

CYNGHRAIR
p o b l
GRISTNOGOL

Cryfhau Calon Cymru

CHRISTIAN
peoples
ALLIANCE

Strengthening the Heart of Wales

**Polisiau CPG Cymru
ar gyfer Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol Cymru**

Mai 2007

**Policies of CPA Cymru
For the National Assembly
of Wales**

May 2007



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Anthony Jeremy

National Spokesman,
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Alliance Cymru

Strengthening the Heart of Wales

The Christian Peoples Alliance Cymru is campaigning on the issues that people in Wales care about, but which no other party will address. We are not afraid to produce long-term and radical solutions that go to the heart of the needs of the Welsh people. Our vision is for a Wales that strengthens the weak, challenges the proud and self-satisfied and lives by the Light that's guided our nation through the centuries.

Tackle the roots of poverty

Wales can take more children and families out of poverty. The Christian Peoples Alliance Cymru are committed to invest in marriage as the most secure place to raise children. It's time for Wales to reward couples who commit themselves to their children. Cycles of deprivation and ill-health can be reversed and long-term social inequalities tackled.

Communities freed to act

The National Assembly of Wales has won new legislative powers. CPA Cymru welcomes this and will use these to free communities from centralised decision-making and implement the Christian Democratic principle of subsidiarity - which is that decisions should be taken as close as possible to the people most affected. Our objective is to see the Welsh national identity flourish and for our nation's diverse, local communities to fully express themselves, through the Welsh language, through our rich culture and through a celebration of difference.

A Nation under God

Our first objective in standing is to remind the people of Wales that Welsh culture has been rooted in Christianity for over fifteen hundred years and to warn them that Christianity is being erased from Welsh public life. A strong Christian culture is a vital component in multi-cultural Wales. Our Christian heritage must be celebrated and preserved not marginalised. We are here to ensure that in all areas of social and economic policy, the Christian voice of conscience will be heard and that Christian values will be extended and promoted in public life.

Our message is simple. We are appealing not only to the 10% of people who go to church regularly in Wales, but also to the other 62% who actually want to live in a country which respects and recognises Christianity.

I am determined that at the elections for the National Assembly for Wales, the public is offered a vision that holds the social ecology of human relationships in harmony with the natural ecology of our environment. The need for such a distinctive Christian vision in Cardiff has never been greater.

Christian Democracy in Wales

Across the rest of Europe, Christian Democracy is an established and successful electoral fact. This is because the motivating principles of CPA Cymru address all of human existence and not just small parts of it: social justice, empowerment, respect for life, reconciliation, active compassion and wise stewardship.

Beginning little by little, but now with great strides, the Christian voice of conscience is being silenced in the Welsh public square. The election on May 3rd is the democratic means to turn this around. Voters get two votes in these elections - one for their local constituency and one for their regional list. CPA Cymru candidates are standing for election in all the regional lists. However you vote in your constituency, please vote CPA Cymru in the regional ballot and put a strong Christian voice in the Assembly.

I want to hear what part you wish to play in strengthening the heart of Wales. Please send me your views.



Anthony Jeremy
National Spokesman,
CPA Cymru
CARDIFF MARCH 2007

1 *Politics and Welsh Christianity*

Christian Democracy in Wales is not about giving privileges to the Church - it is about returning to the roots of what it means to be Welsh in the 21st Century. Our nation needs a radical return to principled Christianity. In the census of 2001 the people of Wales were asked what religion they were. They were told the question was voluntary and the first option they were given to choose was "none". 72% chose to pass over this option and to describe themselves as "Christian". 72% of the population of Wales is over 2 million people.

In the Assembly referendum of 1997, 25.2% of the electorate voted in favour - 559,419 people. This was enough to pass the resolution to establish the National Assembly of Wales. In the Assembly elections of 2003, 14.6% of the electorate - 325,586 people - voted for the Labour Party: this was enough to allow Labour to control the Assembly government and to be in charge of its budget.

In Wales, the Labour Party has around 25,000 members and 325,000 voters, and runs the country. The church has over 185,000 members and 2 million census supporters and yet it is treated by Labour as irrelevant and unimportant.

What we are saying is this:

If most of us in Wales are Christian in belief and if this is a democracy then shouldn't we be allowed to live in a country which respects and recognises Christianity?

. . . returning to the roots of what it means to be Welsh in the 21st Century.

2 *Christian Democratic Principles*

The Christian Peoples Alliance Cymru holds to the Six Principles of Christian Democracy identified in the Mayflower Declaration (*see www.cpalliance.net/docs/Mayflowerbooklet.pdf*): Social Justice, Respect for Life, Empowerment, Active Compassion, Reconciliation and Wise Stewardship.

Our priority is to see wise stewardship of God's creation in Wales and the world. We require a shift away from me-first values that lie behind the destruction of our natural ecology, the fast depletion of world energy resources and threats from ever-increasing pollution.

The Christian Democratic approach is to motivate individuals, families, government agencies, charities and other bodies in Wales to offer active compassion to all regardless of age, sex, colour, race or religion. CPA Cymru will meet the fundamental needs of the poor before satisfying the preferences of the rich.

The rates of stress and depression in Wales, together with crime and family breakdown all suggest that something is missing. Each of our policies addresses our conviction that when we look at things that make for improving life in Wales, it is good relationships which matter. Our policy route is to encourage positive relationships across society.

. . . offer active compassion to all regardless of age, sex, colour, race or religion

3 *Our Key Commitments*



Our policies aim to strengthen the heart of Wales. We will start by supporting our nation's Christian heritage:-

- 1** Revive, retain and support Christian assemblies in schools using church resources in the process.
- 2** Create a National Centre to celebrate the Christian heritage of Wales.
- 3** National Assembly sessions to begin with Christian prayer led by the young people of Wales.
- 4** Establish a Church Social Action Fund that will match the funding already provided by churches to reach out to excluded and vulnerable people.
- 5** Use 0.1% of the Assembly budget to tackle starvation in the developing world and help make poverty history.
- 6** End public funding for abortion as a form of contraception and campaign for a review of the existing law. Take steps to end discrimination against doctors and nurses not wanting to be involved in anti-life measures for reasons of conscience. Promote alternatives to abortion.

