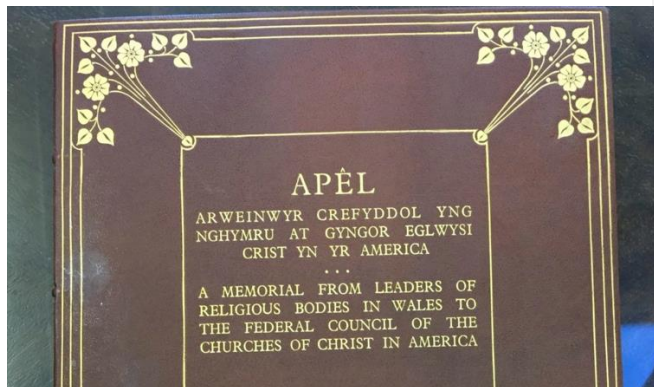


1925 Welsh Churches Peace Appeal to America Centenary Project, Cytûn and WCIA with National Library of Wales

Background

Wales' Temple of Peace & Health in Cardiff houses in its library, a Peace Appeal from 1925: "A memorial from leaders of religious bodies in Wales to the Federal Churches of Christ in America". Beautifully crafted in Moroccan leather, gold leaf and Indian inks and signed by leaders of Christian churches in Wales, the memorial declaration contained within calls for the support of churches across America in advocating for the League of Nations - to avert the danger of future world wars.



Discovery of this memorial document followed on from rediscovery of the [related Welsh Women's Peace Appeal to America of 1923-24](#), which has inspired the Wales wide centenary campaign and HLF funded project, '[Hawlio Heddwch](#)' - which over 2023-24 has been uncovering the story behind the Women's Petition through involving community groups, volunteers, academics and civil society. The Churches Peace Appeal in 1925 was inspired by the Women's campaign, following about 18 months after; both were organised through the Welsh League of Nations Union (WLNU), WCIA's predecessor body, founded in 1922. The Churches' Memorial was presented to a meeting of the [Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America](#) in November 1925. A century later, the Women's Peace Appeal has again inspired Christian churches to follow in its wake and act.

The story of the Churches Peace Appeal is little known. WCIA and Cytûn believe that quite apart from its interest as an artefact of peace campaigning, it holds distinct ecumenical significance, as one of the earliest tangible demonstrations of broad inter-denominational cooperation post-WW1 and disestablishment. Indeed, this Peace Appeal appears to be potentially the earliest documented evidence of inter-denominational activity in the public square extending beyond the 'Free Churches'.

This centenary project aims to bring the story to life, by involving faith communities in uncovering this lost part of Welsh history, and inspiring people about the contribution that ecumenical and interfaith co-operation can make to contemporary peace and international issues. WCIA have so far (through volunteers) been able to:

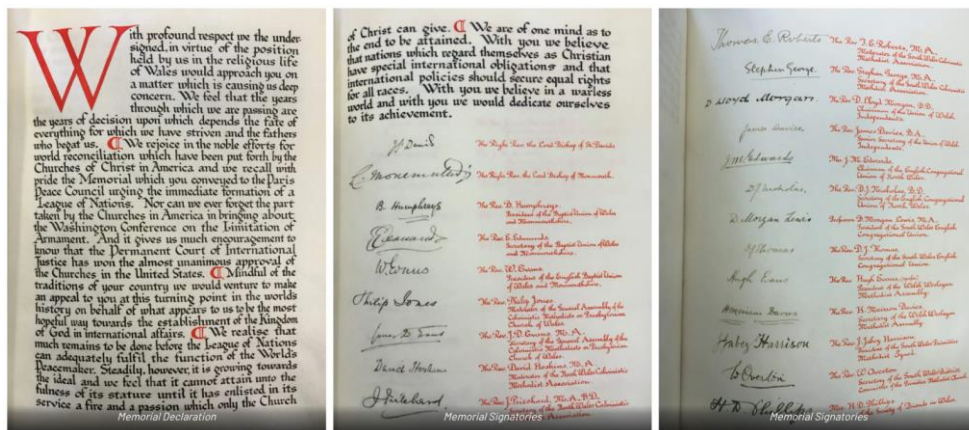
- [digitise the memorial](#) onto People's Collection Wales (PCW), and has supported volunteers to research, identify and digitise [WLNU archival materials](#) held at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth - in particular an [account by Rev Gwilym Davies](#) of his trip and the appeal's presentation to American faith leaders in Detroit in December 1925.
- These source materials have been curated and written up into a 'hidden histories feature' on WCIA's Peace Heritage pages, 'the [1925 Welsh Churches Peace Appeal to America](#),' which can be shared digitally whilst also enabling others to view and use the source archives.
- Student [placement Abby Craig-Jones](#) has produced a [short \(9 minute\) film](#), [available on Youtube](#) (along with a [downloadable PDF leaflet](#)), drawing together the appeal's story so far – which we hope can stimulate interest among community groups and partners.



