



A Place of Trust: Welcoming the challenges of diversity



'Place of Trust' ('Hafan Ffydd' in Welsh) was specially written for the RE Council's *Celebrating RE* month, March 2011. At the time the song was seen as one of Wales' national contributions to the *Celebrating RE* month and one of the ways in which the St Mary's Centre participated, working with the national bodies for Religious Education in Wales, WASACRE (Wales Association of SACREs) and NAPfRE (National Advisory Panel for Religious Education). The resource provided a shared song of celebration, linking together young people from across Wales and England as they celebrated RE in their local and national contexts.

In response to a number of enquiries that the St Mary's Centre has had about the song, we have now added the resources for 'Place of Trust' to the curriculum development section of the St Mary's Centre website so that they will be easily accessible to schools and other groups who wish to use them.

Place of Trust today

Although the song was written for a particular context, it has a relevance that goes far beyond the *Celebrating RE* month of 2011. Good religious education in Wales and England today continues to provide a place where young people are able to engage with fundamental questions, to explore beliefs, teachings and practices, and to express their personal responses. This means that religious education in schools and other settings is involved with questions and issues that can be both personal and sensitive. This background provides the context for the central theme of the song, the 'Place of Trust' or haven where young people can learn about themselves and others in a supportive and respectful environment. The song appreciates the need for and the value of such places of meeting, and welcomes the relational potential and challenges that these may bring.

Resources

Visit <http://www.st-marys-centre.org.uk/resources.html> to download the free resources for Place of Trust in both English and Welsh version. Schools, faith communities and other non-commercial groups have permission to use the downloadable music backing track and to make copies of the score and words for their performances of the song.

In 2011 the song was released by Stiwdio Sain, featuring Dafydd Dafis, Eleri Fôn and Ysgol Tryfan choir, and is available to purchase as an iTunes download.