



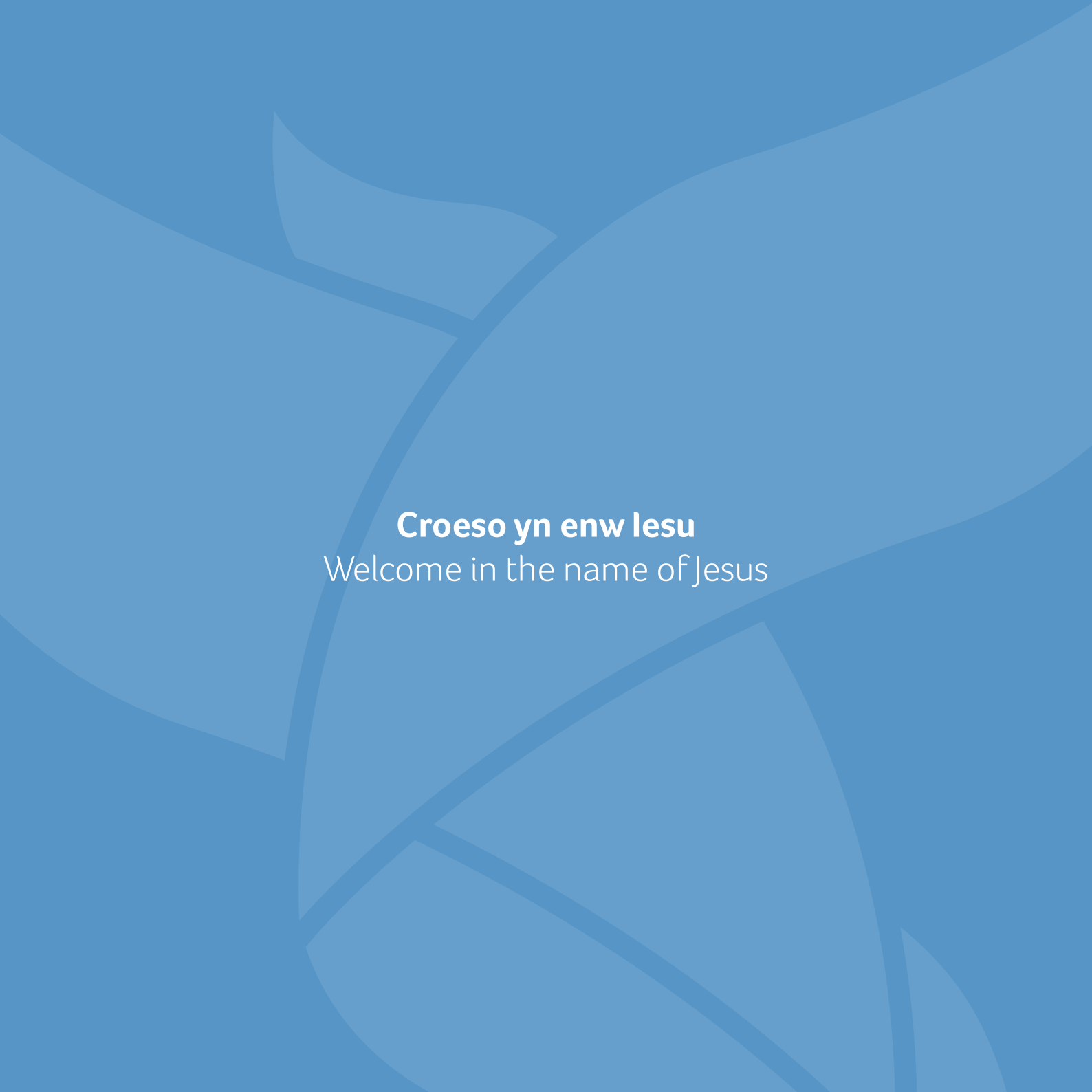
Esgobaeth Llandaf
Diocese of Llandaff

Lle Mae Ffydd Yn Cyfrif | Where Faith Matters

Recruitment Pack | Autumn 2022

Bro Noddfa Ministry Area





Croeso yn enw Iesu
Welcome in the name of Jesus



Croeso! Welcome!

I am delighted you are exploring this exciting opportunity to minister in and around the Vale of Neath, the legendary birthplace of St Patrick.

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, a new Resource Church for the diocese, which has grown rapidly and is already preparing to plant churches across the diocese. We have invested heavily in our ministry amongst young people, recruiting outreach and schools' workers to work alongside our churches. 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.

