



Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. It's a joy to proclaim boldly at this time of year that Christ is alive and risen. Cytûn rejoices with its member churches and denominations in the primary Christian festival of Easter. May God bless you all at this very special time in the Christian calendar.

So much of my work as Chief Executive has been focused on witnessing to the Christian faith locally. Since Christmas I have had the privilege of speaking at several church services and meetings throughout Wales in: Gwaelod y Garth, Cardiff, Rhuthin, Swansea, Dinas Powys, Efail Isaf, Penrhywceiber, Pendoylan, Penarth, Pontyclun and Blaenau Ffestiniog. My colleagues Geraint Hopkins and Rhian Linecar have also travelled extensively discussing their church and society work and faith and order brief.

Meetings have also been held: in Bow Street and Shrewsbury to further the work of Roots through the medium of the Welsh language, in Cardiff in support of the local retired ministers group and marking Holocaust Memorial Day, in Llancarfan around developing an ecumenical ministry in Cardiff Bay and in Bridgend assisting the Welsh Assembly Government in Resilience Emergency Planning work. Meetings have also been held with South Wales Police concerning community engagement.

Church and Society

In the public arena, Geraint Hopkins has written an extensive set of notes concerning the National Assembly's activities. Cytûn also supported work around the £2 million funding package given in support of children and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Geraint has assisted a number of churches in lending their support for a shared value based Manifesto for the May elections.

In Profile – Cytûn's Racial Justice Network



Cytûn's Racial Justice Network is broad based, vibrant and effective. During its April meeting Paul Carpenter highlighted the work of Christian Solidarity Worldwide. Members of the Network were reminded very effectively that Christians are being persecuted in several countries. Christian refugees in Wales from countries such as Pakistan and Eritrea provide living examples of how the persecuted Church has sought sanctuary in Wales. It was agreed that members of the Network would seek a meeting with the new Social Justice Minister in the Welsh Government following the May elections. The meeting should highlight the concern that the UK is currently returning several Christians to countries where it is feared that they may be persecuted.

Concern was expressed about the manner in which children of those leaving care were being treated by the UK's border and immigration authorities. It was felt in particular that asylum applicants who had been brought to the UK as unaccompanied children should be allowed to complete their education. The much publicised case of Daniyal Shahzad from Carmarthen came to mind. Cytûn has remained in contact with Daniyal's foster parents and made representations to the Children's Commissioner for Wales about the plight of children who have been sent or "trafficked" to the UK for economic gain.

The work of Wales' growing ethnic minority churches was celebrated by the Cytûn Network. Jacob Jin Chul Park spoke of the Easter celebrations of the South Korean Church particularly their concerts in Albany Baptist Church, Cardiff and Saint Mary's Priory Church in Abergavenny. Cytûn lent its support to "Bible Fresh" arranged by the Reverend Irfan John of the Methodist Church who has pioneered the establishment and nourishing of Urdu speaking congregations.

Faith and Order Work

Much of Rhian Linecar's work has been focused on supporting key developments around the work of the Commission of Covenanted Churches. They have included:

- **Supporting the Commission's Liturgy panel** – working on revising Commission's liturgy for Holy Communion and reviewing the 2005 list of agreed liturgies from other Covenanted denominations and churches.
- **Supporting the Episkope panel** – beginning the process of looking at models of pastoral oversight so that ultimately the Commission will draw up, after biblical/theological reflection, a document jointly agreed by all five member churches encapsulating their understanding of pastoral oversight and stating clearly what model would be acceptable to all Commission churches.
- **Supporting the Church Governance panel** - beginning the process of exploring a shared mode of church governance, with a particular focus on the similarities between the existing denominational arrangements so that ultimately the Commission will draw up a document jointly agreed by all five member churches stating clearly what mode of governance would be acceptable to all.
- **Supporting the Advocates Group** in working on identifying areas where a Local Ecumenical Partnership might be established, on engaging in conversations with congregations in those areas to explain the terms of the covenant and to encourage the setting up of a Local Ecumenical Partnership, also on exploring whether there are specific communities which could act as experimental models for ecumenical ministerial deployment.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Cytûn has continued to support the work of partner instruments and agencies in Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Rhian has been particularly active on **CTBI's Faith and Order Reference Group** preparing Wales' response document to questions posed at the last group meeting. It was agreed to undertake research within the nations on the nature of the churches' ecumenical engagement. This would be achieved by asking the questions:

1. What is happening ecumenically between churches?
2. What are the pre-occupations within our churches in relation to faith and order?
3. How is the work of ecumenical dialogue being received in our churches?
4. How is ecumenism being culturally being held back or encouraged?

Rhian also attended the **CTBI Week of Prayer for Christian Unity writers' residential** meeting and was heavily involved in producing the main Act of Worship for 2012.

Cytûn will continue to take a strong lead in assisting CTBI's Racial Justice Network in developing strategic priorities for its future work. Much of this work will be developed at a Network meeting in Edinburgh during May.

International Contribution



Cytûn has sought to make a contribution internationally. On behalf of the Church in Wales, I attended a Porvoo Communion Consultation on Inter Faith Relations in Gothenburg. The primary purpose was to review the 2003 Guidelines for Interfaith Encounter in the Churches of the Porvoo Communion which serves a number of European Anglican and Lutheran churches. The

Porvoo churches have agreed to "share a common life in mission and service" and include: the Evangelical-Lutheran Churches of Estonia, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Finland and the Anglican churches: Church of England and of Ireland, the Church in Wales and the Scottish Episcopal Church. Two churches from South Europe also belong to the Porvoo Communion. They are the Lusitanian Church in Portugal and the Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain. The 2003 Guidelines have helped to shape how Cytûn has responded to calls from member churches and denominations to serve them in furthering inter religious dialogue. How

Wales has viewed issues around human rights was profiled during the conference.

In late April a number of officers of the Ecumenical National Council of Churches met in Warsaw to discuss secularisation in Europe ten year after the publication of the Charta Oecumenica. The Charta Oecumenica (Latin for "Ecumenical Charter") is a joint document from the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and the Council of European Episcopal Conferences which contains guidelines for increasing co-operation among the churches in Europe. It was signed by the presidents of the CEC and the CCEE on 22 April 2001 on the occasion of the European ecumenical meeting in Strasbourg. Holding this year's conversations in a country that is still overwhelmingly Catholic and comparatively strong in terms of church commitment provided an invaluable insight. Feedback will be given at Cytûn's next Enabling Group meeting on how ecumenical bodies throughout Europe have reflected on religious freedom.

Future Work

Cytûn's draft Workplan will be reviewed by the Enabling Group on 18th May 2011. Churches have suggested some major projects such as revisiting *Wales a Moral Society?* This was prompted in part by the Welsh Government's decision to give the morning-after pill to young girls free of charge.

Cytûn's AGM

Just a quick reminder that the Cytûn AGM will be held on 1st November, 2011 from 11.30 a.m. at Hope Community Centre, Newtown, SY16 1JD.

National Eisteddfod

Please note that if you wish to have tickets for free admission to this year's Sunday worship at the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham – because you do not live in the borough – you will have to apply through the Cytûn office. We will be publishing an application form on our website during the next few weeks. All applications will have to be in by the end of June either by letter to the office or through the website.

Every Blessing,



The Reverend Aled Edwards OBE
Chief Executive of Cytûn

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