



Esgobaeth Llandaf
Diocese of Llandaff

Lle Mae Ffydd Yn Cyfrif | Where Faith Matters

Recruitment Pack | 2023

Bridgend Ministry Area

Serving Laleston, Merthyr Mawr & Pen-y-Fai





Croeso yn enw Iesu
Welcome in the name of Jesus



Croeso! Welcome!

We are delighted you are exploring this exciting opportunity to minister in the town of Bridgend and the five villages of Coity, Coychurch, Laleston, Merthyr Mawr and Pen-y-Fai, which surround it. We pray for you as you embark on this process of discernment.

These are exciting times in the Diocese of Llandaff.

Our strategic vision 'Where Faith Matters' is becoming reality. As a Diocese we are encouraging one another to tell a joyful story, grow the Kingdom and build our capacity for good.

With help from the Evangelism Fund of the Church in Wales, we have launched Citizen Church, a new Resource Church for the diocese, which has grown rapidly and is already planting elsewhere in the diocese.

We have invested heavily in our ministry amongst young people, recruiting outreach and schools' workers to work alongside our congregations.

We have accelerated the transition to Ministry Areas, which will encourage collaborative ministry and empower our congregations as we reach our communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Until recently the town of Bridgend was separated into three different areas by the old parish system. With the move to Ministry Areas these borders have now dissolved allowing the church to be released into a new era of collaboration and outreach into the whole of the locality. This then is a good time for the right candidate with the right gifts and skills to join the current team to help them develop the potential of the Ministry Area

We hope you will find this profile helpful in discerning whether you feel called to apply.

We would be glad to hear from you.



The Ministry Area comprises the town of Bridgend and the five villages of Coity, Coychurch, Laleston, Merthyr Mawr and Pen-y-Fai, which surround it.

Bridgend takes its name from the old stone bridge in the town which crosses the River Ogmore/Ogwr.

The town is the administrative centre of the County Borough of the same name. Its situation along the M4 and the presence of a mainline railway station give it good road and rail links to access all parts of the UK. Coast and countryside are close by, together with Europe's largest area of natural sand-dunes at Merthyr Mawr (pictured above). The town has three popular comprehensive schools and it is served by branches of most major supermarkets.

The Ministry Area has eight churches in total. Our vision is that of the Diocese, that together we will "Tell a joyful story, Increase our capacity for good and Build the

Kingdom of God." To this end we seek to work as a team and provide a variety of Church Services, which will appeal to, teach and inspire different congregations such as Forest Church, Cafe Church, on-line church, children's work as well as ordinary services and special liturgical events.

We support the work of different charities and organisations, which promote the welfare of others such as Citizens Cymru, The Wallich, Christian Aid, Ty Cariad and the local Foodbank.

Most of our churches are popular venues for weddings and baptisms and in addition, clergy and other church members are involved with local schools through school governance and Open the Book. Opportunities for pop-up cafes are taken up particularly in churches in those parts of the Ministry Area which are popular with tourists, local walkers, and cyclists.



Our Ministry Team New role: Vicar

In the west end of the Ministry Area there has been a Christian presence for over 1,000 years. We are looking for a priest who will take care of the three congregations in this part of the Ministry Area and help us to deepen and develop this presence.

We are looking for someone who will bring their gifts and skills to help us develop the potential of the Ministry Area by demonstrating collaboration, flexibility, creativity and sensitivity and a willingness to embrace Welsh culture.

We are therefore looking for a priest who:

- Is able to collaborate within the Ministry Area and the congregations, demonstrating the ability to delegate and to listen. They will be sensitive to knowing when to take a lead, when to work alongside and how best to complement the skills of others, whilst encouraging the less confident. We support the ministry of men and women in all forms.
- Is able to build on and develop the existing links with the community, such as schools, other denominations, community organisations and charities.
- Is able to engage with Welsh culture and, if not a Welsh-speaker, be prepared to learn how to use at least some liturgical Welsh.
- Is able to communicate effectively through the spoken and written word and use of modern technology to reach all age groups, both within and outside the worshipping community.
- Has a flexible and creative approach to worship and is able to use different forms and styles of worship such as on-line services, outdoor services and other forms of non-liturgical service and liturgical services, within a sacramental tradition.
- Has a heart for all aspects of children's ministry, such as school governance and Open the Book.
- Is able to join with us as a Ministry Area to embrace Eco Church, Forest Church and green issues.
- Is able to join with us to support social concerns such as Citizens Cymru, the Wallich, Christian Aid and the local Foodbank.
- Is approachable, good-humoured and pastorally sensitive.
- Is firm about taking a day off, an annual retreat and full holiday allowance.

