

CONFERENCE

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C.T.N.W.

visitwaleschurches



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**Thursday March
4th.**

0930-1600

**The Cory
Education
Centre**

**Dyffryn House,
St Nicholas**

Nr Cardiff

The morning will be dedicated to existing and planned projects involving churches from across Wales- what the project includes, what the project is hoping to achieve and how it hopes to achieve its aims, are the questions each of the six projects will answer. There

will be a particular emphasis on the rural projects. There will be one or more representative of the Wales Assembly Government to answer general enquiries. The afternoon will address the subject of genealogy. What can churches do to make it easier for the ancestor seeker?

Speakers include Dr Kevin Griffin from the Dublin University of Technology and Head of ATLAS Religious Special Interest Group Gillian Smith researcher from Yellow Duck, the company who

produced BBC Wales *Coming Home* series, and The Revd Philip Johnes will relate a practical experience. Delegates will leave the day with a toolkit to assist them in their work back in the communities. Dr Jonathan Wooding (University of Lampeter) and Dr Madeleine Gray (University of Newport) will also be in attendance to offer delegates help.

Cost £30 – to include lunch - only 5 places left -register at john@ctnw.co.uk

CTNW Report

A full report has been produced by CTNW which outlines our work, past, present and future.

This will be launched at the reception following the celebration service on Wednesday March 3rd.

After this date it will be available on our web site www.ctnw.co.uk

TOURISM TIDINGS

Media interest in church art and architecture

Kenneth Padley, Anglican Chaplain to Bangor University



Element's
camerawork
with light and
shade on the
chapel interior
was particularly
impressive.

Many things make my job rather odd. In terms of hardware, this is the only Anglican Chaplaincy in the UK with a significant residential function – 28 students live in the complex at the back of my house, which also includes a chapel and free-standing hall space. In terms of software, you never know who is going to call, visit or email or where that conversation might lead.

One such caller was from Element Productions. - the team behind the recent BBC *Hidden Histories* series examining the work of the Royal Commission in Wales. Ten minutes in one of these programmes was to be given over to the work of Herbert North, a

North Wales architect from the early twentieth century who worked in the art deco style. Alongside North's residential architecture in Llanfairfechan, I was told that the Royal Commission had an interest in our chapel as the last ecclesiastical work of North's still used for worship. Filming in June 2009 was condensed down into a few minutes of footage in the broadcast series this November. Element's camerawork with light and shade on the chapel interior was particularly impressive. Following the programme I have

received several positive comments on our chapel's cameo role in *Hidden Histories* and we occasionally receive visits from Herbert North specialists. The niche interest in what some might consider an unassuming building rendered it valuable to this media project. *Is there an aspect of your church or chapel which might attract similar coverage?*

The Chaplaincy is open 9am-9pm during University term times to visitors. The chapel has many community users as well as a space for private prayer and public liturgy. More info from <http://chaplains.bangor.ac.uk/>

MEINI BYWIOL – LIVING STONES



The project focuses on the churches and chapels of **North Montgomeryshire**. Some of the churches are medieval buildings of real architectural distinction, rich in contents, others are humbler vernacular structures, often in remote locations, whose attraction lies more in their atmosphere than in any architectural pretensions. The churchyards, with their inscribed slate headstones and ancient yews, are often as important as the church. The chapels vary greatly in style and in their degree of ambition but play a defining

role in the Welsh landscape; their interiors are usually quite untouched and almost entirely unvisited. All have stories to tell about the people who built and looked after them and about the communities they have served.. A high proportion of visitors to Wales number heritage and culture among their principal reasons for coming here. They seek authenticity, continuity and a sense of place. The churches and chapels of rural Wales are crucial in providing these. The aims of the project are:
to increase awareness of historic buildings and cultural

sites for local people and visitors
to involve community members in researching and interpreting them
to bring more visitors to an area rich in historic interest and natural beauty, which has remained largely undiscovered, and to enhance their experience
to provide information and activities that will attract and involve families and younger visitors.
to exploit neglected educational assets
to contribute to rural regeneration
to support local communities in caring for their heritage

All have stories to tell about the people who built and looked after them and about the communities they have served.

Discover Vale of Glamorgan Churches

So even small churches with little effort can do something!

Encouraged by the success of the Discover Cardiff Churches project, the churches and chapels are planning a project to attract more visitors to the rural vale through the church buildings. Llancafán, Llanilltud Fawr and Llandough have a very special story to tell in the history of Christianity. This triangle of monasteries were responsible for the education of many saints who went abroad to spread the Christian message. Much of the funding has come from the Wales Assembly Government Rural

Development programme through Creative Rural Communities based in Cowbridge. One feature of this project will be the use of electronic people counters. Various claims are made by many visitor attractions about the number of people that pass through their doors so CTNW thought it a worthwhile idea to try to measure these numbers with more accuracy. The plan is to install these counters at two buildings for the remainder of this

year and to use the other two to monitor numbers on a monthly basis in other places. In 2011 the same exercise will be undertaken to allow for comparison. This project will have a close link with Creative Rural Communities Heritage project which is planning to attract more visitors to the Rural Vale using innovative marketing and interpretation. In Llantwit Major (Llanilltud Fawr) a project to develop the Galilee chapel is underway.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ctnw.co.uk