4 *Respect for God in Education*

The approach which marks out the Christian Peoples Alliance is our commitment to the highest ideals of liberal education - the formation of the whole person. Schooling at its best opens up new horizons, broadens the imagination, gives space to the flourishing of the human spirit and helps form the character of the individual. For this reason, CPA Cymru does not believe that education is primarily about exam results and league tables. Our approach is to impart a clear sense of moral rights and responsibilities and foster good ideas of citizenship.

- Schools cannot be expected to deal with every problem of society. Education begins first in the home and continues through life. As Christian Democrats, CPA Cymru will not rely on testing in schools and educational re-organisation to improve educational outcomes. Just as important to children and raising standards is tackling poverty and supporting stability in the home, which comes through loving parental relationships.
- There are too many children in primary classes, with 30 pupils often crammed into a school room. We will appoint more teachers and reduce class sizes to 25 so that more time and attention is given to each child.

*... supporting our
nation's Christian
heritage ...*



- We will give schools greater freedom to provide an appropriate curriculum for their students and replace simple testing with an emphasis on support for individual student progress and achievement.
- Giving greater freedom to schools will enable them to benefit in other ways, such as by the provision of healthier school meals. With this aim we will ban fizzy drinks and high fat snacks from schools.
- Saddling students with huge debts is wrong in principle and deters the less well-off from going to university. CPA Cymru will therefore guarantee at least the present financial support to Welsh students in Welsh universities until at least 2011.
- Besides the formal education each child will receive, we are committed to restoring the emphasis on loving parents and good role models in raising children. To help achieve this, the Christian Peoples Alliance will promote Christian and family values as an integral part of education programmes.
- CPA Cymru recognises that secularism poses a growing threat to Christian education in Wales. This election is an opportunity to renew consent for Christian values in our schools.
- In the National Assembly, CPA Cymru will be an advocate for the right of parents to choose an education that balances the needs of the community with support for the beliefs, traditions and values of the home.
- To meet increasing parental demand, we will extend the provision of Welsh-medium education from nursery age upwards.
- The CPA will act to affirm the right of Church schools and independent faith based schools to maintain their religious ethos.
- The rights of parents to have freedom of choice of the school for their child will have the support of the CPA, alongside the right of all children, whatever their background, to a high quality educational experience.
- CPA Cymru will be a committed advocate for the continuation of voluntary-aided faith schools in Wales.
- New cross-denominational schools with a Christian ethos will be encouraged. Together with other faith establishments, these will have a special bias to serve communities where there are high levels of social and economic deprivation and low educational achievement.
- Where parents and governors opt for moving to this voluntary aid status, the CPA will encourage local authority School Organisation Committees to respect the wish of parents. We will review the powers of Independent Adjudicators whose decisions can overturn local wishes by parents.



- At the moment it is the Law that every school in Wales must have a collective act of worship which must be of a broadly Christian character. We agree with this law, but are concerned that it is only a matter of time before the Assembly government will remove it. Whilst expecting that schools will accord respect to pupils of all faiths or none, our policy is to retain broadly Christian assemblies in schools and for there to be greater encouragement for local churches to participate in them.
- Schools will approach the issue of increased under-age pregnancies by promoting the stability offered by marriage and encouraging sexual abstinence. Pupils will be taught the skills and confidence to make right choices, especially when faced by the challenges of alcohol and substance abuse.

Children and Young People

As Christian Democrats, the CPA is committed to ensuring that children are listened to, respected and made to feel that their contribution to Wales is welcomed.

- To improve children's health, the CPA will develop more child-friendly and healthier neighbourhoods, especially through improving the safety of roads and streets.
- Creating safer street networks and open spaces for play is vital for improvements in children's social and physical well-being.
- CPA Cymru is committed to the success of the National Healthy Schools Scheme and the promotion of physical activity in all schools.
- Poverty levels in Wales suggest that young people may be particularly vulnerable to mental health problems. The CPA will aim to develop preventative, child friendly services and easily accessible counselling.
- The causes of substance abuse will be tackled and a firm stance taken against all illegal drug use. Alcohol abuse will be tackled by confronting the way big companies promote alcohol to young people.
- The CPA will require the National Assembly and other publicly-funded bodies to promote the values of marriage, faithfulness and commitment.

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5 *A Caring Ethic in Health and Social Services*

CPA Cymru will restore healing and health to its rightful place in policy making. So, health problems associated with the consumerist society will be made part of the economic equation and not just addressed once people become ill. Our approach is distinctive in that we want Wales to be a compassionate nation that values relationships above material possessions. Our aim is to see a slower and less dysfunctional society. This means we will watch out for the stress that modern life in Wales loads on people, especially the less well off who are most likely to suffer health problems. This preventative approach will reap benefits in both health and social services. Professionals must be enabled to focus on patient care and the dignity of each individual. In our view, the caring services cannot just be a business. Our policies for a green economy less demanding of energy will see a reduction in pollution. Less reliance on industrialised food production will also have direct health benefits.



Health justice for all

CPA Cymru will restore fair access to health care by ensuring that national standards of provision are the bench-marks rather than targets. This will end the damage to clinical priorities and help enable individual structures to work more closely in partnership for the good of the patient. National standards will also be applied immediately in relation to cleaning wards so tackling the scourge of MRSA.

- There will be a shift in emphasis towards public health grounded in the principles of fair access, concordance/partnerships in health, lifestyle management and exercise, prevention measures, recovery and rehabilitation.
- The link between poverty and health is well known. CPA Cymru will establish a school of poverty studies so the needs of the poor are central to Assembly policy.
- The CPA will radically re-organise the NHS in Wales to replace central direction and end the reliance on big hospitals. It is health professionals and patients at local level who can best determine what is best in each individual case. Bureaucratic considerations must not prevail over clinical judgements.
- We will support walk-in-centres with nurse-led support, a greater role for pharmacists in preventative advice and more community-based health-care centres. For the long-term, we want hospitals to be locally-owned, self-managing institutions on the model of voluntary agencies under independent boards answerable to the community they serve.
- Charging for care is a key issue which the National Assembly should address. The system in place at present is unwieldy, unfair and unjust to people who have saved all their lives. CPA Cymru will establish a Commission to look at long-term care funding.



- Carers in Wales carry a great share of the burden of care for their loved ones. Our policies in the UK for new transferable married tax allowances will help many of them. In Wales, we will back new policies establishing carers' rights, so recognising this hidden subsidy to the NHS and social services.

