



Friday Round Up

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

An Introduction to Ministry Areas



Here's the first in a series of videos which share some of the principles that have shaped our work on Ministry Areas, and the first look at the logo we're using for the process.



A Message for Bishop Cherry

I am pleased to announce that the Revd Rebecca Stevens has been appointed Diocesan Director of Vocations. Becca has been Acting DDV since the summer and I am delighted that she has agreed to take on the role formally with immediate effect.

New Appointment for Tredegar, Rhymney & Abertysswg



Congratulations to Revd Matt Davis who will take up the post of Team Rector (ministry area leader designate) for Tredegar, Rhymney and Abertysswg after Easter.

Reptile-loving Revd Matt is already a familiar face around the diocese as he is currently Assistant Curate of Cyncoed Ministry Area in Cardiff.

The Bishop of Monmouth, the Right Revd Cherry Vann, says: “Matt brings tremendous energy and enthusiasm to all that he does and is committed to ensuring that the church reaches out into the local community with the good news of the gospel in all kinds of ways.

“He has a particular passion for working with children and young people and has a real gift for connecting with those who have no experience of faith or church.

“I am delighted that Matt will be continuing his ministry in this diocese, as Young Vocations Officer as well as in this new Ministry Area Leader post.”

Read the full announcement [here](#).

Gift Direct



Donating to churches and parishes is now easier than ever thanks to the launch of the Church in Wales' fully digital online giving site.

From today, people can give digitally to any parish or project registered for Gift Direct through the Church in Wales website.

They can manage their donations themselves, choosing where their donation goes, how much they want to donate, how regularly they want to give or amend existing donations. They can also Gift Aid their donation to make it go even further.

The development of the Gift Direct site has been accelerated as part of the Church's response to the Covid-19 pandemic in order to make it easier for people to support parish ministry.

The Bishop of Bangor, Andy John, who chairs GenRus, the Provincial Stewardship Group, says, "The Church in Wales has been blessed by generous giving for many years. I am delighted that new technology is expanding the potential for this generosity to continue long into the future. GenRus has worked hard alongside colleagues from the provincial office to make this new giving platform available. 'Gift Direct' will mean individuals will be able to support all sorts of new projects, as well as their local church community and I am glad to commend its use across the province."

The Gift Direct scheme was partially digitised last year to enable people to sign up online. As a result, many parishes and churches have since registered their details with the scheme. In one diocese, where there has been a major move to register, there has been an increase in donations equivalent to an extra quarter of a million pounds per year.

Bishop Andy adds, "We hope all our churches will register for Gift Direct now so that donors will be able to find them on our scheme if they wish to make a donation. These are difficult

times for everyone and we are extraordinarily grateful for the generosity of all our donors which enables us to continue our ministry to everyone in Wales.”

To donate online go to: <https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/onlinegiving>

To register your church for Gift Direct contact the Gift Direct team on giftdirect@churchinwales.org.uk



LENT 2021: DYING TO LIVE

Whether you are a lay leader, a licensed minister or a member of clergy, we'd love to invite you to join in with our plans for this year's Diocesan Lent Course 'Dying to Live'.

The course is now available on our [Diocesan website](#) or you can download a copy below.

Download: [LENT 2021: DYING TO LIVE](#)

If you are planning to lead a small group, please complete our group registration form: <https://forms.gle/979J2dw5GSYi63Lk7>

Printed copies can be requested from the Diocesan Office.

Please email admin.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk to request one.

Covid-19 Guidance - Latest Update 3rd February

Please note: this revised guidance alters the advice previously given (in Version 1, 26 January) concerning Messy Church / Messy Easter (point 21).

View the latest guidance [here](#).

Live-streamed Services & Reflections:



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

Stations of the Cross Project

Our communications teams is working with Archdeacon Sue to produce a Stations of the Cross video for Holy Week.

We will be featuring 14 Stations – which will be voiced by those from within our parishes.

Does your church have notable 'stations' and would you like to part of the project?

If you would like to be involved, could you please get in touch with debragoddard@churchinwales.org.uk as soon as possible (maybe with a few photos of your Stations as examples)?

