

REVIEW OF 2014

Cytûn consults annually with the churches and denominations on its programme of work for the year ahead. 2014 was no exception, and following a period of consultation with church leaders, stakeholders and the Enabling Group, the Board of Cytûn published its aims and objectives for the year.

We give thanks that in co-operation with our member churches, and with the wider Christian community in Wales, Cytûn was able to fulfil most that it had set out to achieve in 2014. We are pleased to present a brief review of the outcomes under the various headings we agreed, in the hope that they will inform and encourage our continuing work in 2015+16 towards a more cohesive and effective witness to the Gospel in our nation.

Faith and Order - Local Engagement

Cytûn's work remains firmly rooted in the local experience. It is at that level that relationships are deepened and new friendships forged. The staff team has sought to serve the Christian community throughout Wales – both rural and urban - by attending a wide variety of services, preaching, conducting retreats, sharing and marking significant occasions and festivals. Not surprisingly, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity provides a particular focus for attention. Building on the success of 2014 plans are well in hand to explore the 2015 theme *The Well is Deep* through Churches Together in Britain and Ireland's (CTBI) resource material translated into Welsh and very much shaped by Welsh input. The week provides a special opportunity for shared prayer and reflection.

Currently, Cytûn has well established links with 82 local groups and has provided in depth support for ecumenical communities with more formal partnerships and chaplaincies. Sally Thomas, gifted to Cytûn by the United Reformed Church, has been particularly active in this arena. Cytûn's Enabling Group has been encouraged by a growing number of local partnerships sharing their achievements and aspirations with church and denominational representatives.

Sometimes, Cytûn is asked to celebrate major anniversaries of churches or denominations that have practiced a significant presence in Wales. This year, being able to celebrate 140 years of the Salvation Army's ministry in Wales provided an occasion of great joy in Port Talbot. There have been many more celebrations reflecting the breadth of the communities served by Cytûn.

Chaplaincies

Cytûn has sought to support chaplaincies in a variety of ways: working with the Cardiff Centre for Chaplaincy Studies and the churches' group steering the Rural Chaplaincy based at the Royal Welsh Showground. Efforts have been made to secure continued church and public funding for chaplaincies throughout Wales. This has been achieved sometimes in the face of strong and deliberate drivers to secularise Wales.

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Commission of the Covenanted Churches

Throughout 2014, Cytûn continued to provide administrative support and encouragement around the conversations focused on The Gathering recommendations. The Covenanted Churches have invested a great deal of time, thought and prayer in considering bringing about a Uniting Church in Wales.

Under the careful stewardship of Rhian Linecar, conversations are ongoing and a variety of options are actively been considered on how to further the process in the light of initial responses. Prayers are asked for Rhian as she prepares to retire at the end of June 2015 when she will be ordained within the Church in Wales. We give thanks for her invaluable ministry and reflect further on how progress can be made in the future. Whatever the outcome, the advance nature of these conversations and the willingness of the Churches to invest in the conversation may well be considered world leading. They have also been entirely compatible with Cytûn's focus on deepening relationships. How these relationships are deepened in the future lay very much in the gift of the churches.

Free Church Council for Wales

Cytûn has sought to support the work of distinctive groupings of churches such as the Free Church Council for Wales especially around its engagement in key areas such as religious education, chaplaincies and high profile national events and conversations. In November, Cytûn assisted the churches in helping the Welsh Joint Education Committee to shape its thinking concerning religious education in Wales. Efforts were made to ensure that Free Church convictions were sought and conveyed accurately regarding other issues. Cytûn has sought in particular to hear and convey to political powers strong convictions regarding peace and justice concerns. On a more personal note a particular welcome in 2014 was given to the new President, the Reverend Peter Dewi Richards while thanking God for the loyal service given by the Reverend Gareth Morgan Jones. Both will remain in Cytûn's prayers.

