



Senedd Election 2026

Manifesto Briefing Update

A supplement to the Cytûn Senedd Election 2026 Manifesto Briefing
April 2026

Cytûn – Eglwysi Ynghyd yng Nghymru | Churches Together in Wales
Hastings House, Fitzalan Court, Caerdydd / Cardiff CF24 0BL
Registered Charity No. 1117071 | post@cytun.cymru | www.cytun.co.uk

This briefing has been prepared by Cytûn – Churches Together in Wales. It does not constitute an endorsement of, or opposition to, any political party, candidate or campaign. It is published in accordance with charity law and electoral law. Election date: 7 May 2026.

Introduction

This briefing has been prepared by Cytûn – Churches Together in Wales ahead of the Senedd election on 7 May 2026. All six main parties have now published their full manifestos. Cytûn has reviewed each in full, together with press and media commentary and independent economic analysis — including assessments by the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

This document is a supplement to the Cytûn Senedd Election 2026 Manifesto Briefing published in March 2026. It provides an updated and structured analysis of party positions across Cytûn's five priority policy areas, drawing on the completed manifestos rather than pre-manifesto policy signals.

Cytûn does not endorse any party or candidate. This briefing exists to help denominational leaders, local church communities, and individual members of faith to engage with this election thoughtfully, prayerfully, and well-informed.

How this briefing is organised

Cytûn's engagement with public life is shaped by five priority policy areas, rooted in Christian social teaching and the shared witness of our member churches:

- Health
- Education
- The Economy
- International Affairs and Climate Change
- The Church and the Citizen

The analysis that follows addresses each area in turn. For each area, we set out where the parties stand, how their pledges have been received, and where the most significant divergences — or areas of common ground — lie.

At a glance: party emphasis across Cytûn's five areas

The table below provides a quick-reference guide to where each party places its greatest emphasis. Highlighted cells indicate a particularly strong or distinctive commitment in that area.

Priority area	Wales Labour	Plaid Cymru	Welsh Conservatives	Welsh Lib Dems	Reform UK	Wales Greens
Health	£4bn hospitals fund	Waiting time targets	Health emergency declared	£300m social care	Cut waiting times	Prevention-first NHS
Education	Welsh Language Act	Curriculum review	School standards	30hr free childcare	School standards	Free school meals
The Economy	Investment & jobs	Wales Wealth Fund	Income tax cut 1p	Tax rise for care	Tax lock pledge	Land Value Tax

Priority area	Wales Labour	Plaid Cymru	Welsh Conservatives	Welsh Lib Dems	Reform UK	Wales Greens
Int. Affairs & Climate	Crown Estate devolution	Wales Wealth Fund	Wind farm moratorium	Sewage / rivers	Sceptic of net-zero	Most ambitious green
The Church and the Citizen	Nation of Sanctuary	Nation of Sanctuary	Scrap Sanctuary	Sanctuary supported	Scrap Sanctuary	Human rights focus

A note on reserved matters

Several parties have made pledges that relate to powers held at Westminster, not Cardiff Bay. Immigration, welfare benefits, and overseas aid are all largely reserved matters. A Welsh Government cannot abolish the two-child benefit cap, control immigration policy, or direct overseas aid spending — whatever a manifesto may say.

This does not mean those pledges are without value. They reflect genuine political and moral commitments. But members assessing what an incoming Welsh Government can actually deliver should focus on what lies within the Senedd's devolved competence. This briefing notes where pledges fall outside that competence.

The most likely post-election outcome is a coalition or confidence and supply arrangement. No single party is expected to win an overall majority. This means the policy priorities of smaller parties — particularly the Liberal Democrats and the Greens — may prove decisive in shaping the programme of the next Welsh Government.

1. Health

NHS waiting times are the dominant issue in this election. Every party identifies them as a priority. The significant differences lie in how each party proposes to fund improvement, what structural changes they are willing to make, and how social care — the single biggest pressure on hospital capacity — is addressed.

