



CYTUN LLANDUDNO Churches Together

Newsletter No 33

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Ysgrifenna'r Llywydd:

Fy nghred i yw na ddylem fod yn rhy sicr ein bod wedi darganfod Crist ynom ni'n hunain nes ein bod wedi'i ddarganfod yn y rhan honno o ddynoliaeth sy'n bellaf oddi wrthym ni ein hunain. (Thomas Merton)

Bydd rhai ohonoch wedi clywed am yr offeiriad - arlunydd Sieger Köder. Dim ond yn ddiweddar y deuthum ar draws ei waith a'r Grawys a Phasg eleni fydd y cyfle cyntaf a gaf i fanteisio ar ei gelf i gynorthwyo eraill i archwilio dyfnderoedd Dioddefaint Crist. Ganwyd Sieger Köder yn yr Almaen ym 1925. Fe'i anfonwyd i Ffrainc fel milwr ar y llinell flaen yn ystod y rhyfel ac ar ôl hynny bu yn Ysgol Academi Gelf Stuttgart. Gweithiodd fel arlunydd ac fel athro celf am 12 mlynedd cyn hyfforddi i fod yn offeiriad yn yr Eglwys Gatholig. Fe'i ordeiniwyd ym 1971. Fel offeiriad defnyddiodd ei gelf fel y defnyddiodd Iesu ei ddamhegion, i ddangos dyfnderoedd yr efengyl gyda throsiadau, symbolau a storïau.

Yn ei ddarlun "Golchi'r Traed" (uchod) mae Iesu'n penlinio o flaen Pedr, ei wyneb wedi'i guddio, welwn ddim ond ei adlewyrchiad mewn powlen o ddŵr budr, sydd hefyd yn cynnwys traed llychlyd ei gyfaill. Mae'n codi'r cwestiwn "Ble rydym ni'n gweld wyneb yr Iesu?" Mae'n ein herio i ddarganfod Iesu yng nghanol baw a llaca bywyd bob dydd.

Yn ein hymdrechion fel CYTUN i wneud ein Cynllun Tocyn Bwyd yn hyfyw, yn ariannol ac yn ymarferol, mae'n ymddangos i mi ein bod yn brwydro i gadarnhau credoau gwirion yr efengyl, mai yn y rhai sy'n cysgu allan, sy'n dod i dderbyn y tocynnau, y gwelwn wyneb Crist, ac wrth eu gwasanaethu nhw rydym yn deall beth mae'n ei olygu i gredu y daeth Duw yn gnawd a chofleidio ein cyflwr dynol hyd yn oed i ddyfnderoedd y dirgelwch hwnnw 'gwnaed yr hwn na wyddai bechod yn bechod i ni oll' a bu farw ar y groes. Gweddïaf y bydd y gwirionedd dwfn hwnnw yn dod yn fyw ym mhob un ohonom yn ystod y gwasanaethau y byddwn yn eu mynychu ar y cyd ac ar wahân, yn ystod yr Wythnos Fawr hon.

Nick Sissons



The President writes:

It is my belief, that we should not be too sure of having found Christ in ourselves until we have found him also in that part of humanity that is most remote from our own. (Thomas Merton)

Some of you may have heard of the artist-priest Sieger Köder. It is only recently that I came across his work and this Lent and Easter will be the first chance I have to draw on his art in helping others explore the depths of the Passion of Christ. Sieger Köder was born in 1925 in Germany. He was sent to France as a front line soldier during the war, after which he attended the Academy School of Art in Stuttgart. He worked as an artist and art teacher for 12 years before training for the Roman Catholic priesthood. He was ordained in 1971. As a priest he used his art as Jesus used his parables, to reveal the depth of the gospel through metaphor, symbol and story.

In his painting 'Washing of Feet' Jesus kneels before Peter, his face hidden; we see only his reflection in the dirty bowl of water, which also contain the dusty feet of his friend. It raises the question 'Where do we see the face of Jesus?' It challenges us to discover Jesus in the midst of the dust and dirt of daily life.