Click on image to open video

For the centenary project during 2025 to reach beyond Cardiff and the pillars of Wales' Temple of Peace, a number of key activities will need resourcing – in particular, production of a touring exhibition, educational materials, and information / guidance for local activities. It would be helpful to secure additional funding to be able to put in place support for volunteers and communities to participate in the project. A number of Cytûn member churches and denominational historical societies have pledged funding and volunteer time towards:

- commemorating the centenary of the Churches Peace Appeal in 2025
- supporting and engaging churches, community groups & heritage / 3rd sector organisations Wales-wide.
- stimulating thinking about contemporary issues of peace, war and international co-operation.



The 1925 Church Leaders Peace Memorial Declaration and Signatories

“You in Wales are the one people who can best do this kind of [peacebuilding] work amongst the peoples of the world, and to any extent you desire. You bore your burden in the Great War: therefore, you can venture where a neutral country might hesitate. No one will accuse you of propoganda, for it is clear you have no bias. You speak in the name of a little country, of whom no other country need be jealous, and of whom no other country need be afraid. Every country will welcome your lead.”

WLNU Annual Report, 1926 (quote attributed to ‘an observer in Geneva’)

“We speak simply as... the daughters of a nation whose glory it has been to cherish no hatred towards any land or people, and whose desire is for the coming on earth of the reign of fellowship and goodwill.”

Welsh Women’s Peace Declaration, 1923

Project Partners

- WCIA – Heritage & project management, digital / communications, staff support
- Cytûn – Christian Church networks
- Academi Heddwch – Academic community (with particular focus for this project on [UWTSD Lampeter](#) and [USW Newport](#), who have religious studies research departments and students; and Aberystwyth University, who have National Library and International Politics / History depts)
- Cymdeithas y Cymod (Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales)
- National Library of Wales – Archives & Collections, People’s Collection Wales

Prospective additional partners as project develops:

- USA – [National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA](#) (descendant of [1925 body](#))
- Inter faith Council for Wales and its members including Muslim Council for Wales, Welsh Jewish Heritage Centre, Sikh Council Wales
- Soka Gakkai International (SGI) in Wales (have many interested community groups & volunteers)

Proposed Project Objectives

1. Curate and develop an online **resources homepage, a touring exhibition and a Wales-wide programme of events** to mark the 2025-6 centenary of the Churches Peace Appeal.
 - a. **Online Resources** / Legacy – digitised resources on PCW, and homepage of curated links
 - b. Publications or broadcast pieces about the story of the Churches Peace Appeal
 - c. **Exhibition Display**, professionally produced, for touring to heritage and religious venues, and community venues, Wales-wide (possibly with a smaller ‘popup exhibition’ for short loans). There is keenness for North and South Wales exhibition ‘copies’ to be available simultaneously.
 - d. Adaptation of Wales – A Nation of Peace resources (Academi Heddwch) for faith-based conversations, curriculum oriented **educational materials** for schools, faith youth groups, etc.
2. Commission more detailed **research** into interfaith cooperation in 1920s Wales stimulated by the post-WW1 peace movement, establishing ecumenical significance of campaign.
 - a. Clarify research questions / objectives
 - b. Engage relevant academics / departments (through Academi Heddwch, church and local history societies and others)
 - c. Explore scope for involving American Welsh diaspora in researching the USA side of story
3. Using the history as a vehicle for exploring **peace issues today**, enabling current and future generations to learn from our heritage.
 - a. Facilitate discussions on contemporary world issues important to Welsh communities.
 - b. Engage young people in shaping future – what might an equivalent appeal seek today? Explore scope to work with / link to Urdd Peace & Goodwill Message
 - c. Mini conferences for schools clusters in each region of Wales (*funding dependent*)
 - d. Legacy, a ‘Memorial to the Memorial’ – participants over year shape ideas for a Welsh Churches Peace Memorial of 2025, inspired by that of 1925, for descendants in 2125.
4. To facilitate **Wales-wide community participation** over the centenary to stimulate ecumenical and interfaith cooperation, and deepen understanding of the Christian ecumenical heritage.
 - a. Connecting church groups – including those not involved in 1925 such as Catholic, Evangelical and Black-majority churches - with heritage venues, volunteering and community bodies.
 - b. Stimulate broader interfaith cooperation through partnerships eg with, the Inter-faith Council for Wales, and other faith networks
 - c. Explore scope for connecting with Welsh diaspora in American churches – eg church twinning links / exchanges?
 - d. Invite artist/s from faith communities to create art works that can be integrated into exhibitions / public events, displayed in communities, or become a project legacy.

