



DIOCESE OF MONMOUTH

MONMOUTH MINISTRY AREA

Introduction from the Archdeacon of Monmouth, The Venerable Ian Rees

Thank you for taking the time to look at this profile. We are seeking to appoint a House for Duty Priest Team Priest for the Monmouth Ministry Area based in the beautiful village of Llanishen.

This post will offer a role as part of a Ministry Team serving a new Ministry Area. It offers an exciting opportunity to work collaboratively with lay and ordained colleagues. The four churches where you will primarily be based have worked together for a number of years and we imagine that the close relationship between them will continue whilst they also become active participants in the wider Ministry Area. Each of those churches is blessed by a good number of active lay people.

The Ministry Area is very well served currently by three committed and active stipendiary priests as well as other ordained and lay ministers and we hope that the teamwork already happening in the area will continue to grow.

Whilst Monmouth itself is a busy place with plenty going on, there is also some excellent community spirit in the rural communities surrounding the town. They are places of great potential and there is a passion to proclaim the Good News in those communities. The people are warm, welcoming and have a genuine desire to grow the Kingdom of God.

For an informal conversation or further information please contact me on 07983 684151 or archdeacon.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk

With my best wishes

Ian Rees

Locality

The Monmouth Ministry Area covers the north eastern quadrant of Monmouthshire, bounded on the north by the River Monnow and on the east down to Tintern by the river Wye. Both rivers in this area form the boundary between Wales and England. To the South and West the boundary crosses beautiful countryside from just north of Chepstow, then west of Raglan and about half way between Monmouth and Abergavenny to the Monnow a little to the east of the village of Skenfrith.

Apart from Monmouth town – which is growing substantially – the area is entirely rural with a number of villages and smaller settlements. Monmouth town serves a hinterland which extends into England as the border is close to the town. Monmouth is an excellent former County town abounding in history but offering a full range of facilities and good shopping with a range of Supermarkets, multiples and independent shops. The proximity of the border means that Monmouth is the centre of an area which extends into The Forest of Dean and Herefordshire.

The Ministry Area comprises of the following churches:

St Michael and All Angel's Church, Llanfihangel Tor-y-mynydd
St Denis Church, Llanishen St Tysoi's Church, Llansoy
Trelleck Grange Church, Trelleck Grange
Church of St Michael and All Angels, Mitchel Troy
Old Church, Penallt St Nicholas, Trellech
The Priory Church of St Mary, Monmouth
The Church of St Thomas the Martyr, Overmonnow
St Cenedlon's, Rockfield St Wonnow's Church, Wonastow
Llangattock-Vibon-Abel St Maughans Church with llangattock
St Catwg, Cwmcarvan St Dingat's Church, Dingestow
St Michael's Church, Llanfihangel Ystern-LLewern
St Martins, Penyclawdd with St Govan's Llangovan
St Mary's Church, Tregaer St Oudoceus Church, Llandogo with Whitebrook
St Michael's Church, Tintern

Each church is encouraged to have its own Local Ministry Team and these local teams are supported by Ministry Area Leaders, a Ministry Area Community Engagement Priest, a Ministry Area Administrator and a number of other Ministry Area Team Priests/Ministers who support particular churches within the Ministry Area.

Responsibilities

Your main responsibility as a Ministry Area Team Priest will be to support the 4 churches in the area of Llanishen (0.5 days per church per week and the wider Ministry Area (0.5 Days per week). Preaching on average 3 out of every 4 Sundays in a local church, whilst on the 4th Sunday you will lead a service/s elsewhere in the Ministry Area and another Ministry Area Team Priest/Minister will visit the Llanishen area to take the service.

The Team Priest appointed will work with the Ministry Area Leaders and will play their part in the monthly Ministry Area Ministry Team meetings. The person appointed will naturally be a member of the local church ministry teams in the Llanishen area but will not be expected to lead those teams. Local Church Ministry Teams will be responsible together for pastoral care and ministry in the local community, so this is not a Priest in Charge or Priest does everything role. In exchange for 2.5 days per week spent in ministry we will provide a Vicarage in the lovely Vicarage in Llanishen together with ministry expenses.

The village of Llanishen lies on the B4293, 8 miles from Chepstow and 7 miles from Monmouth. There is a popular pub in the village of Llanishen, The Carpenters Arms, which played a welcoming role during the pandemic supplying takeaway meals. Each year St. Denis Church holds its Harvest Supper and Auction at the pub, and it is always well supported.

