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Esgobaeth Mynwy

Diocese of Monmouth



This email has been sent to all Clergy, PTOs, Churchwardens, Secretaries, Treasurers and all those on our weekly email list.

News

Chrism Mass



A beautiful Chrism Mass was held at Newport Cathedral this week.

Held every year during Holy Week, the service couples the blessing of sacred oils with the opportunity for clergy and licensed lay ministers to reaffirm their commitment to God's call on their lives.

More than 100 people filled the cathedral to celebrate the blessing of the the oil of the sick, the oil of the catechumens and the holy chrism oil.

During her sermon Bishop Cherry spoke of the moments when we find ourselves reflecting on where God has been in our lives; how we've been led to this time or season in life.

She went on to share her journey and the characters that have been part of her own 'God-story'.

You can read Bishop Cherry's full sermon here









Lent Appeal 2024 - Our Parish Link

Sanibonani: I see you.

Yebo: Yes.

Ninjani: How are you? Siyaphila: We are well.

This is a traditional Zulu greeting.

Many of you have followed the Lenten reflections on the Highveld. You may wonder if there is anything else you can do as well as supporting the Bishop's Lent Appeal. If so you may like to consider linking your parish or ministry area with a parish in the Diocese of the Highveld.

Tad Tony and I were very lucky when we came to St Illtyd MA, because there was a well-established link with the parishes of Nigel and eMbalenhle. Originally it was a link between these two parishes and Christ Church in Glyn Ebwy (Ebbw Vale). When we became a ministry area we decided to include the whole ministry area in the link. This has enabled us to come together to learn about our communities and raise funds for the link, like our South Africa night we held recently.





Every Sunday we pray for our link; that together we can bring our gifts into our communities to help us support each other and grow in faith together. It's not just about how we can help them, its about how they can help us too.

We were certainly enriched by our recent visit in November 2023. We were enriched by their community life. The way in which the small community of Nigel pulled together in difficult times during covid and since then, struggling to rebuild their community. They all had different roles and responsibilities, but they worked together to keep their community alive.





In eMbalenhle the community was strong and vibrant with lots of energy and willingness to improve their lives, but what was lacking were the physical resources. Tad Tony was shown the wonderful kitchen that was built with funds from Christ Church and which had been used to provide meals for the children as part of the Safe Park scheme. The Scheme provided a safe space for the children after school, to received support, friendship and a meal – perhaps the only meal for that day.

Unfortunately, this has stopped, not because of lack of volunteers but because of lack of resources. They are desperate to get it up and running again. Next to the church there is a climbing frame, which is broken and needs repair. It looked quite dangerous, yet the children still play on it because they have nothing else.



These are two areas that we could make a difference by providing assistance. Even with the difficulties the communities are still strong and filled with hope.

We were privileged to join both parishes for worship. I joined the community in Nigel and Tad Tony went to the parish of eMbalenhle. In Nigel, the small multicultural congregation of mixed ages, with children and young people, were fully engaged in celebrating the Eucharist together with joy. eMbalenhle was also extremely joyful in their celebration of the Eucharist and the young people where actively involved in the various ministries which they undertook with care and reverence. This ranged from altar servers to those who exploded into liturgical dance after communion. They then invited Tad Tony to join in, which involved him showing off his Grandad moves. The congregation thought this was hysterical. Most of the liturgy in eMbalenhle was done in Zulu and the Zulu hymns were sung with enthusiasm and delight. Most of the hymns they knew by heart.



The welcoming atmosphere and the warmth of the communities was truly inspiring and infectious, and you didn't just walk out of Church you bounced out! We were provided with food and hospitality afterwards and this is a big part of the culture, even if you don't have much. What little you have is offered to your guest.



Both of us experienced the deep faith of the communities we visited. Theirs is a deep relationship with God. It was not a blind faith in God who will sort everything out, but a faith which believed that through our actions and efforts God will help us sort it out. No problem was too big that it couldn't be overcome by prayer. Their trust in God's presence within the community motivated them, inspired them and comforted them.



These are some of our impressions visiting our wonderful link parishes. We hope that our link will grow stronger in the coming years as we walk together in the light of God, as the Zulu hymn says:

Siyahamba ekukhanyeni kwenkos, We are walking in the light of God.

We are truly blessed to have link parishes, and we would encourage you to set up a link yourself in your own parish or ministry area.

