



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

For Your Prayers

Next Week: Election of the Archbishop of Wales (6-8 Dec)



On Monday, 6th December, the Electoral College will meet inside Holy Trinity Church in Llandrindod Wells to choose the 14th Archbishop of Wales.

This election follows the retirement of the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, John Davies, who held the office of Archbishop of Wales for four years. His successor will be chosen from among the serving Welsh diocesan bishops – the Bishop of Bangor, Andy John, the Bishop of St Asaph, Gregory Cameron, the Bishop of St Davids, Joanna Penberthy, the Bishop of Llandaff, June Osborne, the Bishop of Monmouth, Cherry Vann, and the newly appointed Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, John Lomas. The College may take up to three days to elect an Archbishop. If it fails to do so within this time, the decision passes to the Bench of Bishops.

You can find out more about the Welsh Diocesan Bishop's at: <https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/bishops/>

Please hold the Electoral College and all our bishops in your prayers next week; as they work to elect our new Archbishop.



News



Communion in Both Kinds

As Christmas approaches, the bishops are very mindful that Anglican practice and teaching is that “the cup of the Lord is not to be denied to lay people” (Article XXX). We therefore regularly review the current prohibition on sharing the common cup, which has been imposed for severely urgent health reasons only, and at first, at the direction of the Welsh Government. We recently gave permission for communion in both kinds by intinction, where the administration was by the priest or minister of communion alone, but we are aware that this is not really the best of solutions.

However, we do not feel that the current health situation allows the restoration of the common cup, and we continue to direct that the use of individual communion cups is not permitted. This is for reasons of reverent disposal after Communion as much as any other reason, but we are persuaded that the introduction of individual cups would require a change to canon law at present.

We therefore ask you to bear with us in the current discipline. We undertake to review this once again in the new year.

The Bishop of Bangor, Andy John
The Bishop of St Asaph, Gregory Cameron
The Bishop of St Davids, Joanna Penberthy
The Bishop of Llandaff, June Osborne
The Bishop of Monmouth, Cherry Vann



Christian Aid Christmas Appeal - South Sudan facing climate chaos

With COP26 turning out to be a mixed bag of results – some good, some definitely not – Christian Aid will continue to press the government on this vital issue. In particular, securing adequate support for those vulnerable countries facing the worst of the loss and damage caused by the climate emergency is a key demand.

Through its partners, Christian Aid itself continues its work in some of the world's poorest communities, standing with them as they fight the effects of climate change. One such example is highlighted in Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal this year. In South Sudan – also the focus of the Church in Wales's Centenary Appeal – communities are struggling with droughts and flash floods.



One effect of this erratic weather pattern is that drinking water can be severely affected. For a mother like Adut, pictured, this meant having to face impossible choices. Would she risk the health of her children with dirty water, or face not giving them any water at all?

Adut's life was changed when Support for Peace and Education Development Program – Christian Aid's local partner – constructed a bore hole in her village. Through using a hand pump, Adut and her neighbours now have access to reliable and clean water. It's the kind of intervention that changes lives in a radical way.

As climate change continues to cause havoc and make extreme poverty even worse, such programs are a vital contribution to helping the most vulnerable communities adapt.

For more information about Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal and how you could help more communities like Adut's, please go to <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal>

Help Needed

Re-engage Community Christmas



Bringing generations together

Community Christmas provides a free online directory of local festive events and activities taking place across the UK, all of which are open to older people who would otherwise be spending Christmas alone.



Community Christmas helps to make sure that older people who might otherwise be on their own have a place to go to celebrate the festive season.

Are you an organisation, group, or individual holding an event between 18 December and 1 January? If so, you can advertise your event on our online directory and we'll make sure that older people get to hear about it.

We also welcome events that are not aimed specifically at older people, as long as they are accessible for an older person. Please visit our website reengage.org.uk/christmas for more details and to sign up.

If you know someone who is 75 or older who may be on their own on Christmas Day, you can tell them about the directory or ask them to call **0800 716 543** and we'll help match them to an event in their local area. (This phone number is for event attendees only.)

