



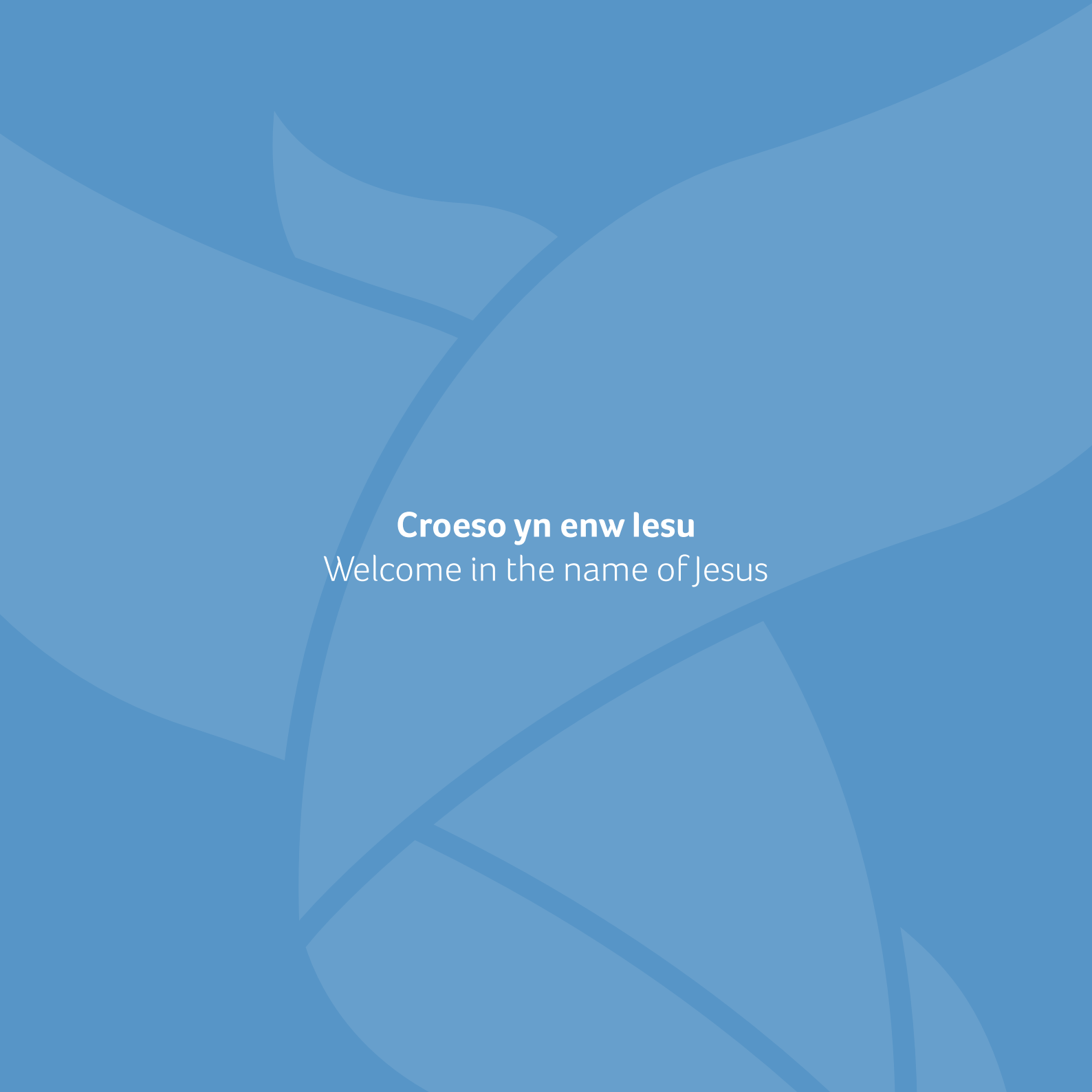
**Esgobaeth Llandaf**  
**Diocese of Llandaff**

Lle Mae Ffydd Yn Cyfrif | Where Faith Matters

**Recruitment Pack** | 2023

# **Cowbridge** Ministry Area





**Croeso yn enw Iesu**  
Welcome in the name of Jesus



## Croeso! Welcome!

**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.

Cowbridge is a very well run and long-established Ministry Area. It is entering a very exciting time with a large new housing development currently being built to the North West of the town which has the potential to bring in many more families and a very different demographic to Cowbridge.

This is a significant opportunity for the right candidate to join the Ministry Area and inspire the current team to make the most of this new development.

