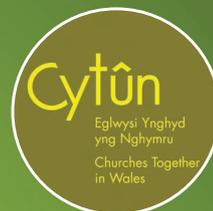


Cytûn Spring 2013 Newsletter



Warm Christian greetings as the great feast of Easter approaches. Cytûn has enjoyed a busy few weeks since our last newsletter. It has been a time of activity, reflection and prayer focused on seeking to bring Christians together to celebrate that unity which is Christ's gift to the Church. We also offer prayers for Pope Francis wishing him and the Catholic community every blessing.

Cytûn's ministry has taken place in the context of that broken world which Christ loves. It's perhaps interesting to reflect that according to the 2011 Census, in that part of Cardiff that saw the launch of this year's Saint David's Day Parade, over 40% of its residents stated that English was not their main language.

This reminds us that our modern Wales is diverse in so many ways and is rapidly moving beyond bilingualism. Yet, it also has the confidence to reclaim a cultural national memory of a devout Christian leader, Dewi Sant, who has helped us from generation to generation to define who we are. Recently, Cytûn was pleased, as a growing organisation, to receive the Cardiff Ethiopian Orthodox community into membership. Please pray for this new Christian community in our midst. Many of them have arrived here as refugees.

For Cytûn, 2013 began with its traditional commitment to the work of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Based on the material compiled by the Student Christian Movement along with the All India Catholic University Federation and the National Council of Churches in India, churches were encouraged to ask a question: what does God require of us? The bilingual liturgical resources focused particularly on the great injustice to Dalits in India. It is always encouraging to see churches throughout Wales gather together for worship and reflection early in every new year.

Cytûn staff seek to serve the Christian community throughout Wales. In January,

it was good to visit some church leaders in north-east Wales and focus on the invaluable regional work of Cytûn. Conversations were also held with officers in the Wrexham area on some of the issues that may be of concern to the Wales Migration Partnership and on how to make progress on making Wales a Nation of Sanctuary. Working in partnership with colleagues in the Evangelical Alliance, it's encouraging to see the progress being made towards establishing Cardiff as a City of Sanctuary.

Cytûn has sought to serve Christ alongside other faith communities. It was a privilege for Cytûn to be present in Cardiff City Hall for a deeply moving ceremony to commemorate those who lost their lives during the horrors of the Holocaust. This year a particular focus was placed on the experiences of those who travelled to Wales as refugees on the kinder train.



Cytûn's public arena work has been busy and varied: holding conversations with the UK Government's Equality Law and Better Regulation Unit on Same Sex Marriage and assisting churches in providing evidence to the National Assembly's Health and Social Care Committee on the Human Transplantation (Wales) Bill. Significantly, Cytûn has now begun the task of revisiting the historic document Wales: A Moral Society? asking member churches to nominate members for a commission to oversee the process. The commission will reflect on the subject areas to be covered in the final report. We'll keep everyone informed as developments take place.

A number of Cytûn churches and denominations have identified peace issues as a priority. There are moves afoot to establish a Peace Academy and to hold a conference in the autumn. Over ethical issues, Cytûn cannot take a stance unless all its member churches and denominations agree. We are able to

underline convictions and seek to ensure that churches and denominations work together to the extent that their principles allow them to do so.



Cytûn has continued its partnership with the National Eisteddfod authorities concerning the free ticketing arrangements for the Sunday service in the main Pavilion. Tickets can be obtained from our website or by contacting the office. All applications must be received by 30th June at the latest. Preparations for the Churches' tents at 2013's national events are continuing with a letter asking for denominational contacts in each of the areas (Boncath, Builth Wells and Denbigh) sent out to denominational leaders. Once again, if you live in one of these areas and would like to be part of the teams preparing locally for these important events, please contact Ynyr Roberts at the Cytûn Office (ynyr@cytun.org.uk).

We continue to pray for the Commission of the Covenanted Churches and its work as its member churches continue to reflect on the conversations initiated at the Gathering. Please contact Rhian Linecar if you need further details concerning the process or visit our website. All the documents are downloadable.

Looking ahead, Cytûn has prepared a draft Workplan for 2013 -14, brought before the Enabling Group in February, and now offered to the churches for comment by the next Board meeting to be held on 2nd May, 2013. It's now the custom of Cytûn to review its work annually and to offer its member churches and denominations an opportunity to shape the work agenda. By placing the draft Workplan on our website, Cytûn also offers the wider Christian community transparency concerning its activities. The draft Workplan has been posted on our website.