



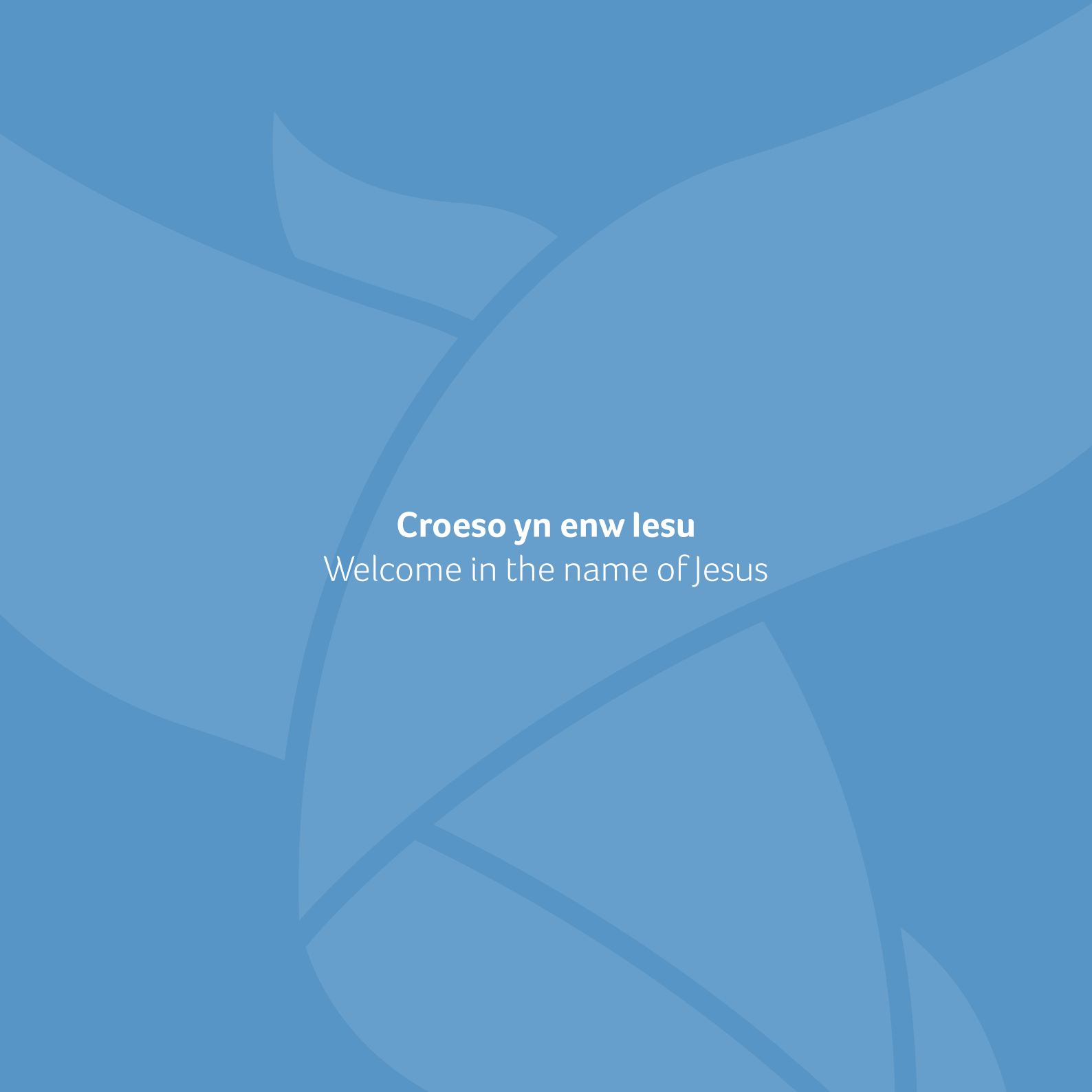
Esgobaeth Llandaf
Diocese of Llandaff

Mae Ffydd Yn Cyfrif | Faith Matters

Recruitment Pack | 2023

Pedair Afon Ministry Area





Croeso yn enw Iesu
Welcome in the name of Jesus



Croeso! Welcome!

We are delighted that you are exploring this exciting opportunity to minister in the Pedair Afon Ministry Area.