In our struggles as CYTÛN to make our Food Voucher Scheme viable, both financially and practically, it seems to me we are wrestling to affirm the foolish beliefs of the gospel, that in those rough sleepers, who come to receive vouchers, we see the face of Christ, and in our serving them we are understanding what it means to believe that God became flesh and embraced our human condition even to the depths of that mystery by which 'he who knew no sin was made to be sin for us all' and died upon the cross. I pray that in the services we go to, together and separately, this Holy Week, that profound truth may strike home to every one of us.

Nick Sissons

THE HOMELESS OF LLANDUDNO

The Voucher Scheme for the Homeless of the town has been reordered. There was an abuse taking place whereby some of the homeless (by no means all) were obtaining vouchers from more than one source on the same day.

This has been remedied by restricting the number of outlets to one. It was decided that this should be Our Lady, Star of the Sea, as the church is central to the town and there is usually one or other of the priests around. It was also decided that the time of distribution should be limited to one hour in the day - between 3pm and 4pm.

There will obviously be times when neither Fr Jones nor Fr Andrew will be able to man the door during that hour, so a team has been organised to meet that eventuality. Mr Patrick Rohde and his wife Barbara; Rev Fred Halstead and his wife Jean; and Mr Chris Griffiths and his wife Margaret have all very kindly volunteered to form this team.

The numbers of those seeking vouchers vary from time to time. Until fairly recently the numbers were considerable, hence the huge expense to Cytûn funds. But of late many of these unfortunate people have been found accommodation and the number seeking the vouchers is at the moment considerably reduced. This is good news, both from the Cytûn funds point of view, but far more importantly from the point of view of the rough sleepers themselves. They all have their problems, which stem usually from their upbringing and home background, rarely from their own fault. So, not only do they deserve our financial help but equally our spiritual help too. Please remember them in your prayers.

Fr Antony Jones

PROSPERITY WITH A PURPOSE – Christians and the Ethics of Affluence

The modern world is becoming more prosperous. The coming general election will confront us with a critical choice – how can that new affluence be more widely shared? Behind the spin, what do the parties really think about that challenging question? What sort of values do we want our politicians to have?

A working group of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, led by the Catholic author and commentator, Clifford Longley, has produced a document that looks for straight answers. It asks

- How do we pursue social justice in a prosperous world, where so many are still poor?
- How can the pursuit of self-interest serve the common good?
- How do markets, government and civil society work together to promote human well-being?
- How does global economic growth impact on the environment?

The document is published as *Prosperity with a Purpose – Christians and the Ethics of Affluence* ISBN 085169 310 5 (CTBI £3.99).

The same group of experts has produced a volume of supporting essays, which look at the issues in more depth. It will be published as *Prosperity with a Purpose – Exploring the Ethics of Affluence* ISBN 085169 309 1 (CTBI £11.99).

Both publications are to be launched by a group of church leaders in the House of Lords on 28 February 2005 and there will be a launch in Wales on 7 March in the National Assembly building. They will help Christians and others of good will to think more deeply, and act with more confidence and conviction, on the global issues that are the primary challenge of our age.

The above report from a CTBI Internet release.

VISIT OF LOCAL ECUMENICAL ENABLER

The Reverend Andrew Sully, Local Ecumenical Enabler for Cytûn in North Wales, addressed the Cytûn Council at its Meeting on February 1st. He started with an historical background. He reminded us that Cytûn (Churches Together) was 15 years old, having originated from a conference in 1989, when it had been decided by 12 participating churches to set up organisations in the Four Home Countries, together with an umbrella organisation.

It was also 30 years since the five Covenanted Churches (Church in Wales, Methodists, URC, Presbyterians in Wales, and some Baptists) signed the Covenant. The HQ of Cytûn in Wales has been in Cardiff. Six Regional groupings had been set up, with the NE Wales group flourishing and the NW Wales now apparently defunct.