There is also a thriving Village hall which the church uses for its children's work.

Working and living in a village is different from urban ministry. Many in the community see the church as their church even if they only attend on high days and holy days. The Priest is part of the community and their role is to the church and non-church in the community.

As mentioned, you will also though be a part of the larger Ministry Area with the advantage of wider resources to call upon, together with the opportunity to be part of a team that will support and work with you.

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, building a strong unity in Christ.
- ❖ **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, helping us to develop both our ministry of service and a blessing to our diverse communities and our ministry to all people.
- ❖ **Engaging** - has energy and commitment to engage with the local communities and is sympathetic to the needs of rural communities and is able to help facilitate a growth in cooperation and inter-action within our churches

Please see the appendix for details of the local churches in and around Llanishen.

APPENDIX

St. Denis Church, Llanishen

St. Denis's Church is situated in the centre of the village on a very steep site with magnificent views across the Usk valley towards Cwmbran and Pontypool.



The present church is Victorian, but the location has been a Christian site for nearly 1500 years. Its first dedication was to St. Isan, the early 6th-century monk - and probably abbot - from Llanilltyd Fawr (Llantwit Major) who had founded a monastery at the other Llanishen which is now in Cardiff. It seems very likely that our site was founded by the same man.

On a pilgrimage to Rome St. Isan decided to adopt the Latinised name of Dionysius, and this was later shortened by the Normans to Denis or Denys. The confusion of names continued when the present church, replacing a medieval church of St. Isan, was consecrated in 1854 and given the dedication to St. Dennis. Anyone who visits two neighbouring Cardiff parishes of Llanishen (St. Isan) and Lisvane (St. Denys) will see that they have the same problem.

The village lies on the B4293, 8 miles from Chepstow and 7 miles from Monmouth, but the main part of the village is away to the west of the road. There is a bus route between the two towns, but the lanes into the centre of the village are too narrow and winding for the bus to negotiate so the request stops are on the edge of the village. Consequently, most villagers are very reliant on cars.

Llanishen is a widespread village extending as far as Far Hill. According to one of our councillors on Trellech United Community Council, a survey of 2013 showed that there were 141 properties in the area, and this hasn't significantly changed. The latest electoral roll shows 297 electors, and their occupations are very diverse:

Lorry Driver
Circuit Judge

Builder
Postman

Professional Engineer
Chartered Surveyor

Solicitor
Nurse

Armed Services	Author	Professional Musician	Carpenter
Charity CEO	Farmer	Chairman of Haulage Co.	Motor Mechanic
Highways Engineer	Baker	University Business Director	Smallholder
Teacher	Artist	College Lecturer	IT/Computer Engineer
Gardener	Cleaner	Holiday Park Owner	Bookseller
Publican	Lecturer	Local Government Officer	Vet

The Infant and Junior school is at Trellech and the senior school is in Monmouth.

Llanishen has a large and active hall in the village which also serves Llanfihangel Tor-y-Mynydd and Trelleck Grange. It is hired by many organisations around the area and so is frequently in use. From the village itself there is an active group which puts on a popular pantomime in spring and a variety show in autumn each year. The Village Hall committee puts on a Bonfire Night display, a packed Christmas Dinner and has put on two inspiring jazz weekends. Smaller groups such as a children's pottery group, a ladies' needlework group, a small mat bowling group and a keep fit group also have regular meetings. It has "Soft Play" equipment so is frequently booked for children's parties at weekends, and when the church needs a large venue for its Autumn Bazaar and thrice yearly Children's Workshop the Hall is invaluable. We also hold our monthly Parish Breakfasts there to raise money towards paying the expenses of the vicarage. The breakfasts are prepared jointly by the parishes and are very well supported.

Last autumn, jointly with the Hall Committee, St. Denis Church put on an Arts and Crafts Weekend using the hall and church as venues. Villagers were invited to display their talents and share their interests - silver work, painting on glass, patchwork, embroidery, canvas work, crotchet, dressmaking, calligraphy, woodwork, canal boat painting, book illustration, photography, pottery and painting. The overflow was placed in the church along with an archive display of village history. Not only did we get to know each other's interests, it also brought people back to the village from as far away as Worcester and Somerset who met again and re-established old friendships. It also led to the establishment of a painting group - until the pandemic intervened!