How to Donate - Lent Appeal

If you would like to donate to the Lent Appeal 2024, you are able to do so in the following ways:

- A cheque made payable to "Monmouth DBF" can be sent to the Diocesan
 Office at 64 Caerau Road, Newport, NP20 4HJ. Please ensure you write "Lent
 Appeal 2024" on the back of the cheque.
- By bank transfer, including the reference "Lent Appeal 2024" within the transaction.

Ministry Areas will already have the diocesan bank details, but if there are any queries, or any individuals would also like to donate this way, please contact the Diocesan Office on (01633) 267490 who will provide the necessary details.

Archbishop's Easter message



Wales now has a new First Minister. Mr Vaughan Gething takes responsibility for leading the government in Wales and speaking for the Labour Party on matters of national interest. The challenges we face in Wales of course will require more than the efforts of one person however dedicated and resolute their intentions. With a general election likely this year the focus on Westminster should not cloud the need for transformation within all our communities in Wales.

I've been struck by the extraordinary efforts of so many this year who make a difference in their communities. I've come to know those who volunteer for Parkrun for example like David, in his eighties, who is there come wind or rain so that runners can participate safely. These unsung heroes whose quiet steady work in the background often goes unrecognized affect the fortunes of young and old. The potential for blessing others is seldom recognized even though they can be the important things in another person's life.

I am also struck even more by the work of Christians in our churches and chapels who share a radical faith which is rich and vibrant. This kind of faith is inspired by a personal experience of the Risen Jesus and takes its cue from the way Jesus touched the lives of others. I think of Pam who visits in her local care home and spends time talking and listening to residents about the things important to them or Frank who volunteers to open his local church so that people can come in and pray there. When we consider the real challenges we face across the world whether climate change, food security, wars or the instability of governments, it is easy to forget how profound the personal and individual touch can be.

Few will be expecting the new First Minister to solve all our problems. Indeed the very idea that change happens primarily because of political decisions seems tome

misplaced. What lifts us above the mentality of living for ourselves alone is an experience of selfless love. And this is what Easter offers. In the Easter story we see a love so great, it breaks through to captivate and win us to service.

May I wish you a Happy Easter and God's blessing.

+Andrew Cambrensis

2024 Church Times Green Church Awards



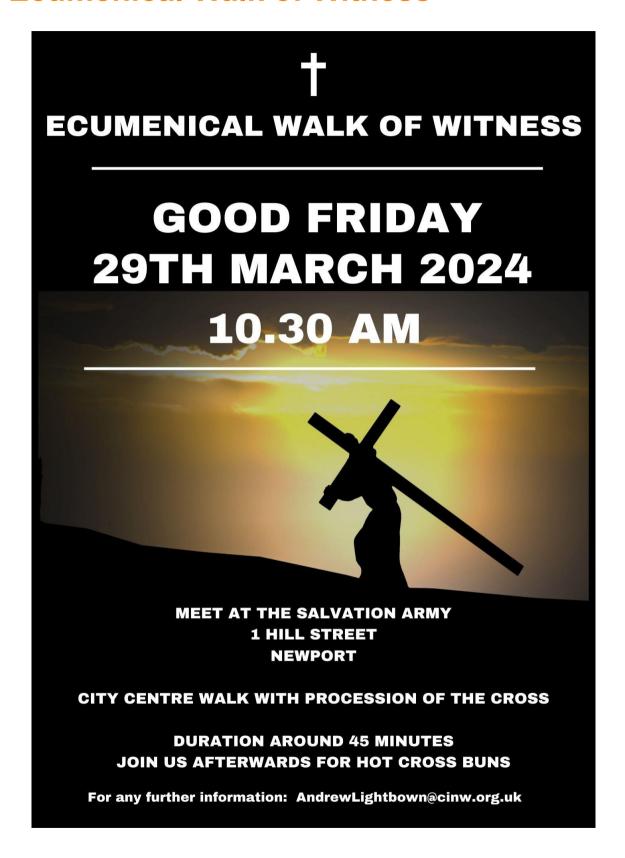
The Church Times Green Church Awards have two objectives: to celebrate the remarkable efforts made in recent years by individuals and congregations to offset the damage being done to the earth, and to set good examples before others who might be inspired to follow suit.

The 2024 Church Times Green Church Awards are organised jointly with the Church of England's environment programme, the Methodist Church, the Salvation Army, and Eco Congregation Scotland. They are open to church groups and church schools of any denomination, in the UK and Ireland.