He stressed that we had been called to go beyond competition to cooperation. We were united by being Church - called, not elected, to meet in the market place, where the real world is. He cited the recent demonstrations in Kiev during and after the Ukrainian elections. We are called to get out of our comfort zones.

We are Ecumenical - called to be one to make our mission effective to the World. Our Mission is not to bring people in, but rather to go out and speak out, as in the Jubilee Debt campaign in 2000, which was so influential with EU leaders. This year's theme is Making Poverty History and Gordon Brown has taken such a positive lead.

He asked us what were the local issues we can tackle together, and encouraged us to do a few things and do them well. Young people were ripe for harvesting. What was our vision? He drew our attention to the four yearly **Cytûn Gymanfa** to be held at the Agricultural showground, Llanelwedd, on Saturday October 1st, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Christian Aid, the 30th of the Welsh Covenant, and the 15th of Cytûn.

Patrick Rohde

MISSION HOUSE – C & S – LINK WORKER

I was impressed by the number of organisations represented at last month's Cytun meeting. Having been in the area barely five months, and less than two of those as a Mission House Churches and Schools Link Worker, I still regularly discover ministries previously unknown to me. Most local assemblies of believers have some young people, but not all have sufficient numbers to sustain a youth group.

Roy Crowne of Youth For Christ pointed out at the recent Youth Alpha conference that when church leaders ask 'why youth ministry?' they have a very valid point, for "...if they (YP) come into the church they create a problem". The older we get, the better we get at making our lives look tidy, and perhaps as the Holy Spirit graciously works in us to make us more like Christ, some of the issues we used to grapple with no longer trouble us. If we're honest though, we all have problems and young people are perhaps simply more open about their struggles to be distinct from the world around, to understand the Bible, and to follow God's example of love, to name but a few.

I am privileged to be part of the Mission House team, trying to create places where young people can be real with each other and with God. When life gets tough, we all need good relationships, so we know the God we depend on, and have siblings in Christ we can look to for support.

'The Garage', the new Gloddaeth United annexe, is very helpful in this, as it is more accessibly located than Mission House, so this is now where most of our meetings are held. The **7pm Sunday** meeting is still called **15+** for history's sake, though because a generation has passed through and mostly moved on, we are refocusing on ages 14+. The main ingredients are musical worship (often youth led), teaching, testimony and an informal atmosphere that encourages laughter and allows relationships to form.

Some of those who attend 15+ come to the **Thursday 7:30pm cell group**, where the focus is more pastoral, and on Bible study and prayer. At present we only have one cell, but we would like to grow to two – for which your prayers would be appreciated. This is also open to the 14+ age group.

On **Wednesday nights**, a small group of musicians aged 12-15 gather in the basement of Mission House to jam. Most of them come to **Monday's 'Let's Go'** at the Garage too. Let's Go has recently gained an optional extra session at **5:45pm**, where food and time are provided, for those interested in studying the Bible. Numbers usually roughly double to around twenty for the Activity Club session which begins at **6:45pm**.

The final regular meeting known as '**BiTe**' (an abbreviation of Bible Teaching) is held monthly on **Saturday at 7:30pm**. Gifted Bible teachers are invited from outside the area to bring nourishing spiritual food to a meeting aimed specifically at those aged 13+.

None of our meetings could replace the role of a church where all ages are present, so we are keen for all those we have contact with to be committed to a local church. Nurturing young people in their faith in Jesus is the goal we strive to make everything work towards. Did you know that the twelve disciples were probably all in their teens and twenties? We would welcome any young people you know who don't have a fellowship group, and I would happily receive any questions or suggestions you have regarding the ministry of Mission House.