Quick comparison: health commitments

Issue	Wales Labour	Plaid Cymru	Welsh Conservatives	Welsh Lib Dems	Reform UK	Wales Greens
NHS waiting times	Long-term workforce plan; same-day mental health	No 2-yr waits in yr 1; pre-pandemic levels by term end	Declare health emergency; more beds; faster GP access	100% cancer treated in 62 days; NHS dentist guarantee	Cut waiting times; end corridor care	Prevention hubs; independent clinical guidance
Funding mechanism	£4bn Hospitals of the Future Fund	Workforce expansion; surgical hubs	Efficiency savings; no new taxes	1p income tax rise for social care	Efficiency savings	Prevention investment; tax reform
Social care	Fair pay for care workers	£30k childcare frees workforce	Workforce retention via tuition refunds	£300m investment; 1,400 bed-blockers freed	Unspecified efficiency savings	Equal pay parity with NHS workers
Key concern raised	Scale of hospital build programme	Waiting time targets ambitious	IFS: fiscal arithmetic questioned	Income tax rise a hard sell	IFS: overall costings questioned	Funding detail for prevention model unclear



Wales Labour

Labour's flagship commitment is a £4 billion Hospitals of the Future Fund. This would fund new hospitals — including replacing Wrexham Maelor Hospital and University Hospital Wales — and a major development in West Wales.

Labour also commits to a long-term NHS workforce plan and improved access to NHS dentistry. Same-day mental health services are promised across all areas of Wales.

Social care is addressed through fair pay for care workers and reform of funding arrangements. Labour frames social care reform as essential to reducing pressure on acute hospital services.



Plaid Cymru

Plaid sets specific waiting time targets. No patient would wait more than two years for treatment within the first year of a Plaid-led government. Waiting lists would return to pre-pandemic levels by the end of the Senedd term.

The manifesto commits to expanding the NHS workforce and strengthening community healthcare services. It leaves open the possibility of structural change to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board in north Wales, saying the party would consider 'all options' for reform.

Plaid's major childcare expansion — £30,000 of free provision per child from nine months to four years — is presented as both a social care and economic measure, enabling more parents and carers to remain in or return to work.



Welsh Conservatives

The Conservatives would declare a health emergency on taking office. They propose increasing hospital bed numbers, improving GP access, and reducing emergency care waiting times.

A detailed health manifesto published in February 2026 set out additional commitments ahead of the main document. The Conservatives propose tuition fee refunds for nursing, medicine, and dentistry graduates who commit to working in Wales for at least five years — a supply-side approach to the NHS workforce crisis.



Welsh Liberal Democrats

The Lib Dems make social care their defining health commitment. They propose investing £300 million in social care, funded by a 1p rise in the Welsh rate of income tax. Leader Jane Dodds has highlighted that approximately 1,400 people in Welsh hospitals do not need to be there — they are awaiting appropriate social care provision.

The manifesto also promises that 100% of cancer patients will begin treatment within the 62-day target from urgent referral. The current achieved rate is approximately 57%. No detailed delivery plan accompanies this pledge. The party also guarantees access to an NHS dentist for all patients with urgent needs.



Reform UK

Reform commits to keeping the NHS free at the point of use and to cutting waiting times, ending corridor care, and upgrading hospital buildings and digital infrastructure.

The manifesto does not specify a detailed funding mechanism beyond efficiency savings. The Institute for Fiscal Studies has raised broader concerns about the fiscal credibility of Reform's overall programme.

The Greens propose that NHS Wales should issue its own clinical guidance rather than following NHS England. This is a significant structural change, reflecting a distinctly Welsh approach to health policy.

The manifesto prioritises prevention and early intervention. Local health and wellbeing hubs, earlier diagnosis, and integrated care are at the centre of the Green vision. The party proposes endometriosis centres in every health board — addressing a significant gap in current provision.

On social care, the Greens promise equal pay for care workers with NHS staff — a measure they describe as both economic justice and parity of esteem for the care profession.

2. Education

Education is a devolved matter and features prominently in all six manifestos. Key areas of debate include school standards and curriculum implementation, Welsh-medium provision, the expansion of childcare, and access to further and higher education.

