



**CARDIFF EAST LOCAL ECUMENICAL
PARTNERSHIP**

MAELFA SHOP

Annual Report

2011

**Where there is no vision,
The people die.**

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I stated at the end of the 2010 report that we were looking forward to the challenge of 2011, well, what an understatement that was.

During 2011 everyone has worked exceedingly hard to improve the Shop in every way.

As has been reported previously, we received a grant in January 2011 which had to be spent on the premises, so we refurbished the Café and Office. New signs have been erected outside and the Council replaced our lighting inside, which helped us see what we were doing – a definite advantage, since just 3 of 9 lights were working.

The Shop now looks attractive and inviting. We are greatly indebted to our 'D.I.Y helpers' who have been brilliant in all they have done for us.

Frequent stock changes and diligence in presentation resulted in an increase in customers and sales income the Treasurer's report gives the details.

We are always happy to receive items of clothing and gifts so, give us a call, we need your 'cast offs' and we can collect if necessary. We have held a Christmas raffle and several £1 Sales. The clothing and goods due for disposal is either passed on to the St Dyfrigs Homeless Charity or the Ty Hafan Shop. What is recycled is sold for which we are paid £1.50 per bag.

Carols at the Shop on Dec 24th followed by coffee and mince pies was a success and we are indebted to the friends from St Dyfrigs who swelled our numbers.

Christian Aid All small change donated is put into the charity box and in May we sent a cheque for £35 to Christian Aid.

Red Nose Day Fund In July we received a grant from this fund

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enabling us to buy a Lap-top, printer and the necessary 'gubbins' to help with the administration duties and we have set up a web-site at localgiving.com/maelfashop. This is a donation site and we have received a few gifts, thankfully. Why not take a peek? We have also received some other small donations and £300 from All Saints Cyncoed.

We would like to do more but we desperately need more 'Church' volunteers. At present there are more Community Volunteers than Church folk, for a Churches Together Outreach that seems a little 'topsy-turvy' don't you think?

If you can just spare a few hours on any day or be available at a moments notice, we can use you, please come to or ring the Shop 20549571. No experience necessary, just a sympathetic ear and a heart full of love.

The Clergy have renewed their rota visits which we and the customers very much appreciate.

The o/s debt to the Methodist Church £3K+ approx: and is safe.

The Speakeasy advice group &

The Cardiff Food Bank meets on a Wednesday morning & Friday lunch time. These 'Community Services' serve to extend our Outreach and make a huge difference to peoples lives.

The Shop collects food items and the CEEMC Churches have designated 2011/2012 a year for the Food Bank.

It is thrilling to see so many of the Churches represented amongst the volunteers.

Arcade Redevelopment The Maelfa Arcade is due for redevelopment, when exactly and the implication for the Shop is not clear at this stage, besides knowing the whole area will be demolished and rebuilt. This could result in us moving to other premises within the arcade for the duration of the work but many decisions will have to be made regarding our future.

We will be updating the CEEMP as and when we are able.

In conclusion as we look back on 2011 we are delighted that we have been enabled to rise to the challenge and feel we have exceeded our own expectations.

It hasn't all been 'beer and skittles' we have had some hair raising experiences but we trust we have lived and learnt from them, we continue to offer love, care, practical and spiritual help and this is proving to be a light in a very dark place, not least for some of the Volunteers.

We don't preach, we just show the love of God quietly. Please continue to pray for us, we need you to make it work. When somebody comes into the Shop, it isn't always obvious what emotional scars they are carrying and it is only when one sits and chats that 'hearts are opened and burdens shared'

The following was said by a lady whose life has been wrecked by alcoholic parents, a childhood in care, a brutal husband, the inevitable drink, drugs imprisonment and a nervous system in tatters. "Thank you so much for all you and the Volunteers have done, this place is my life line and the support you all give keeps me and others together".

We praise and thank God for our calling to the Shop and for the daily opportunities he gives us to 'make a difference' to those who are in need. So to 2012 and who knows what the future will hold.