



# Friday Round Up

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

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## Ministry Area Updates

Dear Friends,

Two of the four planning meetings have now taken place to look in more detail at how the new Ministry Teams are going to work most effectively and what governance structures are going to best help us. I am extremely grateful to the members of the Standing Committee and the Ministry Area Leaders who have been involved in those conversations. The experience and wisdom that they bring will go a long way to ensuring that the processes towards establishing our new structures are the best they can be. Next week, the group will meet twice more to discuss how best to organise the financial arrangements in the new Ministry Areas and to look at the processes we need to put in place for the coming year. It is encouraging to see people engaging positively and some, indeed, expressing excitement. There are, of course, plenty of challenges ahead and I am aware that some are feeling dismayed at the implications for their particular church congregation. I am grateful to all who have written both to me personally and to the diocesan office, as we want to know what the

issues and concerns are that need addressing. We are taking those seriously and will respond to them all in due course.

The fruits of the four meetings will be gathered into a toolkit, outlining in more detail the policies and procedures that we believe are going to best shape the working of the Ministry Areas both at local church congregation level and at the Ministry Area Council level. In the new year, there will be opportunities for as many as wish to come to the meetings that we are going to hold in each of the new Ministry Areas and we hope that many people will feel able to join in those discussions. This will be the chance to ask questions about what is planned and how exactly it is going to work in your church and area.

Please be assured that we are undertaking this work for one simple reason. We believe that it is where God is leading us and that it is both urgent and needful in order for us to be able to embrace the sustainable and hopeful future that God has in store for the Church at both a local and diocesan level.

Let us pray for one another as journey forward together.



## Updated Guidance - last update 1st December

The latest guidance from the Church in Wales is available [here](#).

The main changes are that churches/cathedrals that have been open for visitors (rather than worship, private prayer, weddings etc) can no longer do so and 'Christmas Bubbles' can be treated as one household (so can sit together) at Christmas services between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> December.



# Safeguarding Training

Please see below the January dates for Safeguarding Training on zoom.  
Places can be booked by emailing [safeguardingtraining@stpadarns.ac.uk](mailto:safeguardingtraining@stpadarns.ac.uk)

14 January 14.00 - Part 1

15 January 10.00 - Part 1

19 January 14.00 - Part 1

21 January 14.00 - Part 2

22 January 14.00 - Part 2

27 January 10.00 - Part 2

29 January 10.00 - Part 2

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## Preparing for Christmas - a quiet day with Audrey Hamilton

Presented by the Diocese of Monmouth, hosted by Bishop Cherry



**PREPARING  
FOR CHRISTMAS**  
A QUIET DAY WITH AUDREY HAMILTON  
SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
11.00AM – 3.00PM

*'Art can touch us at deep levels, opening ourselves to the loving touch of God in often unexpected ways'*

• HELD VIA ZOOM • REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE •



### Everyone welcome!

A firm believer that works of art can touch us at deep levels, opening ourselves to the loving touch of God in often unexpected ways, Audrey offers this Quiet Day in preparation for Christmas. Using a variety of images, we will be invited to pause and rest, allowing the Word that we long for to speak to our hearts.

No knowledge of art is required – just a heart open to the God who has fashioned you as his own work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he has meant us to live it (Eph 2:10).

Book a place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/preparing-for-christmas-a-quiet-day-with-audrey-hamilton-registration-129934207713>



### **About Audrey Hamilton**

Formed in the Ignatian tradition, and currently studying with the Carmelites in Boars Hill near Oxford, Audrey has spent many years offering spiritual accompaniment, courses on prayer and retreat days / workshops in parishes and other venues. Her most recent role was in spirituality outreach for the London Jesuit Centre, where, amongst a variety of offerings, she developed sessions on praying with art.

She holds a Masters Degree in Christian Spirituality from Heythrop College (University of London).

She lives in Middlesex with her husband and cat, and in joyful babysitting distance of her two gorgeous granddaughters.



