

CYTŪN

Llandudno Churches Together

Newsletter No 32

December 2004

The President writes:

Welcome the Christ-Child!

One of the sayings that sticks in my mind at this time of year goes like this: Christmas makes innkeepers of all of us. As we hear the familiar stories we cannot but ask ourselves what we would have done if Mary & Joseph had knocked on our door late one night.

At St David's, Craig-y-Don, recently we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the opening of the doors of the church; we even fetched a large door into the centre of the sanctuary to remind us of the many biblical images of the Door. As Christians, people who have let Christ in through the doors of our hearts, we are asked to let other people into our lives and share with them the hospitality and love that God has shown to each of us by inviting us to share in his creation and in his continuing work of salvation.

Croeso is the first word many people learn when they come to Wales. It is almost impossible to get into the country without being greeted at one of its many border crossings by a sign that begins with that word: Croeso. Welcome is at the heart of the Christmas story also - the innkeeper welcomes the travellers onto his property, and they in turn welcome shepherds and star-gazers into their makeshift home. Infact the whole adventure of faith could be summed up by the same word - God welcomes us and we in turn must welcome others.

This seems so obvious when we think of CYTŪN. We come from many different backgrounds, traditions and places, yet we spend most of our time inviting one another in: our Roman Catholic friends welcome us regularly into Stella Maris for our lunches and meetings (what gracious hosts Brian and Pauline Stewart are!); friends in Seilo welcomed us for the annual Conference last month; next month eight churches will play host to daily services that

Croeso i'r Baban Iesu!

Mae un o'r dywediadau sy'n aros yn fy nghof adeg yma'r flwyddyn yn mynd fel hyn: Mae'r Nadolig yn gwneud tafarnwyr ohonom i gyd. Wrth wrando ar y storïau cyfarwydd ni allwn ond gofyn i'n hunain beth fyddem ni wedi'i wneud petai Mair a Joseff wedi curo ar ein drws yn hwyr un noson.

Yn Eglwys Dewi Sant, Craig y Don, yn ddiweddar buom yn dathlu 80fed Penblwydd agor drysau'r eglwys. Daethom a hyd yn oed â drws mawr i ganol y cysegrfan i'n hatgoffa fod nifer o ddelweddau Beiblaidd yn cynnwys Drws. Fel Cristnogion, pobl sydd wedi gadael Crist i mewn trwy ddrysau'n calonnau, gofynnir i ni adael pobl eraill i mewn i'n bywydau a rhannu gyda nhw'r lletygarwch a chariad mae Duw wedi'i ddangos i bob un ohonom wrth ein gwahodd ni i rannu ei greadigaeth a'i waith parhaus o iachawdwriaeth.

'Croeso' yw'r gair cyntaf mae llawer o bobl yn dysgu wrth ddod i Gymru. Mae bron iawn yn amhosibl dod i mewn i'r wlad heb gael eich croesawu ar un o'i ffiniau gan arwydd yn dechrau gyda'r gair 'Croeso'. A chroeso sydd wrth wraidd stori'r Nadolig hefyd - mae'r tafarnwr yn croesawu teithwyr i'w eiddo ac maen mhw yn eu tro yn croesawu'r bugeiliaid a'r seryddwyr i'w cartref dros dro. Mewn gwirionedd gallwch grynhoi holl antur ffydd yn yr un gair - mae Duw yn ein croesawu ni ac mae'n rhaid i ni yn ein tro groesawu eraill.

Mae hyn i weld mor amlwg wrth i ni feddwl am CYTŪN. Down o nifer o wahanol gefndiroedd, traddodiadau a lleoedd, ond eto rydym yn treulio'r rhan fwyaf o'n hamser yn gwahodd ein gilydd i mewn: Mae'n ffrindiau Catholig yn ein croesawi'n rheolaidd i Stella Maris am ginio a chyfarfodydd (a dyna westeiwyr graslon yw Brian a Pauline Stewart!);

..... celebrate the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. And when we welcome each other into our different worship-homes, then slowly and surely we welcome each other into our faith-stories, into our journeys from darkness to light, into our struggles from slavery to freedom, into our hearts.

The first opportunity we shall have as CYTŪN friends to meet in the New Year will be at St Hilary's Llanrhos on the evening of January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany. It will be good to visit St Hilary's, for perhaps like me you have yet to step inside that ancient church; and once inside, as we tread softly in the footsteps of the magi, we shall celebrate what it is we offer one another as we come from different places to gather around the one light, which is Christ. There was a medieval tradition that at Epiphany people would visit each other's houses, blessing them and chalking above their doors the letters CMB. These letters stood for the traditional names given to the three kings (you know them, I'm sure!), but also came to be understood as signifying the Latin 'Christus mansionem benedicat' - May Christ bless this home.