Quick comparison: education commitments

Issue	Wales Labour	Plaid Cymru	Welsh Conservatives	Welsh Lib Dems	Reform UK	Wales Greens
School standards	Implement Curriculum for Wales	Review Curriculum; clearer teacher guidance	Increase per-pupil funding; tackle behaviour	Focus on early years; childcare expansion	Behaviour and standards; more accountability	Universal free school meals; phone-free schools
Childcare	Expand Welsh-medium childcare	£30k per child, 9mths–4yrs	Extend free childcare; workforce retention	30hrs/wk, 48wks/yr, 9mths–4yrs	Extend free childcare; less detail	Universal 20hrs+, 9mths–4yrs
Welsh language	Welsh Language & Education Act	Welsh Language Education Act	Less specific	Bilingualism supported	General support stated	Less specific
Higher education	100k apprenticeships; retraining	Review tuition fees; FSM to Uni Credit families	£1k STEM discount; fee refunds for key workers	Lifelong learning reform; FE support	Less detail	40% university target; free HE long-term aim



Wales Labour

Labour commits to implementing the Welsh Language and Education Act, expanding Welsh-medium learning and making free Welsh lessons available to adults and parents.

On skills and training, Labour promises 100,000 all-age apprenticeships over the Senedd term — targeted at construction and renewable energy — a new lifelong retraining guarantee, and a National Jobs Council chaired by the First Minister. These measures span both education and economic policy.



Plaid Cymru

Plaid's most significant education commitment is a review of the Curriculum for Wales, with clearer guidance for teachers. This acknowledges ongoing concern about the consistency of pupil experience across Wales since the curriculum was introduced.

Plaid proposes extending free school meals to secondary school pupils in households claiming Universal Credit. A Welsh Language Education Act is promised, and the childcare expansion —

£30,000 of provision per child from nine months to four years — is a central cross-cutting commitment.



Welsh Conservatives

The Conservatives argue that Welsh schools are underperforming relative to elsewhere in the UK and propose a significant increase in per-pupil school funding. Policy commitments include reintroducing Home Economics as a taught subject and improving school accountability.

On higher education, a £1,000 tuition fee discount is proposed for students studying STEM subjects. Graduates in nursing, medicine, teaching, and dentistry would receive tuition fee refunds if they commit to working in Wales for at least five years — combining education policy with public sector workforce retention.



Welsh Liberal Democrats

The Lib Dems focus primarily on the early years, promising 30 hours of free childcare per week for 48 weeks of the year for all children aged nine months to four years. This is logistically ambitious and would require significant expansion of the registered childcare workforce.

The manifesto also prioritises adult access to education and skills, and commits to reform of the further education system to support lifelong learning.



Reform UK

Reform's education platform focuses on standards and behaviour. They propose tackling disruptive behaviour in classrooms, reintroducing Home Economics, and improving school accountability. Free childcare is extended, though the manifesto is less specific about hours and age ranges than other parties.



Wales Green Party

The Greens propose universal free school meals for all secondary school pupils — a broader commitment than Plaid's Universal Credit-linked approach. The manifesto commits to making all schools phone-free and to protecting small rural schools from closure.

On higher education, the Greens aim for 40% of young people in Wales to attend university by the end of the Senedd term — up from approximately one third currently. More generous living cost



support for students who remain in Wales accompanies this, with free higher education as a longer-term aspiration.

3. The Economy

Wales faces structural economic challenges: lower productivity than the UK average, significant pockets of deprivation, and a post-industrial legacy in many communities. All six parties offer distinct economic frameworks. Voters — and faith communities — should weigh not only the promises made, but the credibility of the costings and assumptions underpinning them.