Fighting for the marginalised and vulnerable

Of all the parties running for the National Assembly of Wales, CPA Cymru is unashamed to declare its commitment to the principle of respect for life. God values everyone equally and so everyone from conception (fertilisation) to natural death deserves the protection of the law. Our objective is to develop a new caring, pro-life ethic that will embrace an end to all forms of violence, whether gun crime, domestic violence, the abuse of children, the violence of abortionism and embryo experimentation, sexual exploitation of women, people trafficking, slavery or cruelty to animals.

- CPA Cymru will give direct support to pro-life caring agencies in their counselling and bereavement work with women. A public information campaign will be launched across Wales warning of the consequences of abortion, such as post-abortion syndrome, health complications and the danger of greater risk of breast cancer.
- CPA will work for a strict enforcement of existing abortion law. We will be firm advocates in the Assembly of a UK review of the 1967 Abortion Act and we will support doctors and nurses who are disadvantaged by refusing to participate in abortions.
- Significant new support will be given to maternity units, such as resources for people-focused birth plans and new mid-wifery and nursing posts.
- A family-support service that covers the whole of Wales will be funded to ensure the provision of a 24-hour, 7-day a week helpline for women and couples who are seeking a positive alternative to abortion.
- In conjunction with local authorities, caring agencies and the faith communities, CPA Cymru will press to ensure that no woman seeks an abortion because of a lack of accommodation, baby essentials, cots, prams or clothes. We will back higher child benefits and family friendly tax policies, such as transferable allowances.
- Schools will be required to offer sex education in a manner which promotes marriage, faithfulness and commitment. They should not interfere with the proper parental role by issuing contraceptives, offering advice on abortion or providing morning-after pills.
- CPA Cymru will place the child's needs at the heart of the adoption process. For this reason, CPA Cymru will ensure that adoption is normally confined to the traditional family unit involving both a mother and a father.

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Tackling Discrimination Against Older and Disabled People

The plight facing many older people in Wales and the vulnerability of people with disabilities is a reflection of the fact that people have become too busy, too "me-focussed". Pressures of modern life mean people don't have much time to look out for others, there's often less commitment to one geographical area as people move home a lot and because many in the workforce simply lack energy. In the National Assembly, attitudes that see the needy in general as "the time-consuming, the unfashionable and the unrewarding" will be tackled by CPA Cymru members.

- A Relational Health Audit will be undertaken of the policies of the National Assembly so that public services watch out for the stress that modern life loads on its citizens, especially in the farming industries. Policies undermining relationships between people will be identified and changed.
- Working with the boroughs, CPA Cymru will press for good quality and affordable home care services and home adaptations to be provided to enable older people to remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible. When needed, older people will be offered a range of housing options including good quality and affordable sheltered housing or co-housing.
- In the Assembly, our members will press to implement the law so that buildings, public transport, educational facilities, new homes, urban centres and public resources are as accessible as possible to people with disabilities, mothers with young children and older or infirm people.
- Hospitals and residential homes will be asked to look at their policies towards the care and treatment of older people. CPA Cymru does not believe that it is ever justified to treat older people as less entitled to life and respect merely because of their age or because of frailty.
- CPA Cymru will appoint an Advocate for Older People to tackle any abuse of the older generation, especially eugenic policies. The Advocate will subject residential and nursing homes and private subcontractors in Wales to more vigorous and frequent inspections to improve standards.
- Deliberate acts leading to the death of older or severely disabled people by healthcare professionals will be exposed and prosecuted. Policy proposals which would allow euthanasia to be introduced by the back door will be rejected.
- Palliative care training facilities will be well funded and promoted so that every hospital and care service in Wales offers the best of end of life care to every patient as a right.
- Through the CPA commitment to the principle of respect for life, ways will be developed of promoting the hospice movement begun by Dame Cecily Saunders. A special hospice for very young children with terminal illnesses or severe disability will have our support, similar to Zoe's Place in Merseyside.

6 *Let the Churches do their Work*

All across Wales Christian churches and Christian people are working hard to help poor and vulnerable people. Churches and church groups are often the most active and effective groups reaching out to those in need in any community. Yet Churches rarely receive the support they need from the Assembly or from local government because there is an in built prejudice in the system against religious projects, and especially Christian projects.

- CPA Cymru will break this prejudice and help churches to improve and build on the projects which are working well. We are therefore proposing a Church Social Action fund, which will give match funding to churches undertaking social action work.
- In addition, CPA Cymru will ensure the National Assembly starts to give proper recognition of the contribution that all faith communities make to social cohesion and the establishment of moral values. The CPA supports the integrity of the faith basis and cultural identity of Wales's different groups.
- While accepting that the 22 local authorities in Wales should not fund the worship activities of faith groups, CPA Cymru will actively support the funding of faith based volunteer projects, particularly involving young people to help with environmental clean up projects, the elderly and disadvantaged. Gweini: The Council of the Christian Voluntary Sector in Wales is gathering examples of good practice which demonstrate the major contribution churches make to civil society.
- Particular recognition will be given to churches and other voluntary organisations for their valuable role in community-focused health provision which supports people from infancy and childhood through adolescence, parenthood and old age.
- Faith-based centres will have our full backing in the promotion of healthier lifestyles and provision of support to people in crisis of various kinds, such as unsupported pregnancy, debt, divorce, homelessness, addictions, loneliness, bereavement.
- The CPA supports the emergence of Health Community Cafes that are both community centres and venues for promoting the message of better health.
- There is already a Faith Communities Forum, chaired by the First Minister of Wales. CPA Cymru will now encourage local authorities to ensure that a Faith Liaison Officer is appointed as well as a Cabinet Member to pro-actively foster effective partnerships between faith groups and local Councils. They will also be encouraged to support and fund interfaith community forums for discussion of issues of common concern.
- Local Race Equality Councils, funded through public funds, will be encouraged to review their aims and objectives and broaden their focus to embrace cross-cultural, rather than race-only issues and be renamed Diversity Forums.

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- These Forums will take a pro-active role in advising local hospitals, the police, and other public bodies on cultural and religious needs – e.g. dietary issues for different faiths and the provision of single-sex wards in hospitals.
- As many faith groups do not permit gambling, grant applications to the National Lottery's Community Fund by such groups for social projects are hamstrung; CPA Cymru will support a review of the National lottery and will look to establish alternative funding sources from within the Assembly and local government budgets.