Sam Jones, Mission House, sjj@fish.co.uk

For the third year **CYTÛN** Wales will provide a united witness in a single marquee at the **National Eisteddfod**, to be held this year in **Bangor** from 30th July to 6th August.

www.llandudnochurches.org.uk

Those of us who know a bit about computers will recognise the heading above as the name of Cytûn Llandudno's website on the Internet. Those of us who don't may like to know what is on this Cytûn website and indeed why we have one?

The present Cytûn website dates from 2003, but it had a precursor in that excellent website of 1997 put on the Internet by the Revd Pam Wright, our Vice-President, at a time when the Internet was in its infancy. In many ways her site was a model for mine and recognisable as such, another source of information and inspiration was of course the Cytûn tourist leaflet.

The website supplements the Cytûn leaflet in the attempt to encourage visitors to spend part of Sunday Morning at church in Llandudno or indeed on the Great Orme at that most inspirational of places Saint Tudno's Church.

Early last year a coach load of Korean Catholics turned up quite unexpectedly for 9:30 am Mass on Sunday Morning and they had planned their journey to Britain around the opportunity of Mass in Llandudno. Later, in August, I popped into an empty seat in the side isle of a very full church and found myself next to an American gentleman, with his family. They were there because they had found the times and the location on the Internet.

Email inquiries have come from Paris seeking contact with the Congregational Church and from the USA for the English Baptist Church, and there have been other email inquiries, seeking long lost relatives and friends.

For those who have not seen it, let me explain that listed on the Cytûn website is every member church of Cytûn Llandudno in the order in which they appear on the Cytûn tourist leaflet and where possible with a link to a street map showing the church location. The website gives the names of Clergy and the times of Services, together with internet links to the individual websites of those churches that have them. There is also a pictorial tour of Llandudno's churches showing each of the churches again with links to individual church websites or at least to their Sunday service times.

In addition to this are webpages devoted to Cytûn matters including an archive of articles from all the Cytûn Newsletters back to Number 1 in 1996.

Important also is the significant use made of the website by the Mission House who regard it as a major tool in their lines of communication with the youth of the district.

The Cytûn website helps us to communicate our presence to summer visitors and perhaps also to those seeking to move to Llandudno to work or to retire. Especially to

those churches without their own website, but also to those with, the Cytûn website is available for church communications of all descriptions in addition to what is already done. If you would, for example, like one or several photographs of the inside of your church placed on the site (a photo is as good as a thousand words so they say) that can easily be done and there are no costs involved. If you have ideas as to how we may extend the usefulness of this information resource, please get in touch.

Please contact me by email: noel@llandudno.com or by telephone: 01492 874217.

Noel Walley, Webmaster

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Women's World Day of Prayer on March 4th at

2.30 pm Y Tabernacl led by Mrs Glenys Roberts
3.00 pm Holy Trinity led by The Revd Jane Allen
7.30 pm St John's led by Mrs Margaret Felwick.

The Cytûn Lenten Meditations

These continue at Stella Maris on Tuesdays, March 8th & March 15th at 7:30 pm.

The Cytûn Monthly Prayers – March 12th

Second Saturday of every month 7am to 8am
At the Emmanuel Christian Centre, Lloyd St.

Dwelling Together Service

at Emmanuel at 7 pm on Saturday 19th March,
Preacher The Revd Mike Grimshaw from USA.

The Good Friday Walk of Witness – March 25th

**In which all friends of Cytûn are invited to join, as
a silent act of witness to our Crucified Lord.**

**Beginning outside the Town Hall at 11:45 am we
walk in total silence along Mostyn Sreet to Holy
Trinity Church for an outdoor service at 12 noon
at which this year the Llandudno Town Band will
accompany the hymns for the first time.**

The Cytûn Monthly Prayers – April 9th

Second Saturday of every month 7am to 8am
- in great need of increased support -
at the Emmanuel Christian Centre, Lloyd St.

The Cytûn Council

Tuesday April 19th - at Stella Maris at 7 pm.