

MISSION WREXHAM CENHADAETH WRECSAM
Notes of Mission Wrexham Summer Meeting held at
Wrexham Methodist Church, Regent St. Saturday 8th October 2011

1. Opening devotions: a time of thanksgiving and prayer.

Richard led with opening devotions from Phil 4 v 4-7, and we spent a time together giving thanks for the opportunities we have in our town for praying, serving and reaching out together in Jesus name as children of God and members of the body of Christ.

2. Present & Apologies

We welcomed those at their first meeting and note apologies for absence.

3. Autumn Programme

We noted the programme of meetings arranged to take place during October. There were appreciative words concerning the Hudson Taylor Concert, and information shared concerning the forthcoming CICC lecture, Ecology & Faith gathering and the Reaksa Himm visit arranged by Teams4U.

Outreach / Evangelism

4. Christmas Outreach

We noted the following events and were encouraged to PROVIDE DETAILS OF OTHER EVENTS TO ART.

- * Coverdale Puppets to visit local schools in the week commencing 29th November. Contact: Major Ian McCredie. Churches can sponsor a visit to a local school.
- * Wrexham Salvation Army Citizens Carol Service. Memorial Hall 4th December
- 'In the Picture' Town Centre outreach, 3 Saturdays before Christmas
- * Christmas Concert with Salvation Army Band and Rhos Orpheus Choir at St Giles, 7.30pm on 10th December.
- * Wrexham International Christmas Celebration. At Wrexham Methodist Church 6pm: Food and 7pm Song and readings on 15th December.
- * Wrexham Christian Aid Group are exploring arranging Town Centre Carol Singing on Saturday 17th December
- * Wrexham Salvation Army band will be playing at various venues before Christmas and the Citadel will host Christmas day lunch for those who would otherwise be alone on Christmas day.

5. Courses

Sarah E and Peter K reported on the use of the 'Christianity Explored' course, Peter commending the Youth version 'Soul'. Rob commended the CCPAS course GROWING LEADERS and we noted the value of the recent Marriage course.

6. Presence at Body, Mind and Spirit Fairs

David Fewster reported on progress with visits planned to the forthcoming fair & encouraged others to visit & report back to him. Mark explained HOTS were planning to be present, as was Grace Lockhart. Richard thanks David for persisting with the exploration of this form of ministry, which might be developed further in 2012.

7. The Olympics 2012

Mark pointed us to two websites 'More than Gold' and 'Forever2012.com'. These sites encourage churches to get involved in mission work linked to theme of the 2012 Olympics and explain how churches are working together in associated outreach and service. YWAM leads the youth component, and this includes offering a great opportunity for YP groups to experience a massive Youth gathering (any length of time) at Harpendon, near London.

Youth / children / students

8. Students

Richard reported on recent student welcome activities (local churches, chaplaincy and C.U.) and the encouraging news that funding for the chaplaincy at Glyndwr and Yale is now in place for the next few years. Enquiries regarding CU activities have been more than previous years & YWAM are hosting a eat and meet event shortly. Members are asked to help ensure welcoming hospitality in their churches should students make visits as is likely over coming weeks.

9. Schools Work

Rev'd. Mary Stallard recently licensed as Schools Chaplain & Development Officer in the Borough, working out of the St Giles R.E. Centre, provided members with a helpful overview of her responsibilities and shared of her hopes and dreams in the work. These are early days but initial encouragements have included a large turnout amongst students at St. Josephs for a voluntary Taizé style devotional event. With a remit that could cover some 13 Secondary school establishments, some focus will be necessary in the early phases of the development of this work.

Regarding the R.E. Centre, Mary reported this is to be officially launched at events over the 14th and 15th January. It is planned this will develop into an ecumenical resource and in matters related to the Centre and schools work Mary asked that members get in touch to discuss developments and follow up enquiries.

Richard then summarized the situation we have reached regarding the vision of an additional funded schools worker. The next phase is likely to commence later during 2011, after Mary had settled into her role, when further exploratory discussions could progress between representatives of Mission Wrexham / Cytûn and the R.E. Centre.

9.1. Schools Work: Schools Pastors

The meeting noted that a meeting is to be arranged whereby a representative of Ascension Trust is invited to address a meeting and explain the vision of and early experiences regarding the ministry of Schools Pastors. Ideas are beginning to emerge about a possible early focus for this work locally.

9.2. Schools Work: Rhosnesni Chapel

Richard advised the meeting that he with the congregation at the chapel (located adjacent to Rhosnesni School) have been exploring the possibility of using the building as a centre for Youth Ministry. Richard will include Mary in further discussions.

10. Interchurch Youth Gig's - RISE.

The developing situation surrounding this group was discussed. July's meeting went well, and St Johns have helped develop new opportunities for Worship group practice and an event on the evening of 15th October. Richard expressed our thanks to Mike and Sarah Lacy who had provided oversight for the period up to the summer, but had indicated that they could no longer continue this role after one more meeting. It was agreed Officers should seek to help find the best way forward to assist the group.

11. Opportunity at Bethel Presbyterian Church

Members were asked to make known Bethel's need for a Youth leader to oversee their community youth activities.