Quick comparison: economic commitments

Issue	Wales Labour	Plaid Cymru	Welsh Conservatives	Welsh Lib Dems	Reform UK	Wales Greens
Tax position	No income tax rise; council tax reform	Fairer council tax; welfare devolution	1p income tax cut; scrap LTT on homes	1p income tax rise for social care	Tax lock; business rates review	Replace council tax with Land Value Tax
Housing	100k new homes target	Planning reform; Housing First	Scrap LTT to boost market	Childcare to support renter households	Welsh people priority for social housing	60k social homes; 1-year rent freeze
Business & growth	£500m Local Growth Fund	Wales Wealth Fund; Welsh procurement	Reinstate Welsh Development Agency	SME procurement reform	Business rates review; anti-waste drive	Four-day week; strengthen Revenue Authority
IFS view	Credible but cautious	Welfare devolution uncertain	High-risk: £486m unfunded cuts	Honest but politically difficult	Credibility concerns raised	Ambitious; delivery detail lacking

Wales Labour

Wales Labour

Labour's economic programme centres on investment rather than tax cuts. A Local Growth Fund of more than £500 million would target productivity and reduce inequality. A National Jobs Council, chaired by the First Minister, would drive job creation under a new industrial strategy for Wales.

Labour commits to 100,000 all-age apprenticeships over the Senedd term, targeted at growth sectors including construction and renewable energy, alongside a lifelong retraining guarantee.

Labour would not raise Welsh income tax rates. It commits to council tax reform and exploration of its expansion, building on debt relief pilots in Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent, and Newport.

Plaid Cymru

Plaid Cymru

Plaid proposes a Wales Wealth Fund to ensure Wales benefits from its own natural and economic resources. Public procurement would actively support Welsh-owned businesses and local supply chains, keeping wealth within Welsh communities.

The Cynnal pilot — a Welsh Child Payment of £10 per week for children under six in Universal Credit families — is a targeted anti-poverty measure. Its implementation depends on either existing Senedd powers being sufficient, or devolution of welfare powers comparable to Scotland. This is not currently guaranteed and the IFS has flagged the uncertainty.

On housing, Plaid commits to planning reform in the interests of communities rather than developers, Housing First approaches to homelessness, and investment in retrofitting existing housing stock.



Welsh Conservatives

The Conservatives offer the most significant tax reduction programme of any party. A 1p cut in the basic rate of Welsh income tax would cost approximately £311 million. Abolishing Land Transaction Tax on main home purchases would cost a further £175 million. Together these represent approximately 2% of Welsh Government day-to-day spending.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has described these commitments as difficult to reconcile with the party's spending plans. The Welsh budget already faces significant pressures in health, social care, and special educational needs provision. Reliance on unspecified efficiency savings is, the IFS concludes, a high-risk approach — particularly given that a high-profile pledge to reduce the Senedd from 96 to 60 members would save just £13 million a year.

Other commitments include scrapping business rates for small firms, re-establishing a Welsh Development Agency, 125,000 apprenticeships over the Senedd term, and a £100 million boost to the farming budget.



Welsh Liberal Democrats

The Lib Dems are the only party proposing to raise income tax — by 1p in the pound — to fund social care. They describe this as an honest answer to a funding crisis that other parties are unwilling to acknowledge directly.

The manifesto also supports small businesses through public procurement reform and local economic development, and commits to expanding free childcare as both a social and an economic policy.



Reform UK

Reform's economic programme centres on tax restraint and spending reallocation. A business rates review, a 5% council tax referendum limit, and a tax lock pledge against new Welsh levies are the core commitments. Reform would prioritise Welsh people for social housing allocation.

The IFS has raised broader questions about the overall fiscal credibility of Reform's programme. Several flagship pledges — including abolishing international aid and directing those funds to Wales — are reserved to Westminster and cannot be delivered by a Welsh Government.

Wales
Green Party

Wales Green Party

The Greens propose replacing council tax entirely with a Land Value Tax. They argue this would reduce the burden on lower-income households — tenants rather than property owners would no longer bear the cost — while ensuring that owners of the most valuable properties contribute more.

A one-year rent freeze, including between tenancies, would provide immediate relief for renters. The party commits to building 60,000 social homes over the next decade — the most ambitious social housing target of any party. Against a backdrop of approximately 94,000 households currently on social housing waiting lists in Wales, this ambition would be broadly welcomed, though delivery would require sustained capital investment and planning system reform.