To find out more about the award categories and how to nominate projects please read the full article in the Church Times here.

Training and Events

Ecumenical Walk of Witness



Behind Closed Doors: Changing the Story of Domestic Abuse



Clergy and interested people are invited to an event in Cardiff on **Friday 12th April**, jointly hosted by the Diocese of Llandaff, Restored, and Mothers Union, to explore the role the church can play in speaking up against domestic abuse and supporting survivors. This has been motivated by the stark statistic that one in four church-going women in England and Wales will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, but just two in seven feel their church is equipped to support them.

Guest speakers will include Revd Dr Helen Paynter from the Centre for the Study of the Bible and Violence, and the team from Welsh Women's Aid.

There will also be a panel discussion/Q&A on the role of the church alongside public and third sector organisations,

Lunch will be provided.

All attendees will also receive a free copy of the brand new Welsh Edition of Restored's A Guide for Churches to Address Domestic Abuse.

Further details and how to book can be found here: https://www.restored-uk.org/wales-conference/

Save The Date



ST MARY'S PRIORY, ABERGAVENNY, NP7 5ND

On Saturday May 18th, Bishop Cherry will be leading a service at St Mary's Priory Church, Abergavenny, celebrating the life of the diocese.

Tea and coffee will be available from 10am and the service will start at 11am.

This will be a celebration for all ages, including activities for children and youth. It will be followed by refreshments and a chance to meet people from across the diocese.

On behalf of Bishop Cherry, we look forward to welcoming as many people as possible to join us for this celebration. Abergavenny is a wonderful place for making a day of it as well, so please encourage groups to come and enjoy the day!

This service marks the end of our Diocesan 9 Days of Prayer and Mission. For more ideas on how to take part in that, take a look here - <u>Vision in Focus - 9 Days of Prayer and Mission.pdf</u>. But remember, everyone is welcome at our celebration service in Abergavenny and we look forward to seeing you there.

Resources

Journey to Net Zero



Along with the rest of the Church in Wales, we are working to become Net Zero through a series of steps. This will involve the diocesan office, parsonages, churches and churchyards which form part of our wider culture as a diocese and province.

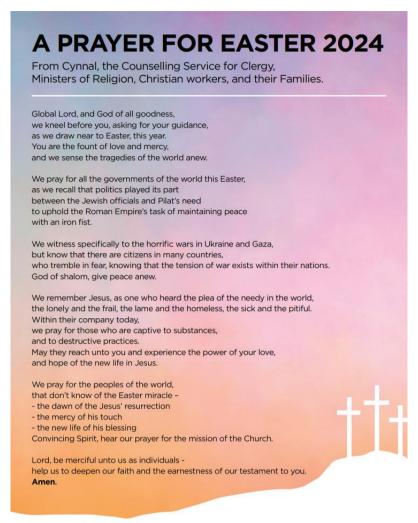
The next step of this journey is to identify the churches in the diocese who have the largest carbon footprint so that resources that can be prioritised where they can have the most impact. This will be done by completing the Church in Wales Energy Footprint Tool which is a simple online survey. We are mindful that we don't want to create extra work for any of our clergy or volunteers so we are completing as much of this form as we can on behalf of our churches.

Through discussions with Ministry Area Leaders, we have a list of the churches that we think have a high energy footprint, based on their size and how often they are used. We would like to start completing the Energy Footprint Tool for these churches. Although we can do the majority of the work, we might be contacting treasurers to ask for some information about energy bills. This will involve asking for a copy of your latest bill and some brief information around your tariff.

Although we are prioritising our largest churches for now, all our churches can complete the Energy Footprint Tool. You might be interested to discover the carbon footprint of your church!

If you have any questions or are interested in completing the Energy Footprint Tool yourself, please contact Libby on **07508 801511** or libbymorgan-owen@cinw.org.uk

Prayer for Easter 2024 From CYNNAL





A prayer for Easter from CYNNAL, the counselling service available throughout Wales for clergy, ministers of religion, Christian workers, and their families.

Cynnal

For more information contact: wynfordellisowen@adferiad.org | Mobile: 07796464045

www.adferiad.org/services/cynnal

CYNNAL deals with all manner of problems and takes a holistic approach that addresses the interaction of mind, body, and soul. The service recognises the spiritual dimension of life and if appropriate, offers signposting for further spiritual guidance.

