

The logo for Cytûn, featuring the name in a stylized, rounded font.

Eglwysi Ynghyd  
yng Nghymru  
Churches Together  
in Wales

## Cytûn Newsletter ~ Summer 2016

If you pick this Summer Newsletter up in the Cytûn tent at the Royal Welsh Show or the National Eisteddfod please enjoy the warmth of our welcome.

For those of you who receive it through our mailings or through Cytûn's local churches, please be assured of our prayers and support. This particular newsletter is offered immediately after Cytûn's Annual General Meeting and at the height of the organisation's work in preparing to assist the churches in witnessing effectively at our three major national events: Urdd Eisteddfod, The Royal Welsh and the National.

Cytûn has been very active in the arena of trying to help refugees and asylum seekers working through the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership. Aled Edwards, Cytûn CEO and Chair of the Partnership, has spoken at many public meetings throughout Wales. Churches have been quite exceptional in seeking to provide some of the world's most vulnerable individuals with appropriate support.

Cytûn has also been active in working in partnership with the Welsh Government in arranging services and events to commemorate the Battle of the Somme.



The "Beibl Byw" extravaganza at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Flintshire as Sunday School activities spread across the festival field!



## Church and Society

Cytûn provides a channel of communication between our elected representatives and all our member churches and bodies. We were well represented, along with other faiths, at the official opening of the fifth National Assembly in June (see picture above). This followed our input into the Welsh election campaign, which included two videos covering a range of election issues (prepared by the Salvation Army Video Unit); briefing papers on seven areas of policy (prepared by contributors from many member groups in partnership with the Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptists, Methodists and URC); support for local hustings (including training sessions in partnership with TCC and Citizens Cymru); and a comprehensive election website. We have been in touch with all newly elected AMs and with all members of the new Welsh Government.

Hot on the heels of the election came the Referendum on EU membership. The Church in Wales arranged three public meetings on behalf of Cytûn prior to the vote. Since June 23, member churches have asked Cytûn to co-ordinate a Christian response to the outcome and to the issues raised by the campaign, and this work is gathering pace over the summer. Cytûn is working with our ecumenical

partners throughout the UK and Europe to ensure that a Christian voice is heard during the negotiations for the UK's exit from the European Union, during the debates on the Wales Bill currently before the Westminster Parliament, and as other changes to our constitution and polity develop. These changes throw up both challenges and opportunities to us as churches, and our aim is to help all our members to respond positively and knowledgeably to what lies ahead.



One of the many videos prepared by the Salvation Army for the 2016 Elections, still available to watch on the Cytûn website: [www.cytun.org.uk/elections2016](http://www.cytun.org.uk/elections2016)

Please keep an eye on our website or subscribe to our regular bulletins (by e-mailing [gethin@cytun.org.uk](mailto:gethin@cytun.org.uk)) to be kept up to date with all these developments.

## Eisteddfod yr Urdd

The Sunday Schools Stand at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Flintshire this year was very memorable. The usual activities of Sunday School lessons through crafts, painting and even face-painting were carried out again on the stand, but in addition to this there was a special event held every day to celebrate the year of the "Beibl Byw" (Living Bible).

A band of volunteers conducted a "Treasure Hunt-like activity" every day. Individuals roamed the field dressed as characters from a specific story in the

(Left) Opening of the fifth National Assembly in June. (Right) The Beibl Byw crew interviewed for television at the Urdd Eisteddfod.

Bible. To complete the hunt, children of all ages collected a sticker from each character and placed it on a 'story card' that was handed to them from the stall.

Cytûn would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped on the stand all week. It was a very memorable Eisteddfod and hopefully the excitement and activities will be recreated again in the county borough of Bridgend between 29 May – 3 June for the Urdd Eisteddfod 2017.



## Welcome to Wales

A residential training course for Ministers of Religion who are transferring into Wales from other parts of the UK or further afield.

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup>  
October 2016 at  
St Michael's Centre,  
Llandaff, Cardiff**

Book your place on the Welcome to Wales course **by Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2016.** Download the application form from [www.cytun.org.uk](http://www.cytun.org.uk)