Upcoming Webinars



St Padarn's Easter Webinar Series

St Padarn's is holding a series of webinars in the run up to Holy Week and Easter offering ideas and resources to help churches plan their services and outreach during this key season. The webinars will take place from **2:00pm – 3:15pm** on the following dates:

- **Tuesday, February 16th** – Revealing God's love: Using our places and spaces to connect with our congregations and wider communities at Easter
- **Tuesday, February 23rd** – Easter Resources, Ideas and Help: Sharing ideas, resources and good practice (Part 1)
- **Tuesday, March 2nd** – Easter Resources, Ideas and Help: Sharing ideas, resources and good practice (Part 2)

The first of these on February 16th will be led by Dr Sandra Millar who will share her thoughts about how we connect with our congregations and wider communities, and explore some practical ideas about making the best use of the spaces and places available to us whilst the current restrictions remain in place. In particular she will focus on how the small things we do locally can help connect with the big themes of God's love revealed through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This webinar will also briefly touch on some ideas around Mothering Sunday.

The two other webinars, on February 23rd and March 2nd, will signpost further helpful resources being offered by churches and organisations in their preparations for Holy Week and Easter, as well as sharing ideas and good practice from churches right across Wales and beyond. More details on these two additional webinars to follow.

You can register for a place on the webinars, by using the links below:

Webinar

Tuesday, February 16th, 2:00pm
Tuesday, February 23rd, 2:00pm
Tuesday, March 2nd, 2:00pm

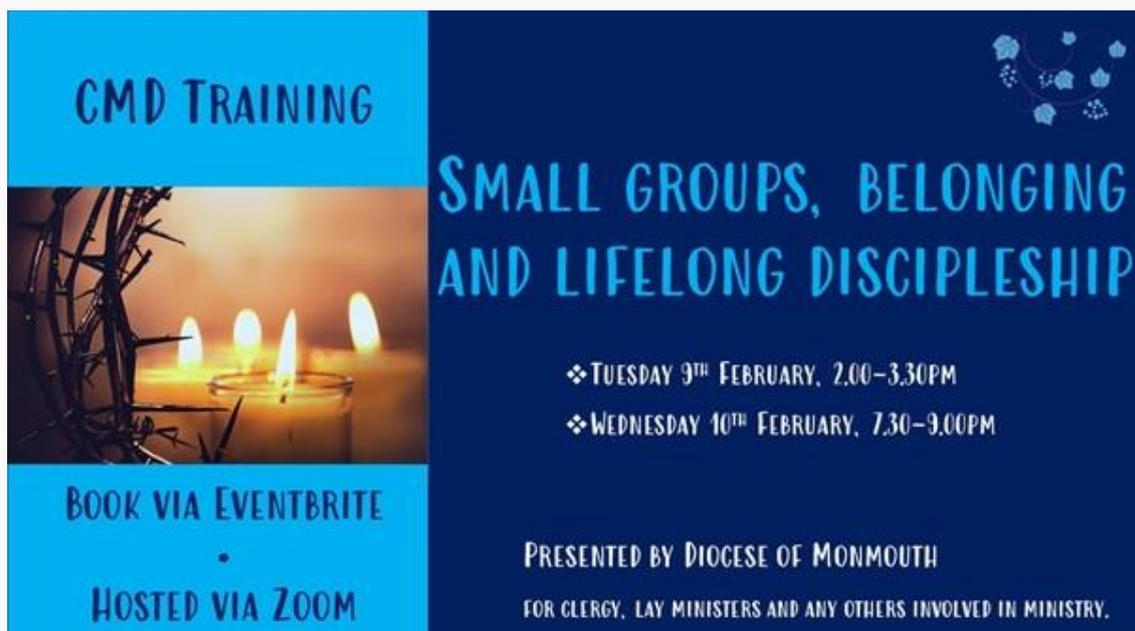
Register here:

<https://bit.ly/3cG8xVN>
<https://bit.ly/3rlHmDE>
<https://bit.ly/2YDLRgy>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar including the link to use on the day.

If you would like to catch up on any previous webinars you may have missed, you can find them on the St Padarn's website: <https://www.stpadarns.ac.uk/en/ministry/continuing-ministerial-development/digital-ministry-webinars/>

As a reminder, the webinars are free to attend and will be made up of approximately 45 minutes of presentation, followed by approximately 30 minutes of question and answer. Please do join us if you can, and if you have an idea or a resource you think is worth sharing more widely, then please do get in touch so that we can feature these as part of this webinar series.