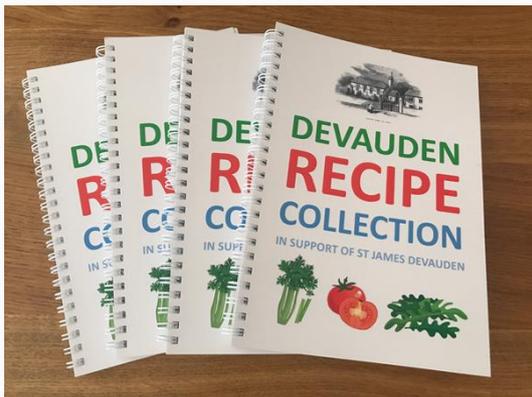
Re-engage, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0DH, 020 7240 0630
Registered charity in England and Wales (1146149) and in Scotland (SC039377)

reengage.org.uk/christmas

Good News Worth Sharing

St James' Devauden Fundraising

As part of the fundraising efforts for St James Devauden, members have held a calendar competition and created a recipe book.



The recipe book raised over £1,200 in sales in the first 3 months it was available, testament to the efforts of the editor, Kathy Marland. 40 families contributed their favourite recipes.

The calendar competition had over 40 entries, from people in Devauden, St Arvans, Itton and Chepstow.



Both are still available at Parkway Stores in St Arvans and Devauden Green Store.

You can also reserve a calendar by emailing devauden.photos@gmail.com



Ecclesiastical will be donating £1000 to 10 charities every weekday between the 6th and 21st of December with nominations open until midnight the day before each draw.

Find out more and nominate your church [here](#).

Training and Events

Last Chance to Book: Hearing God in Advent and Christmas – All Welcome!



Tomorrow

Saturday December 4th 2021

10am to 3.30pm

St Mark's, Gold Tops, Newport, NP20 4PH

Although this day is part of the Licensed Lay Ministers Annual Programme, we are pleased to be able to open up this day for anyone who wishes to attend. This is an opportunity to be together, to think of ideas for the future and to enjoy Eucharist together.

The day will include some biblical reflections with Revd Professor Jeremy Duff

(Principal of St Padarn's Institute), some time for quiet reflections, and a Eucharist led by Bishop Cherry.

There is no cost but all attendees will need to bring along a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

We hope you'll be able to take some time in your busy December to join us for some important Advent reflection.

If you wish to attend, please contact Archdeacon Ian

Rees: archdeacon.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk

A Nativity Encounter – 22nd December



Revd Mandy East of the Diocesan Healing Wholeness and Reconciliation Group is leading an Advent guided reflection on **Wednesday 22nd December at 7pm**. This guided reflection is approximately 1 hour in length and will be held via Zoom.

We invite you to take some time and space for prayer, reflection, and peace during this holy season of anticipation and hope.

Book a place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/guided-reflection-a-nativity-encounter-registration-222023687827>

Training for Intercessors

The Cathedral Dean, Very Revd Ian Black, will be leading a training evening on Tuesday 1st February at 7.15pm in the Cathedral on leading intercessions in church. It is open to both those who currently exercise this ministry and anyone who would like to start leading these.

During the evening we will reflect on what it is we are doing and what we are not, look at some resources available to help and explore some pointers. There will be a small bookstall with some resources to buy. Dean Ian has published a number of books of intercessions and prayers, which are used widely.

Further details in the New Year. If there are any who would prefer a session during the day or at a weekend, please let Ian know at the Cathedral and if there is sufficient interest he will look at some dates

– dean@newportcathedral.org.uk

2022 Festival of Prayer - 9th July 2022

Bookings are now open for the 2022 Festival of Prayer. A day of varied and stimulating lectures, discussions and different opportunities for prayer. Participants will have the opportunity to select 3 workshops to attend out of the 19 topics available.