We have made a commitment to growth in the Diocese of Llandaff. Our five-year 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. With help from the Evangelism Fund of the Church in Wales, we have launched Citizen, a new Resource Church for the diocese, which is growing rapidly. It has already planted two other churches in the diocese, and we are seeking growth across the spectrum of the traditions in the diocese. We have invested heavily in our ministry amongst young people, recruiting outreach and schools' workers to work alongside our churches. 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. This is a significant appointment. There is a genuine opportunity for the churches of the region to reach beyond their own walls to the communities around them. Working with the Ministry Area Leader and clergy team, sharing resources across the churches, playing to your strengths and reimagining what it means to be church in the twenty first century, I am confident that, with the right candidates, the ministry area will flourish and thrive. I hope you will find this profile helpful in discerning whether you feel called to apply. Please do get in touch if you have questions or want to find out more once you have read the profile.

Rt Rev'd Mary Stallard
Bishop of Llandaff



Welcome to the Pedair Afon Ministry Area (Four Rivers Ministry Area)

The Pedair Afon Ministry Area (PAMA) was formed in January 2022 with the amalgamation of four benefices (five former parishes) incorporating ten churches. It lies to the east and north of Bridgend which itself is roughly halfway between the cities of Swansea to the west and Cardiff to the east.

Being right next to the M4 the Ministry Area (MA) has excellent links, both road and public transport, to all that South Wales has to offer. Swansea and Cardiff provide opportunities for retail therapy and the MA also has the McArthur Glen Designer Outlet on its doorstep. A short drive to the south takes you to the glorious coastline with sandy beaches and coastal walks, while to the north lie the incredible scenery of the valleys and the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons). If train travel is your thing, then we have the Swansea-Paddington mainline going through our MA southern border and if you need to fly then we can offer you Cardiff International airport. Within the MA itself there are four leisure centres and a country park but after a half hour drive you could be mountain biking, paddle boarding, visiting the Doctor Who filming locations, in an underground museum, above ground in a museum, on a zip wire, in a castle - the list goes on and on! And you don't need to worry if your bicycle gets a puncture as we have two cycle shops in the MA as well.



The Ministry Area is as varied as South Wales itself. We are exploring Open the Book, Messy Church, Café Church, Family Worship, and other Fresh Expressions of worship. We have 18 primary and comprehensive schools that we are in the process of forming links with as well as having four care homes within our boundaries that value our contact. There are 19 other places of worship of varied Christian denominations who are known to us and whom we work with.

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 MA and, indeed, this part of South Wales.