There is also a popular pub in the village, The Carpenters Arms, which played a welcome role during the pandemic supplying takeaway meals. Each year St. Denis Church holds its Harvest Supper and Auction at the pub and it is always well supported.

At the beginning of lockdown a new village shop opened at the garage on the main road and this has proved tremendously popular.

The Vicarage is also in the village, but sadly hasn't been lived in for the last two incumbencies. It has been used as an office, and also for a weekly Faith Group, but we are repeatedly told by villagers how much they would like to see the vicarage used again, as a home as well as an office.

The Church and Churchyard

In the last few years, the financial situation of the church has significantly improved, and our reserves have doubled. This has been due to regular, carefully planned fundraising events like the Harvest Supper and Autumn Bazaar where the parishioners have not only helped to organise the events but also dug deeply into their pockets to support us. The well-attended Parish Breakfasts helped to fund ministry expenses and we received some generous donations. (Owing to the pandemic we have been unable to hold any of our fundraising events this year but have had to live off these reserves. We are eager to be allowed to get back to organising these events next year.)

During these years we have also managed to carry out extensive, and much needed, work in the churchyard which has all been paid for. The church is on a steep hillside and unfortunately the rainwater drains right through the churchyard to its lowest point. Although the wall at the lowest point had drain holes it was weakened over decades and totally collapsed in 2015/16. Higher up another section also collapsed due to a combination of rainwater and a Scots Pine being planted too close to the wall, and further to the east a large Ash tree was pushing out yet another section of wall. All of these sections have been rebuilt and the trees removed, and we have heard the comment that the church walls are in a better condition than they have been for over forty years.

Unfortunately, the last remaining Scots Pine, which was also subject to a Tree Preservation Order, shed huge branches after a heavy snowstorm and we had a long and expensive struggle to be allowed to take it down. Altogether, three problematic trees have finally been taken down and there are none left which are big or subject to TPOs.

Throughout the struggle to get the churchyard back into shape we were given huge financial and moral support by the Church in Wales Property Department, the Diocesan Financial Department, the Wye Valley AONB and Ecclesiastical Insurance and we will always be grateful to them.

Underpinning this for routine mowing and maintenance is a very generous annual grant from the TUCC for which we are very grateful, never more so than this year when the pandemic meant the cancellation of all our fundraising events. We have also been very appreciative of the volunteer working parties provided by the AONB for clearing ivy from the walls and clearing away the scrub.

St. Denis' churchyard is quite a busy place to be, as it has two entrances, and the connecting footpath makes a very pleasant and safe bypass to the winding lane north of the church. Many people use this path, and a new wooden seat has been installed outside the church so that people can sit and enjoy the tranquillity, looking across the valley. To complete the feeling of peace a recently deceased parishioner donated and erected a plaque on which is inscribed verses from Gray's Elegy.

What next?

The church building itself is in need of being brought into the 21st century, and we had reached the stage of asking builders for advice and quotations when the pandemic struck. When we have been able to reassess the new world, we hope to move forward again. During the last two years the electrical system has been updated, and a new consumer unit and smart meter installed. (The outside wiring has been completely replaced as it was still the same wiring which was installed when electricity was first brought to the village in the 1950s.) The lightning conductor was also brought up to date by the specialist firm, Dawsons. The water supply was also inspected recently and was found to be of the required standard for human consumption.

The church is damp and cold. Owing to its situation it needs to have a better drainage system to channel the water away from the building. When it was built it had a coal burning stove in the church and one in the vestry, but these were taken out at some stage and replaced with tubular heaters. The result is that often, after a winter service, we have opened the porch door and exclaimed “Oh, it’s warmer out here. Perhaps we should have our services in the porch.”

It has also been said by one congregant “These pews are the most uncomfortable in England”. Nobody disagreed, although we all forgot that she was in Wales! We would love to take them out and replace them with chairs so that the whole nave can be opened up for versatile use. (By this we don’t mean to set ourselves up in competition with the Hall, but to provide a space which can be used for **small** social meetings, at a time when we want them.) There is room for a kitchen bar and a toilet if we have got the wit and imagination to get busy and we might then increase our congregation beyond the usual 6 or 7.



Trelleck Grange Church

Average Sunday attendance:

5, including churchwarden shared with Llanishen.