The day also includes a welcome address Bishop Cherry. To find out more or book your place: <https://festivalofprayer.live/>

Services and Resources

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

Esgobaeth Mynwy Gwasanaethau Cymraeg Tachwedd 2021

Rhagfyr / December 14th

Tuesday / Dydd Mawrth

10.30am / y.b., St John Maindee
Ewcharist: Adfent / Eucharist: Advent

You may notice we are starting to add some more Welsh words and phrases to our diocesan communications!

Staff in the diocese office will soon be answering the phone with a 'Bore da' or ending an email with 'cofion cynnes' as we continue our journey to become a bilingual diocese.

Welsh language services that are held regularly across our diocese are a great way to embrace the Welsh identity of our diocese.

The Lectio for Families app from 24-7 Prayer

Lectio for Families is a free devotional app from 24-7 Prayer that helps families to read the Bible and explore faith through conversation and prayer together.

Lectio For Families is inspired by Lectio Divina: a way of meditating on the Bible that's been used by Christians for centuries. Like 24-7 Prayer's free Lectio 365 app (www.24-7prayer.com/lectio365) for individuals, daily content on Lectio for Families follows an easy-to-remember P.R.A.Y format each day: P – Pause, R- Rejoice and Reflect, A- Ask, Y- Yes to God's ways.

The Lectio for Families app is designed for families with children aged between 7-11 years old, but is likely to be suitable for those who are younger and slightly older too

The app aims to equip families to read the Bible, talk about faith and pray together in an easy way. Content on the Lectio for Families app has been written for families to do together. It includes daily Bible readings and a weekly memory verse, read by children. Each day there are questions to pause and talk about, and creative prompts to pray in new ways.

Find out more at www.24-7prayer.com/lectioforfamilies

Download Lectio for Families on App Store and Google Play.

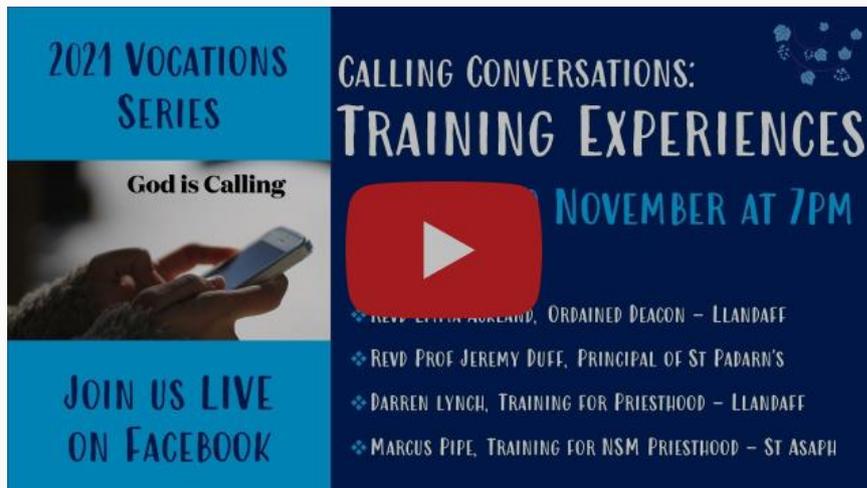
Calling Conversations

Our seventh session in our Calling Conversations series; involving a group of

panellists from different ministries having a conversation about vocations.

This "Calling Conversation" is on training experiences and our panellists include:

- Revd Emma Ackland, Ordained Deacon
- Revd Prof Jeremy Duff, Principal of St Padarn's
- Darren Lynch, Training for Priesthood
- Marcus Pipe, Training for NSM Priesthood



Advent Course 2021



We're pleased to announce the 2021 Diocesan Advent Course is now available. This year's course has been drafted by Archdeacon Ian Rees and Revd Becca Stevens.

'Wait, Trust, Commit' explores the themes of anticipation and hope as we examine our relationship with and commitment to Jesus.

This 3-session course includes prayers, readings, commentary, and questions to enable discussion in your groups.

We hope you will find this a valuable resource.