Vision in Focus

Prayer and Mission is at the heart of this edition as we are encouraged to join Christians from across the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. From ideas for prayer to plans for outreach work, we have loads of resources, ideas and support to help you flourish.



You can view the Vision in Focus on our webpage here.

Hope Together UK: ALIVE



ALIVE is a series of beautifully produced short films which tell the stories of some of the people who encountered Jesus after His resurrection and addresses key human needs, showing how Jesus' resurrection still meets those needs for us today.

The series includes:

- · Discussion material for small groups,
- · Resources for children and young people,
- The Alive book that digs deeper, helping people know Jesus for themselves.

The full series will be available SOON!



Click here for more information about ALIVE

Services



Join us for the following services from the Cathedral, time and links as below:

Maundy Thursday, 28th at 7:30pm here
Good Friday Liturgy, Friday 29th at 2pm here
Easter Day, Sunday 31st at 10:30am here

Holy Week & Easter 2024



Vacancies

New Church Community Hubs



You are likely to have already heard something about our diocesan evangelism project but, now that funding is secured, we want to share with you some details so that you have a better understanding of what is planned. This is an exciting project for the whole diocese, and we hope that you will all share in that excitement as we bring more people to faith and look to welcome new worshippers to the diocesan family.

Monmouth Diocese is planting four new church communities, aimed primarily at bringing under-40s to faith. The first two will be launched this year in Chepstow and Tredegar, with the remaining two following in 2026 (locations to be decided). The churches will be focused on sharing the gospel message with the community and creating a 'family' within the church for everyone to belong to – including lots of under 40s.

The landmark £3m project was announced at the start of the year and young people and families will be the focus. The funding comes from the Church in Wales' Evangelism Fund, set up six years ago for diocesan projects to help people engage with the Christian faith in new and exciting ways.

Work on the project has already begun and we are looking for a great team to establish these new worshipping communities, drawing children and families into faith and discipleship.

We are currently advertising for Hub Church Plant Leads and Children and Families' Pioneer, details here <u>Jobs - Monmouth Diocese (churchinwales.org.uk)</u>. If you know anyone who may be interested, please share! For more information, please contact <u>Emilymartins@cinw.org.uk</u>

Ministry Area Leader - Netherwent MA



NETHERWENT MINISTRY AREA

MINISTRY AREA LEADER

We are looking for a new Ministry Area leader with a strong faith and a real heart for God who can help us grow as disciples, building on our strengths but also helping us address our weaknesses.

We feel now is the time to embrace change and develop our potential for spiritual, missional and numerical growth.

The person we would like for this role will have:

- · A heart for community, for mission and evangelism and for nurturing disciples.
- A servant-heart, who is confident, possesses good relational skills and who is prepared to be 'hands-on' whilst not losing sight of the 'bigger picture'.
- Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to forge, maintain and develop good relationships with people of all ages including schools, young people and their families.
- Vision to recognise the contribution and value of each individual church, whilst also seeking
 to foster a sense of unity and purpose across the Ministry Area as a whole.
- Experience as a good leader and communicator who recognises the importance of teamwork and collaborative ministry.
- A real desire for the excitement and challenge of ensuring an effective structure to help the
 ministry area to grow. This will be done in conjunction with an innovative and supportive
 Ministry Area team of clergy and lay people.

We are striving to be an inclusive diocese and would welcome applications from all suitably qualified clerics

For an informal conversation please contact Venerable Ian Rees on (07983 684151) or (archdeacon.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk)

Application form and full profile available at https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/jobs/

Applications should be submitted by email to: archdeacon.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk

Closing date for applications: April 3rd 2024 Interviews to take place on April 29th 2024



Personal Assistant / Ministry Area Administrator - Mountain and Marsh MA



Job Title: Personal Assistant and Ministry Area Administrator

To support the Ministry Area Leader in prioritising and managing their time effectively. To support the Ministry Area with its administrative duties, ensuring compliance with statutory and Church in Wales requirements.

24-month fixed term contract Part-time, 15 hours per week

Salary:

£9,360 per annum

Responsible to:

Ministry Area Leader

Location:

St Mary's Church, Marshfield

Main Working Contacts

Ministry Area Leader, Lay-Co Chair, Ministry Area Wardens, Ministry Area Secretary, Ministry Area Treasurer.