Bodies in Association

It is a particular privilege for Cytûn to offer hands on support to all our bodies in association. The Cardiff Living Room in particular has been very much in our prayers throughout 2014. Members of Cytûn staff have been personally active in fundraising for the charity and supporting clients. Such support has been reciprocated by the charity's staff and support team in the warm encouragement they have given Cytûn. Cytûn has also sought to facilitate conversations around the Lightship in Cardiff Bay and provide governance support for the Cardiff Adult Christian Education Centre. Continued support has been given to Christian Aid and CAFOD as two of the churches' international aid agencies. The work of Churches Tourism Network, Wales has also been supported and profiled.

Ethnic Minority Congregations

Cytûn continues to grow as a national ecumenical instrument. Much of that growth has flowed from being able to welcome ethnic minority congregations from a variety of different theological traditions into membership. Methodism, supported by Cytûn's engagement, has been particularly successful in identifying and nurturing several newer congregations.

We continue to hold the Reverend Irfan John in our prayers as this ministry grows and develops. One aspect of this ministry is the record breaking nativity play held every Advent. The circle of Cytûn's friendship and fellowship continues to grow. Such congregations have been served and supported by the Cytûn Racial Justice Network.

Interfaith Activity

Cytûn has continued to provide the secretariat to the Interfaith Council for Wales enabling conversations to take place not only nationally from a Cardiff base but also from other locations such as Colwyn Bay in North Wales. It has been a privilege to serve the rich diversity of Wales' faith communities by acting as an informing conduit between them seeking greater understanding and trying to ensure that people of faith are not misunderstood or placed at the periphery of Welsh public life.

Cytûn was asked to serve Wales' faith communities on the Welsh Government's Third Sector Partnership Council. During 2015, Cytûn will seek to make this work more effective by engaging formally with a designated team from the Interfaith Council.

One of the most significant activities during 2014 was October's Welsh Interfaith visit to Srebrenica in Bosnia. New and exciting friendships were forged and significant theological reflection was explored around the memory of the July 1995 killing of 8,372 men and boys. The visit also gave Welsh delegates an opportunity to discuss issues such as radicalisation back home in Wales. Support has also been given to Cardiff City Council's annual Holocaust Memorial Ceremony.

In interfaith matters Cytûn has a long-standing tradition of being able to bring diverse Welsh communities together and ensure that they work well together. This pioneering work is ongoing and has focused of late in bridging the two worlds of Wales' ethnic minorities and more long-standing Welsh speaking communities. In many ways, Cytûn is uniquely placed to facilitate such dialogues.

This work has been served particularly well by Sasha Perriam who undertakes to keep the minutes of meetings as part of her administrative duties in ensuring that the Cytûn office works effectively from day to day. Interfaith partners have frequently expressed their gratitude to her for her invaluable co-ordinating work.

*Note that new Interfaith Wales website domain is: www.interfaithwales.org.uk

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Witnessing

Cytûn is deeply indebted to Ynyr Roberts for his distinctive lead in facilitating the churches' witness at national events such as the Royal Welsh Show, the Urdd National Eisteddfod and the National Eisteddfod itself. The churches offer several acts of worship, an opportunity for witnessing and fellowship to thousands of Christians at these events. Cytûn member churches and organisations profile concerns and campaigns they wish to profile. At the National Eisteddfod this year there was, among many other conversations, a particular focus on peace issues and Christian Aid's concerns regarding the violence seen in the Gaza Strip. As always, Cytûn is heavily indebted to all the church based volunteers who make such a considerable commitment to enabling this ministry to flourish.

Frequently, Cytûn works alongside agencies such as the Bible Society helping them to work effectively in Wales as well as recruit staff. Cytûn offered Hope for Wales (GIG) some support in exploring the development of its Bible focused mission. Staff have also visited schools discussing issues such as faith, equalities and immigration concerns.

Training

Again, Cytûn facilitated a Welcome to Wales course for ministers new to Wales. This year, a number of churches took advantage of the training offered at Saint Michael's College, Llandaff. Participants came from a variety of church backgrounds bringing the invaluable perspective offered by those from other nations within the UK but added a joyous international dimension to the course. As before, the feedback was encouraging and offered suggestions for future development.

