



DRAFT

Minutes of the Wales Association of SACREs
meeting at Glyndŵr University, Wrexham
held on 24 June 2010

<p>Ynys Môn / Anglesey Rheinallt Thomas Eurfryn Davies Bethan James</p>	<p>Sir Ddinbych / Denbighshire Brian H Jones Phil Lord Morfudd Jones</p>	<p>Rhondda Cynon Taf Carys Thomas</p>
<p>Blaenau Gwent Gill Vaisey</p>	<p>Sir y Fflint / Flintshire Phil Lord Nigel Steele-Mortimer Fred Gilmore</p>	<p>Abertawe / Swansea Vicky Thomas</p>
<p>Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / Bridgend Carys Thomas Edward Evans</p>	<p>Gwynedd Bethan James</p>	<p>Torfaen Vicky Thomas</p>
<p>Caerffili/ Caerphilly Michael Gray Vicky Thomas David Brooks</p>	<p>Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tudful Carys Thomas</p>	<p>Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan Vicky Thomas</p>
<p>Caerdydd / Cardiff Luisa Munro-Morris Kathering Mayer</p>	<p>Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire Gill Vaisey</p>	<p>Wrecsam / Wrexham Tania ap Siôn Samantha Jesson Maxine Pittaway John Davies Anne Suter Ifor Jones Vicky Barlow Tom Wright</p>
<p>Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire Meinir Wyn Loader Mary Parry Helen Gibbon</p>	<p>Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath and Port Talbot</p>	<p>Sylwedyddion / Observers Denize Morris (APADGOS / DCELLS) Leslie Francis (Canolfan St Mary's Centre) Gavin Craigen (Canolfan St Giles' Centre)</p>
<p>Ceredigion Margaret Davies C Joyce Howells (?)</p>	<p>Casnewydd / Newport Vicky Thomas</p>	
<p>Conwy Phil Lord Nicholas Richter Hazel</p>	<p>Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire Huw George</p>	
	<p>Powys John Mitson Christine Robinson</p>	

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- 1. Introduction and welcome** The Lord Mayor of Wrexham, Cllr Jim Kelly welcomed members to Glyndŵr University and to the Catrin Finch Centre, named after the renowned Welsh Harpist. The Mayor drew particular attention to the importance of the education of the whole child and the central contribution of religious education to community cohesion, which was essential in a multi-cultural society.

Pupils from Eyton School impressed members with their presentation on religious education and their collection of songs.

Professor William Kay, representing Theology at Glyndŵr University, also welcomed members.

- 2. Quiet reflection** The Chair led the reflection which was inspired by his recent trip to Oberammergau
- 3. Apologies** Apologies were received from: Chris Abbas, Sue Cave, Ramiz Delpak, Maire Hughes, Rhian Linecar, Lyndon Lloyd, Eldon Phillips, Chris Pritchard, Gwyn Rogers, John Rogers, Dafydd Treharne, Jen Malcolm, Ben Wigley.
- 4. Minutes of meeting held at Swansea, 18 March 2010** The minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.
- 5. NAPfRE presentation: Gavin Craigen, The St Giles Centre** Gavin Craigen, Executive Director of the St Giles' Centre, introduced members to the new centre for RE and faith development based in Wrexham. The three main aims of the new centre, which is funded by the Wrexham Parochial Educational Foundation, focus on: religious education and working with LAs and dioceses to promote high quality RE; faith development and working with dioceses and local ecumenical partners; and the St Giles' Church and developing resources which enable the historic building to be used to teach young people about the Christian faith. The St Giles' Centre is working collaboratively with Wrexham LA in the establishment of three RE posts: School Improvement Officer (.2 RE); Advisory Secondary Teacher (.4 post); and Advisory Primary Teacher (.4 post). These posts are also funded by the Wrexham Parochial Educational Foundation. The St Giles' Centre also works collaboratively with the St Mary's Centre, which focuses on curriculum development, research, and accredited CPD related to religion and education in partnership with Glyndŵr University. The St Giles' Centre will be physically housed in the St Giles' Church, Wrexham, and Members were shown architect's plans for the ambitious build, which would be completed by March 2011. There will be an official launch of the St Giles' Centre in March with the Bishop of St Asaph and (hopefully) with the Archbishop of Wales. The physical build would supply office space and flexible activity space.
- 6. NAPfRE presentation: Sam Jesson, Developing spirituality in primary schools**

Sam Jesson began the presentation by asking the question, 'What is spirituality?' She emphasised the importance of modelling spirituality for children and discussed the relationship between spirituality and well-being. She outlined a number of ways in which

spirituality could be developed through RE, such as providing quiet reflective opportunities for pupils (and also modelling this for them) and taking advantage of the Foundation Phase classroom, where so much goes on. The skills focus of the curriculum today particularly lends itself to the promotion of spirituality. It is important to create reflection areas and spaces in a classroom, where children can sit quietly, observing. Some reflective spirituality areas are based on themes, such as Divali and Daniel and the Lion's Den. Sam shared with members a number of themed spaces that she had used in the classroom. By putting resources into these quiet places, children are given the space to reflect before responding

- 7. Celebrating RE** Tania ap Sion updated members on recent developments relating to the month-long celebration of RE in March 2011. She drew members attention to the Celebrating RE website, which provides an excellent resource for schools, SACREs, and others participating in the celebration. Articles are posted on the website offering many ideas about how RE can be celebrated in different contexts, such as Foundation Phase, primary school, secondary school, special schools, Gifted and Talented, social media, SACRE, religion and the community, schools with a religious character and many more. Welsh versions of the articles are also available, funded by WASACRE, as agreed in the meeting on 24 June 2010. The website also gives details of a range of competitions for schools to enter. The website details are: www.celebratingre.org All SACREs have been sent both electronic copies and hard copies of the Celebrating RE leaflet (Welsh and English versions) so that they are able to promote the celebration in their local areas.

