



Esgobaeth Llandaf
Diocese of Llandaff

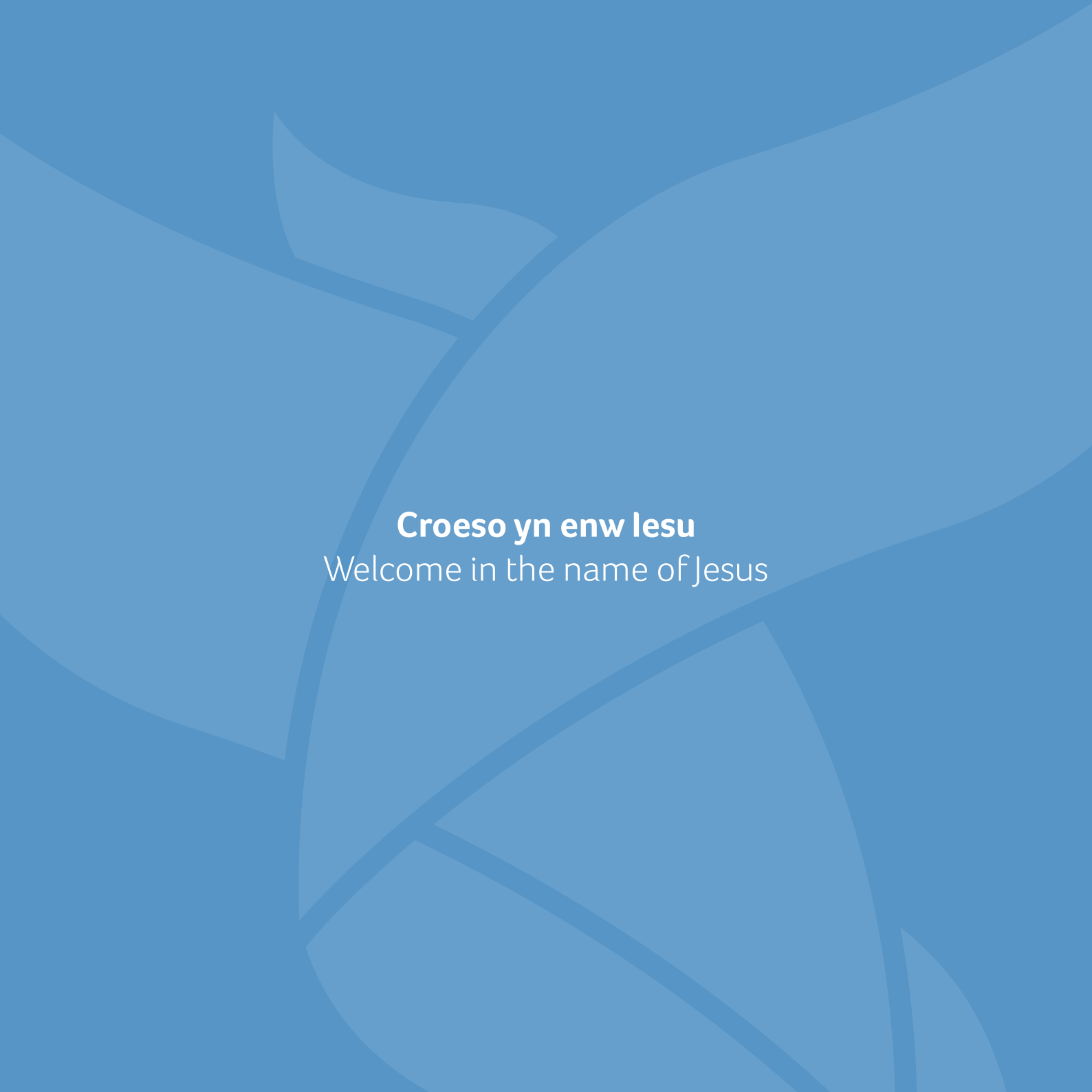
Mae Ffydd Yn Cyfrif | Faith Matters

Recruitment Pack | 2023

Llan Ministry Area

Ministry Area Vicar





Croeso yn enw Iesu
Welcome in the name of Jesus



Croeso! Welcome!

I am delighted you are exploring this exciting opportunity to minister in the former mining communities and villages of the Rhondda Valleys near the ancient town of Llantrissant.

I am praying for you as you embark on this process of discernment.

These are exciting times in the Diocese of Llandaff. Our strategic vision '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. We have invested heavily in our ministry amongst young people, recruiting outreach and schools workers to work alongside our churches. We are supporting front line ministry through the work of our Growth Enablers. We have reorganised ourselves into Ministry Areas and regional Deaneries, which is encouraging collaborative ministry and empowering our congregations as we reach our communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Archbishop Andrew has announced a £100 million Church Growth Fund for the next ten years, so we are working together to develop new ways of introducing others to the Christian faith.

