**Additional activities**

**1. Read the following verses aloud and give the group a few moments to think about them.**

‘My friends, you are acting like the people of this world. That is why I could not speak to you as spiritual people. You are like babies as far as your faith in Christ is concerned. So I had to treat you like babies and feed you milk. You could not take solid food, and you still cannot, because you are not yet spiritual. You are jealous and argue with each other. This proves that you are not spiritual, and that you are acting like the people of this world. Some of you say that you follow me, and others claim to follow Apollos. Isn’t that how ordinary people behave? Apollos and I are merely servants who helped you have faith. It was the Lord who made it all happen. I planted the seeds, Apollos watered them, but God made them sprout and grow and that is what matters. The one who plants is just as important as the one who waters. Each will be paid for what they do. Apollos and I work together for God, and you are God’s garden and God’s building.’

I Corinthians 3:1-9 (Poverty and Justice Bible)

*What does this passage tell you about partnerships?*

2. In the film, a number of partnerships are mentioned. Which ones do you see as being important? Why do you think that they are important?

3. Ask the group members to think about current news stories which show partnerships working well and stories which highlight a failure to work together. What do these examples have to teach the church about working together?

4. ‘The only thing that will redeem mankind is cooperation.’

*Discuss this quote* *by Bertrand Russell*

4***Union of Welsh Independents***

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***Y Ffordd/The Way***



**Partnerships**

*Year 3, Part 3*

*Winter 2019*

***How to use the material***

**The film has four chapters, and we suggest that you divide the film as is appropriate for your group and the number of sessions you intend holding. The questions for each chapter can be found on pages 2 and 3, but please consider any other questions which you think might appeal to your group.**

**Chapter 1:** *Partnerships in the world-wide church*

**Chapter 2*:*** *The foundations for partnerships*

**Chapter 3*:*** *Our partnerships*

**Chapter 4:** *The challenges of partnership*

Page 4 of this leaflet contains some additional material to use in your sessions. Before concluding each session, please allow time to discuss the following question:

***What can we do as a church, following this discussion?***

1

***Questions for discussion***

***Chapter 1:* Partnerships in the world-wide church?**

1. What does partnership mean in relation to the life of the church?
2. How important is partnership to the growth and well-being of the church?
3. Think of a recent example where your church worked with others. How did this benefit a) your church; b) those you were working with?
4. What are the opportunities available to your church to learn from other churches around the world?
5. Can you think of partnerships which have strengthened or changed what you believe?
6. Is there a danger that your church could become ‘insular’ or ‘conceited’? How could this be avoided?

***Chapter 2*: The foundations for partnerships**

1. How do you understand the ‘unity’ of the church?
2. What have you learnt from worshiping and praying with other churches? What inspired you and what didnt you like?
3. Do you think that your church succeeds in showing the partnership and unity of the Godhead?
4. What are the strengths and weaknesses of being an independent church? Can we become too independent?
5. Would you agree with the criticism that we seemed to have failed to share the good news with our own people? If so, why?
6. How effective is the life and worship of your church in helping you remember that your are part of a wider family who are concerned about you and who pray for you?

2

***Chapter 3:* Our partnerships**

1. How would you convince your church members of the importance of being a part of the CWM family?
2. How prominent is the work of CYTÛN on the agenda of your church?
3. Are there problems in your community which you believe could be solved by cooperation between the churches?
4. How would you feel if your church decided to forge closer links with communities from other faiths?
5. Has your church worked with secular organisations? If so, did you manage to maintain your Christian identity? Were there any difficulties or problems pertaining to the partnership?
6. In which ways has your church benefited from supporting the work of Christian Aid?

***Chapter 4*: The challenges of partnership**

1. Which church partnerships a) challenge your faith; b) deepen your faith? Why do you think this is?
2. Are there situations that you feel are impossible to change? How should we deal with them?
3. It is said that one of the failures of the church today is the inability to do things differently. Is this true of your church? What could be done to help the church act differently?
4. How do you understand the promise of a ‘new heaven and new earth?’ Is it something for the afterlife or is it relevant to this world and life?
5. Why should the church be concerned about climate change?
6. ‘Being too inward looking can mean loosing sight of the bigger picture’. Is this true of your church?

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