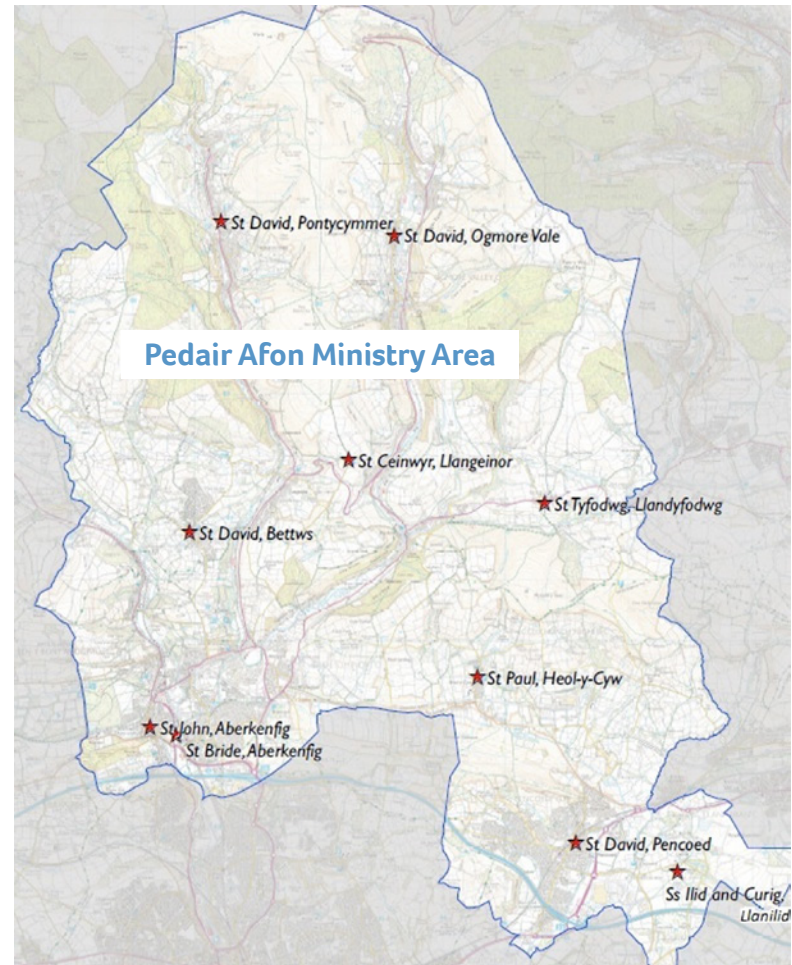
Where We Are and Who We Are

The MA lies where the 'valleys meet the vale' along the M4 motorway. The valleys and their communities were largely based around the coal mining that was prevalent up until the end of the last millennium. Since then, some of them have seen significant investment in their facilities and infrastructure, though sadly some have seen the opposite. Within the MA the areas of Pencoed and Aberkenfig are examples of the former and the Garw and the Ogmore valleys are examples of the latter.

Though many of our churches were founded and flourished in the time of the industrial revolution, a few trace their roots back to the age of the Celtic saints; hence some of their remote locations. Regardless of origins each has its own style of worship from within the Anglican tradition and all are getting used to being part of a larger geographical MA family. Once a month we are currently having a single MA Sunday service in turn in each part of the MA. People are reporting how enjoyable they are finding these, being in full churches and noticing the differences in our expressions of Anglicanism.

At its inception the MA consisted of four full time stipendiary priests situated in each 'quarter' of the MA. Our future settled clergy team will consist of three full time stipendiary priests (based at Pencoed, Bryncethin and Llangeinor), together with a part time House for Duty priest at Wyndham. The ministry team also includes an active LLM/Reader and an additional Associate Priest. We celebrate and support the full

ministry of women and lay people within the MA. We are seeking new colleagues to help us build upon the work that we have established already, but also to bring with them innovative 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.



Towards a new structure for our Ministry Team

Following the creation of the new Ministry Area we have developed a strategic plan for our clergy to have specific roles and responsibilities across the Ministry Area, while also engaging in its wider life and being a priestly presence in that part of the MA in which they live. The strategy is laid out in summary below.

Ministry Area Leader (MAL)

The MAL (Ian Hodges) will provide leadership of the whole Ministry Area team and act as a figurehead demonstrating unity and co-operation. He will also lead in developing strategy and vision, within the context of the strategic vision of the Diocese. The MAL will be responsible for coordinating clergy and lay people and, with the Ministry Area Lay Chair (LC), for the running of the Ministry Area Council.

Vicar - Outreach Coordinator (the first post being advertised)

This priest will be responsible for a range of outward-facing strands including creating new projects and will help us to explore how we can reach new people through our existing and new forms of worship. They will have oversight of our links to schools and care homes. They will strengthen our links with our localities and help us develop community events and programmes.



Vicar - Life Events Coordinator (the second post being advertised)

This priest will work collaboratively with other MA clergy ensuring all occasional offices are shared equally and participate in the pastoral and spiritual ministry across the whole MA. They will help us develop baptism and marriage preparation and assist with ongoing pastoral care for those whom we meet through funerals ministry. As prevailing culture develops this priest will help us in our roles as reflective practitioners.

House for Duty Associate Priest and 2nd Associate Priest

These priests (Glenda Oglesbee and Christopher Robinson) will support the existing congregations to be prayerful, cheerful, approachable, and adaptable. They will work with other members of the team to build the Ministry Areas and share with both the pastoral and spiritual ministry across the whole Ministry Area.



Our Ideal Candidates

After a period of spiritual discernment where in which we asked God what characteristics, gifts, skills and abilities we should be looking for in new priests, we felt He was suggesting people who are 'Friend, Frank and Future- orientated.'

We firstly take this to mean people who are willing to come and get involved as a friend of the MA, people who are willing to roll up their sleeves physically and emotionally and get deeply involved with what God is already doing here.

Secondly, we interpreted this to mean people who are naturally able to reflect theologically on what they see around them and has the emotional intelligence to be able to share this thinking appropriately with people.

We thirdly understood this to mean people who value the past but recognises that the current is simply a road to the future. We are working with God to get the MA ready for the return of Jesus and so we need to be future- orientated in order to be as effective as possible.