The Greens support a gradual shift to a four-day working week and would strengthen the Welsh Revenue Authority to ensure wealthy individuals and corporations pay their fair share of tax.

4. International Affairs and Climate Change

Wales's devolved competence in international affairs is limited. The Senedd cannot direct foreign policy, international aid, or immigration. However, the Welsh Government shapes how Wales responds to global challenges within its powers — through climate and energy policy, its treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, and its international partnerships and trade relationships.

Climate change and energy

Quick comparison: climate and energy

Issue	Wales Labour	Plaid Cymru	Welsh Conservatives	Welsh Lib Dems	Reform UK	Wales Greens
Renewable energy	Crown Estate devolution; supports offshore wind	Wales Wealth Fund; energy devolution	Moratorium on large onshore wind and solar	Supports renewables; opposes fracking	Sceptical of net-zero mandates	Most ambitious; Crown Estate devolution
Transport	Bus fare cap; EV infrastructure	Active travel; rural transport	M4 relief road; unfreeze road projects	Free travel under-25s; active travel	Scrap 20mph; M4 relief road	Free bus under-22; £1 fare for adults; fix roads first
Energy security	Renewable transition	Welsh energy ownership	Nuclear power backed	Renewable transition	Fossil fuel friendly	Renewable-led; community energy
Water and environment	Crown Estate revenue	Environmental standards	Abolish Natural Resources Wales	Ban sewage discharges; fund NRW	Less detail	Water quality; coastal protection



Wales Labour

Labour supports renewable energy and Wales's net-zero commitments. It is pursuing devolution of the Crown Estate, which would give the Welsh Government direct control over revenue from offshore wind development in Welsh waters — a potentially significant source of public income for Wales.



Plaid Cymru

Plaid supports renewable energy investment and would use a Wales Wealth Fund to ensure Wales benefits economically from its natural resources, including wind and water. The party supports further devolution of energy powers to give Wales greater control over its own energy future.



Welsh Conservatives

The Conservatives propose a moratorium on large-scale onshore wind and solar farm development. They support nuclear power as the foundation of Welsh energy security. This is the sharpest point of divergence between the Conservatives and the left-of-centre parties on climate and energy. The Conservatives also propose to abolish Natural Resources Wales.

Welsh
Lib Dems

Welsh Liberal Democrats

The Lib Dems focus on the environmental consequences of energy and transport policy. They commit to ending sewage discharges into Wales's rivers and coastal waters, with extra funding for Natural Resources Wales and a ban on bonuses for water company executives until discharges end.

The party opposes fracking in Wales and supports renewable energy development. Free public transport for under-25s is presented partly as a climate and active travel measure.

Reform
UK

Reform UK

Reform is sceptical of net-zero targets and renewable energy mandates. The party would reverse the default 20mph speed limit — a measure with implications for both road safety and emissions. Reform would pursue major road infrastructure investment including the M4 relief road and A55 upgrades. The overall trajectory of the Reform programme would slow Wales's green transition.

Wales
Green Party

Wales Green Party

The Greens are the most ambitious party on climate and environment. They call for devolution of the Crown Estate so that Wales can control its renewable energy resources, and propose that bus travel should be free for under-22s with a £1 flat fare for adults aged 22–59.

The party prioritises repairing and maintaining roads over building new ones, and supports a gradual shift to a four-day working week — partly as a means of reducing carbon emissions through reduced commuting and consumption. The Greens would call for the devolution of water regulation to Wales.

Refugees, asylum seekers, and the Nation of Sanctuary

🚩 Note on reserved matters

Immigration is largely a reserved matter for Westminster. The Senedd cannot close borders, refuse asylum claims, or direct the placement of asylum seekers. A Welsh Government's power in this area is limited to how Wales responds to those who are placed here — through the support offered, the services

provided, and the values expressed. Members should bear this distinction clearly in mind when assessing party pledges in this area.

This is one of the most ethically significant areas of debate in this election for faith communities. The Welsh Government introduced the Nation of Sanctuary policy in 2019 to provide a framework of support for refugees and asylum seekers — including help accessing health services, housing, and employment advice. A significant proportion of the funding has supported Ukrainian refugees.