Giving Support to Families



Many aspects of well-being are established during child development when relationships with family and community are critical. We cannot tell people what to do in order to make them happy. But through the National Assembly, CPA Cymru will work to create the right kind of conditions in Wales in which relationships can grow. This means shifting our culture to replace those values that don't increase well-being with those that do. Secondly, we will address factors like time, geographical distance and social skills to allow opportunity to renew relationships. We will also ensure the National Assembly supports relationships, like marriage, before they break down.

- As part of our objective of renewing relationships between people and putting work into a proper context for living, the CPA Cymru team in the National Assembly will evaluate every measure by whether it supports families in their role as the nucleus of a healthy, viable society.
- Families related by blood, marriage or adoption have always been the foundational social unit of society. The National Assembly has a role to play in supporting these as the ideal for successful extended relationships. The role of the family will be given special status and strengthened, especially in the raising of children to become responsible adults.
- CPA Cymru will ensure rights of conscience for registry officials to opt out of public civil partnership ceremonies for gay and lesbian couples.
- We will introduce public recognition ceremonies for fathers and/or mothers who demonstrate good parenting skills.
- A review will be conducted of agencies funded by the National Assembly and other public grants schemes to ensure that they do not promote violence, pornography, anti-life or anti-family values and policies.
- Planning and licensing powers to restrict gambling, sex shops and sex club outlets will be encouraged.
- Local Authorities will be encouraged to use their existing powers to reclassify or ban films approved by the BBFC in public cinemas which promote violence or degrade human beings.

7 *Recognising our Heritage*

CPA Cymru wants our children to understand and respect the Christian values of our forefathers: values of peacefulness and of tolerance and respect for all people regardless of age, race, gender, culture and belief; values of trust and commitment to serving others, for the common good, even when it is difficult and painful to do so.

The annual Assembly budget for Culture, the Welsh Language and Sport is £134 million. In addition to this, in 2003, £33 million was spent building the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea, to recognise and celebrate our industrial and maritime heritage. In 2004 £7 million was spent re-developing the Big Pit Mining Museum in Blaenavon to recognise and celebrate our coal mining heritage. Labour ministers are happy to authorise spending to celebrate our industrial heritage and CPA Cymru does not begrudge this. But we have a thrilling Christian heritage to celebrate, too – for example, St David, St Patrick, the Methodist and 1904 revivals and Welsh men and women taking Christianity around the world from the Himalayas to Patagonia.



- Christianity has an important role to play in helping to shape Welsh identity today and a better Wales for tomorrow. We would now like to see £3 million of the £134 million budget put towards a National Centre to celebrate the Religious Heritage of Wales.

In the Houses of Parliament there is a Christian chaplain and every sitting begins with a Bible Reading and Christian prayer. Prayers in the Scottish Parliament are once a week, but in the Welsh Assembly there is no recognition of God in any of its practices. This was not decided by a vote of the Assembly Members, but behind the scenes, before the Assembly was ever convened.

We think that this should change.

- We think that every sitting of the Assembly should begin with Christian prayer, as they do in Westminster. In Wales, we would like these prayers to be said by our young people of faith, invited, individually, from all over Wales, to come and pray for our Nation's leaders, before they start the business of every Assembly day.
- Direct support will go to faith community buildings, many of which are of cultural importance and which often attract large numbers of tourists. In addition, their buildings and annexes offer space for local groups to use and for different groups to meet each other and build community. They are also an important support for Iaith Pawb ("Everybody's Language"). This is because Welsh is used exclusively in services in a third of Welsh churches and partially in some of them.
- CPA Cymru values cultural expressions of all kinds as they make life worth living. For this reason, we will give our support to grassroots expression of culture.

- Now that the Assembly has new legislative powers, we will reaffirm and seek to strengthen the right of every person to use the Welsh language in their verbal and written dealings with all public services. The independent Welsh Language Board will be given new powers to investigate failings and make redress.
- Schools have to teach Welsh and English up to the end of compulsory education. CPA Cymru welcomes the contribution this policy makes to the establishing of a harmonious, mutually-respectful bilingual society but would wish to do more in community and work-place initiatives to consolidate and build on the efforts of schools.
- In Higher and Further Education, steps will be taken to encourage provision of bi-lingual resources and tuition.
- CPA Cymru recognises the contribution that the arts can make to society and that the arts in Wales need support in ways that the arts in other more populous countries do not require. CPA Cymru will back the arts, including such pillars of Welsh-language life as the local and national eisteddfodau. We will encourage learning Welsh among both public service practitioners and private industry employees in order to contribute towards the realisation of our vision of a harmonious, bilingual, Christian society.
- The advent of digital broadcasting should make greater use of community media a realisable goal. Not only will news be more truly 'local', this will make possible the promotion of cultural events, public service information and a greater sense of community identity. We will therefore work with Ofcom Wales, BBC Wales and independent companies to ensure 100% coverage of the country and to look at greater provision of localised services in valleys, rural communities and in the towns through digital and online services.

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8 *Strengthening the Economy*



Wales has areas of great private affluence alongside poverty, public squalor, high unemployment and lack of investment. The priority of CPA Cymru is to tackle inequality for the long-term by supporting the emergence of strong local economies, linking local production to local need and new jobs offering meaningful work.

In tackling inequality and the need for regeneration, the guiding principle of CPA Cymru is what will build good and just relationships between people - a solid sense of love of our neighbour. Commitment to the principle of reconciliation means seeking peaceful communities, whether in the workplace, rural areas or in run-down neighbourhoods.

A New Business Strategy

In the National Assembly, CPA Cymru will work to establish Wales as a major destination for overseas inward investment and as a location that attracts leading international firms. The CPA commitment is to social justice and our foremost priority will be to address the fact that Wales has many of the most deprived boroughs in Britain and some of the highest unemployment and worst housing in Europe.