We are therefore looking for priests who:

- Are prayerful, cheerful, approachable and adaptable
- Are willing to experiment with new ways of sharing the gospel through worship
- Are comfortable with different styles of worship
- Will not shy away from the challenges of growing a new Ministry Area
- Are sympathetic to the rural and urban character of the Ministry Area
- Are able to learn and use appropriate IT skills
- Practise good time management and self-care
- Hold a full driving licence

The Vicar/Outreach Coordinator would be expected to:

- Lead the team's involvement in developing existing (e.g., Messy Church and Café Church) and new worshipping communities
- Have oversight of the Ministry Area's children's activities
- Establish links with care homes in the Ministry Area
- Establish or re-establish links with the Ministry Area schools, with focus on the Open the Book programme
- Produce programmes to reduce loneliness, such as coffee mornings, Lenten lunches, craft clubs, etc.
- Encourage participation from local youth groups, e.g. The Air Cadets
- Help to develop our churches as a venue for community events: carol services, concerts, etc.

The Vicar/Life Events Coordinator would be expected to:

- Be the first point of contact for rites of passage
- Work collaboratively with other MA clergy to ensure occasional offices are shared as equally as possible
- Help us to develop baptism and marriage preparation courses
- Assist us with ongoing pastoral care for those whom we meet through funerals ministry
- Help us to develop pastoral visiting teams and Friends groups
- Deploy discipleship courses to help the MA be the best it can be
- Help the whole MA to retreat, reflect and be spiritually aware



Housing

A house is provided with each of these posts. The one in Bryncethin is a modern detached house with three floors and six bedrooms. The ground floor has a living and study area with fully fitted kitchen and conservatory. There are also small front and rear gardens, the rear containing a large timber storage shed. The parsonage in Llangeinor is a modern detached two-storey building in a quiet cul-de-sac. The ground floor has a living and study area with a fully fitted kitchen. It has five bedrooms on the first floor. There is a small rear garden and a double garage.

Existing Ministry Team

Ministry Area Leader

Rev. Ian Hodges

Ian was born in Maesteg, which he considers to be the centre of the universe! His first degree was in Information Technology. At the age of 27 he followed God's lead to ordination. He was trained in Ridley Hall Cambridge and has served in the Diocese since 2005 in a variety of roles, including his current ones of Area Dean and Ministry Area Leader. Ian says that God has designed him to be a curious chap who likes taking things apart and asking, "How does this work?"

Lay Chair

Simon Dring

Simon is originally from Nottinghamshire. He joined the Army (Royal Engineers) and trained as a draftsman. This gave him the opportunity to serve all over the UK, Germany, Cyprus, and the Falkland Islands. He went on to work with Derbyshire Constabulary, specialising in Road Traffic and Firearms. Later on, he was seconded to the Home Office, training police officers in CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear). Then he was employed by the National Ambulance Resilience Unit, and now he works for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board as the Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) Manager. Simon took up surfing aged 54, likes real ale and talking about the internal combustion engine.

House for Duty Associate Priest

Rev. Glenda Oglesbee

Glenda grew up in Port Talbot, with no church background. Relatively late in life, while pursuing a teaching career, she started going to church where she became aware of a call to ordination. She is now a self-supporting priest and part time prison chaplain. She has always been interested in people and their motivations and has studied this area widely.

Associate Priest

Rev. Christopher Robinson

When Chris was around the age of fifteen, God made himself known to him, giving him the gifts of faith and love for the truth of God's Word, and teaching him how to pray. Chris moved, with his wife, to the area around four years ago to be close to the grandchildren and has enjoyed being able to teach them life skills. His working life was spent in education, mostly in pastoral care, making sure that the children in his charge reached their full potential. He has also been involved in property renovations. He believes this life is not a rehearsal. His hobbies include the stock market, exploring new caves in Yorkshire and gold panning.

Reader – Mr Mark Brampton

Mark was born in Southend, (which he doesn't consider to be the centre of the universe) and qualified as a Social Worker and Youth and Community worker. Most of his career has been in Mental Health Social Work. He trained as a Reader at St Padarn's in Llandaff, but he prefers the title 'Lay Minister of the Word.' Mark's interests are in practical theology, how the Word changes people and things, in Stewardship and care for the Earth.

Further information

More information, should you wish to explore, is available from our
MA Facebook and MA YouTube pages:



<https://bit.ly/PAMAFacebookPage>



<https://bit.ly/PAMAYoutubePage>

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.



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