

Open Church Day

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2009.

The weather was certainly much better than last year and there have been many stories from around the principality reaffirming the value of this day.

In the week leading up to the 19th of September the Western Mail carried a two page spread about Open Church Day. A well written article by David Williamson brought out the essential elements of the day.*new features will be erected and then*

torn down, membership will rise and fall fires will destroy and restorations will rebuild, but churches will continue to be a place where joy and sadness collide and bells ring out
BBC Radio Wales carried an item in its morning show which included an interview with Revd Jane Bailey from Ynys Môn about the Honey Fair held in one of her churches. More churches had registered with CTNW than in previous

years. The most encouraging sign of the continued development of this day, was that many more churches were using the day to stage an event at or around the church. From a limited survey of some of the churches that took part, it is evident that there is great value in establishing partnerships with other heritage places. Next year is already being planned –with a possible move to May being considered.

C.T.N.W.

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This web site is being revamped to make it even more visitor friendly. Forms have gone out to as many churches and places of worship in Wales as possible to ensure that the site is fully representative.

If “your” church has not responded to this and it is open for visitors beyond worship time then please contact John Winton at the address or number in the side panel.

Heritage Presentation to St Chad's Church, Hammer



The pot is a remarkable link in the heritage of the church of St Chad's, Hanmer.

Bill Barlow, a churchwarden of St Chad's Church, Hanmer, accepted from Reg Meredith of Bettisfield in October 2009, the presentation to St Chad's Church of a lead pot. The pot was made by Revd Frederick Barry-Roberts M.A, Curate at Hanmer at the time of the 'Great Fire' of 3rd February 1889, using the lead from roof and windows that melted in the fire. Revd Roberts later became Vicar of Bettisfield.

The 'tea caddy' pot is inscribed, Hanmer Church, Burnt Down,

Feb 3 1889

It is 10cm diameter and 9cm tall with the lid and iron handle taking it to 14cm tall. The pot weighs 2.479 kg whilst the lid is 0.637 kg, making a total of 3.116 kg (6lb14oz)

Revd Roberts gave the pot to his friend, the grandfather of Mr Meredith. On the reverse side are his initials J.M.

The pot is a remarkable link in the heritage of the church of St Chad's, Hanmer. Its survival is astonishing and its return to Hanmer is a great joy. St Chad's is

noted for the wedding of Owain Glyndwr to Margaret Hanmer in about 1380. It is part of the Open Church Network of the Wrexham area of North East Wales, and is open daily from about 9:30am till dusk (Grid Reference SJ 456395).

Discovering Cardiff Churches



Councillor Nigel Howells and the Most Revd Peter Smith, Archbishop of Cardiff at the launch of the project.

Jean Rose, a parishioner of St Margaret's Roath in Cardiff decided to fill a gap in the market by encouraging churches in Cardiff to join together to promote their fine buildings. After much hard work writing to church leaders and cajoling others a leaflet was produced, encouraging people to visit 19 of Cardiff's churches. Whilst this group does not tell the complete story of Cardiff's built ecclesiastical heritage, the web site www.visitcardiffchurches.com has the facility to add churches open beyond worship, to the original list.

This project was officially launched by the Archbishop of Cardiff, the Most Reverend Peter Smith who said that he was very pleased to lend his support to this project because it enabled the churches of Cardiff to connect with people who rarely if ever attended church. In an increasingly secular society it was important, he believes, that the churches grasp every opportunity to share the Gospel story with as many different people as possible. Councillor Nigel Howells, the cabinet member of the City and County of Cardiff

with responsibility for leisure and Tourism was also present at an excellent breakfast launch at the Novotel in Cardiff. Councillor Howells emphasised how important the heritage product of Cardiff was to the city's tourism and he was especially pleased that this project focussed on so many of the interesting and historic churches of the city.

..... this project demonstrates the wealth of architectural and historic interest that's on offer in other churches across the city, and I'm sure they will benefit from being featured in the leaflet and website.

Councillor Nigel Howells- Cardiff Council's Executive Member for Sport Leisure and Culture

New Board member for CTNW



Sue Cole

the property officer for the United Reformed Church Synod of Wales has joined the board of CTNW. The United Reformed Church in Wales has been very supportive of CTNW's work for a long time. Peter Noble, URC Wales Moderator, said "I am delighted that Sue has agreed to join the board of CTNW, she will bring a vitality and expertise to the board as well as years of experience gained in her present post with us." Sue is a member of a recently re-formed group of property advisers from the main Christian denominations of Wales.

CTNW has been asked to attend the next meeting and it is hoped that this will lead to more joint initiatives as we all seek additional ways of sharing the gospel with a wider audience through the buildings.

So even small churches with little effort can do something!

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.ctnw.co.uk

The Revd Jenny Garrard

wrote to CTNW after we had made a presentation to the Presbyterian Church in Wales Mid Wales and Border Presbytery Day

.....Llandinam - one of my chapels on the A470. We'd talked for years about whether we could catch any passing tourists by just simply being open for tea/coffee/look round. We decided to give it a go for every Saturday in August (5 this year)... on the basis that if it doesn't work on an August Saturday it won't work at any time. We're only a congregation of 12-15 people, so we kept it really really simple, tea coffee, bit of home-made cake, simple leaflet about the church (enclosed) We decided peak "stopping time" if you are going on holiday is coffee time or lunch-time, so we did 10am -2pm. We put really big visible signing up on the

church, and in people's garden approaching the village - put it in the local papers, paper shop windows, tourist offices, PCW website, etc. Results? I'm not saying we were rushed off our feet, but each Saturday we've had a steady trickle of visitors - long distance ones travelling from Pembrokeshire, Cardiganshire back to Midlands & Yorkshire - local ones who said "we'd never been in this chapel and thought now was a chance. We met some lovely people, and even made contact with an Inner City Church in Birmingham who want to have a lunch stop with their youth group when they pass through next year. The donation plate gained a £100 though we didn't charge for anything. And "coincidentally" with all these signs up we've had more visitors in Sunday services too... So even small churches with little effort can do something!