Electoral roll figures: 13

Church Services:

1st and 3rd Sundays – Communion. There is a regular organist for the 1st Sunday in the month and festivals. The festivals are usually very well attended with 40 plus people including a good number of children. The style is low church.

The Parish

Trelleck Grange is located next to Llanishen parish in a south easterly direction within the Wye Valley A.O.N.B. It is a small parish with about 70 adults on the electoral roll. The majority of the parish is farmland. The Cistercian monks from Tintern Abbey farmed the Trelleck Grange lands. The farming today is mixed with several dairy farms. There has been virtually no building of new houses, but a number of barns have been converted. Property is expensive so young people and first-time buyers find it difficult to remain or move into the parish.

There is a positive and enthusiastic community spirit for events held, some of which are church based such as the Harvest Festival lunch following a church service, annual fund-raising evenings at The Fountain Inn and a get together following the Carol Service.

The Church

The church is basically medieval. It is a small single roomed building which was used as a chapel by Tintern Abbey monks. The church is reputedly the last remaining Cistercian chapel still used for regular worship. It was re roofed in 1984 and in 2011, gained lottery funding grant aid to enable substantial repair work to be completed. Consequently, the overall condition of the fabric of the church, remains good.

Conclusion

Trelleck Grange is a small church of significant historical origins which remains at the heart of the parish. There is a good mix of longer established farming families and those who have moved to the Grange. New families are attracted to the rural community spirit combined with accessibility to modern working patterns via major road networks. The church is well supported by regular worshippers and the community in general.

Trelleck Grange Harvest Service 11th October 2020 is available to view at *Monmouth Praise!* youtube.com

St Tysoi, Llansoy

We are a small village in rural Monmouthshire, about four miles from Raglan and Usk in different directions and roughly equidistant, at around ten miles, from the larger towns of Monmouth, Newport, Chepstow, Cwmbran, Abergavenny. Although we are a bit off the beaten track, it is only eight miles to the Severn Bridge, and we have excellent road access to all parts of Wales and England.

There are church primary schools and good local shops at Raglan and Usk and the nearest secondary schools and major stores are at Newport, Monmouth, Abergavenny, and Chepstow. Major Hospitals are Nevill Hall in Abergavenny The Royal Gwent in Newport and a new emergency hospital at Llanfrecfa, Cwmbran. Chepstow and Monmouth have Community Hospitals.



St. Tysoi is a Grade 1 listed building dating back to medieval times but significantly renovated by the Victorians. We joined the Llanishen Benefice of 4 churches in 1970. The church comprises chancel, nave and tower with seating for around 100. There is a small vestry, and we use a pedal organ. At present, there is electricity to supply light and a little heat but no water supply and therefore no toilet or washing facilities. The graveyard is nearly full but still in use and the PCC arranges for mowing throughout the summer. The churchyard also has one of the largest yew trees in the county.

Last year, The PCC received a large legacy for the renovation and maintenance of St. Tysoi's Church. We have worked with the Diocesan architects and have drawn up plans to renovate the Church and provide a toilet and simple kitchen facilities. At the same time, issues of accessibility will be addressed.

We all still talk of Llansoy as a village even though we long ago lost nearly all of the functions normally associated with one. Some of our congregation remember attending a village school. The vicarage and the village hall have been sold and the village pubs, the shop and the petrol pumps are also just a memory. The bus stop gets no buses, although a school bus does come to the village in term time.

What is left are the people and the church. There are a dozen or so new houses which were built in the 1970s and the village population has increased. At the twice-monthly Holy Eucharist service, we average around 6 to 8 sometimes towards 12 on a good day but falling to single figures when it is cold and wet and winter. We have an LEM who takes communion to the housebound and the 2 churchwardens have led services when required. The ladies of Llansoy work well together and keep the community alive. Many are active in the combined WI of Llansoy and Llangwm, a neighbouring parish. The church is kept clean and the flower displays are of a high standard. We occasionally hold Flower Festivals.

We need to focus on fund raising from time to time, because our collections in services are no longer sufficient to pay the Parish Share. There is some money in the bank, but it has ceased to pay any significant interest in recent years. The church building itself is in reasonably good condition, having been renovated and re-roofed in the late 1990s. However, there has been increasing evidence of water ingress through the roof in recent years with consequent damage to the interior barrel roof.

Quinquennial surveys have identified many other areas which require maintenance or improvement. The PCC is absolutely committed to keeping the church open.