May Christ bless all our homes this Christmas time with his peace and his joy; may everyone who comes under our roofs be blessed and may those who welcome us into their homes be blessed also. And may this prayer of welcome be ever upon our lips: come, Lord Jesus.

Nick Sissons

KINGDOM KRAFTS

On September 24th 2001 when we opened the shop in Madoc Street to sell Fairtrade goods until Christmas we had no idea that three years on we would have the vibrant, exciting facility across the road.

Food, gifts, cards, stationery, bedding, clothes all helping to provide people in the developing world with dignity, fulfilment and financial independence are bought day by day.

Bibles, books, Sunday School teaching materials, school resources, CD's, videos, and lots and lots of greetings cards continue to build up local believers and provide possibilities for sharing the Christian faith. (continued at foot of next column)

..... croesawodd ein ffrindiau yn Seilo ni yn y Gynhadledd flynyddol fis diwethaf; y mis nesaf bydd wyth o eglwysi'n westeiwyr i'r gwasanaethau dyddiol a fydd yn dathlu'r Wythawd o Weddi am Undod Cristnogol. A phan fyddwn yn croesawu'n gilydd i'n gwahanol gartrefi i addoli, yn araf ond yn sicr rydym yn croesawu'n gilydd i mewn i'n storïau o ffydd, i mewn i'n teithiau o'r tywyllwch i'r goleuni, i'n hymdrechion o gaethiwed i ryddid, i mewn i'n calonnau.

Ein cyfle cyntaf i gyfarfod fel ffrindiau CYTUN yn y Flwyddyn Newydd fydd yn St Hilary, Llanrhos ar noson Gŵyl Ystwyll, 6ed Ionawr. Bydd yn braf ymweld â St Hilary. Efallai, fel fi, nad ydych eto wedi camu i mewn i'r eglwys henafol hon. Ond, unwaith y tu fewn, fel y byddwn yn troedio'n ysgafn yn ôl traed y doethion, byddwn yn dathlu beth ydym yn ei gynnig i'n gilydd fel y deawn o wahanol fannau i gasglu o gwmpas un golau, sef Crist. Roedd traddodiad yn y Canol Oesoedd y byddai pobl yr Ystwyll yn ymweld â thai ei gilydd, yn eu bendithio ac yn ysgrifennu'r llythrennau CMB uwchben eu drysau. Roedd y llythrennau'n sefyll dros yr enwau traddodiadol a roddwyd i'r tri gŵr doeth (rydych yn eu gwybod rwy'n siŵr!), ond daethant yn arwyddocaol o'r Lladin 'Christus mansionem benedicat' - 'Bydded i Grist fendithio'r tŷ hwn'.

Bydded i Grist bendithio'n cartrefi i gyd y Nadolig hwn gyda'i hedd a'i lawenydd. Bydded bendith ar bawb sy'n dod o dan ein to, a bydded bendith ar bawb sydd yn ein croesawu i'w cartrefi hefyd. A bydded i'r weddi o groeso fod ar ein gwefusau pob amser: tyrd, Arglwydd Iesu.

Nick Sissons

Kingdom Krafts continued:

..... We are grateful to all the local believers and churches who choose to support the cause even when it means paying that little extra, or being somewhat inconvenienced. We also acknowledge that God has done tremendous things in making it possible for us to stay in business and keep growing! Our dependence is upon Him, and you, for the future.

Thank you all,

Marian Whitaker and Pam Kirkham

JOURNEY OF FAITH

This is a new departure to encourage members of Cytûn to tell where they are coming from. The Secretary had been volunteered to make the first contribution! From early church going at home and through school days, National Service, university and a career in teaching, he identified apparently critical points when God had given very clear direction.

This had led to a spell in a school in Egypt for the children of the Egyptian pilots taking ships through the Suez Canal only four years after the British invasion during the Suez Crisis of 1956. Later he had had a four year stint in a Senior High School in Papua New Guinea just prior to that nation's independence and a final 18 years as Head of History at St David's College, Llandudno.

He paid tribute to a very faithful Heavenly Father, who had given Bible grounding in the Christian Union and active participation in the world work of Moral Rearmament/Initiatives of Change, and a conviction about Barbara nearly seven years before they married in Papua New Guinea. This had been a very ecumenical occasion. Although both are Anglicans themselves, the service had been conducted with the participation of two Methodist ministers and three German and one Chinese Catholic priest were present. Afterwards there was a feast with 3 pigs and 64 chickens and the students put on a display of traditional dancing.

He finished with appreciation of many faithful friends who had given encouragement during the journey, not least Bruce Elder who had invited him to take on the secretaryship of Cytûn only weeks before he died. We look forward to hearing others' 'Journeys of Faith'. (If anyone would like a copy of the full talk, please ring 01492 878504).