Small groups, belonging and lifelong discipleship - Last few days to book

A chance to discuss in more depth the role that small groups and discipleship courses can

play in the life of our Ministry Areas. How can small groups encourage belonging, facilitate pastoral care and enable lifelong discipleship?

[Book a Place](#)

- Tuesday 9th February, 2.00-3.30pm
- Wednesday 10th February, 7.30-9.00pm



Would you like to make more time to pray, but aren't sure where to start? Or would you like to give your prayer a renewed focus for a week in Lent? Would you like a little help along the way?

Then the ***Week of Guided Prayer*** online is for you.

Leading into Holy Week this ***Week of Guided Prayer*** is individually tailored to your experience. It is suitable for everybody - beginners in prayer, those whose want to renew their prayer-life and those who are experienced in prayer. You will use Bible passages, and other material, as a basis for prayer and meditation, with a guide alongside you to suggest what you might pray with and to hear how it went.

The ***Week of Guided Prayer*** starts with an introductory meeting on Zoom for all the participants and guides. We will match you with a guide who will arrange to meet with you on Zoom each day, Monday to Friday, at a time that works for both of you. These sessions usually last 20-30 minutes and we suggest that you make 20-30 minutes available for the prayer itself. The retreat ends with a closing session online.

Register your place

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/137910888179>

Important: Please book as soon as possible so that we can match you with an appropriate guide.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Rev Jane Butler: jane.upperislwyn@yahoo.com (01495 231241).

Survey – coping with lockdown

Last year there was a very successful survey run from out of York St John University during the first lockdown seeking to assess how clergy and laity are coping with the lockdown experience. You can read about some of the results at <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/coronavirus-church-and-you/> Those who organized the survey would now like to get a sense of how clergy and lay people are coping with the current lockdown. They have created a survey that builds on their experience of the last survey and which should enable them both to assess how things have changed and find out what people think as they look forward to a post-pandemic future for the Church.

The *Covid-19 & Church-21* survey is your opportunity to be part of this crucial research project. It will take about 20 minutes of your time, which will enable you to give a thorough picture of your experiences and opinions. This is an online survey, which will take you about 20 minutes to complete. Most of the questions simply require you to click boxes, though there are options to specify your particular circumstances, and an opportunity at the end for you to share your views in your own words.

For more information click [here](#).

Or to go straight to the survey, click on <https://tinyurl.com/y4fqgrzq>

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING SESSIONS

Online via Zoom

These sessions are for all who hold an ecclesiastical office, or who hold licence/PTO/commission from the Diocesan Bishop (whether lay or ordained), for those who run Sunday School or Youth clubs, Organists/Directors of Music for whom an enhanced DBS is required.

The training is presented in two parts, Part 1 & Part 2, to complete the course both parts must be attended. The course lasts for approximately 2-2.5 hours. There is no cost to attend the course.

PART 1

Monday 8th March	10:00
Wednesday 10th March	10:00
Thursday 11th March	14:00
Monday 15th March	14:00
Wednesday 17th March	10:00

PART 2

Friday 19th March	14:00
Monday 22nd March	14:00
Wednesday 24th March	10:00
Monday 29th March	14:00
Wednesday 31st March	10:00

To book a place, please contact **Helen** via email on safeguardingtraining@stpadarns.ac.uk

The Church in Wales has a responsibility to ensure that all church members are cared for and protected.



Email safeguardingtraining@stpadarns.ac.uk to book.



Lent 2021 Mini Missions

This week's home learning resources focus on Lent and include a pancake recipe for Shrove Tuesday. If you give it a try, please send us a photo on Twitter @MonFaithFamily

We're also excited to introduce our Lent Mini Missions Project. While this set of challenges was designed with our schools in mind, we'd like to encourage all our children and families to participate.

On the project [resource page](#), you will find a PowerPoint with a voice over to explaining the project. This PowerPoint will be most useful to parents and group leaders and is not intended as a resource for the children. However, there will be an introduction video from Reverend Becca Stevens posted on the first Monday of half-term. We will also be uploading weekly worship videos throughout Lent.

As a note to our churches, one of the daily challenges includes finding your local church on a map and searching for details of upcoming services; such as Easter. If you are planning a service, please do send details to your local church school(s) so that they can help pass them on to students and families.

Find the resources [here](#).