Timeframes / Key Activities

- 2023 – 2024 – encourage involvement and learn from those within churches who have participated in [Women’s Peace Centenary programme](#)
- Summer – Autumn 2024 Archival research and digitisation of source materials for use, and commission further research in denominational and peace movement archives. This work has been started by WCIA; a meeting of interested historians was held on 4 June 2024.
- 8 August 2024 – Public meeting in National Eisteddfod linking the two centenaries.
- Autumn 2024 - Development of organisational and community partnerships, and more detailed project plans, support role(s), timetable of events and community outreach
- Autumn 2024 - Develop online resources ‘portal’ (already commenced on WCIA ‘Peace Archives’ portal www.Heddwch.Cymru);
- 9 Oct 2024 – Webinar organised by the United Reformed Church History Society, 4pm
- Sunday 26 Jan 2025 - Tonyfelin Baptist Church, Caerffili , celebrating the legacy of the Revd Gwilym Davies (in the month of the 70th anniversary of his death), under the auspices of Gelligaer and Merthyr historical societies.
- 2025-6 year of community activities – exhibition tour, local events, talks, arts activities, present day peace activism, ideas for contemporary peace memorial:

- **St David's Diocese** already hoping to host exhibition and series of local events, surrounding work of Bishop John Owen (who signed the Appeal) and the World Council of Churches' celebrations in 2025 of the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed (the 1600th anniversary of which which Bishop Owen celebrated in the Cathedral in 1925).
- **Aberystwyth** would be a logical focus as the centre of the 1925 campaign, potentially either National Library (where most archive materials are held), and / or Morlan Centre.
- Other venues linked to denominational bodies involved in 1925.
- Nov 2025 - Landmark event to mark Centenary of Peace Memorial presentation in Detroit – online link, could consider a **Senedd**-based event / display to engage MS's, wider civil society and Welsh media.
- Nov-Dec 2025 - Social Media project 'WelshChurchesPeacePetition100' / 'TweetingFromThe20s' (or a snappier title, by then!) - modelled on [Annie's Diary 100](#) (which over Feb-Mar 2024 doubled global readership / online engagement with the women's campaign). Relay the week / day by day journey of the 1925 churches petition from Wales to America with Rev Gwilym Davies; with short, engaging 'history reads' reflecting range of people, places and themes via X / Facebook / LinkedIn / direct Email.
- Jan-March 2026 Mark any post-Detroit follow-up activities / legacy; Project reporting & wrapup, celebration / legacy event.

Sylwadau gan [GR1]: See 26 Jan 2025 below

Sylwadau gan [GR2]: It as Monmouth and St Davids who were involved in 1925, not Bangor. But we do need involvement in NW Wales, undoubtedly.

Funding arrangements

Initial funding approaches were made in November 2024 to member denominations of Cytûn. By September 2024, **£11,700** has been given or pledged (with scope for further contributions yet to come).

Financial contributions can be made via bank transfer / **BACS** to:

Account name: WCIA **Account no:** 67219038 **Sort code:** 08-92-99 **Reference:** Churches Peace appeal

Cheques can be made out to 'Welsh Centre for International Affairs', note on the back '*Heritage - Churches Peace Appeal*'. All donations should state donor's details (name of organisation/individual and postal or email address). Contributions will be ringfenced by WCIA for spending towards the Churches Centenary project only.

Overleaf is a **budget outline of current plans** (based on actual income / expected pledges), which will enable production of a roving exhibition, educational materials for adults and young people and a few key 'project coordination events', but beyond this all costs and staffing / volunteering time would be resourced locally. It also shows (highlighted) some additional opportunities as additional funding becomes available.

Volunteer and staff time provided 'pro bono' by WCIA to date amounts to c £14,000, whilst significant volunteer time has been offered by members of Christian denominational historical societies, towards undertaking research and other aspects. This significant '**match funding**' contribution of **£24,000** in both cash and people hours to date, should inspire confidence both for further donations, and for a trust / foundation(s) (or philanthropist(s)) to **sponsor core funding of the programme** (as HLF did with the [Women's Peace Centenary](#)). WCIA and Cytun will continue to identify opportunities to 'pitch' to funders, public and supporters. This could enable a fully resourced and supported, genuinely national project rooted in community participation and with volunteers able to be supported by a part-time Project Officer. A budget (not included in this document) is available for funders wishing to seek such an opportunity, but will only be actioned (in full or in part) should funding become available.

"A country, which is so small and yet so great... I believe that the time will come when the prayer of this memorial from Wales will be answered, and its prophecy will be fulfilled."