12. News from ROCKSALT

Peter outlined the challenges and developments related to this Youth and community ministry based in Caergwrle. Again issues of linkages and the development of this work that reached right into a community with significant social and family issues. Peter expressed his and Ruby's gratitude for the support of friends at local churches and at Mission Wrexham.

13. News from YWAM

Sarah advised of two new DTS students, from California and Sweden and of the arrival of Elizabeth, a new member of staff, all looking forward to their involvement in the local church. Mark reported on the continuing delights and challenges of the Healing on the Streets Ministry, and in particular the issues raised regarding this outdoor ministry operating during the periods of colder weather ahead.

Salt and Light

14. Parish Nurse

The meeting noted that the new parish nurse Amanda Berry had been in touch following her recent commissioning. She reported an initial busy period, during which she will focus on working with the Anglican team, before exploring working on a more ecumenical basis.

15. Human trafficking

Art advised that Meg's group had held an awareness day in town and as a result had been invited to meetings arranged by the Council. A discussion developed highlighting issues relating to the acknowledging and identification of the problem, its scale and the spiritual darkness it represents.

16. Our Society, today and tomorrow.

Richard advised that in response to a proposal from Wrexham Methodist Church, TCC have agreed to proceed to the research phase of identifying appropriate action concerning issues of poverty and high interest debts in the UK. At meeting has been arranged at the Methodist Church for 1.45pm Thursday Nov 3rd.

17. Feeding the roofless

Geraint reported on a number of aspects of this work:

- a. There are particular challenges regarding coverage of periods over Christmas related to the way bank holidays fall.**
- b. With the cold weather approaching donations of warm clothes and sleeping bags are needed.**

If members can respond to or help make these needs known in their churches could they please contact Dr Geraint.

Geraint also reported:

- c. due to several issues the extension of the rotas to cover Thursdays had not yet been achieved.
- d. following representations, consideration is having to be given to relocating activities.
- e. following the identification of there being far more 'transient' clients, Geraint had proposed research work be undertaken related to the issue. Funding had now been secured for this work to be progressed by the Social Inclusion Unit at Glyndwr University.
- f. Due to the efforts of the Tier 2 group, it does now look as if facilities will be developed for daytime provision, and this could mean a more secure and appropriate location for the churches activities in providing food for the roofless.

18. Other Salt and Light issues raised.

18.1. Hospital chaplaincy.

Ffion reported that with Cathy Collins appointment to the wider Trust, Gary Windon is to work 2 days at the chaplaincy, and shortly interviews take place for an additional full time chaplain. The ministry at the hospital provides many opportunities for Chaplaincy Assistants. Once the appointments are made, Ffion suggested we would need to consider making this ministry opportunity known and for those interested to undergo listening training. She also identified a great need for Welsh speaking chaplaincy assistants. We agreed to return to this subject.

18.2. Ministry amongst the deaf community.

The meeting was advised by Geraint that the Chaplain to the Deaf community had moved to a new appointment, and that Regional Cytun are now considering the future of this ministry. Included in this is the possibility of there being a church community to minister specifically to those who have hearing disabilities.

18.3. Urdu Christian Fellowship

Richard reported that the growing local community of Urdu speakers are to establish their own Christian Fellowship group in the town.

Prayer and Communications

19. Prayer Week 2012

Richard commented that after the specific Prayer Week 2011, related as it was to Wales and the National Eisteddfod, we needed now to consider if we are meant to plan for a prayer week in 2012, and if so how are we to go about this. We noted that in March 2012 the National Prayer Breakfast event is planning to take place just over the Borough boundary, so that organisation will very likely ask for our help in making arrangements. **It was agreed that planning to hold a Prayer Week in 2012 was appropriate.** We agreed that being 2012, it could well be that the timing and content of Prayer week relate in some creative ways to the Olympic event. We felt that Prayer Week's continuing relevance to the church reaching out to schools should once again feature in our prayerful preparation & planning. We agreed that we should seek to identify if one of the church leaders in the town felt that 2012 was a year when their congregation should host the event as part of the developing witness, spiritual development & their service to the church in the town. We noted that last year also saw Cytun as an organisation identify & support the project in a much greater way than previously. It was agreed that Richard should make these feelings known to Cytun and to write out to churches concerning this item.

20. Prayer and Communications (General)

We noted Prayer Week 2011 culminated with a re-commissioning of Wrexham's Praying Citizens, so this ministry continues.

It was noted also that it is John and Mark's intention to produce a new edition of TOWN PRAYER NEWS hopefully before this month end.

We noted Mark's continuing work in developing the Mission Wrexham website. (thank you Mark). We noted the leaflet listing town congregations has been updated.

21. Any other news and business

GOING PUBLIC.: Mark asked that churches consider the possibility of sponsoring a visit of this excellent group to the town. Last year they performed in Llangollen at an event arranged by the Vicar, Andrew Sully See: <http://goingpublic.org.uk/>

HOUSING: We noted Cathy' William's report that following contacts made at our last meeting, housing had been found for 5 Arabic speakers, 3 of whom are refugees. The work of identifying properties for the homeless continues. Much prayer is needed. Issues are complex.

22. Dates for 2012 meetings:

Saturdays: 4th February, 12th May, October 6th

Closing Prayer together