As you will read, Bro Noddfa Newydd is a newly formed Ministry Area that has incredible potential to share the Gospel in so many ways. There are already excellent established links with schools and outside organisations which are reviving after Covid. The leadership team of Clergy, Readers and other lay participants are growing in confidence as they begin to explore the gifts and skills that they collectively share. Therefore, this is an exciting opportunity for the right candidate to join this welcoming Ministry Area and help them become the best they can be.

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

We would be glad to hear from you.

Rt Rev'd June Osborne
Bishop of Llandaff



Welcome to the Bro Noddfa Newydd Ministry Area (A new safe Haven Ministry Area)
We are a relatively new Ministry Area, inaugurated on the 6th March 2022, where five parishes have come to together and are still in the process of learning to work together. The Ministry Area is governed by a Ministry Area Council (MAC) comprising elected and ex-officio members of the former separate parishes, with a Lay Chair appointed by the bishop. The Ministry Area is mixed socially and economically and spread across a wide area.

The Ministry Area has excellent commuter links, with the A465 – The Heads of the Valley trunk road – Abergavenny to Neath running through it linking with the M4 (J43) providing easy access to Swansea and Cardiff. The nearest main line train station is Neath. The Brecon Beacons National Park borders the Parish at the North-Eastern end, on the edge of which lies Waterfall Country providing spectacular waterfall walks. At the south western end, you are a short drive from the City of Swansea and the Gower Peninsula with its beautiful beaches and coastal path. Running straight through the centre of Glynneath and on into Neath is the Neath Canal. On the canal at Ty Banc House in Resolven, water activities are available. There is a cycle track running along the canal with numerous walks either side of the valley in the surrounding woods and forestry.

Please do not be put off by the Welsh name of the Ministry Area, English tends to be spoken as the first language throughout the Ministry Area and across South Wales. Language is not an issue and in fact both within our churches and the wider community's people are very friendly and welcoming.



Our Ministry Team

New role: Vicar

We are seeking a new colleague us to help build upon the work that we have established already but also to bring with them new ideas and experiences to help us better share the Good News of Jesus with all the communities within the Ministry Area both inside and outside of the church buildings.

The Vicar would be expected to:

- Work in the team environment of the Ministry Area, both collaborating with and supporting a mixed team of Clergy, Readers and other laity across a broad geographical area.
- Have leadership of two of the churches in Cilybebyll, bringing different styles of worship that are relevant to the needs of the community.
- Work with the community both inside and outside the church buildings, including ministry with the local schools.
- Encourage laity who show an interest in becoming more involved with the church, thereby expanding the reach and effectiveness of the church.

We are therefore looking for a priest who:

- Has a heart for mission and can work with others in sharing the Gospel.
- Has a passion for working with youth, or is willing to get involved.
- Is confident in communicating their needs with the team.
- Has a sense of humour and can take the needs of others into account.
- Has prior mentoring experience, so can help identify opportunities for the laity to use and develop their gifts.
- As the Ministry Area is poorly connected for public transport, has the ability to drive and owns their own car.

Outreach and school's work

Part of our Primary school's ministry dovetails with The Lounge at Llangatwg Community School. The Lounge is a one day a week lunchtime drop-in gathering, with endless hot chocolate or squash and friendly conversation, providing opportunities to develop friendships with the teenagers and to have numerous chats about secular things but also about Jesus. There are plans to develop an after-school club and agreement has been reached with the headteacher of the second comprehensive school in the Ministry Area to launch a Lounge there in the Autumn term. We also have excellent support and help from Captain Andy Settle, a Church Army Evangelist.

GSUS returns January 2023! (It is a contemporary Christian lesson via a choice of three current issues teenagers face, explored with thought provoking quotes from a variety of well-known public figures, the bible and with a mix of contemporary Christian music delivered mainly via iPads in a classroom setting.) The last time it was run 600 of the 655 children experienced it and feedback was very positive from the majority throwing up a host of interesting questions for discussion. A Diocesan engagement worker is launching 'Flourish' at the school. It is designed to help teens at the margins to come to understand that they are valued and can achieve good things in life. Some churches have monthly coffee mornings which draw in some of the elderly in the community and again provide opportunities to grow friendships and have chats about God's love. Further developing outreach is

happening through Alpha and Christianity Explored in small groups.

We stand on a belief that the Bible is God's word and that an ability to deepen people's spirituality and to help them to grow in their faith by good preaching and bible study is important. We hope to see more people become faithful disciples of Jesus. So, to that end the development of small groups seems like a good step ahead.

Hopefully that gives a flavour of some of what we get up to in trying to share the Gospel as Good News and see God's Kingdom grow.