- CPA Cymru will draw on the best strategic business leadership to improve Welsh government and enhance job creation. A partnership will be formed with existing business support agencies, individuals and institutions to launch a £500 million Wales Regeneration Fund. This will provide interest free loans and support for mutual guarantee schemes. Services provided would include micro business start up funds, rent-free accommodation, partnerships with corporate buyers and suppliers to get help in kind and start up facilities.
- The Fund will be guided by a green jobs strategy. With the right support, Wales can become a world-leader in green-business start-ups, taking advantage of EU-requirements for clean-energy supplies, energy-efficient technology, better insulation, recycling, eco-tourism and eco-friendly agriculture. As a start, public contracts for Government and National Assembly work will be promoted to green and other SMEs to ensure they bid for work - such businesses are often closest to the needs of Welsh customers and consumers.
- Thriving economies are increasingly complex. To keep the Welsh economy growing CPA Cymru will promote opportunities for specialisation, co-operation. and the natural tendency of businesses to cluster, whether in design, ecology, finance, retail or food processing.
- Business clusters will be supported by policy charters, business cluster plans and an annually elected representative to be an advocate for business clusters recognised in this way. Clusters would report and have a right to response from the National Assembly in Cardiff.

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- Working with the family of Christian Democrats in the European Union, CPA Cymru will ensure that Wales draws on all available European funding to back long-term jobs, sustainable economic development and real prosperity. More than a billion pounds in "convergence funding" is coming to Wales to boost development in the valleys and West Wales. CPA Cymru will make sure it is invested wisely.
- Ethnic diversity in Wales is a long-established fact and a great strength to the economy. We will appoint 350 'trade ambassadors' drawn from every ethnic group to market what Wales offers to their networks overseas. They will have the objective of bringing 50,000 business investment and trade opportunities and accompanying jobs to Wales.

Giving Wales the Skills it Needs



CPA Cymru will support a culture of workforce development among businesses that addresses the skills needs of Wales. Too many of the working population find it difficult to find gainful employment because they have no qualifications. Our objective is to ensure the productivity of Welsh employees matches and exceeds that of our European competitors.

- Drawing upon the development plans of top companies in Wales, skills shortages will be addressed in advance of new workers being needed. New "career teleports" will be established to provide courses that meet these shortages. Coupons will be given to unemployed people to enable free transport and free instruction to these centres.
- Incentives will be provided for the commercial creation of these schools. These incentives will be tied to how quickly and to how well paid the jobs are which are gained by their graduates. This will force these career teleports to be immediately responsive to the rapid changes in the skills market that we already see in Wales.
- The CPA will see that the entire system is financed through the private sector, with incentives from the National Assembly. Loans will be made by the career teleports to students who will contract to supply skilled labour for specified demand. This will allow retraining and upgrading of skills of everyone who has the aptitude and the will to perform in the new economy.
- Many aspects of Labour's 'New Deal' are failing. As a start, the Assembly will ensure that people on New Deal are not exploited as a source of cheap labour. The training element will be improved and expanded by transferring responsibilities to our proposed career teleports.
- We will also work with trade unions to ensure that work and pension rights are protected across the board.



Work and Life balance

As a step towards tackling poverty, CPA Cymru will be the Champion of a Living Wage for all workers in Wales. We will also work for a better work and life balance for all. The hours of work undertaken in the United Kingdom are more than three hours a week greater than the European average. It is easy to assume that things cannot change, but it is possible, relatively quickly, to change the work patterns of substantial numbers of people for the better. The CPA will take the following steps.

- Working with business organisations, unions and employers forums, CPA Cymru will identify ways of overcoming problems related to overwork, so that time is released for people to spend in rest and recreation and in developing relationships, especially with older relatives and with children.
- The CPA National Assembly team will highlight issues relating to fatigue, which lowers work performance and often shortens the work lives of many fine and highly qualified workers. There are many dimensions to this – alcohol addiction, smoking, back pains, depression and a range of other afflictions can be traced in part to the stress caused by overwork.
- New ways of working will be examined to support local jobs in the regions of Wales such as the idea of local offices. With broadband increasingly available and easy contact possible between staff and their employers, it should be possible for workers to work one or more days a week in a local multi-organisational office. Firms could hire these as a variant on home-working, thus cutting rush hour traffic. The offices could be normal commercial enterprises.
- As a matter of social justice, CPA Cymru will be an advocate for workers who are taken advantage of. They work long hours to service the 24/7 style of life, often at very low rates of pay. Many Welsh people need to work long hours because of the costs of living, especially the spiralling cost of housing. All public bodies in Wales will be required to include a living wage framework of good practice in all contracts.
- The Christian Peoples Alliance will highlight demands on many fathers and mothers who are effectively cut off from their children for much of their childhood and school years by the working and commuting hours to which they are committed by their job. To leave for work before the children are up and to get home after they have gone to bed is a deep grief to tens of thousands of fathers and many mothers. Children experience a deep hunger for the time their parents cannot give them.
- There are now a lot of people who have to work at the weekends. In the UK over half of fathers work at least one Saturday a month and a third at least one Sunday a month. For mothers the figures were 25% and 14%. Using new legislative powers, the Welsh Assembly will restore 52 predominantly retail-free Sundays a year, with exemptions for essential and emergency items, and small shops with few employees.
- There has been an erosion in Wales of pay and a half or double pay for unsocial hours. We believe this is an important indicator of what a worker, especially a parent, forgoes by working shifts and weekends, and CPA Cymru will press for unions and employers work to recognise this in their pay structures.

*CPA Cymru will be
the Champion of a
Living Wage for all
workers in Wales.*



Wales as the heart of Global Technology

Through use of broadband, the Christian Peoples Alliance will ensure Wales is best placed to exploit the industrial logic of the information technology revolution. But as a guiding principle, the CPA will place citizens at the heart of service delivery, ensuring that both government and business respond to the needs of users, not the convenience of providers.

- Through our commitment to the principle of Empowerment, the CPA will work with Welsh local government to develop Network Democracy. Interactivity online is already creating expectations of interactivity in other parts of peoples lives. The CPA would enable micro-communities to feed into policy development for their area and for issues that really affect their lives. CPA Cymru would encourage these local networks to become formal, thus enabling online voting about issues that affect them e.g. street parking, lighting, anti-vandalism measures, options for environmental improvements and policing levels.
- Through our priority of working for reconciliation and peace, CPA Cymru would back the concept of 'Unity groups' to revitalise the co-operative movement at local level. Local communities would organise themselves into purchasing groups for reductions in costs for services e.g. electricity, gas and bulk purchase food. This could be at estate, neighbourhood and even street level.
- Also at estate and local level, especially in deprived districts, the CPA would back both Community Banking Services and food co-operatives. We would use set top boxes in housing estates that are linked to CCTV 'Neighbourhood watch' to encourage solidarity in the fight against crime.
- The CPA backs 'M-government' by the vanguard use of mobile telephony. Without changing current handsets, the use of freephone numbers in emergency services could identify phone callers to within metres through a chip on their phone, thus save lives.