Please visit the following link for more information Mountain and Marsh Personal Assistant /Administrator Profile

Team Vicar - Mynydd Bedwellte MA



MYNYDD BEDWELLTE MINISTRY AREA

Team Vicar

Mynydd Bedwellte in the heart of the Welsh Valleys is a vibrant and exciting group of churches. If you thrive working as part of a team ministry with supportive colleagues, then maybe God is calling you to join us in ministry at a time when we are blessed with additional resources to support us.

We are seeking a priest as Team Vicar with an understanding on how you develop community links and relationships in an area which is impacted by the issues of poverty and deprivation. A priest who has a heart to walk alongside people in their journey of faith and encourages them to be beacons of God's presence in their communities.

There is great potential in this ministry area for the person who is able to have a vision to engage with the local community and nurture the gifts of congregation and community to bring about God's hope and love.

Are you someone who:

- loves people from all walks of life and can help develop a culture which will help the church family to thrive?
- can facilitate and encourage people into action?
- · is a good manager of time, projects, and people?
- · has excellent communication skills and good use of IT?

If you think this could be you then we would very much like to hear from you.

We are striving to be an inclusive diocese and would welcome applications from all suitably qualified clerics.

For an informal conversation please contact Rev Matt Davis on 07800750259 or mattdavisciw@gmail.com

Application form and full profile available at https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/jobs/

Applications should be submitted by email to: stellabailey@churchinwales.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Monday 8th April 2024 Interviews to be held on Friday 19th April 2024



Canon for Worship and Congregational Life (Precentor-Pastor) - Newport Cathedral



Canon for Worship and Congregational Life (Precentor-Pastor)

The Bishop in consultation with the Dean wishes to appoint a full-time additional Canon Residentiary for Newport Cathedral with responsibility for worship and congregational life.

This is a new post following reorganisation of roles.

The role combines the traditional ones of precentor (40%) and pastor (60%). We are looking for:

- a creative liturgist with human warmth and an eye for detail,
- · an open, relational, engaging person, who delights in pastoral work with all ages,
- a mission-minded priest, able to develop the life, faith and ministry of the congregation and broaden the demographic balance.
- · a collaborative colleague for a small team of clergy and laity.

Newport is the gateway to South Wales, one of the largest conurbations in Wales, with excellent road and rail links.

Further details and application pack: www.newportcathedral.org.uk/vacancies

Closing date for applications is 12 noon on Monday 8th April 2024.

Interviews over Tuesday 30th April and Wednesday 1st May 2024 (both days).

For an informal conversation, please contact the Dean, The Very Revd Ian Black, ianblack@churchinwales.org.uk, to arrange a time to talk.

We are committed to equality of opportunity and welcome applications from everyone who feels they meet the requirements of the role. The appointment will be made on merit.



House for Duty Priest - North Monmouthshire MA



NORTH MONMOUTHSHIRE MINISTRY AREA

HOUSE FOR DUTY PRIEST

We are looking for a collaborative and caring priest with a genuine passion for working with others, lay and ordained, in a beautiful part of Wales.

Based in the lovely village of Llanddewi Rhydderch and primarily working with churches around that area, you will also be part of the Ministry Team covering the new Ministry Area of North Monmouthshire which has 17 churches.

We hope for a Priest who will be:

- Caring has a strong pastoral heart and passion for encouraging the members of each of the congregations in discipleship
- Collaborative in nature working well with the Ministry Team, lay and ordained, within the Ministry Area and is a good team player
 - * Community focussed being a visible presence in the Ministry Area
 - Engaging has energy and commitment to engage with the local communities and is sympathetic to the needs of rural communities

If you think you might be that person... we would very much like to hear from you.

We are striving to be an inclusive diocese and would welcome applications from all suitably qualified clerics.

For an informal conversation please contact The Revd. Julian Gray, Ministry Area Leader on 01873 859881 or mardyvicarage@yahoo.co.uk

Application form and full profile available at https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/jobs/

Applications should be submitted by email to: archdeacon.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Monday 15th April 2024

Interviews to take place soon after



For a downloadable and printable version of this email please click **here**.

You can find the one-stop-shop for all you need to know and this week's updates here.



Diocese of Monmouth · Esgobaeth Mynwy

Diocesan Office, 64 Caerau Road, Newport, NP20 4HJ 01633 267490 · monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk

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