The Llan Ministry Area covers many different and diverse communities and villages, each with their own distinct history and heritage. The ministry team works hard to support local ministry, whilst at the same time, forging a shared sense of identity and purpose. The communities of Tonyrefail and Gilfach Goch, despite being part of the Rhondda Valleys, asked to join The Llan Ministry Area, so there is a real sense of belonging. Having said that, Tonyrefail has a devoted and energetic congregation who have been without clerical support for a few years now. They have adapted and innovated, building a reputation for excellent online services, a warm welcome and an independent spirit. The new Vicar will need to be able to work alongside strong lay leaders, invest deeply in local communities, whilst at the same time, playing their part in a tight knit team under the leadership of the Ministry Area Leader. I am confident that a nurturing presence will bring out the best in these congregation, harnessing their energy to build the Kingdom of God in this unique part of the diocese.

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

Rt Rev'd Mary Stallard
Bishop of Llandaff



Welcome to the Llan Ministry Area. We are a group of twelve churches scattered between Cardiff, Bridgend, and the Rhondda Valleys, reaching out to the town of Llantrisant and the villages around it as we live the way of the saints together. Officially formed in March 2021, the Ministry Area came together at an extraordinary time. Everything changed during lockdown. This means innovation is at the heart of what we do. From online worship and contemporary fresh expressions to traditional eucharists, we are developing a range of worship traditions across the different churches. We are reaching out to our local communities where they are, tackling social inequality, supporting local needs and being a safe space, as we seek, in all things, to be generous and inclusive. Together we are forging a new way of working that respects the distinctiveness of the communities we serve, ensuring we retain strong connections between each cleric and the churches they serve, whilst at the same time, building a new, shared identity in which we can bring our own strengths to bear across the entire Ministry Area. The communities of Tonyrefail and Gilfach Goch have been self-sustaining for some time. We look forward to a new colleague coming alongside us and investing in our ministry and mission there.

Our Ministry Team

We are looking to grow healthy and vibrant inter-generational churches by demonstrating the love of Christ in practical ways, making connections in our community, and creating accessible pathways into church life.



New role: Vicar

The Vicar would be expected to:

- Immerse themselves in the local communities of Tonyrefail and Gilfach Goch, forging relationships with local organisations, schools, care homes and the housebound.
- Foster a range of worship styles that will retain current members of the congregation whilst also attracting new people, addressing the community needs identified in our recent survey.
- Engage and embrace digital ministry and other fresh expressions in the ministry area.
- Provide pastoral oversight for St Alban's and St David's Tonyrefail and St Barnabas Gilfach Goch.

We are therefore looking for a priest who:

- Is approachable, easy to be with, and able to come alongside people of different backgrounds.
- Has a vibrant personal faith which finds expression in a strong commitment to private prayer.
- Is comfortable with both liturgical and sacramental ministry and more informal expressions of worship.
- Has a heart of the local communities of the ministry area, with a calling to both people and place.
- Has resilience and a desire to sustain ministry for the long term.
- Is a creative self-starter who takes the initiative and makes things happen
- Is a collaborative team player, able to work closely with clerical colleagues, and encourage and empower volunteers across the ministry area.



Llantrisant and the surrounding area

Named after the three Welsh saints, Illtyd, Gwynno and Dyfodwg, Llantrisant is a hilltop town with roots back to the sixth century that stands at the centre of the ministry area. The church of the three saints, dominating the skyline for miles around, despite being a site of Christian worship since at least the seventh century, was first built in 1096, the same time as Llantrisant Castle. The castle bore the brunt of several local rebellions before being destroyed by Owain Glyndwr in 1404. Llantrisant is home to the Royal Mint which produces every British coin. It moved from London to Llantrisant in 1967 when the country converted to decimal currency. The mint now produces coins for more than sixty countries, as well as medals and gold bullion bars. The Royal Mint Experience is a popular tourist attraction. The town is served by Pontyclun railway station, three miles away to the south. To the Northwest, forming an almost continuous seam of urban development lies Beddau, a community with a strong sporting tradition that has produced both professional rugby and darts players who have represented their country. From there, Church Village and Llantwit Fardre run into Llantrisant towards Pontyclun and Miskin.