Ending Discrimination

CPA Cymru will work uncompromisingly to eliminate all forms of discrimination in all public bodies. Paramount is the determination of the CPA to establish a kinder Wales, where people have a higher regard for the interests of their neighbour, than for their own personal acquisition. We want a nation where hatred diminishes because love has changed people's hearts, not 'targets' and regulations.

- CPA Cymru will give full and unconditional and unqualified support to all appropriate equal opportunities policies, programmes and projects in public services under the control of the National Assembly. There will be equal, inclusive and open recruitment, based purely on qualification for the post.
- Accessible small business support services will be provided that satisfy the needs of communities, growth businesses and micro businesses. In particular, CPA Cymru will focus on businesses owned or staffed by Welsh-speakers - especially in Welsh-speaking areas - and minority ethnic or disadvantaged people.
- Equality of access, sufficiency of focused funding and participation for the excluded, unemployed minorities will be given in compulsory and post-compulsory education and other related training and skills programmes.

9 *Rural Wales and Agriculture*

Policies for the development and growth of the Welsh rural economy will be guided by our commitment to wise stewardship. The approach of CPA Cymru is to measure every policy by the cost in oppression, of injustice, of ill-treatment of domestic livestock and over-exploitation of the land. This principle of restraint, on the use of land, livestock and labour, on the concentration of wealth, and on expansionism, is drawn from many Biblical themes, especially the sabbath.

- CPA Cymru wants to see a radical constraint on relentless production and consumption and will ensure there is protection of those without a voice and without power - the poor, livestock and the land. CPA Cymru believes that the land is a gift entrusted to the Welsh people by God. The earth and everything in it are not ours to do with what we will, but the Lord's. We will therefore make conservation of the countryside a priority and support steps towards organic conversion and fairer prices to all producers.
- The market for rural products, including the food system is increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few large corporations, leaving producers powerless and, often, the environment wasted. To tackle this, CPA Cymru will back local solutions that rest the future of Welsh farming on small farms and businesses.
- Our policies to green the Welsh economy will ensure that local consumption of food is sourced to local producers, so avoiding the costs of long-distance transport. CPA Cymru will back local branding, the purchase by public authorities like schools and care homes of locally sourced food, farmers' markets and marketing support for local producers.
- Unrestrained market forces are not compatible with care for the poor and stewardship of the earth. CPA Cymru will therefore be a voice in favour of reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy, so that it protects the environment, traditional farming, organic systems and the vitality of rural communities.
- The EU Common Fisheries Policy is failing both conservation of fish stocks and the viability of the Welsh fishing industry. We will back the case for a greater say by the National Assembly and fishermen in the management of Welsh waters. CPA Cymru will press for new conservation zones which protect fish stocks and place endangered marine wildlife like dolphins as a foremost concern.
- The future dependence of the rural economy rests not just on support for local farming, but also on pursuing export opportunities for Welsh products. For this reason, CPA Cymru opposes the introduction of GM crops in Wales and will ensure consumers can make informed choices about GM by clearer labelling.





- CPA Cymru recognises the need for diversification on farms and will therefore back measures to promote tourism, more bed and breakfast accommodation and diversity of the rural economic base, such as investment in bio fuels. We also will keep post office facilities available to rural communities.
- There is a serious threat to the health of rural Welsh communities of young families being priced out of the housing market and from the unavailability of homes to rent. CPA Cymru proposes a dual approach. First, we will allow local authorities in rural areas greater freedom to build homes for rent. In addition, we will permit planning authorities to impose restrictions on house purchases, similar to those implemented in the English Lake District, so long as significant benefits to the economic and cultural health of rural communities can be demonstrated.
- Improvements in animal welfare will be pursued by CPA Cymru, including a ban on all live exports, a restriction in the routine use of antibiotics in livestock and by pressing for an EU-wide ban on battery farming.
- The church in rural Wales, through its cycle of prayer and celebration, involvement at crucial stages of life, its ministers and buildings, contributes to a sense of belonging and well being for many people. CPA Cymru will ensure that the Cardiff government and the voluntary and community sectors recognise and acknowledge this contribution of faith to rural community vibrancy.

10 *Stress-Free Transport*

Wales is following the stressful living of other parts of Britain because millions of journeys do not work properly. If people can move about easily and quickly, work, home and leisure are better. The foremost priority for the Christian Peoples Alliance in tackling road congestion and inadequate trains and buses is to make the systems we have work. Our policies for strong local economies will also reduce the need for long journeys.

- CPA Cymru will oppose reliance on private funding of long-term capital for transport improvements, where the funder requires profit and has lower security, because it is costly. The cost is temporarily disguised to Welsh citizens, as they get refurbishment now, but pay heavily for it later.
- Public transport systems which require co-ordinated planning must be managed by a co-ordinated system - we favour this for the development of community rail links and rural lines. There is a difference between profit driven investment and that which is focused on the public good, putting safety and quality of service first. We unequivocally back the latter.
- CPA Cymru will give firm support to boosting the bus network. We favour partnerships between local councils and the National Assembly in introducing bus contracts for new route networks.
- We will back bus priority measures as a way of improving the appeal of bus services. In particular, these should be used in town suburban town centres where traffic is problematic.
- We will support easier access to community transport, especially in rural areas and look at the needs of shift workers. This means improving support to villages to ensure that they are connected to the public transport network.
- We will back a national travelcard system for Wales based on London's Oyster pre-paid system.
- As part of the CPA's integrated approach to transport, our other policies, such as the coach system, will strongly encourage local bus journeys and thereby increase use and frequency. If occupancy rates could be doubled, we would suddenly have quite an efficient bus system for local urban travel.



Reduce Traffic Pollution

At present, many towns in Wales have high levels of pollution, asthma, dirt, illness and travel stress. Our proposed transport measures would improve this significantly, saving huge amounts in congestion, pollution and routine car costs.