Cytûn delivered continued training for the clergy of St David's Diocese on Ecumenism in Wales with particular reference to the Gathering Recommendations and responses. Staff will deliver a similar day's training for the clergy of Llandaff Diocese in January. Rhian Linecar attended a day conference at Lambeth Palace hosted by the Bossey Institute with a view to learning more about the Institute and hopefully to raise its profile in Wales and to encourage Welsh denominations to send students there for short periods of study.

In September, BBC Wales invited Aled Edwards, as Cytûn's CEO, to offer their key corporate staff an opportunity to consider how their work impacts on faith communities paying due regard to religion or belief as an equality characteristic protected by law. The meeting enabled good conversations concerning the place of faith in modern life and the issue of sometimes unfavourable perceptions of those who define themselves primarily by their faith.

Cytûn staff also offered talks and training on faith and political engagement, furthering reconciliation amongst those who are prone to violence or warfare and encouraging partnership working in the local context. Updates have also been given, in a variety of settings, on Cytûn's core work.

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Working With Christian Faith Partners

Cytûn continues to work closely with other Christian partners throughout Europe, Britain and Ireland. This year, the general secretaries of the national council of churches or ecumenical instruments met in Holland and Belgium. The focus was on mission in a rapidly changing Europe. Consideration was given to the effects of immigration, decline in traditional Christian commitment and the need for refreshed interfaith conversations. A report on these conversations proved to be of interest to the Bevan Foundation who published a report on Cytûn's work.

Through Rhian Linecar, Cytûn supported the work of CTBI's Faith and Order Reference Group and the panel reviewing a WCC Faith and Order Commission Study Document - *The Church: Towards a Common Vision*. Rhian also attended a symposium in Uppsala to celebrate the contribution to ecumenism of Archbishop Nathan Söderblom. Cytûn seeks to ensure that Wales' distinctive ecumenical contribution is marked and celebrated internationally.

Through a meditation offered by Aled Edwards, Cytûn assisted colleagues in ACTS as the Scottish churches reflected on the aftermath of September's independence referendum. The perspective of another devolved nation at the beginning of a national reflection on the consequences of the referendum was deemed appropriate and useful. The churches in Wales and Scotland continue to hold conversations prayerfully with each other concerning the UK's asymmetrical devolution.

Cytûn has enjoyed a good working relationship with Churches Together in England (CTE) supporting its New Ecumenical Officers Training Programme. Rhian Linecar facilitated sessions at CTE's Ecumenical Officers conference: *The Ecumenical Landscape; Changing Seasons - Expanding Horizons*.

The Irish Council of Churches and Irish Inter-Church Meeting have continued to be in Cytûn's thoughts and prayers. Wales and Ireland may reflect on common concerns regarding economic development and issues brought about by international immigration.

Public Square - Active in the Political Arena

For a variety of reasons, Cytûn has reshaped its aspirations concerning the production of a second *Wales: a Moral Society Report?* After being with Cytûn for several years, Geraint Hopkins will be leaving us at the end of the year to pursue his career in politics. We offer Geraint our gratitude and wish him well.

It is hoped that a successor will be in post soon. Part of his or her work will be to help Cytûn prepare the churches for the 2015 UK General Election. Briefing papers have been commissioned and it is anticipated that Cytûn will work closely with CTBI in providing materials and support. Progress regarding these developments will be offered primarily through Cytûn's website in partnership with CTBI.

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Cytûn has been pleased to encourage others to set the pace concerning establishing Wales as a Nation of Sanctuary. The news that Cardiff had been recognised as the UK's first capital City of Sanctuary was hugely encouraging. Displaced People in Action, in partnership with others, has received significant funding to pursue sanctuary aspirations on behalf of Wales' asylum seekers and refugees.