Half a dozen farms surround the village. Sheep and beef-rearing predominate but one farm still has a dairy herd. Many villagers are retired people and there are a few younger families and children. Apart from the farmers, workers need to commute to their places of employment in the surrounding area. The congregation at Sunday Eucharist Services, twice a month, is generally drawn from the older residents but special services such as at Harvest, Easter, and the Carol Service at Christmas more than half fill the pews and attract a wider age group. On the other hand, funerals tend to fill the church, as do occasional weddings, christenings, confirmations, and concerts. We usually sing well thanks to the efforts of our organist.

We feel there is scope to do more, but we need some leadership. Spiritually, we tend to do it rather than discuss it. Our style of worship is fairly traditional, broad church, spoken rather than sung, but we do prefer our priest to wear formal dress when taking services. Visiting is an area in need of development. Change does not come easy in a country parish but there is good will, and we are looking forward to a new start.

Before Covid and the retirement of our Benefice priest, the four parishes that have made up the Llanishen Group worked well together while keeping their own individual identity. We hope they will continue to do so whilst also working with the other churches in the wider Ministry Area.

We sometimes use the village hall in Llanishen for meetings as we do not have a hall. Together we developed a project group for fundraising, parish breakfasts monthly and childrens' workshops - 3 times a year. We started a family gathering once a month for younger children and parents/carers and some members, together with members from the Ministry Area have been meeting for "Living Faith" every Monday at the vicarage in Llanishen. During the summer months we held coffee mornings in the church which were well supported by all 4 churches. The September one is for charity : "The Biggest Coffee Morning" (Macmillan). We have recently restarted the Coffee Mornings.

Parishioners will support some of each other's events such as concerts, barn dancing or "Carols at the Star", and some of them will visit each other's churches. On a 5th Sunday we have been organising a joint service at one of the 4 churches to which all members of the Benefice were invited.

St. Michael's, Llanfihangel tor y Mynydd, nr. Usk, NP15 1DU



The parish is partially located in a designated Site of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a description confirmed on Monmouthshire County Council's website which feature the vistas from the top of Star Hill as one of the 'Glories of the County'. We are located some six miles from Raglan, Usk and Chepstow and only 12 miles from Monmouth. Tintern Abbey, in the scenic lower Wye Valley, is

approximately four miles to the east.

Llanfihangel tor y Mynydd combines actively cultivated farmland with pockets of generally high value housing. There is a successful pub, hairdressing salon, several holiday-lets and a number of self-employed parishioners 'working from home'. The pub, the Star on the Hill, provides an important focus for the community. There is a long-standing local projects group which is described in more detail below.

Llanfihangel is a stakeholder in the Three Villages Hall in Llanishen.

For over thirty years, the Star was kept by Alan and Liz Evans, today still resident in Llanfihangel and members of St. Michael's. During their tenure, the pub enjoyed huge success becoming a venue for choral events and a home from home for several visiting international rugby teams. Their era has been chronicled in a new (2017) e-book. The pub's successful history goes back even further. In the winter of 1748, for example, it provided overnight accommodation for none other than John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, who described it as 'a small but good inn'. When Alan and Liz retired, the pub had a 'patchy' few years but now, ably managed by Adam James, it is once again a community centre and venue of choice for visitors from a wide area.

Llanfihangel tor y Mynydd Community Projects Group Ltd.

There is an active Projects Group in the village established over 20 years ago as a company limited by guarantee. Regular meetings are held, usually in the Star but of late by Zoom, with formal minutes and accounts. The objectives of the group, which is made up of local residents, most members of the church, and other interested parties include developing and nurturing a sense of community. Specific projects have ranged from erecting a large 'millennium stone' at the Star, village signs on the parish boundaries, and maintenance of the church car park. The car park was gifted to 'the community' and is overseen by the group although the church is the principal beneficiary of the amenity.

The group has an enviable record of charitable activities, having raised funds for the church as well as a range of charities local, national and international. Over the years

tens of thousands of pounds have been raised. Just one example of a successful long-term project was support for the Umngophiso Pre-Primary School now thriving in Lwandle, South Africa.

A close working relationship is maintained between the Projects Group and the church with the former organising activities like 'Carols at the Star' which has been a regular December event for half a century. The group and the church have organised special events such as St. Michael's Day celebrations with guest speakers including Rhodri Morgan shortly before he became first minister.