Issue	Wales Labour	Plaid Cymru	Welsh Conservatives	Welsh Lib Dems	Reform UK	Wales Greens
Nation of Sanctuary	Maintain and develop	Strongly supported	Scrap the scheme	Maintain and develop	Scrap the scheme	Strongly supported
Refugee support	Humanitarian framing	Human rights framing	Housing priority for Welsh people	Humanitarian framing	Ukrainian exception; others restricted	All refugees: human rights defended
Reserved matters risk	Acknowledges limits	Seeks more devolution	Pledges exceed Senedd powers	Acknowledges limits	Many pledges reserved to Westminster	Acknowledges limits



Wales Labour

Labour supports maintaining Wales as a Nation of Sanctuary and frames Wales's responsibilities to refugees and asylum seekers as a matter of humanitarian values and Welsh civic identity.



Plaid Cymru

Plaid strongly supports Wales's Nation of Sanctuary status and frames the issue as a matter of human rights and Welsh values. The party supports devolution of relevant powers to allow Wales to act with greater autonomy in this area.



Welsh Conservatives

The Conservatives propose scrapping the Nation of Sanctuary policy. They would prioritise Welsh people for social housing and restrict the use of hotels to house asylum seekers in Welsh communities. The Conservatives would replace the current framework with a more restrictive approach to refugee integration.



Welsh Liberal Democrats

The Lib Dems support Wales's humanitarian responsibilities and would maintain and develop the Nation of Sanctuary framework. The party frames its position in terms of Wales's long tradition of welcome and ecumenical values.

 Reform
UK

Reform UK

Reform makes scrapping the Nation of Sanctuary scheme a headline pledge. Immigration is the centrepiece of the party's campaign. Members should be clearly aware that most of Reform's immigration pledges — stopping boat crossings, deportations, restricting legal migration — cannot be delivered by a Welsh Government. They are reserved to Westminster.

At the manifesto launch, Nigel Farage confirmed that Ukrainian refugees would receive a distinct, bespoke scheme. This distinction between Ukrainian and other refugees has attracted significant criticism from refugee support organisations, faith groups, and human rights advocates across Wales.

 Wales
Green Party

Wales Green Party

The Greens are the most explicit of all parties in connecting Wales's responsibilities to refugees and asylum seekers with broader human rights commitments. The manifesto states that the Greens will 'always defend human rights, at home and abroad'. The party supports the Nation of Sanctuary scheme and would seek to extend its reach and ambition.

5. The Church and the Citizen

This section addresses the areas of specific concern for faith communities in this election: the place of faith in Welsh public life; the contribution of churches and faith organisations to civil society; Wales's responsibilities to the most vulnerable; and questions of personal conscience and ethical conviction that arise from the party programmes.

Faith communities and civil society

Wales's churches and faith communities make an enormous contribution to Welsh civic life — through foodbanks, debt counselling, community support, youth work, pastoral care, advocacy on behalf of the poor, and the provision of spaces of welcome and belonging across communities. This contribution is largely invisible in the party manifestos. No party has made a specific commitment to partnership with faith communities in service delivery or policy development.

Cytûn encourages member denominations to raise the question of the role and recognition of faith communities directly in any candidate engagement or hustings events they host or attend before 7 May.

Poverty and the common good

The theme that most clearly connects Cytûn's five policy areas is poverty. Wales has some of the highest rates of child poverty in the UK. The cost-of-living crisis has deepened hardship for many of the families and communities that churches serve every day.

Labour, Plaid Cymru, the Liberal Democrats, and the Greens all offer targeted measures on child poverty, housing costs, and transport affordability. The Conservative and Reform programmes are more focused on tax reductions, which primarily benefit working households rather than those in greatest need. The IFS has raised questions about whether either of those programmes can deliver on their economic promises without cuts to public services.

Faith communities are encouraged to scrutinise party programmes through the lens of their obligation to the poor. Which proposals would most benefit those at the sharpest edge of poverty in Wales?