Wales Migration Partnership and Racial Justice

Currently, through its CEO, Cytûn provides a Chair for this strategic partnership between the Home Office, Welsh Government, Welsh Local Government Association and an array of third sector organisations. It has enabled Cytûn to have a voice in the care offered to some of the world's most vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees. This engagement has enabled Cytûn to provide effective support to the pioneering work being undertaken by the Methodist Church through the Trinity Project in Cardiff. Cytûn has also striven to provide support to Wales based Christian communities from trouble spots such as Ukraine as well as Syria and northern Iraq. A focus has also been provided for work with specific minorities such as gypsy travellers and refugees from Tibet.

Connections with the Home Office were also put to good use during the summer in helping to ensure that members of the Mizoram Synod Choir gained access to visas enabling them to visit Wales and enjoy the Llangollen International Eisteddfod. Worship was also very much in mind as Cytûn took a lead in 2014 in offering a liturgy for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland's Racial Justice Sunday material. Cytûn's CEO was asked to address Plaid Cymru's National Conference concerning immigration into Wales.

The National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Government

Effectively, Cytûn interacts with the National Assembly and the Welsh Government almost on a daily basis. Perhaps such regular joint working was inconceivable when the National Assembly came into existence in 1999. Churches have been alerted to requests for responses to a variety of consultations. The staff team has also sought to ensure that Cytûn responds positively to invitations to lectures, consultations and the launches of key strategies.

Cytûn, with other faith community partners, have sought to make the discussions of the Welsh Government's Faith Community Forum meetings with the First Minister productive and beneficial. National issues concerning health, social cohesion and social justice have been high on the agenda. One high point was the powerful presentation given by the Salvation Army on the churches response to poverty and homelessness concerns. Conversations around the pioneering development of foodbanks were highly valued. In this regard, Cytûn has possibly been at its most effective in enabling churches to speak to good effect in the public square.

The Forum has also provided a useful place to hold conversations about persecuted Christians in the Middle East, the Israeli and Palestinian conflict and Muslim radicalisation in cities such as Cardiff. Cytûn has endeavoured to ensure, with others, that in response

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to any possible community tension, mechanisms are in place to assist the appropriate conversations.

Through Aled Edwards as CEO, Cytûn makes a significant contribution to the conversations of the Welsh Government's Strategic Equality Plan Board and Race Forum. This equality and human rights based involvement has been useful in providing evidence to the Equality and Human Rights Commission concerning religion and belief. Cytûn was enabled in particular to provide support to local church groups regarding public parking on Sundays emphasising that local authorities should pay due regard to religion or belief when conducting equality impact assessments in the context of their policies.

Cytûn was also asked to serve on the First World War Centenary Programme Board assisting the Welsh Government, Cardiff City Council and Llandaff Cathedral to arrange the high profile Vigil held in August. This involvement has enabled Cytûn to ensure that such commemorations reflect the breadth of the churches views concerning peace and war. The witness of conscientious objectors as well as fallen soldiers such as Hedd Wyn of Trawsfynydd was marked. This has been done in conjunction with non-faith partners from the Welsh Centre for International Affairs. The August Vigil was held in Welsh, English and German and Urdd Gobaith Cymru made a powerful presentation on peace alongside interfaith contributions.

Cytûn supported the formal presentation of a William Morgan Bible to the National Assembly working in conjunction with friends at the Evangelical Alliance.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Throughout 2015 and 2016, Cytûn aims to further co-operation, conversation and joint-working between member churches and denominations.

Our work will be focused on three areas:

1. Building and deepening the relationships between churches and the denominations, fostering friendship and fellowship between them.
2. Discerning together the mind of Christ and facilitating opportunities for prayer and reflection.
3. Enabling the churches to speak more effectively in the public square.