Our worshipping communities

There are ten active churches spread across the Ministry Area, of which eight are in good condition and two are in the process of raising funds and applying for grants to bring them up to a good standard. Although inflation and escalating energy and general costs present a challenge, we are on track to pay our way this year. There is also a recently closed church which is in the process of being prepared for sale.

As you may expect there are a number of willing and helpful lay people who ensure that a wide variety of activities happen across the Ministry Area. Although the pattern of worship is Eucharistic, our two Readers conduct Morning Prayer services on a Sunday and there was pre-Covid a church plant in the Dyffryn Church in Wales primary school which with its informal style of worship will restart in the Autumn of 2022. By Church in Wales standards our styles of worship are middle to low and we want to develop creative non-Eucharistic services. Perhaps this is an area that you have experience in?

Like many Ministry Areas we are not only learning to work together but also returning to pre-Covid activities. Some examples of things you would expect are pastoral visiting teams. Several individuals are licenced to take out Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. We have laity who have grown in confidence and write and lead intercessory prayers, run Messy Churches, carry out School assemblies and class visits to churches.



Housing

A four-bedroom vicarage set in its own grounds in the pleasant Cilybebyll area is provided.

Existing Ministry Team

A photograph showing a group of people, likely a church congregation, sitting in rows. They are looking towards the front, some holding books or papers. The lighting is warm and focused on the people in the foreground.

Ministry Area Leader

Rev. Andrew Meredith

Discerning God's call to move can always be a challenging process. As for me I was ordained a Deacon in June of 1993 in Brecon Cathedral and Priested the following year, spending 20 years ministering in our neighbouring Diocese in a variety of parishes. This included 13 years in one of the top six most socio-economically challenged in the City & County of Swansea. I was Co-ordinator for the Division of Mission & Evangelism for a number of years working closely with the Diocesan Missioner so, you can guess where my heart lies! I was also an Area Dean for a short time before moving nine years ago to the Parish of Cadoxton juxta Neath and Tonna.

Lay Chair

Moira Randall MBE

Moira was appointed Lay Chair by the Bishop early in 2021 and is committed to growing Christ's church within a united and enthusiastic Ministry Area. Moira was born in Neath and until recently lived and worshipped in the Vale of Neath where she undertook the role and responsibilities of Parish Warden. Having recently moved, she now worships in Cadoxton. She has been a licensed Lay Reader since 2015, following her retirement from the Police Service. Moira is humbled in being actively involved in the ministry and pastoral care of others.



Vicar

Rev. Jayne Shaw

Jayne was ordained in 2008 at Llandaff Cathedral. She was employed as an NHS Mental Healthcare Chaplain, serving her title parish in Tonyrefail and Gilfach Goch parishes until moving to full time parish ministry in 2012. She is a naturally collaborative priest who enjoys accompanying people on their faith journey. She enjoys initiating or being involved with mission projects and particularly enjoys running Alpha courses. She believes giving gentle encouragement and a warm welcome is of great importance in helping seekers at whatever stage to feel at home with their own faith journey. Jayne believes hospitality in church is crucial and especially foundational to invitational outreach.

Jayne appreciates a range of traditional, contemporary, and creative worship and is a regular attender of Spring Harvest. She enjoys spending time with children and folk of all ages and abilities and especially experiencing

God through others. Jayne enjoys the garden, nature and walks at the beach. She is married and has two grown up children and four young grandchildren. She has pastoral responsibility for The Vale of Neath Parish which consists of St David's Church Resolven, St Mary's Church, Blaengwrach and St Cadoc's Church Aberpergam.

Reader

Mrs Annette Williams

Annette is our other Reader. She is a retired teacher and has a passion working with children in Schools, Messy Church or through School Visits to church. She is also the Ministry Area Committee contact for youth and children. In addition to being a Reader she also does a number of administration tasks for St. Catwgs & St. Annes, such as organising our prayer rota, producing the magazine, overseeing a churchyard working party on Monday mornings.

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 sixth 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.

(Contrary to the above belief there is a very strong tradition that Patrick was born in Banwen, lived his early life there and was taken by Irish raiders across the water!)



1 Theological Institute



29 Ministry Areas



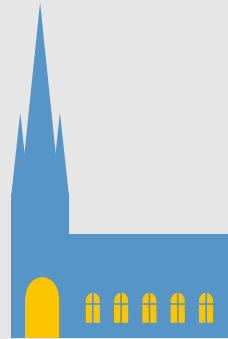
133 serving clergy



33 Licensed Lay Ministers



228 Churches



1 Cathedral



1 Eco-Diocese



11 Deaneries



10,257 regular Church in Wales worshippers



3 Church in Wales High Schools



22 Church in Wales Primary Schools



1 Resource Church



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