

## Report on Cytûn to Meeting of Friends in Wales. February 2018.

More chairs had to be brought in for the enabling group meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February in Shrewsbury, which includes representatives of both bodies in association such as Christian Aid, and local Cytûn groups as well as the Trustees which represent the member denominations of Cytûn.

### Children Society

During the morning Tom Davies from the Children Society gave a presentation on the work of this Anglican organisation. He explained that during recent years the focus had changed from undertaking direct work with children to advocacy. One of the pieces of work which he has been working on related to missing children. Our Catholic colleague told us that this detailed work had helped to make a real difference in giving evidence at the Faith Communities forum. Tom was happy to share information and to network with other denominations. Aled Davies of the Welsh Sunday Schools expressed an interest. This was an example of how Cytûn can provide a forum for churches and bodies in association to exchange and share information and to speak out more effectively in the world. It also demonstrated the way in which we can allow different churches to take a lead on specific matters rather than try to cover everything.

### Wales and Europe

Cytûn's Wales and Europe working party has been working hard, responding regularly to consultations and providing briefing papers. During the summer they commissioned a study of what churches in Wales had achieved in this subject.

[http://www.cytun.org.uk/waleseurope/PDFs/Cytun\\_Brexit\\_Report\\_July2017.pdf](http://www.cytun.org.uk/waleseurope/PDFs/Cytun_Brexit_Report_July2017.pdf)

They have been keen to set up meetings in different places in Wales where local people can share their hopes and worries about the world post-Brexit. The first of these will be in Lampeter on 13 March, sponsored by Quakers and other local churches. We in Lampeter have enjoyed helping to plan for this event with its emphasis on open-hearted listening as a positive and practical reason to get involved with local churches. Further events in the series are planned for Llandudno, Ebbw Vale, and possibly Porthcawl. If you have a chance to get involved I would encourage you to do so.

### Faith and Witness

With cooperation from the commission of Covenanted churches, Cytûn has advertised a new post to cover both the Faith based aspects of Cytûn's work and the witness at the three events: The Royal Welsh Show, Urdd Eisteddfod, and National Eisteddfod. More news when I have it. Meanwhile we had some discussion of arrangements for the Eisteddfod this year in Cardiff Bay. This more open event will have a different feel from an enclosed Show ground (the Maes). Cytûn will have a stall but not be offering tea and Welsh cakes, because of these different arrangements. The system of rural chaplaincy on the Royal Welsh Showground has been discussed between the different denominations who take part, for a number of years, in order to ensure systems are robust and financially viable. It may be possible in the future for MFW to sponsor a Quaker chaplain to the team.

### Christian Aid

We heard that Mari McNeill is currently serving as temporary head of the team in Wales, and nationally, the new chief executive will be Amanda Khozi Mukwashi. Their campaign focus this year is on global displacement and the environment. Mari reminded us **that if** all displaced people, two thirds are within their own countries borders. Christian Aid is looking for new ideas for outreach to add to, or replace house to house collections in Christian Aid week. Suggestions welcome.

### Cytûn work plan.

We were reminded on several occasions that Cytûn can only do the work which the member churches want it to do. The draft workplan is the attempt to reflect this but it contains flexibility to respond to events and requests. Please ask if you would like further detail.

Deborah Rowlands

7 February 2018