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Abbreviations: **AE** Aled Edwards, **GR** Gethin Rhys, **RL** Rhian Linecar, **SP** Sasha Perriam
ST Sally Thomas, **YR** Ynyr Roberts

Colour index: ● Cytûn
 ● Commission of Covenanted Churches
 ● Free Church Council










Objective/Outcome	Activity	Lead	⊕	Timescale
1 Developing and Supporting local Ecumenical Partnerships	1.1 Identifying with denominations, areas for LEP work and facilitate sponsoring bodies where appropriate	RL/ST	●	Continuous
	1.2 Identifying expertise to foster and nourish LEPs	RL/ST	●	Continuous
	1.3 Constitutional/Organisational Support and Guidelines	AE	●	Continuous
2 To encourage the churches to explore the concept of receptive ecumenism	2.1 Produce resources for the churches explaining the concept of receptive ecumenism	ST	●	Continuous
	2.2 Introduce the concept of receptive ecumenism in the training of ecumenical officers	ST	●	Continuous
3 Supporting local Cytûn work	3.1 Raising awareness of local and regional Cytûn groups of the work of Cytûn	All	●	Continuous

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Objective/Outcome	Activity	Lead	⊕	Timescale
4 Raising the awareness of churches' governance structures of the work of Cytûn	4.1 Coordinating staff and/or Board presence at and giving presentations to governing bodies	AE	●	Continuous
	4.2 Create a better awareness within the churches of how to shape Cytûn's workplan and to enable Cytûn's to respond to specific requests during the year	All	●	Continuous
5 Supporting the work of the Commission of Covenanted Churches	5.1 Support the process by which the churches respond to the Commission's proposals as outlined at The Gathering; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifying areas where a Local Ecumenical Partnership might be established and holding local conversations to facilitate this identifying specific communities, such as new housing developments, which could act as experimental models for ecumenical ministerial deployment working locally with other denominations who are members of Cytûn 	RL/AE	●	Continuous

*** The above (point 5) will be updated during Spring 2015

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Objective/Outcome	Activity	Lead		Timescale
6 Coordinate and Organise the Churches' witness at national events	6.1 Cytûn churches' presence at: - Royal Welsh - National Eisteddfod - Urdd	YR		Summer 2013
	6.2 And other events as identified	AE		Flexible
7 Maintain and build awareness of the important role of Chaplaincy in the NHS and other public services in Wales	7.1 Coordination of briefing and influence to government/press/others	AE		Continuous
	7.2 Working with churches and denominations on Rural Chaplaincy	AE		Continuous
	7.3 Challenging the Secularist case	AE		Continuous
8 Enable churches' influence and presence in national discussions and public policy development	8.1 Maintain links with the Welsh Government and public bodies	GR		Continuous
	8.2 Share with churches opportunities for input into public consultations, Government work, and coordinate joint activity where appropriate and desired by the churches	GR		Continuous
	8.3 Facilitate the research and production of "Wales: a Moral Society?" with the churches as guided by the board	GR		Continuous














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Objective/Outcome	Activity	Lead	⊕	Timescale
	8.4 Explore possibilities of interchurch cooperation regarding public policy - including elections	GR	●	Continuous
	8.5 Develop networks of denominational public policy officers and individuals with particular expertise	GR	●	Continuous
9 Coordinate the Churches' discussions around religious education	9.1 Work with the Free Church Council on representation to SACREs and WASACRE	GR	◐	Continuous
	9.2 Inform policy development	GR	●	Continuous
	9.3 Maintain active contact with the Free Church Council	GR	◐	Continuous
10 Increase further ecumenical training in Wales	10.1 Welcome to Wales training for Ministers coming to Wales	SP/AE	●	October 2015
	10.2 Map the need for further ecumenical training	RL	●	December 2015

