

Cytûn Autumn 2012

Newsletter



This brief newsletter has been prepared during the build-up, for some of our churches, to the Feast of All Saints. It's that time of year when Christians reflect on the joy of Christian fellowship across the globe and throughout eternity. Bringing Christians together has been very much a reality for Cytûn following another highly successful season of witnessing at Wales' premier national events. Many, many thanks to all who enriched our shared ministry at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Glynllifon, the Royal Agricultural Show at Builth Wells and the National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan.

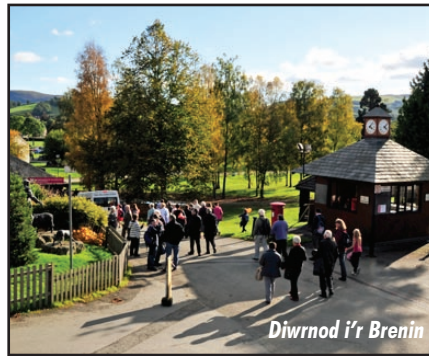
Conversations are on-going concerning how churches may witness and minister around the possible provision of a **Rural Christian Centre** at the Royal Agricultural Society's showground at Builth Wells. Cytûn offers thanks for the good working relationship that has been established with the Society and Christian partners. The work of the rural chaplains is greatly appreciated.



Concelebrating at The Gathering

Cytûn provided the administrative support which enabled the **Commission of the Covenanted Churches** to hold its recent **Gathering** meeting in Aberystwyth. Around 400 delegates from every part of Wales gathered to worship together, receive encouragement from the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Olav Fykse Tveit and begin to reflect on pioneering recommendations from the Commission concerning Church governance and pastoral oversight. Details concerning the Commission's work and Gathering recommendations can be accessed through Cytûn's website or from the Cardiff office. Feedback suggests that most participants were encouraged by the Gathering and were reminded of the Covenant promises made by five churches back in 1975. Some church leaders had encouraged the Commission to be bold in its recommendations. The Gathering and

the recommendations to the Covenanted churches responded to that call.



Diwrnod i'r Brenin

Cytûn was also pleased to participate in the **'Diwrnod i'r Brenin'** meeting arranged by the Union of the Welsh Independents, the Presbyterian Church of Wales and the Baptist Union of Wales in Builth Wells. The day proved to be a huge source of encouragement as around a thousand Christians gathered to worship, share and witness together through the medium of the Welsh language. As well as discussing aspirations for the future, participants reflected on the significance of the Great Ejection following the Act of Uniformity 1662 in England and Wales. Two thousand Puritan ministers left their positions as Church of England clergy, following the changes after the restoration to power of Charles II.

It has been a privilege for Cytûn to support some of Wales' newer faith communities. Wales' **Ethiopian Orthodox Church** in South Wales is growing and the Ethiopian community has approached Cytûn expressing a concern that they need a place to worship regularly. They are looking ideally for a building to use in Cardiff.

A great deal of work has been achieved through Cytûn's engagement with church and society issues. By working with partners in the Evangelical Alliance, progress has been made towards making Cardiff a City of Sanctuary. Initial meetings are also being set up with a view to developing the concept in the Wrexham area. Recently, at the Welsh Government's Faith Communities Forum, Cytûn reported back to the First Minister on the progress that has been made. The Welsh Government has already agreed to supporting the idea of making Wales a **Nation of Sanctuary** in principle.

Several other matters were also discussed at the **Faith Communities Forum**: organ donation, the UK Bill of Rights and the Welsh Government's equality and anti-poverty strategy. Faith community representatives welcomed a clear commitment on the part of the First Minister to support the provision of spiritual care within the NHS in Wales. He underlined the good work of hospital chaplains around recent high profile tragedies in Wales. He also agreed to look again at the issue of councils taking the view that it was perhaps not lawful for them to say prayers at the beginning of meetings. Cytûn has also been in regular contact with Welsh Government officials concerning peace matters.

Cytûn, during the next few weeks, will begin to reflect upon the delivery of its current work-plan. Member organisations are encouraged, through Board members, to shape the organisation's future pattern of work. How Wales' national ecumenical instrument serves the churches is now constantly reviewed and assessed. That process will be on-going especially as the Covenanted Churches reflect further on how they respond to the recommendations offered at the Gathering.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2013:

Resources may be downloaded from the CTBI website or ordered from Norwich Books and Music -
Tel: 01603 785 925

The **Welcome to Wales** Course for ordained and lay church workers moving into Wales from elsewhere, will be held once again on 23rd – 25th January 2013 at St Michael's College, Llandaff. Particulars, including how to book can be found on the Cytûn Website and from denominational offices.

Book your place on the Welcome to Wales course by Friday the 14th of December 2012. Booking details can be found on the Cytun website (www.cytun.org.uk) or from Geraint Hopkins (geraint@cytun.org.uk)