Dr Spear, Federal Council of Churches in America, on presentation of the 1925 Wales Peace Memorial

'The Welsh people have had a new vision of their duty and their opportunity to be of greater service to the world... the Red Dragon of Wales is stretching its wings wider than ever before.'

Y Drych (Welsh periodical in America), January 1926

“With you, we believe in a warless world; and with you, we would dedicate ourselves to its achievement.”

Last words direct from the Welsh Churches Peace Appeal 1925 ‘Memorial Declaration’

Budget as at 9 October 2024 – signed off by Cytûn and WCIA

This budget identifies what the Churches Centenary project might be able to realistically deliver *without* any additional grant funding towards core project staffing, based on existing / likely pledges.

The detailed budget line shows **outline intentions** as at 9 October 2024, but some flexibility will be required **within the stated total** as exact costings become known and opportunities come to light.

Resource	Cost	Rationale
Staff Support Time – Heritage Advisor / Project Officer <i>(these days would be allocated to whichever staff are available and best skilled to deliver specific tasks, drawing from WCIA, Academi Heddwch, National Library etc, on a day rate basis unless ‘project support’ funding becomes available)</i>	27 days = £5,400 <i>(spread over 18 months = 1.5 days / month)</i>	<i>For 2024-25 Financial Year, cost to employer:</i> - £150 / day internal cost to WCIA (when employed PT on projects); - £200 / day when individually commissioned on ‘day rate’ basis. Autumn 2024 – Project design & planning, digitisation and organisation of archival materials: 5 days x £200 = £1,000 Jan 2025 - Launch event(s) – 1 day + 2 days prep / follow-up (3 days) = £600 Spring 2025 – Exhibition design & production: 10 days x £200 = £2,000 Summer-Autumn 2025 – Community Outreach & events: 7 days = £1400 Spring 2026 – Project Legacy (reporting, feature articles, long-term online resources etc): 2 days = £400 <i>Seek external funding to resource extra time / expertise, especially towards outreach support for community groups & participants.</i>
Archival Research (National Library of Wales, churches archives, ++)	500	Volunteer travel expenses & accommodation; fees for photography, specialist archival requests / searches, institutional digitisation etc.
Educational resource(s) and activity	2,000	Commission WCIA Global Learning team, or educational consultant / active teacher, to create bilingual Welsh curriculum resource. Clarify target audience(s) – eg Sunday schools, primary, secondary have v different needs. Brief will need to fit £ available (as ambitions could easily expand!). <i>Seek external funding to go further.</i>
Exhibition production & travel	5,000	Towards commissioning, design and production of set of touring ‘pop-up’ panels, transportation and installations (possibly N and S Wales versions?).
Travel & Subsistence	500	Towards major events – community outreach/visit costs to be met by hosts.
Volunteers & Placements	250	Towards volunteer expenses & subsistence.
Events	100	Towards basic costs for any coordination / project events – assuming free venues, and self-catering (eg buying tea bags/biscuits)
Printing and Publications	100	All materials produced inhouse (using photocopiers etc)
Translation	0	English – Welsh translation undertaken voluntarily by willing contributors – will need to build in 2-3 week ‘turnaround time’ for most materials. <i>Seek external funding if professional translation is required.</i>
Community projects	0	<i>Seek external funding</i>
Arts projects	0	<i>Seek external funding</i>
Face to face work with schools	0	<i>Seek external funding</i>
Subtotal	13850	
Project Hosting Core Costs / Organisational Support <i>(also termed Full Cost Recovery / FCR)*</i>	2078	Grant / staff management and hosting: HR payroll, recruitment and legal compliance; financial accounting & reporting, line management of staff, training provision, impact monitoring & evaluation, computers & ICT, office space / bills, volunteering team / volunteer management, archives & digitisation support, printing, communications & social media, advocacy & policy support.
Total	15,928	

* WCIA (in line with good practice across third sector and charitable organisations) levy a standardised ‘full cost recovery’ / overheads contribution at 15% of project costs, for fairness and transparency between projects (and funders) large and small. WCIA’s rate is significantly lower than many organisations with far higher overheads (eg many academic institutions charge c. 40% for project hosting, third sector infrastructure bodies c 30-33%). WCIA do not own the Temple of Peace itself (we have a 999 tenancy lease), so project funds will not be subsidising building / maintenance costs (beyond ‘hotdesk’ office occupancy, which covers all bills). Commonly termed Full Cost Recovery /

FCR in third sector practice, or in private sector parlance 'management fees' (though in business terms this would not be actual support costs, but mostly profit margin; WCIA is a non profit body, so FCR reflects a proportionate division of core costs organisation wide).