We hope you will find this profile helpful in discerning whether you feel called to apply, and would be glad to hear from you.

**W**elcome to the Cowbridge Ministry Area. We are a group of churches centred in the rural Vale around the historic market town of Cowbridge, in the Diocese of Llandaff, thirteen miles from Cardiff. The Ministry Area is a diverse place, with rural villages, farming hamlets and the town of Cowbridge. The Cowbridge area has excellent schools and local amenities.

We are looking for a priest and leader with energy, imagination and a strategic mind, to join a team of clergy and laity, working collaboratively to grow our

ministry and mission in this area; someone who will prayerfully celebrate the sacraments with us, preach the Word of God and help us to care for all in need. We are fortunate to have an experienced and dynamic Operations Manager who deals with the vast majority of administrative tasks, thereby allowing the Clergy to concentrate on mission and pastoral ministry.

With the help and support of the existing strong team in the ministry area and the resources of the Diocese we are confident that ministry here will be both fruitful and fulfilling.





## Cowbridge and the Vale of Glamorgan

Resting between the sea, the country and the city, the historic market town of Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan is a lovely place to live. In 2017, The Sunday Times crowned it the 'Best Place to Live in Wales'. Cowbridge is at the heart of the rural vale at the centre of the Ministry Area and is famous for its quality, individual shops, boutiques; restaurants, pubs and cafes; and is home to a centrally positioned Waitrose store. Further services include a health centre, leisure centre, various sporting clubs, public library and Old Hall Community Centre. There are very highly rated local primary and secondary schools within the town itself. Access both east and west is via the A48, which by-passes the Town. The vibrant Capital City of Cardiff lies some 13 miles to the east with a main line rail connection to London in around two hours. The M4 motorway lies to the north of

Cowbridge and Cardiff International Airport is just nine miles to the East. There are several golf courses within the area and the heritage coast with its cliff-top walks and mixture of sandy and stony beaches lies to the south and west whilst the Brecon Beacons National Park is less than an hour away.

Barry is the largest town in the Vale, home to lovely beaches, a Pleasure Park and of course Gavin and Stacey! Other smaller towns- Penarth, Llantwit Major have good restaurants and shops. The Vale villages are set around mainly agricultural land, have open spaces and extensive walking trails -our churches are often a focal point of these villages.

There are interesting attractions ranging from the tourist railway, Medieval wall paintings and country parks.



## Our Ministry Team New role: Ministry Area Leader

*With a large new housing development to the North West of Cowbridge there is an exciting opportunity for us to reach the occupants moving into the new development. Along with this we wish to secure the future of the Ministry Area, building on an already strong base. We have a vision to nurture the vocations of all, maintain and strengthen worship in all our churches, and work strategically and collaboratively across the Ministry Area. With this in mind we eagerly want a leader who has a heart for people.*

### The Ministry Area Leader would be expected to:

- Be a focus of unity for the whole of the Ministry Area, promoting the vision and pursuing agreed priorities.
- Together with the Operations Manager and Ministry Area Leadership Team oversee all operational matters and strategic planning.
- Model effective collegial ministry and leadership, convene and chair the Ministry Area Leadership Team.
- Offer support, challenge and encouragement, and ensure the daily rhythm of prayer is sustained, lead the members of the Clergy Team.
- Understand the importance of regular worship for each of the 15 congregations of the Ministry Area and the great significance of life events to our village communities. The larger churches provide weekly services with the smaller rural churches in the Ministry Area having less frequent services.
- Ensure support for local social and pastoral events, including money raising activities which further the mission of the Church in the local and wider community.
- Oversee the ongoing training and function of all lay involvement in liturgy and pastoral care.

- Ensure Curates serving their title and Ordinands on placement in the Ministry Area are trained and supervised as required.

### We are therefore looking for a priest who:

- Wants others to come to faith and congregations to grow.
- Is strategic, organised, self-motivated with advanced interpersonal skills.
- Is comfortable with collaborative ministry and leadership.
- Understands the nature of rural ministry.
- Has high regard for the value of worship and has a pastoral heart.
- Is committed to their own and others personal and spiritual development.
- Takes care of their own wellbeing and that of the team.
- Has some IT skills – able to contribute to weekly digital newsletter 'Pews News', social media, and comfortable with remote meetings, etc.
- Has an understanding of Welsh culture and the role of the Welsh language.



The Ministry Area Leader will live in the Llanblethian area of Cowbridge within the catchment area of Cowbridge Comprehensive School which has an 'Excellent' rating from Estyn. Given the rural nature of the Ministry Area a full driving licence will be essential.