[DOWNLOAD - ADVENT 2021: WAIT, TRUST, COMMIT \(PDF\)](#)

This course is also available on our [Diocesan website](#).

If you are planning to use this course to lead a group and are open to receiving additional members, please let us know: <https://forms.gle/1fLgdogrcN7cpxcAA>

If you would like to participate in this course, but do not have a local group, please contact the Diocesan Office at admin.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk

Vacancies

Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys & Diocesan Director of Mission

The Bishop of Monmouth is looking for an experienced and creative priest to become the Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys and Diocesan Director of Mission.

She/he will work closely with the Bishop as part of her senior team, and with the churches of the newly established Ministry Areas, to embed the five marks of mission throughout the Diocese and develop transformational team working.

We are looking for someone who can demonstrate that they:

- can work as a collaborative team player as well as a leader
- have experience of helping people of all ages to grow in and share their faith
- are keen and able to foster and support new ways of being Church and help existing congregations to be missionally minded
- understand how to support the development of good team working amongst lay and ordained ministers
- have proven ability to communicate easily and effectively at all levels

The Diocese of Monmouth seeks to be an inclusive diocese and welcomes applications from people regardless of gender, sexuality, disability or ethnicity. Applications from BAME and women are especially welcome.

For an informal conversation please contact:

The Venerable Jonathan Williams, Archdeacon of Newport on 01633 215206 or archdeacon.newport@churchinwales.org.uk

Closing date: Friday 14th January 2022

For more details, including the full profile, click [here](#).

Director of Music - St. Mary's Priory Church, Monmouth

Director of Music required for a large town church with a liberal Anglo-Catholic worship tradition.

RSCM rates apply.

Closing Date for Applications: 15th January, 2022.

For further details and an application pack, please contact revcmhaynes@btinternet.com

Ministry Area Leader - Upper Eastern Valleys

The Upper Eastern Valleys MA are looking for a collaborative and creative priest with a genuine passion for mission, to join them in ministry working on the next steps of a new Ministry Area in the South Wales Valleys working around the towns of Ebbw Vale, Abertillery and Blaenavon and the surrounding areas.

This is a wonderful opportunity to help form the new Ministry Area working with lay and ordained colleagues and also working closely with the new Church Army Centre of Mission which will provide some new and exciting opportunities for mission.

For an informal conversation please contact:

The Venerable Ian Rees, Archdeacon of Monmouth on

[07983 684151](tel:07983684151) or archdeacon.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk

Closing Date: Friday 10th December

For more details, including the Ministry Area profile, click [here](#).

Team Vicar - Mynydd Bedwellte Ministry Area

Mynydd Bedwellte MA are looking for an enthusiastic and creative priest to join them in a new Ministry Area in the South Wales valleys, mainly focused on the towns and villages of Bedwellty, New Tredegar and Aberbargoed.

This is a great opportunity to be part of a developing ministry team and work collaboratively across a diverse area. They want you to help build up the local church in its worshipping and spiritual life and be rooted in mission and community ministry.

For an informal conversation please contact:
The Revd Matt Davis, Ministry Area Leader on
[07800 750259](tel:07800750259) or mattdavisciw@gmail.com

Closing Date: Friday 10th December

For more details, including the Ministry Area profile, click [here](#).

Team Vicar - Netherwent Ministry Area

Netherwent MA are looking for a collaborative, caring and creative priest with a genuine passion for working with others and for mission to join them as they form a new Ministry Area to serve the communities of this beautiful corner of South-East Wales.

Are you someone who:

- Has a strong faith and a heart for community, for mission and for nurturing disciples?

- Understands and would like to work with rural communities?
- Is able to develop good relationships with people of all ages including schools, young people and their families?
- Is a team player and has the ability to motivate and inspire others?

If so... they would very much like to hear from you.

For an informal conversation please contact:

The Revd Canon Jeremy Harris, Ministry Area Leader on

[01633 882551](tel:01633882551) or jeremydharris@hotmail.co.uk

Closing Date: Friday 10th December

For more details, including the Ministry Area profile, click [here](#).