Tonyrefail and the surrounding area

At the other end of the Ministry Area, Tonyrefail lies to the North of the former mining communities of Brynna, Llanharri and Llanharan and east of Gylfach Goch, at the mouth of the Rhondda Valleys. Historically a rural farming village, it is believed, Edward II was captured here by forces loyal to Queen Isabella in 1326. Collena House, a three-storey medieval mansion, built in 1093, still overlooks the town today. With the advent of industrialisation and the creation of Caedely Colliery in the nineteenth century the population of Tonyrefail increased dramatically. Today, this former mining community struggles with large scale economic deprivation and a lack of investment. In recent years, new build housing is changing the age profile of the area, but residents still have to travel outside the area for work.



Existing Ministry Team

Ministry Area Leader

Vincent Gardner

Fr. Vincent is Ministry Area Leader with particular pastoral oversight of Llantrisant, Miskin and Beddau churches. Vincent lives with Amy, Mack and Chloe, two Lakeland terriers and a variety of poultry in Llantrisant. Outside of ministry, Vincent is passionate about the arts, education and ecology. One day Vincent hopes to return to woodland life without an email account.



Vicar:

Simon Freeman

Simon is vicar in the Ministry Area with pastoral responsibility for the area of Llanharan and Brynna, in the South of the Ministry Area. He is also Area Dean of Eglwysilan Deanery to which the Llan Ministry Area belongs. Prior to ordination, Simon worked in the catering trade, followed by 26 years in the wine trade. He enjoys growing his own vegetables in the garden and cooking, but does not like washing up.



Vicar:

Dave Jones

Dave is vicar in the Llan MA, with pastoral responsibility for Pontyclun. He relaxes through playing guitar, which, if it has been a particularly challenging day, he plays very loudly. He has had a varied work life as a chef, baker, Self-Protection/Personal Safety consultant, and a Postal worker. He is passionate about his family, four cats and sausage dog. He also enjoys growing giant sunflowers. His tallest so far made 17.5 feet.



Curate

Rick Gratton

Rick is in the third year of his curacy and presently serves the churches in Llanharri, Miskin and Beddau. Before ministry he served in the RAF and later worked for British aerospace. He is committed to community engagement and has initiated recycling and food bank projects. More recently he has planted a new congregation called the Flock.



Lay Chair

Gareth Jones

Before his retirement, Gareth held several posts in the NHS up to Head of Procurement for Northern Ireland, similarly for the Department of Health and the Department of Transport. In later years he worked on development programmes and training across Europe, in Africa, in China and across the UK. He also served as a lay judge on the Information Rights Tribunal and on the Social Security Appeals panel. As a volunteer, Gareth gives a lot of time to what is one of the largest Ministry Areas, but he also serves on the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Grants subcommittee, supporting the ministry and mission of the Diocese.



Our Worshipping Communities

You will be responsible for three churches within the Llan Ministry Area



St Alban Tonyrefail

This modern church, built in the 1970s, lies at the south end of Tonyrefail. Replacing an old army hut from the 1920s, the church was designed with community use in mind. As such it hosts coffee mornings, and concerts, regularly hiring out the space to community groups and organisations. The congregation numbers 19.



St David Tonyrefail

The mother church of St David sits at the heart of the town. Built in 1902 in the high gothic style, the church has long been a visible feature of the town's landscape and is well loved by the community. In 2015, a radical re-ordering took place with the creation of a church hall, complete with modern kitchen and toilets, within the church building. The Meeting Zone, a modern oak and glass structure is regularly used for meetings and is available to the community for hire. The building is a hive of activity, hosting the local Mothers Union, Messy Church, regular concerts, and fayres. The congregation is renowned across the diocese of its creative digital services. The congregation numbers 13.



St Barnabas Gilfach Goch

Originally built in the 1890s, this iconic building on the High Street in Gilfach Goch was bombed during the Second World War and rebuilt shortly afterwards. Worship at St Barnabas is traditional and eucharistic. The church hall, with its own fully equipped kitchen and toilets, hosts a community shop and café space. There is an active Mothers Union. The congregation numbers 7.

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 Abbott-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 6,000 regular worshippers with over one hundred clerics and more than two hundred churches spread across 29 new Ministry Areas.



1 Theological
Institute



29 Ministry Areas



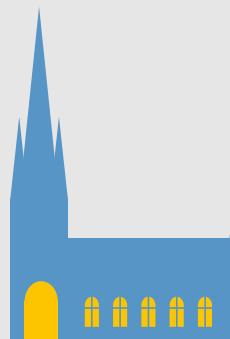
130 serving clergy



33 Licensed Lay
Ministers



207 Churches



1 Cathedral



6 Deaneries



3 Church in Wales
High Schools



22 Church in Wales
Primary Schools



More than **6000**
regular Church in Wales
worshippers



1 Eco-Diocese



1 Resource Church



Esgobaeth Llandaf **Diocese of Llandaff**

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