### **Calling All Amateur Photographers**

We know you are out there..... we've seen your work on social media over the last couple of months and it's been fantastic! Lockdown has given us all a different perspective on things - nature, wealth, health, family, freedom - what really matters to us! This new perspective has made us all better photographers!

A few months ago, Bishop Cherry announced that her three key areas of focus were around eco church and environmental issues; diversity and inclusion and social justice. We are encouraging you to share your interpretation of what this means in your church or parish in

the form of a photograph. We will then use this imagery to in promotional material for the Diocese.

We would welcome entries from all age groups (we know children are great eco campaigners!), we just ask that you are happy for us to share your photographs to reflect a true picture of our diocese from those who live and worship here!

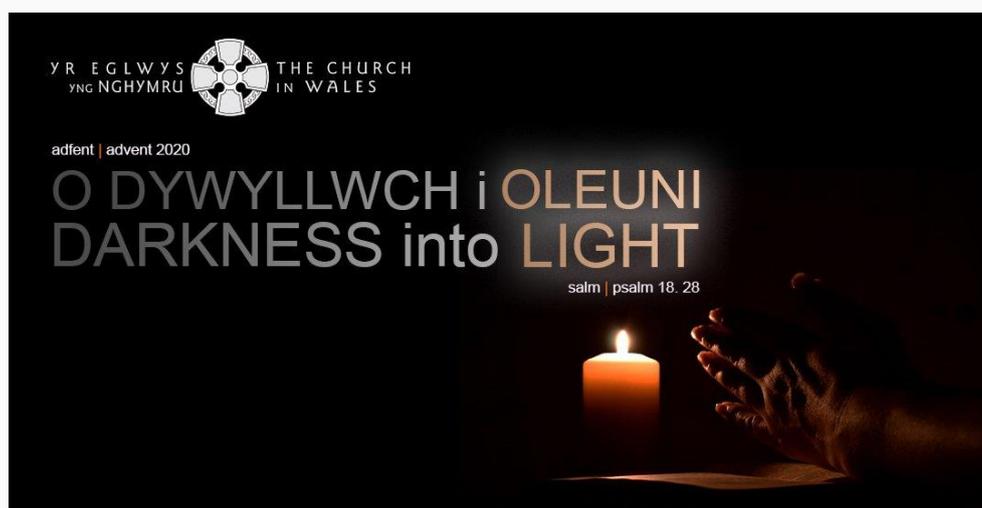
Photographs maybe used on our website/social media campaigns and many other promotional and informative material.

Entries should be sent to [debragoddard@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:debragoddard@churchinwales.org.uk)

Find out more and read the terms and conditions [here](#).

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## Darkness Into Light



Find out more about the Church in Wales' advent campaign, Darkness into Light. The campaign was launched last week and aims to draw people to the light - the pure light we find in Christ's message of salvation for all and its reflection through the love and good works of those all around us. To mark Advent Sunday, all Church in Wales' cathedrals and greater churches were transformed into beacons of light. Our largest buildings were floodlit or lit up from inside on November 29 as a symbol of Christ's light and love in our communities. Find out more [here](#).



## Advent and Christmas Services

We'd love to know about the Advent and Christmas services you have planned so we can include them on our website.

Please send the details to [admin.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:admin.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk)

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If you missed this week's webinar you can watch in back [here](#).

## Advent in Our Schools

Here's a look at some of the things our schools have been getting up to in this first week of Advent.