- The CPA favours linking commuter rail lines with feeder systems using either bus or coach routes. This will allow commuters to travel across outer areas without needing to travel via central interchanges, reducing congestion. Fares for such journeys could also be reduced.
- The dominance of cars spoils the environment of many key communal areas. CPA Cymru will invite local communities to move to the urban village model creating car free zones (except for residents) at centres where people congregate, as well as in the central areas where pedestrianisation is being considered.
- The CPA will promote the use of Home Zones where pedestrians and vehicles have equal priority and the speed of cars is brought down to low levels.
- Policies will be supported that bring peoples' home and work environments closer together to produce vibrant, mixed use, local communities.
- Planning policies will ensure new residential neighbourhoods are designed to ensure the safety of children and other pedestrians.
- Cycling and walking will only flourish when deeper issues are addressed, such as work and travel demands. When these are tamed, more of Wales will become a place to live, to rest, relate, to have fun and to sleep. This requires different, more sustainable ways of living and doing business.

Our proposed transport measures would improve this significantly, saving huge amounts in congestion, pollution and routine car costs.

Reducing Reliance on the Car - a new approach to transport

Wise stewardship of Wales's resources requires a total commitment to sustainability and the need to rely less on cars. The question is not of being against the car, but of providing an alternative to the car for a substantial proportion of the journeys.

- We propose a new approach to Welsh transport, based on the coach, especially using existing motorways and A roads, which is capable of eliminating car overuse and freeing up those who want to use cars without congestion. Transfer points will be moved to major road junctions, creating a necklace of transfer points where quick transit can be made, allowing people to make millions of fast, efficient journeys.
- CPA Cymru will review current coach routes to ensure better provision between major Welsh cities and for north-south journeys. Coaches require little infrastructure, because they use existing roads. They cut energy use by a factor of five or more, and they could free up millions of hours spent behind a wheel.
- CPA Cymru favours giving local councils the power to impose a Congestion Charge in larger towns and cities where there is clear public support. It has succeeded in decreasing the number of traffic movements in London at peak periods. This has important environmental benefits, especially over air pollution.
- All traffic must be kept moving - that's why we will also bring in a Car Sharing Scheme: drivers will be able to use bus lanes if three or more people are in the car.
- Goods deliveries should be made at night and ways of rewarding companies who do this should be examined as part of a review of business taxation. A work-hours lorry ban may be necessary.
- Street and road space design will be required to maximise the interest of the wider community, especially pedestrians. Effort will go into preventing the obstruction of pavements and footpaths, particularly by cars. Mopeds will be given higher priority.
- Use of bicycles, especially by schoolchildren, will be encouraged through the promotion of well-designed cycle lanes that cover whole routes. Every child will be given the chance to receive on-road cycle training.



11 *Housing, planning and the environment*

The Christian Democratic approach is to promote the emergence of self-reliant local economies, democratically supported by devolved decision-making, preserving the beauty of creation entrusted to the Welsh people.

We will challenge the unequal consumption of scarce resources for both social and ecological reasons, as it is people's lifestyles and consumer choices which will make the difference to social justice and to saving the environment. For the environment and planning, CPA Cymru requires a shift away from the me-first values that hasten unnecessary consumption and which lie behind the destruction of the Welsh natural ecology. Our whole approach to government will hasten this culture shift.



- CPA Cymru will see that Wales adopts more sustainable ways of living. Many people make demands of Wales. They take. Our passion for Wales is to ensure it has a lot more love and stewardship. The CPA will pursue a longer-term vision of its development so that more of our nation is transformed.
- We will use the planning system and small scale funding to encourage local entrepreneurs to locate in local communities.
- CPA Cymru will include issues of good design as an important part of planning gain to be considered in the planning process.
- A response to the need to plant more trees in built-up areas will be met by establishing a network of 'green ways', with tree and flower planting to pedestrian priority zones, through wildlife corridors, linking parks to canals, the riverside, allotments and local town centres.
- Local businesses will be established to manage the green ways, creating local employment, education opportunities and providing organic produce from the allotments for local sale.
- The CPA will harness the support of high street companies in reaching new recycling and waste-cutting targets.
- A very basic public provision, but one that has been withdrawn in many places, is the need for public toilets. After dark, there is nowhere, which results in anti-social behaviour by those coming out of pubs and clubs. CPA Cymru will press the local authorities to provide adequate toilet facilities.

Radical Cuts in Energy Use

Wales under the CPA will become a low energy nation. Through cutting the use of natural resources, not only will Wales be better off, we owe it to the post-Kyoto world which we will lobby to follow the Welsh example.

- Economising on energy use, wasteful production and unnecessary journeys is the key to reducing noise, pollution and litter. Our transport plans and drive to support local businesses and home-working is a wiser approach than dealing with the after affects of unsustainable practices or finding new resources.
- Around two-thirds of energy generated by coal, gas, oil or nuclear stations is wasted through heat loss. More is lost as electricity is distributed through Wales on the national grid. CPA Cymru will work towards moving energy supply off of the grid and on to localised, low carbon energy supplies. These will include combined cooling heat and power generators, renewable energy devices, such as solar panels and wind turbines.
- CPA Cymru will require both private and public developments to meet high standards of sustainable construction, including energy efficiency, water conservation, reuse of building waste and the use of solar power and wind power. The CPA will ensure that existing buildings reach government targets for cutting energy use. More people will be trained to work in the renewable energy supply industry.
- In line with recommendations from the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, CPA Cymru will ensure builders and the planning authorities promote greater use of combined heat and power (CHP) and ensure that new homes across Wales can be powered and fuelled by biomass energy derived from willows, straw and tree cuttings.
- Working with local authority commissioned teams and by bulk buying, energy-saving measures such loft and cavity insulation, low energy light-bulbs and draught-proofing will all be installed on a self-funding basis to every home.
- Fuel poverty is a major problem. The most cost effective way of cutting carbon emissions and reducing bills for people on state benefits is to install better insulation. This will be offered entirely free as the price will be so low, it will pay for itself through lower fuel bills.
- Working with Welsh local authorities, CPA Cymru would back local centres where recyclable items could be deposited, certificated and passed on. Manufacturers could pick up their labelled goods from these centres for recycling.
- CPA Cymru would take a new approach to waste by creating 'green-collar jobs' and encouraging new markets for secondary materials. To achieve this, new recycling and energy saving targets will be set. Recycling schemes will be operated, turning waste and litter into raw materials. Using recycled materials, products could be made from artwork to insulation and from composting to furniture.
- The CPA would work with the media to introduce a major campaign to improve recycling, using newspaper recycling and major transport junctions to spearhead this.