The Welsh language and Welsh identity

The Welsh language is part of the fabric of faith life in Wales. Many of Cytûn's member denominations conduct worship, publish materials, and serve communities through the medium of Welsh. The language is inseparable from the culture and community that sustain Welsh Christian witness.

Labour and Plaid Cymru offer the strongest commitments to the Welsh language, including legislative action. The other parties address the language less specifically. Faith communities may wish to ask candidates directly what their party's programme means for Welsh-medium public services, worship, and community life.

Matters of personal conscience

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is currently before the UK Parliament. In February 2026, the Senedd voted 28 to 23 to pass a Legislative Consent Motion on the NHS Wales implementation powers in the Bill. This is not a manifesto issue in this election, but it will fall to the incoming Welsh Government to manage the implementation of any UK legislation that passes.

Cytûn has published a separate briefing on the Legislative Consent Motion and its implications for Wales. Members are encouraged to raise this issue with candidates and to assess parties' positions carefully before polling day.

Freedom of religion and belief

No party has made freedom of religion and belief a significant manifesto theme in this election. Cytûn will continue to monitor any legislative or policy developments that affect the ability of faith communities to worship, organise, and serve freely.

Members are encouraged to engage candidates on questions of religious freedom — including the space for faith-based organisations to operate according to their values in the delivery of public services. The question of how a Welsh Government will engage with faith communities as partners in civic life deserves a direct answer from candidates of all parties.

Questions to put to candidates

To assist members in their engagement with candidates and hustings events, Cytûn commends the following questions for consideration:

- **On health:** What is your plan for addressing the social care crisis that is keeping people in hospital who do not need to be there?
- **On education:** How will your party support Welsh-medium education and ensure that the Curriculum for Wales delivers consistently for all pupils?
- **On the economy:** What concrete steps will your party take to reduce child poverty in Wales in the next Senedd term?
- **On international affairs:** How will Wales maintain its Nation of Sanctuary commitments, and how do you respond to the argument that immigration pledges in this election cannot be delivered by the Senedd?
- **On faith and civil society:** How does your party intend to recognise and support the contribution of faith communities to Welsh civic life and public service delivery?
- **On conscience:** How will your party engage with the implementation of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill as it affects Wales?

Conclusion

This is the most consequential Senedd election since devolution began in 1999. For the first time, 96 Members will be elected by proportional representation across 16 six-member constituencies using the D'Hondt method. No single party is expected to win an overall majority. The government formed after 7 May will almost certainly rest on a coalition, confidence and supply arrangement, or minority administration.

That context matters for how faith communities engage with this election. It means that the policy priorities of smaller parties — particularly the Liberal Democrats and the Greens — may prove decisive in shaping the programme of the next Welsh Government, even if their total seat count is modest. It also means that the question of who governs with whom is as important as which party leads.

All six parties have now set out their full programmes. The differences between them are real and significant — on health funding, on taxation, on the Welsh language, on housing, on the environment, and above all on the values Wales should express in how it treats its most vulnerable residents and those seeking sanctuary on its shores.

These are not merely political questions. They are moral and theological ones. How Wales cares for the sick, the poor, the child, the stranger, and the elderly is a matter of Christian witness as much as electoral choice. Cytûn trusts that its member churches will bring that perspective to bear — in prayer, in conversation, and in the ballot box.

What Cytûn asks of its members

- Read the full Cytûn Senedd Election 2026 Manifesto Briefing at www.cytun.co.uk
- Host or attend local hustings events with candidates from across the parties.
- Use this briefing as a basis for group discussion, reflection or prayer within congregations.
- Encourage candidate engagement in Welsh where possible.
- Vote on 7 May 2026, and encourage all eligible members to exercise their democratic right.

This briefing has been produced by Cytûn – Churches Together in Wales (Registered Charity No. 1117071) in accordance with charity law and electoral law. It does not constitute an endorsement of, or opposition to, any political party, candidate or campaign. Member denominations wishing to engage in voter education activities of their own are advised to seek independent legal guidance. For further information: post@cytun.cymru | www.cytun.co.uk