Nursery in Magor CIW School have taken part in a Christingle service with Rev Jeremy and Rev Samuel

Christmas is for giving and for showing that we care for

Honoring the Christ with the loving things we share

Remember Jesus who was born on Christmas day

In a stable full of hay

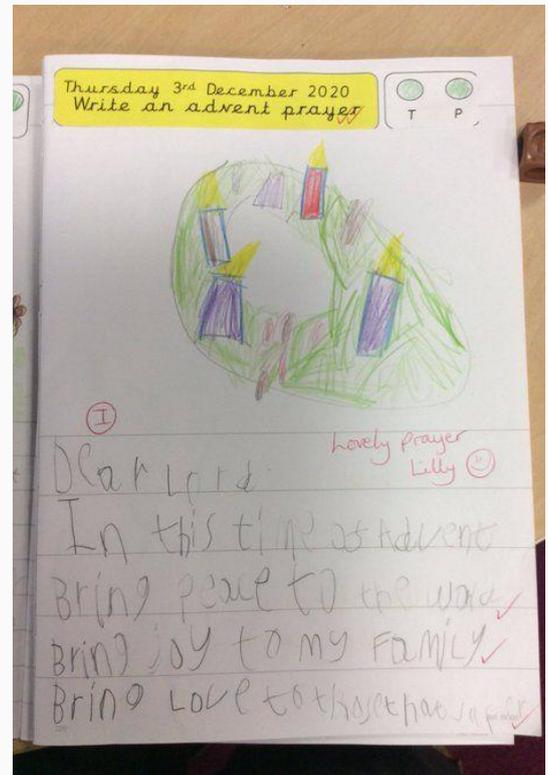
Small and fragile he lay in his manger

Time to leave or he could be in danger

Mary needs to keep him safe

Away from Herod

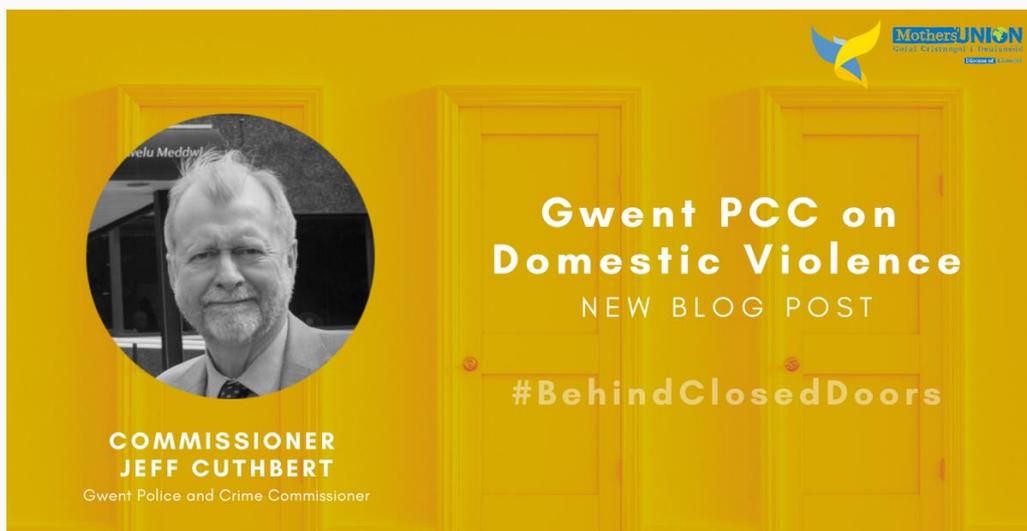
Some place far away.



Isla from St Mellons CIW Primary School wrote this Christmas poem entitled 'To Find Refuge' after her 'Taith Adfent' lesson.

And Year One in Blaenavon Heritage VC School have been writing Advent prayers.

Great work everyone!



Read Llandaff Diocese's blog post from the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner on Domestic Violence [here](#).

## **Live-streamed Services & Reflections:**

Watch Bishop Cherry's Tuesday reflection [here](#).

Join a Hospital Memorial Service on Saturday the 5th of December at 4pm [here](#).

Join a Sunday Eucharist from the Cathedral at 10:30am [here](#).

Join an Advent Choral Evensong & Goodbye to Archdeacon Ambrose on Sunday the 6th of December at 5pm [here](#).