*Wales under the
CPA will become a
low energy nation.*



New Houses for Wales

There is a critical need for more land to be made available for housing in certain parts of Wales. CPA Cymru will lead the drive to make the ideal of affordable housing a reality for key workers. Limited legal powers, such as 'planning gain' provisions have shown themselves deficient in tackling the crisis. A more radical and innovative approach is needed. Additionally, CPA Cymru will insist that the existence or otherwise of a demonstrable local need for new housing must be an overriding factor in considering planning applications for new housing developments in rural Wales.

- Through the CPA's commitment to the principle of Wise Stewardship, CPA Cymru will ensure unused development areas are identified and will talk to landowners, whether public or private, about solutions that deliver significant new build. No-nonsense problem-solving is what is required.
- Wales needs more land to become available for housing. Harnessing the clear voice of both business and citizens, the CPA will identify public and private brownfield sites with the planning authorities for new homes.
- As a matter of Social Justice the Christian Peoples Alliance will also promote shared-equity schemes and leasehold arrangements - such as the Cardiff Low Cost Home Ownership Scheme - where first time or key workers can buy homes but not the land on which they are built, so making property more affordable.
- The first action of the CPA National Assembly team will be to maximise the potential for new development by concentrating on bringing empty homes back into use, converting buildings to residential or mixed use and using vacant sites.
- The upper floors of many high street shops lie empty and should be used for rented housing. We will bring in capital improvement grants for retailers to convert unused floor space into living accommodation for lease by local councils.
- Young people are willing to accept the choice of apartment or condominium-style living if it means having a home. Developers must accept that desire and not equate affordable housing with just semi-detached or detached solutions.
- The strategy will be integrated with other policies, ensuring that infrastructure is in place and building densities are appropriate to the location. So planning controls will be used to encourage housing developments close to new rail/bus routes.
- Communities will be given resources to participate fully in this process, with options for local management, maintenance and self build within their locality, creating training opportunities and local businesses.
- The CPA will encourage more sustainable methods and materials in new construction, reducing the environmental impact of new development. This will include support for Zero energy developments.

*the Christian
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12 *Justice for the Developing World*



The death rate in Africa has not changed significantly since Live Aid 2005, when we were told that every three seconds another person dies. At present, the National Assembly is not offering any financial help to the developing world. CPA Cymru believes this should change.

- We ought to be able and prepared to give 0.1% of our budget in overseas aid. Oxfam tells us that £5 is sufficient to provide one person with basic essentials like clean water and healthcare for a month. On that basis, just 0.1% of the Assembly budget would permanently rescue almost a quarter of a million people from starvation poverty.
- As a Christian obligation, CPA Cymru Assembly members will use the Assembly's new legislative powers to try to gain the right to offer financial aid to the developing world.

2007 National Assembly Elections CPA Cymru Regional List Candidates

Notes on Lead Candidates

North Wales

Brian Churchill

Anthony Jeremy is National Spokesman for CPA Cymru. A solicitor in Cardiff for the past 30 years, he is married with 5 children. Anthony is a former councillor on South Glamorgan County Council and has also served as Chairman of Governors at Cardiff High School. Anthony is Research Fellow at the Centre for Law and Religion in Cardiff. His aim is to defend the connection between Christian culture in Wales and a free and open society, governed by the rule of law.

Mid and West Wales

Joseph Biddulph

Joseph Biddulph lives in Pontypridd, is married to Margaret and has 5 children. A former constituency chairman in Plaid Cymru, he joined CPA Wales because of the party's commitment to tackling exclusion as a fundamental priority. Working as a self-employed publisher of language booklets and as a part-time gardener and handyman, Joseph began his career as a teacher. He has been Chairman of Directors of a local credit union, Secretary to the Rhydyfelin Community Centre and as a member of his local Community Health Council. Joseph is currently a member of the National Council of SPUC.

South Wales East

Madeleine Jeremy

Susan Jeremy

Anne Savoury is a neuropsychologist nurse by training and now works in Cardiff as a voluntary tutor in languages and theoretical science. Having been a long-standing member of the Labour Party, Anne was dismissed for standing as an independent Pro Life candidate for Parliament in 2001. Anne is spokeswoman for the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child and debates regularly around the country in schools, colleges and in the media. A former nun, Anne is disabled with a hereditary wasting disease.

South Wales Central

Anthony Jeremy

South Wales West

Anne Savoury

Brian Churchill is a former branch secretary in Plaid Cymru. He is married with four children and is a Reader in his parish of St Michael's, Abergele. Brian is writing a book about cheese production in Wales and is regularly invited to be a judge of cheeses at food festivals. He is an Assessor for the Wales Quality Award. As a secondary Deputy Headteacher, Brian was a leader in the field of monitoring and reporting on student learning.

Madeleine Jeremy – An actress by training from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Madeleine is developing a business as a tour operator to Wales for visitors from Europe. She lives with her son Daniel in Cardiff. Madeleine is an experienced debater for the pro-life cause, regularly speaking on television and radio and in schools on the rights of the unborn child, together with the challenges of single motherhood. She is an experienced counsellor and supports the work of SPUC. A former executive with the Red PR company, Madeleine is both an effective communicator and campaigner. She has stood twice in elections for the Pro Life party. A member of St Alban's RC Church in Cardiff, Madeleine is an organiser in Wales for Youth 2000 and runs the prayer group.

Conclusion

It is the objective of CPA Cymru to protect the interests of all the people of Wales by carefully implementing the concept of devolution as a process not an event. Primary legislative powers will, for the first time, offer an opportunity to put our Christian principles fully into practice in Wales. We offer these polices with an open hand for the good of our nation.

Contact

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Visit:

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I enclose my first year's subscription of: Unwaged £5
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- I do not want to join, but enclose a gift £ _____

Promoted by Joseph Biddulph on behalf of CPA Cymru both at
32 Stryd Ebeneser Pontypridd CF37 5PB Wales. Pontypridd CF37 5PB Wales