The large purpose-built Rectory, was constructed in the 1970's. It's a four-bedroomed detached property, which has been refurbished throughout, and enjoys a substantial garden, garage, study and ample room for parking.

# Existing Ministry Team

*A full clerical team consists of a Ministry Area Leader, a Vicar, two self-supporting Vicars, and a curate. The Ministry Area is also fortunate to be further supported by retired Clergy, Ordinands and Lay Worship Leaders.*

## Vicar:

### Rev Victoria Ashley



Ordained priest in 2009 after a career in hotel hospitality management Victoria arrived in Cowbridge in 2017. She feels called to rural ministry specifically focussed on mental health and well-being as impacted by the loneliness and isolation many people experience daily. Her role as Diocesan Rural Life Officer fits well into her work in Cowbridge Ministry Area and helps in planning pastoral focus locally. In her free time, she loves travelling with her husband, Andrew.

## Self-Supporting Vicar:

### Rev Jude Peters



Jude is currently working with local sheltered housing and residential communities. In February 2022, with valuable lay support, Jude initiated the Seasons Fellowship Café, a monthly focus for our communities. Previously Jude was a Licensed Reader serving in the neighbouring Ministry Area of Glamorgan Heritage Coast, where she lives with her husband Mike.

## Self-supporting Vicar:

### Rev Dr Angela Cooper



Angela was ordained priest in 2019 and has been part of the Cowbridge Ministry Area since September 2021. She serves as a self-supporting priest and has lived in Cowbridge with her family for 15 years. She has a passion for children and school's ministry and is the Lead Children Advisor for the Diocese.

## Lay Chair:

### Andrea Harries



Andrea's career has been spent in the legal profession as a Solicitor specialising in Family law although she will be retiring within the next few months. She has lived in Cowbridge since 2014. Amongst her interests she is a member and the treasurer of Soroptimist International's Bridgend Club.



## Ministry Area Wardens:

### Jan Reed OBE



Jan had a long career as a senior executive in the energy sector and held Non-Executive Director posts across the private and public sector. She was awarded the OBE in 2004 for services to economic development. Her focus now is on organising community events and raising funds for the church.

### Peter Davies CBE



Peter served a full career in the Army and then worked as a civil servant in the Ministry of Defence prior to retirement. He has been a Ministry Area Warden for the past five years. Apart from involvement in church life he is also a member of Cowbridge Rotary, the Royal British Legion and the steering group for Dementia Friendly Cowbridge.

## Operations Manager & Treasurer:

### David-Lloyd Jones



David-Lloyd began his career as a hotel manager before his appointment as Administrator of the then Rectorial Benefice of Cowbridge twenty years ago. He is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Ministry Area including finance, compliance and governance. He has advised other Ministry Areas and is a member of the Diocesan Standing Committee.

## Ministry Area Secretary:

### Steph Bonnar



Steph worked in Financial Services for 20 years with Lloyds Banking Group and HMRC. She also spent 12 years in Events Management. She has been a congregation member in St Mary Church for 20 years and a Community Councillor for the last four years.



## Our worshipping communities

**Two of the fifteen churches are Grade 1 listed buildings, and the others are Grade 2. All are Celtic or medieval in origin, though most had significant restoration in Victorian times. The churches are in good order, though work has been identified in recent quinquennial inspection reports as necessary in some. A description of each church and the pattern of services can be found at the Ministry Area website: [www.cowbridgeparish.com](http://www.cowbridgeparish.com)**



The village churches are very much at the heart of their communities and are used for community purposes; There are church halls at Llansannor and Llanblethian and the vestries at St John, Penllyn, St. Owain, Ystradowen, St. Michael, Colwinston and St. Canna, Llangan have been adapted as multi-functional Community spaces. The Ministry Area Office is located at Holy Cross Parish Church, Cowbridge. The Operations Manager, except for Wednesdays, works from the office.



Having an Operational Manager in place has enabled us to develop a common centralised administration and finance systems for all 15 churches. This means that each church committee can more easily comply with legal requirements,

for example safeguarding, health and safety, financial compliance, etc. This eases the burden on the Ministry Area lead.

The Ministry Area Leadership Team would warmly welcome informal enquires and will gladly facilitate personal visits in conjunction with the Diocese. Candidates interested in this appointment are strongly encouraged to look at the additional information which is available on the Ministry Area website.

## Our Diocese

Irish monks first established the Christian faith in Morgannwg during the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



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