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Objective/Outcome	Activity	Lead	⊕	Timescale
11 Develop and maintain good relations with other ecumenical bodies	11.1 Support networks and shared work of CTBI and other ecumenical bodies	AE	●	Continuous
	11.2 Share information about the forthcoming meetings of the WCC and CEC and respond to consultations	AE	●	Continuous
	11.3 Attend and contribute to the discussions of the Churches Group for Local Unity	RL	●	Continuous
12 Providing high quality bilingual resources for ecumenical worship in Wales	12.1 To help and encourage CTBI and other bodies in the production of bilingual resources for Wales	AE	●	Continuous
	12.2 Worship and prayer resources on request.	RL	●	Continuous
	12.3 Liturgical resources	AE/RL	●	Continuous
	13.4 Provide as much resources as possible on the Cytûn website	RL/YR	●	Continuous

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Objective/Outcome	Activity	Lead		Timescale
13 Providing opportunities for the churches to discuss matters of doctrine	13.1 Provide a high standard secretariat for both the Commission and the FCCW	GR/RL		Continuous
	13.2 Support the Faith and Order work of the Commission	RL		Continuous
	13.3 Convey the on-going work of the CTBI Faith and Order Reference Group to the Churches in Wales	RL		Continuous
14 Providing opportunities for the churches to discuss matters of church and society	14.1 Nation of Sanctuary	AE/SP		Continuous
	14.2 International Affairs (inc. Christian Aid)	AE/GR		Continuous
	14.3 Co-ordinate work in response to persecuted Christian communities, including on the issue of Human Trafficking	AE		Continuous
	14.4 The Equalities Debate	AE/GR		Continuous
	14.5 Interfaith, ensuring Christian witness in the context of the conversation	AE/SP		Continuous
	14.6 Churches Property Advisers Group	GR		Continuous
	14.7 UK Legislation, RADAR and CLAS as they affect Wales	GR		Continuous
	14.8 Support the churches in their co-ordinated approach to peace matters	GR		Continuous
	14.9 Regular Policy Briefings during Assembly sessions	GR		Continuous

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Objective/Outcome	Activity	Lead	⊕	Timescale
15 Providing the churches and stakeholders with information to assist conversation	15.1 Communicating developments in the ecumenical movements such as CTBI	AE	●	Continuous
	15.2 Enable Board Members to act as effective conduits of information to denominations	AE/ Board	● ●	Continuous
16 Serving the Churches where required on external bodies	16.1 Cytûn to continue to represent the “Faith” category on the TSPC	GR	●	Continuous
	16.2 Maintaining excellent links with government, agencies and the wider public sphere in Wales	All	●	Continuous
17 Profile denominational activity and cooperation between groups of churches	17.1 Using Cytûn forums and committees, and other communications tools	AE	●	Continuous

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Objective/Outcome	Activity	Lead	⊕	Timescale
18 Enabling the holding of views before each other	18.1 Using Cytûn forums and committees, and other communications tools	All	●	Continuous
19 Helping church leaders meet and share together	19.1 Coordinate a Cytûn Churches Leaders Meeting	AE	●	Diary Dependent
	19.1 Coordinate regular meetings for prayer, fellowship and reflection	AE	●	Throughout 2015/16
	19.1 Coordinate Commission and FCCW church leaders meetings	GR/RL	●	Throughout 2015/16
20 Improve the working environment and efficiency of Cytûn Staff	20.1 Develop a common electronic filing system	YR	●	Spring 2015
	20.1 Develop and Improve system for Archiving	SP/All	●	Continuous
21 Develop, improve and maintain the website	21.1 Timely and relevant updates to www.cytun.org.uk	YR	●	Continuous
22 Maintain a good working office for Cytûn	22.1 Efficient maintenance of office systems and processes	SP	●	Continuous

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Objective/Outcome	Activity	Lead	Timescale
23 Improve communications with the Churches	18.1 Cytûn newsletter, printed professionally, to be produced 2 times a year	YR	● Continuous
	18.1 Annual Report to be published	AE/YR	● Continuous
	18.1 Frequent use of denominational newspapers	YR	● Continuous
	18.1 Increase use of English language papers	YR	● Continuous
	18.1 Better sharing of electronic information	YR	● Continuous
24 Supporting the work of Bodies in Association	18.1 Consult with bodies and bring to the Board their issues as requested	AE	● Continuous