Patrick Rohde, Secretary

MAKING BREAD

The Cytûn Annual Conference was held at Seilo on November 11th. One of our younger members wrote: It was such a shame that more of the local young people could not have given up their cushy cliché groups for one evening to learn about real, Christ-like friendships being developed on the streets of

Liverpool. The team from a Methodist Church visited the evening conference at Cytûn to engagingly share about their outreach work in the community. They offer a safe space for the marginalised: the homeless, the sexually abused, and the asylum seekers to meet with supportive people and make bread with them.

The bread making sessions are regular and particularly effective for the homeless who learn a skill, and can take a loaf of bread with them to eat and are also given another to give to someone else who is in need of food. We were talked through what the sessions involved and offered the chance to help make bread. This was therapeutic and personal; there is time for talk about oneself and Jesus.

The bread making workshops run alongside other support groups, one for Christians who have been sexually abused and feel uncomfortable worshipping in conventional services and a poetry workshop were two such groups. Everyone who attends the workshops are invited to attend Bible studies and there is a Sunday service to participate in.

The evening was informative and thought provoking. Many of their ideas can be employed in this area. There are so many people who the world tells us aren't worth bothering with; they will bring us down, he'll never accept what we believe, I won't be able to relate to her. It can become easy to stay in our comfort friendship zones and only put effort into these relationships. The Liverpool team are doing a wonderful job in reaching out to the marginalised, just as Jesus would have done, and in this serving attitude they are just waiting on God to see in what directions He takes His Church.

Nat Robinson, Mission House/15+

CYTÛN LUNCHEON

The Cytûn Annual Lunch was held at St. David's Craig-y-Don on October 10th. One of our younger members wrote: The lunch was a good way to bring together people from all different denominations - food is always a good way to bring people together! I enjoyed talking to a few people that I had never met before and getting to know them. I would encourage more young people to attend in the future.

Laura, Mission House/15+

THE VOUCHER SCHEME

Meeting a Need or Being Taken for a Ride?

The popularity of our Cytûn Food Voucher scheme is really very encouraging. Those who require it do have a chance to get a good meal inside them, at either The Godfather or the Chinese Take-away next door, without handling any money themselves. However, the demands upon the scheme have increased dramatically recently: in October our Treasurer paid out £248, for November the sum was £438. We have begun to review the way the scheme operates so that there is as little abuse of the system as possible, but clearly if the demand remains high, even with fewer people taking unfair advantage of it, we shall need to give more thought to the way it is managed. We would value your prayerful support in this, as we try to work out the best way to sustain this piece of practical Christian outreach.

NEW RECTOR FOR LLANDUDNO

It was a great pleasure to welcome our new Rector at Holy Trinity – the Revd Canon John Nice. His Institution/Induction on the 1st November was made particularly notable because it was the first one at which our new Bishop of Bangor, Bishop Anthony, officiated, so the occasion was especially memorable. The service was both prayerful, meaningful and joyful, and parishioners and friends from Father John's two previous parishes were there alongside our own parishioners to support him. I know how pleased Father John was to meet several clergy from other denominations at the service, and I know that he will be a keen supporter of Cytûn here in Llandudno.

Father John comes to us from the Parish of Holyhead, and on behalf of Cytûn I would also like to welcome his wife Gaynor and their three sons, and we all hope that they will soon feel at home here in Llandudno.

Revd Jane Allen, Asst Curate, Holy Trinity Church

CYTÛN MONTHLY PRAYERS

These are held on the Second Saturday each month from 7am to 8am at the Emmanuel Christian Centre, at the corner of Lloyd Street & Chapel Street.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

A Service of Light

Thursday January 6th at 7:30pm at Saint Hilary's Church, Llanrhos. Celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany – The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles – That's us folks!

The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18th to 25th

The theme of our devotions for this year's gatherings is '**Christ the One Foundation of the Church**' and the material for this was prepared by the churches of Slovakia. Each daily service is in a different church and, except on Thursday and Sunday, will last about half an hour. The dates and locations this year are as follows, weekdays at 10:30 am, Sunday at 6 pm.

Tuesday 18th	Our Lady Star of the Sea.
Wednesday 19th	Bethania, Craig y Don.
Thursday 20th	Holy Trinity (Communion)
Friday 21st	All Saints, Deganwy
Saturday 22nd	Gloddaeth United Church
Sunday 23rd	The President's Service
at 6 pm	St David's Methodist Church
	Craig-y-don.
Monday 24th	At Emmanuel Church
	(to be confirmed)
Tuesday 25th	Llandudno Baptist Church

The Cytûn Council

Tuesday February 1st - at Stella Maris at 2 pm.

The Annual Renewal of Marriage Vows

Sunday February 20th
at Our Lady Star of the Sea at 6-30 pm.

The Cytûn Lenten Meditations

To be held at Stella Maris on Tuesdays from February 15th to March 15th (five Tuesdays) at 7:30 pm. The details of this new series are still being finalised.

The Good Friday Procession

March 25th - from the Town Hall at 11:45 to Holy Trinity Church for the outdoor service at 12 noon.