Throughout its existence, the projects group has worked closely with the church to engender a sense of community. This sense remains strong as has been demonstrated in the current Covid pandemic. We continue to understand and value our strong sense of community in Llanfihangel and feel that the example of the projects group could usefully be 'rolled out' within our group of parishes. Further discussion of ways to sustain and broaden this sense of community will be considered more fully below.

About the Church

St. Michael's is an historic Grade 2* Listed building. It is an ancient church, simple in design, nestled in a picturesque location.

Part of the historical importance of the church is the surrounding landscape itself. When the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust investigated the area as part of its early medieval landscape imaging project, it concluded that the arrangement of a 'kernel' of large farms meeting at St. Michael's represents an excellent example of a pre-conquest 'fossilised landscape'. Some features are even older. The view across the valley from the church porch faces the Gaer Fawr Iron Age hillfort.

Remnants of a bank and ditch enclosing a sub-circular churchyard help to explain the 'llan' element in Llanfihangel and also point to an early church on the site.

The present church is listed by Cadw as 'an attractive and well-preserved medieval church'. Both nave and chancel are medieval with some visible elements suggesting early 14th century construction techniques. A mullioned south window is Tudor although some other windows were reconstructed during an 1853-4 restoration by Prichard and Seddon. The altar rails date from the seventeenth century.

The pre-Reformation stone altar, with diagnostic consecration crosses, was at some time in the past laid into the floor near the present altar. Decorative cloth altar panels, expertly conserved in 2018, are dated 1862. A major recent repair and restoration of the church undertaken in 2007-8 revealed traces of medieval wall painting; it was possible to preserve and display a small surviving example.

In the churchyard, the stone base of the preaching cross survives. The churchyard is maintained by a mixed 'environmentally friendly' regime with areas set aside for

wildflowers but with paths and approaches cut regularly. The entire churchyard is cut back in the autumn. This management is undertaken as a cooperative activity between the church and the projects group.

About the Church as People

A regular eucharist service is held at 9.30 am on the first Sunday of the month with various special services such as a New Year Eve service held as appropriate and 'fifth Sunday' services rotated within the four-parishes. Our recently retired vicar, Janet Bone worked tirelessly to develop ties between the parishes and to make the ministry area approach effective. She encouraged four-way meetings and her regular bulletin was styled 'Llanau Grange' to incorporate the names of the parishes.

First Sunday services are generally attended by some 18 communicants. While we recognise that our congregation, in keeping with most, is an aging group, it remains a vigorous and active one. Janet was instrumental in holding youth focussed activities at the Three Villages Hall in part to encourage younger people to become more involved in church activities. We have been delighted to welcome a new family with two young children to our services and will continue to encourage any new arrivals in Llanfihangel to join in community activities.

A notable recent innovation has been a monthly community breakfast held in the Hall with volunteer 'chefs' and 'front of house' staff provided by the parishes. These well-attended and highly successful fund raisers have unfortunately been suspended during the pandemic period.

Services at St. Michael's are 'low church' and have a very Ecumenical feel as regular members of the congregation come not only from Church in Wales backgrounds but also Methodist, Baptist, Roman Catholic, and Russian Orthodox traditions. We stress that all are welcome at St. Michael's.

A particularly positive recent development has been the growing interaction within the four-churches group. We have become used to meeting and working in unison on a range of issues. We think it is particularly important that this well integrated approach is sustained and developed in future. This issue and the impact on services and revenue by the pandemic will be discussed further below.

About the Church and the Community

As would be expected, St. Michael's holds weddings, baptisms and funerals at various times. Home communion has been attempted in the past and this as well as other functions should be facilitated by the recent appointment of 'eucharistic ministers' within each parish.

As has been explained above, generating a sense of community is a prime objective of both the church and the projects group. The close cooperation between the two, aided

by overlapping memberships, is a strength of the community and one which we fully expect to continue.

The Context for Ministry

There is a strong and active lay team in the church who care for the fabric of the building and also ensure that preparation for services is done.

St. Michael's is fortunate to have been bequeathed Rock Cottage. Rents from the property have been beneficial in providing funds to cover the ministry share which has always been paid on time and in full.

It should be noted that, while a tenant is now in place, that has not been the case for the whole of this year and major repairs were undertaken when the cottage was vacant.

Conclusion

We feel strongly that timely appointment of a new Priest is of the utmost importance. We understand that they will require our full support and are anxious to provide it.