We hope and pray that requests for over 700 tickets for the opening Sunday worship in the Pavilion bodes well for the whole week. Once again, Cytûn is indebted to Sasha Perriam for her good work in administering such schemes. Without Cytûn, it is more than probable that there would not now be free access to this key act of worship in Welsh public life.

This year, Cytûn has been able to use Eurig Roberts' skills in improving our website and providing easy access to those who have wanted to acquire Eisteddfod tickets and information. For those with iPhones, look out for all you need to know about Cytûn's tent at the Eisteddfod on the iSteddfo app.

This year, it seems that thousands will come to events supported or arranged by Cytûn to: access high quality Christian resources, enjoy fellowship, reflect together and worship. Children have enjoyed face painting and fun games especially at the Urdd Eisteddfod. It has also been a joy at the Royal Show in Builth Wells to work alongside the churches'

chaplaincy team. This joint-working shows that the churches' ecumenical endeavours, in obedience to Christ's commandment, are far from being stagnant.



Public Affairs

Cytûn has maintained a focus on the plight of the persecuted church and international migration issues. Currently, Cytûn provides the Chair for the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership which oversees issues concerning migration, asylum, trafficking and social cohesion. Some progress has been made in enabling Wales to become the UK's first Nation of Sanctuary.

Churches in Wales have been asked to pray in particular for the Iraqi Christian community. Cytûn has been privileged to work closely with Iraqi Christians in Need (ICIN). Since the Iraq war of 2003 and the collapse of the Iraqi state, certain extremist elements have targeted the Christian community. Killings and intimidation have driven them out of their homes and a large number have ended up as refugees in neighbouring countries or displaced within Iraq. ICIN was formed to help such needy Iraqi Christians (of all denominations, Catholics, Orthodox and others....) and to raise awareness of their plight in western countries.



It now seems a long time ago, but Cytûn played a key part in ensuring that the place of faith was upheld and honoured this year in the ceremonies to open the National Assembly. The Presiding Officer expressed her gratitude for the part we played in co-ordinating the "Gwynnos of the Mace" focused on the environment, equal opportunities and human rights.

The event was described as a "huge success". The breadth of Wales' mainstream faith communities were represented alongside the significant Christian traditions embracing the: Catholic, Episcopal, Free, Ecumenical and Evangelical convictions.

Geraint Hopkins has continued to oversee the work of the Welsh Government on behalf of Cytûn. Recently, he prepared a set of comprehensive notes which can be downloaded from our website.



Faith and Order Issues

In addition to her work in arranging Cytûn's witness at national events, Rhian has been steering and supporting the considerable work now being undertaken by the Commission of the Covenanted Churches. Progress has been made in revising the 1981 service of Holy Communion and

pioneering work on sharing ministry in the future is also in hand. It is hoped that a new Commission service of Holy Communion will be available for the Gathering to be held in Aberystwyth on 13 October 2012.

Support for Local and Regional Councils

Rhian led a Workshop in Bangor in July called "Moving Forward from Firm Foundations." The aim of the day was to reflect on the ecumenical journey and to explore future possibilities for local co-operation. Support has also been given to the local Christian community in: Trehill, Risca, Wrexham, Trecynon, Crickhowell, Efail Isaf, Newport, Pontyclun, Cardiff and Pontypridd.

Welcome to Wales Course

Geraint Hopkins has been active in organizing this year's Welcome to Wales Course. Welcome to Wales is a residential training course for ministers of religion who are transferring into Wales from other parts of the UK or further afield. It will be held at Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st October 2011 at St Michael's College, Llandaff in Cardiff. The course cost is £190 per delegate. Further information available from Geraint Hopkins at the Cytûn Office.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid is responding to the East Africa food crisis and has launched an emergency appeal to help people affected across the region. Cytûn is fully supportive of this appeal. An initial £240,000 has been released for immediate response and Christian Aid's work will be scaled up as the crisis intensifies across the region. Please give now to help Christian Aid reach those most in need. For further details, please visit the Christian Aid website <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>.

Archbishop George Stack

Cytûn churches were represented at the Installation of Archbishop Stack who was installed as the seventh Archbishop of Cardiff on Monday 20th June at St David's Metropolitan Cathedral, Cardiff. We welcome Archbishop George and pray for him and the Archdiocese. It was also

good to see Peter Smith at the Installation. He will also remain very much in our prayers.

The Christian Council of Norway

Following the tragic events on Utoeya Island, Patrick Coyle, the Cytûn Chair has sent our deepest condolences to the Christian Council of Norway. The Christian Council of Norway is one of a handful of national church bodies in the world that are representative of all the Christian traditions in the country, i.e. historic Protestant, Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox, Evangelical, Pentecostal and Charismatic traditions.

Cytûn's 2011 AGM

Just a quick reminder once again that the Cytûn AGM will be held on 1st November, 2011 from 11.30 a.m. at Hope Community Centre, Newtown, SY16 1JD. We ask that all the local and regional councils of churches who wish to be members of the Cytûn Enabling Group should let the Cytûn office know by the end of September by the latest. Nominations will be processed through a special resolution.



Every Blessing,

**The Reverend Aled
Edwards OBE
Chief Executive of Cytûn**

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