Housing

Laleston Vicarage is a short walk from St David's church. It's a spacious four-bedroom property, with large gardens, to front, sides and rear along with driveway and off-road parking. It also has a single detached garage along with two timber garden potting sheds.



The West End of the Ministry Area

This part of the Ministry Area consists of the former Benefice of Laleston and Merthyr Mawr with Pen-y-Fai which contains these three villages, parts of the Cefn Glas estate and the newer Broadlands housing estate.

Laleston is a Conservation Area. The village has a school, a few shops, Post Office, hotel, pub and two restaurants. There are also shops and restaurants on the Broadlands estate half a mile away. There are two more primary schools in Broadlands and Cefn Glas.

There is a newly refurbished church hall to oversee and the new incumbent will also be expected to be a trustee of the Blandy Trust, which administers a local building where the Community Council meet.



Cottage at Merthyr Mawr

Merthyr Mawr is a small picturesque estate village at the southernmost tip of the Ministry Area. Well-known local sand dunes form part of the National Nature Reserve and the village lies on both the All Wales Footpath and the Laleston Stones Trail, which traces a former pilgrim route.

A preaching cross and a lapidarium in the grounds of the church testify to its ancient origins. The current church, St Teilos, dates from the mid C19th and a recent donation means that it has been recently refurbished and equipped with kitchen facilities.

The small congregation is an enthusiastic one which fundraises for various charities and which seeks to maximise the church's potential as a pilgrim or festival church.

Pen-y-Fai lies about a mile outside Bridgend. The village has a church school (VC) and the incumbent would be expected to sit on the governing body and maintain the close links between the school and the church. The village has an active Community Association which disseminates information and arranges activities through its Facebook page. The pub lies opposite the church and has a function room for approximately 30 people, which the church uses to host meetings and activities.

The church itself, All Saints, dates from the Edwardian era and is in good order. It has tea and coffee making facilities and a toilet in the vestry. A small community room has been created from the south transept.

Although the majority of people in all three congregations are retired, there is a desire to see the churches flourish and a willingness to assist. The work of the last six years has drawn a core of people closer together in fellowship.



Existing Ministry Team

The full team comprises three clergy and an associate priest as well as three LLMs (Readers) and an enthusiastic Lay Team. (There are two vacancies at present) and Lay Worship Leaders.

Ministry Area Leader

Rev. Maggie Thorne

Rev. Maggie grew up in Tyneside as a child of the presbytery, so church was always a prominent feature in her life. The call to serve simmered from childhood stimulated by accompanying her father on pastoral visits. Her vocation led her to Cuddesdon College in Oxford and since then she has ministered in suburban and semi-rural parishes before arriving in Coity, Nolton and Brackla with Coychurch, just months before the pandemic began. Nevertheless, Maggie used the time to learn more about virtual worship and communication. Wales became her adopted country some years ago as well as that of her family and she holds the people of Bridgend in her heart before God daily.

Vicar

Fr. David Lloyd

Fr. David has been vicar of St Illtyd's church on Newcastle Hill in Bridgend for a number of years. He served a curacy in Porthcawl, which he describes as the right place for a traditionalist Anglo-Catholic like himself. He feels an affinity with the early church and the early church fathers and tries to lead and teach those things which bind us to the apostles as well as making them relevant today.

Lay Chair

Andrew Dix

Andrew is a retired headteacher who has been an active member of his home church, St. Mary's, Nolton, for many years, holding various posts of responsibility. As we enter the second year of our establishment as a Ministry Area, Andrew looks forward to continuing progress in the finer details of the Council's functions such as finance, safeguarding and health and safety, as well as promoting our values as an active and missional community in Christ.