Gill Vaisey (as member of the WASACRE/NAPfRE Wales Celebration Planning Group) proposed to members a WASACRE-sponsored competition for the Celebration. The competition proposal involved the creation of a digital presentation on a selected RE-relevant area with three categories for entry: Foundation Phase/key stage 1; key stage 2; and secondary school. The prize for each category would be £200 for the winners' schools. The Treasurer said that this was financially affordable, and members agreed to the proposal.

- 8. Correspondence** No additional correspondence was presented to the meeting.
- 9. Report from the Executive Committee held on 20 May 2010** The summary of the Executive meeting was presented to members. Attention was drawn to point 4, Matters arising, in relation to Estyn. Rheinallt Thomas raised the issue of the situation in England with regard to the recent OFSTED report. SACREs in England did not monitor RE and collective worship in schools. In Wales, with the changes to the Estyn monitoring of subjects across the curriculum (no longer subject related), he emphasised the need for SACREs to be aware of their responsibilities to monitor RE and collective worship, and to develop new ways of doing this. Vicky Thomas added that this matter had been discussed at NAPfRE. The matter would be included on the agenda of the next Executive meeting.
- 10. Showcase of RE resources** Gill Vaisey showed members her two new books for Foundation Phase pupils: *A Wedding Day Wish for Puddles* and *Puddles and the Very Happy Easter Day*. A promotional leaflet was given to members and Gill offered to send electronic copies of the leaflet, if requested.

Rheinallt Thomas highlighted REMW's resources, and encouraged those LAs which were not members to become members in order to take advantage of the resource benefits offered. He also urged members to promote the two new RE Today primary publications to their schools - the resources were translated to Welsh because they are directly relevant to the new Foundation Phase curriculum. REMW has circulated a leaflet to all Welsh-medium secondary schools publicising the Welsh secondary assemblies on the SPCK Assemblies website (www.assemblies.org). REMW works with the St Mary's Centre in providing the secondary assemblies through funding the translation. Gill Vaisey raised a number of issues with the letter which was sent out to LAs asking for the REMW subscriptions. These comments will be taken back to the REMW Board at its next meeting.

Denize Morris drew attention to the publication of the Slavery pack jointly published by Cymal and DCELLS. The pack includes 2 DVDs/CD ROMS and relates to history, Geography and PSE. The work that Bethan James (CYNNAL) contributed to the pack was especially highlighted.

11. A.O.B. There was no other business.

12. Date of next meeting Friday, 26 November 2010, Caerphilly.

At the end of the meeting, the Chair extended his thanks to the Lord Mayor of Wrexham, Cllr Jim Kelly, Eyton pupils, Vicky Barlow, Wrexham LA and colleagues, Glyndŵr University, and the translator, Sian Aled Owen.



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Minutes of the AGM held at Glyndŵr University, Wrexham on 24 June 2010

1. **Minutes of the AGM held at Llangollen, 24 June 2009** The minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.
2. **Matters arising** There were no matters arising
3. **WASACRE Report 2009-2010** Members received and accepted the WASACRE Report for 2009-2010.
4. **Treasurer's Report** The Treasurer presented members with copies of the report for 2009/2010 financial year. (a) The statement of accounts. In contrast to 2008/2009 when expenditure exceeded income, in 2009/2010 income exceeded expenditure by £1619.65. This leaves the Association in a financially healthy condition with reserves of £12754.85, which will assist the Association in funding its planned activities. All SACREs in Wales paid their annual subscriptions well within the financial year, and for this, the Treasurer expressed his gratitude. Members received and adopted the statement of accounts. (b) Annual subscriptions. Members accepted the Treasurer's recommendation that SACRE membership of WASACRE during the 2010/2011 financial year be set at £393, which represents a 2.5% increase on the 2009/2010 subscription, in line with inflation (as agreed in the 2001 AGM). (c) Payment of expenses. Members accepted the Treasurer's recommendation that the payment of expenses agreed for 2009/2010 be maintained for 2010/2011.
5. **Election of members to the Executive** Mary Parry was re-elected to the Executive (Carmarthenshire SACRE) and Dafydd Treharne (Vale of Glamorgan SACRE) was also elected to the Executive.
6. **Dates and venues of meetings** A seven year rota for the dates and venues of WASACRE meetings was accepted by members. The autumn term meeting takes place in Caerphilly on **Friday, 26 November 2010**. The date for the spring term meeting in the

Vale of Glamorgan is to be arranged (subsequent to the AGM, the date for the spring term meeting was arranged for **2 March 2011**).

7. **List of executive members** Michael Gray (Chair, Caerphilly SACRE, 2009-2011); Edward Evans (Vice Chair, Bridgend SACRE, 2009-2011); Tania ap Siôn (Secretary, Wrexham SACRE); John Mitson (Treasurer, Powys SACRE); Gavin Craigen (the immediate past Chair); Gill Vaisey (representative from NAPfRE); Dafydd Treharne (Vale of Glamorgan SACRE, 2010-2013); Mary Parry (Carmarthenshire SACRE, 2010-2013); Rheinallt Thomas (Anglesey SACRE, 2009-2012); Brian Jones (Denbighshire SACRE, 2009-2012); Vicky Thomas (Torfaen SACRE, 2008-2011); Eldon Philips (Swansea SACRE, March 2010-2011).