Ministry Area Warden

Gaynor Coles

Gaynor has been an active member of St. Mary's Church in Brackla, which meets in Archdeacon John Lewis Primary School, for 20 years. Gaynor is enthusiastic about the work of the Mission Area and is looking forward to getting to know fellow Christians as we work, worship and grow in unity to shape the Ministry Area.

Ministry Area Warden

Ian Hartley Brown

Ian was born and brought up in Yorkshire. Family circumstances meant that Ian's education was fragmented and on leaving school, a series of unskilled jobs followed. Some years later, a conversation with an old school friend persuaded Ian to travel with him to Wales. Through a series of divine coincidences, Ian was encouraged to train as an auxiliary nurse and to attend church. He has attended his present church St. Mary's for two years and his church family is very important to him.

LLM Reader | Mrs Christine Judd

Chris is a child of the vicarage having been born into a family of clerical collars! She describes her awareness of God's presence as one which originated in childhood. After school and college, she entered the teaching profession where she remained for almost forty years. In recent years she was licensed as a Reader and in the process studied for a BTh. She loves music and sings in three choirs. She also likes walking the dog, reading, attending opera and ballet and is currently returning to painting and textile design. Above all Chris wants to serve God joyfully with all her being. She is looking forward enthusiastically to our progress as a Ministry Area in its work to fulfil the Diocesan Vision.

LLM Reader | Mr Peter Craven

Peter was born in Breconshire where he attended primary school before the family moved to Bridgend. Following secondary school he went to the University of Bath where he read physics and this was followed by a PGCE in Exeter. He taught in Devon for two years before returning to Bridgend. He attends St. Crallo's church (Coychurch) where he and his wife Alison were married and their sons christened. He retired a few years ago and spends his time reading, listening to music and keeping the garden under control.

LLM Reader | Mrs Penny Williams

Penny used to be a teacher of children with behaviour and emotional difficulties. Retired for a number of years she ministers in the west end of the Ministry Area, taking non-eucharistic services most Sundays. She has, at different times in the past, been involved in Children's ministry and in Mental Health chaplaincy. She looks forward to services which give an opportunity for interaction with non-churchgoers. She likes to keep active, usually has a craft activity on the go and perseveres to improve her Welsh but is realistic about her abilities as a linguist!



Worship in the West End of the Ministry Area

During the vacancy, the pattern of worship has needed to be adapted, but it is hoped that our new incumbent will discover a new and flexible pattern which will incorporate Sunday clergy/lay led services, midweek services and occasional online services.

The style of worship in all three churches might be said to be middle of the road, Liberal Catholic with an equal emphasis on Word and Sacrament.

Of the three churches, Pen y Fai, perhaps leans towards the more traditional but the feedback from the Sunday children's group, which meets there at the same time, does invigorate the congregation.

The small congregation of Merthyr Mawr is perhaps most open to different styles of worship but nevertheless, in all three churches, there is a willingness to encompass and accept different expressions of worship.

This was emphasised during Covid particularly, when congregants from all three churches embraced on-line worship and outdoor worship (during the summer months!).

Our Diocese

Irish monks first established the Christian faith in Morgannwg during the 5th and 6th centuries. St Cadoc established the monastery at Llancarfan and ruled the area as Abbot-King. St Illtud established a school of world renown at Llantwit Major where he trained St David and St Patrick. St Dyfrig became the first bishop of the area, followed by the great St Teilo. However, it was St Euddogwy, the third bishop who finally settled at Llandaff in the 6th century.

Today we are the most populous of six dioceses in the Church of Wales, with over one million inhabitants, covering much of South Wales, including the urban centres of Cardiff and Barry in the South East, the Heritage Coast to the South, the South Wales Valleys in the North and the post-industrial regions of Neath and Port Talbot in the West.

The diocese is a family of over 10,000 regular worshippers with over one hundred clerics and more than two hundred churches spread across 29 new Ministry Areas.



Esgobaeth Llandaf Diocese of Llandaff

Lle Mae Ffydd Yn Cyfrif | Where Faith Matters

The Court, Coychurch, Bridgend, CF35 5EH | T: 01656 868 868

facebook.com/llandaffdiocese

@LlandaffDio

llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk