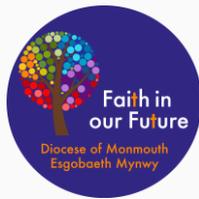




This email has been sent to all Clergy, PTOs, Churchwardens, Secretaries, Treasurers and all those on our Friday email list.

News



Another Wonderful Commissioning Service



Another wonderful commissioning service was held at the weekend to create a new Ministry Area for the diocese.

Bishop Cherry led the special service at St Marks Church, Gold Tops in Newport on Sunday (23rd January) to inaugurate Newport North West Ministry Area.

During the service, the Rev Rebecca Stevens was licensed as its Ministry Area Leader. Other members of the Ministry Team - Rev Justin Groves (Team Vicar), Rev Liz Houghton (Assistant Curate), Rev Matthew Sellers (Assistant Curate NSM), John Lipscomb (Lay Minister) – were also licensed. Rev Frances Jones (PTO), Rev Henry Davies (PTO), Rev Christopher Watkins (PTO), wardens Nicky Gibbons and Rachel Mitchell and MA Chair Trevor Newman will also be members of the Ministry Team.

You can watch the service back here,



The next commissioning service will be for East Cardiff Ministry Area on the 30th of January.



Announcement of New Curates and Lay Minister

The Summer is shaping up to be a very special time with the announcement of seven new curates who will be ordained in June and a new lay minister who will be licensed at a special service in July.

Making the announcement, the Rt Revd Cherry Vann, Bishop of Monmouth, said: "It is wonderful to see God continuing to call women and men from our diocese into ordained and licensed lay ministries.

"Each of them will be a great asset to the churches they serve and I very much look forward to working alongside them and supporting them in their various ministries.

Those to be ordained as curates on to the diaconate at St Woolos' Cathedral on Saturday 25 June:

Ruth James (stipendiary) – Islwyn MA (with Revd Mark Owen)

Tina Parry (stipendiary) – East Cardiff MA (with Revd James Henley)

Sarah Rosser (stipendiary) – Heart of Monmouthshire MA (with Revd Kevin Hasler)

Rachel Nelmes (NSM) – Mynydd Bedwellte MA (with Revd Matt Davis)

Dan Damon (NSM(L)) – Monmouth MA (with Rev Tim Dack)

Glen Wilkins (NSM(L)) – Beechwood MA (with Revd Will Ingle-Gillis)

Jan Pain (NSM(L)) – Monmouth MA (with Revd Karen Dack)

Those to be ordained as priests on to the diaconate at St Woolos' Cathedral on Saturday 25 June:

Mandy East, Andrew Nelmes and Karin Pardoe.

Licensing at St Woolos' Cathedral Saturday 2 July:

Hilary Williams – to be licenced as LLM (Reader) in Mountain and Marsh MA

Rev Rebecca Stevens, Diocesan Director of Vocations, said: “It is a blessing to accompany people on their vocational journey and to learn their stories and see God at work in their lives.

“I’m looking forward to June when we will have seven new deacons ordained into the Diocese and three priests. It is also a delight to welcome a new Licensed Lay Minister at a special service in July. I will be holding them, and their families, in prayer over the coming weeks and months.”

Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for your call on our lives and particularly at this time for those you have called to serve your church as ordained and licensed ministers in our diocese. Give them faith and courage and an abiding trust in you; for we ask it in the name of the One who calls us all, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Holocaust Memorial Day is painfully important – Archbishop of Wales



In a world where there is still so much persecution and intolerance, Holocaust Memorial Day remains as important as ever, says the Archbishop of Wales. In a statement to mark the day on January 27, Archbishop Andrew John acknowledges the pain it brings as a reminder of the atrocities that have been committed. He uses this year's theme of 'One Day' to describe what the event means.

His full statement follows.

A virtual ceremony of 2022 Holocaust Memorial Day Wales commemoration will be broadcast on January 27 at 11am from Cardiff City Hall. The multifaith commemoration will be hosted by First Minister Mark Drakeford, Huw Thomas, Leader of Cardiff Council and led by the Revd Canon Stewart Lisk. You can join in at www.youtube.com/cardiffcouncil.

The UK Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 will be streamed online on Thursday 27 January at 7pm. Register here:

[Holocaust Memorial Day Trust | UK Holocaust Memorial Day: 2022 Ceremony \(hmd.org.uk\)](https://www.hmd.org.uk)

At 8pm, households across the UK are invited to "Light The Darkness" by lighting candles and putting them safely in their windows to remember those who were murdered for who they were and to stand against prejudice and hatred today.

Archbishop of Wales' statement for Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day once again haunts the bleak beginning of our year. It doesn't go away, despite the growing number of years now piling up since the Nazi atrocities took place. Rather the shadow it casts grows longer, reaching out further into the recesses of our consciences.

Painful as it is, each year it becomes more important to mark this 'one day' – to stand publicly alongside those who suffered as a consequence of the Holocaust and genocides since and all the many victims of persecution, prejudice, intolerance and terrorism who still suffer today.

It is our 'one day' to reflect on the insidiousness of hatred and the cruelty humanity is capable of, to repent of it and to watch out for it. It is also our 'one day' to remember acts of self-sacrifice and heroism which so often emerge from great suffering. It is our 'one day' to pledge ourselves to a better world where there is no room for discrimination, exclusion and hatred.

As Christians and people of faith, we believe God stands with us in our suffering and loves each of us as we are, as He made us. That gives us hope and courage as we once again mark this 'one day' and face the rest of our days.

Holocaust Memorial Day is neither an easy nor a comfortable day but until the world is one where all people are free from hate it remains as essential and as important as ever.



Diocesan vision workshop

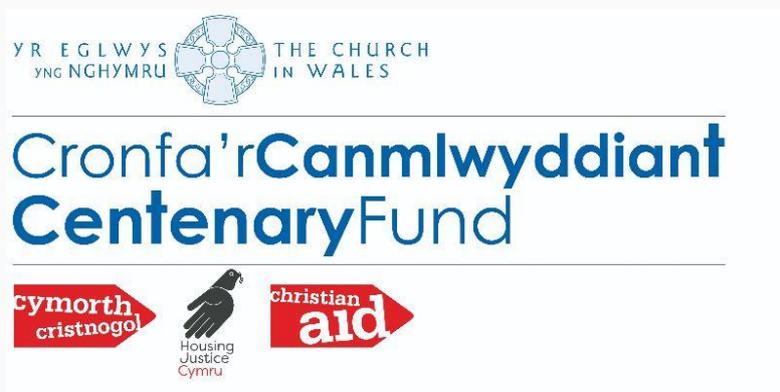
Following a successful session at the Diocesan Conference last October, we are now looking to draw together individuals from across the dioceses to work in small groups to help deliver our diocesan vision, with each group focusing on one of our diocesan themes. These themes are -

- Climate Change
- Social Justice
- Stewardship
- Discipleship
- Equality and Diversity

A half-day morning session is being arranged for Saturday 19th March 2022 hosted by Bishop Cherry and has provisionally been booked in St Teilo's High School between 9am and 1pm. Invitations have already gone out to all members of Standing Committee, as well as individuals from other diocesan committees and groups.

If you feel that you have something to contribute to one of these groups and would like to be part of drawing up our diocesan vision, then please contact zoeward@churchinwales.org.uk by Thursday 10th February.

Watch this space for regular updates through our Midweek Mailing on the progress of forming our diocesan vision which will launch at our Diocesan Conference in October 2022.



Centenary Fund Reaches Half its Target

A fund launched by the Church in Wales to mark its Centenary in 2020 has reached half its target in just over two years.

The Centenary Fund was launched in 2019 with the aim of raising £100,000 over five years for two charity projects – one at home and one overseas. With nearly £50,000 raised the Fund is now being wound up, due to the adverse impact of the Covid pandemic on church fundraising.

The projects, one run by the Christian housing charity, Housing Justice Cymru, and one run by Christian Aid, have received nearly £25,000 each from the Fund to help people in need. The Housing Justice Cymru project was originally to support night shelters for homeless people. However, these were stopped due to the pandemic with the focus instead turning to securing tenancies for vulnerable people. The work undertaken by Christian Aid's partner in South Sudan and supported by the Fund, has also changed substantially.

The Archbishop of Wales, Andrew John, thanked all those who had donated to the Fund so generously.

He said, "We are immensely pleased to have raised almost half the sum promised and are very grateful to all who contributed. A substantial amount of money has been given to the two charities, directly benefiting those in need at home and in South Sudan. That is a great achievement in such a short time.

“Unfortunately, the pandemic has taken its toll on all charities as social restrictions and church closures have made fundraising very difficult. While the original projects sponsored by the Fund have changed, we will continue to work closely with both Housing Justice Cymru and Christian Aid to support them in their important work.”

Bonnie Williams, director of Housing Justice Cymru, said, “We are hugely grateful for the financial donations we have received to date, via the Church in Wales Centenary fund. They have enabled us to help people experiencing homelessness to find and sustain homes across Wales. We fully understand the impact the pandemic has had on the Church and on fundraising, and we remain thankful for the significant amount we have received. As we move forward, we look forward to finding new ways of working together to support vulnerable people in our communities across Wales.”

Mari McNeill, head of Christian Aid Wales, said, “That the Fund has managed to raise half its target despite so many challenges over the past two years, is testimony to the passion and commitment the Church in Wales has towards the most vulnerable in the world. The Covid pandemic has hit countries like South Sudan too, where ongoing conflict and the climate crisis have compounded issues of extreme poverty. Against this challenging backdrop the Centenary Fund has supported vital peacebuilding work on the ground reaching men, women, young people and clergy across several provinces. Although this appeal ends, we express our biggest thanks to everyone in the Church in Wales for their unwavering commitment to Christian Aid’s work, and we look forward to continuing to work in close partnership as we stand together for dignity, equality and justice in a world disfigured by poverty.”

Third Sector Resilience Fund for Wales

Charities and voluntary organisations in Wales are facing existing and new challenges as they deal with the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Support is available through Phase 3 of the Third sector resilience fund for Wales (TSRF) which is part of the £2.4m of support announced by Welsh Government. Grant funding of up to £50,000 is available to help voluntary organisations with the costs of surviving the COVID-19 pandemic and / or invest in new or additional activity which will generate a return beyond the period of funding.

Churches can apply for funding to be used to support 'outreach' type activities but not for what might be termed 'worship'.

Expressions of Interest need to be submitted by the end of January.

More information, including eligibility guidance and how to apply, is available here: <https://wcva.cymru/funding/social-investment-cymru/third-sector-resilience-fund-for-wales/>

If you are interested in other fundraising opportunities there's lots of information and advice on [Ecclesiastical's Fundraising Hub](#).

Libby can also offer advice and support and can be contacted at libbymorgan-owen@churchinwales.org.uk or 07508 801511.



Allchurches Trust Mental Health Survey

As the recipient of an Allchurches Trust General grant we have been invited to complete a brief survey to help Allchurches Trust to better understand how they can strengthen the ability of the Christian community in the UK and Ireland to respond more effectively to increased mental health needs, especially those arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The survey can be accessed by clicking [here](#), and should only take a few minutes to complete, as it has been designed to ensure that only questions of relevance are displayed, dependent on the answers you provide at each stage.

The survey will be of greatest relevance to:

- Local churches and charities providing, or planning to provide, support or social groups that aim to promote better mental health and wellbeing in local communities
- Organisations with an established mental health ministry or service run on a professional, qualified basis (e.g. a counselling service), providing support for those experiencing acute mental health difficulties

- Organisations which help to train, equip and resource churches and communities in better mental health awareness and mental health first aid, and in establishing mental health and wellbeing support groups or similar provision
- Organisations which provide personal mental health and wellbeing support for clergy and other key church leaders/workers

However, all responses will be very welcome, whether or not your church, charity or organisation provides one or more of the services listed above.

The survey should not take long to complete, but if you need to you can return to the survey using the same link as it will automatically save your response. If you have any questions, please e-mail us at atl@allchurches.co.uk and we will respond as soon as we can.

Thank you in advance for responding to the survey, and helping Allchurches Trust to understand how they can help churches and Christian charities respond to the significant mental health challenges in our society at this time.

Good News Worth Sharing

The Annette Knight Award for Church History



Congratulations to Revd Andrew Nelmes on being awarded The Annette Knight Award for Church History at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David!

It was awarded for the Masters dissertation he completed while he was training for ordination.

Andrew said, "I was pleased to receive this award. Initially I thought it might be a scam, however, after contacting my supervisor Dr Timothy Baylor, he confirmed that 'The

Annette Knight Prize for Church History' is legitimate."

"I enjoyed researching and writing up this dissertation. 'To what extent is John Calvin's theology of sorrow beneficial to inform the pastoral care of the bereaved?' I am grateful to the former Archdeacon Ambrose Mason who authorized my return to Lampeter as a distance learning student and to St Padarn's for being accommodating in allowing this."

Help Needed

Wanted: Room for a Life-Size Nativity Set



The future of a life performance of the Christmas story in Cardiff city centre is in doubt because volunteers are struggling to find storage space for their life-size set and props.

Watching the "Christmas - The Story" has become something of a tradition for shoppers over the past ten years in the three weeks running up to Christmas. Performed daily on a loop by volunteers and featuring life donkeys, the 20-minute free and bilingual show took the nativity story to thousands of people. It also proved a highly successful as a free school trip. It began in 2010 outside Tabernacl Chapel in the Hayes, with the idea subsequently being taken up by churches in Aberdare, Carmarthen, Port Talbot, Barry and Bridgend.

The impact of the Covid pandemic, however, resulted in the Cardiff show being put on hold, replaced by a puppet nativity (along with the donkeys) for schools for the past two Christmases.

Now the volunteers are facing another challenge. The farm barn in Mid Wales where the show's high quality scenery and props were stored out of season is

being sold and new storage is urgently needed. Without it the equipment will have to be scrapped or given, free of charge, to volunteers in another town for them to continue with the show.

Organiser, Sally Humble-Jackson, says, “‘Christmas - The Story’ brings to life the 2,000 year-old nativity story, using adult actors, professional costumes and staging, plus some unique and exquisite puppets. It has been a creative piece of life theatre right in the heart of our capital city.

“Based in a city we have grappled with storage issues from the outset. We are trying to resolve them, but unless we pay for storage – around £1,500-£2,000 per year – money which we don’t have and which would be near impossible to raise in the current situation – we will have to take all our quality stuff to the tip as scrap.

“There are two alternatives. Firstly, someone, somewhere, will be able to offer us free (or very low-cost) storage – if only for a few months to buy us time (more than a garage-full, a little less than a container-load.) Or Christians elsewhere will take it all – as a free gift – and will replicate the project in their own town-centre church building, gathering volunteers from across the denominations to step into our fabulous costumes. We would provide soundtracks, posters, advice and guidance on every aspect.”

Anyone who is able to help with storage or who would like to have the equipment, should contact Sally at sally_humble_jackson@hotmail.co.uk
For more information about Christmas – The Story visit www.the-story.org.uk and www.y-stori.org.uk or connect on Facebook @ChristmasTheStory.

Training and Events

Training for Intercessors

The Cathedral Dean, Ian Black, is offering training for those who lead intercessions and any who would like to start leading these. One session will be on Tuesday 1st February at 7.15pm and another on Wednesday 2nd February at 2.00pm: both in the Cathedral in Newport. If you are interested please email deanofnewport@churchinwales.org.uk so that he knows how many to expect.

Dean Ian has written three books of prayers, which are widely used.

During the sessions we will reflect on what it is we are doing and what we are not, look at some resources available to help – a stall will be available from the Cathedral Shop.

Vocations Conference - 5th February

5TH FEBRUARY
10AM - 12.30PM

God is Calling

JOIN US LIVE ON ZOOM
REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE

VOCATIONS CONFERENCE

OPENING PRAYERS LED BY BISHOP CHERRY VANN

OUR PANEL:

- ❖ REVD JEREMY DUFF ON ORDAINED MINISTRY
- ❖ REVD ALAN TYLER ON CHAPLAINCY
- ❖ MANDY BAYTON ON LAY MINISTRY
- ❖ BROTHER OSWIN ON MONASTIC VOCATIONS
- ❖ SISTER ELIZABETH ON MONASTIC VOCATIONS
- ❖ SISTER JOANNA ON MONASTIC VOCATIONS

A Vocations Conference to explore ordained, lay, chaplaincy and monastic vocations. We will have talks from various speakers; Revd Jeremy Duff, Revd Alan Tyler, Mandy Bayton, Br Oswin, Sister Elizabeth and Sister Joanna.

There will also be time to go into breakout rooms to have a conversation with our panellists about their discernment and individual journeys.

Bishop Cherry Vann will open the morning with prayer and there will be time for reflection at the end of the morning.

All are welcome to attend!

Book a place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/vocations-conference-tickets-224046317567>

VOCATIONS CONFERENCE

God is Calling



5TH FEBRUARY 2022
10AM-12.30PM

OPENING PRAYERS LED BY
BISHOP CHERRY VANN

OUR PANEL:



REVD JEREMY DUFF ON ORDAINED MINISTRY



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MANDY BAYTON ON LAY MINISTRY



BROTHER OSWIN ON MONASTIC VOCATIONS



SISTER ELIZABETH ON MONASTIC VOCATIONS



SISTER JOANNA ON MONASTIC VOCATIONS

• JOIN US ON ZOOM •

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE •





Sight Loss Friendly Church Taster Sessions

Every six minutes someone in the UK starts losing their sight.

Christian charity Torch Trust are pleased to announce further dates of our popular Tasters.

These 30 minutes zoom sessions will give you the opportunity to learn about the benefits of being a Sight Loss Friendly Church as well as meeting the SLFC team and an opportunity to ask questions.

Tasters are easy to sign up to and held on the following dates:

Thursday 10th February 2pm

Thursday 17th February 7pm

Monday 14th March 2pm

Wednesday 23rd March 2pm

To book your place visit <https://torchtrust.org/sight-loss-friendly-church/taster/>



Every 6 minutes,
someone in the UK starts
to lose their sight.*



 **What does it mean to be a
Sight Loss Friendly Church?**
Join a free, 30-minute online Taster session to find out more.

From **TORCH TRUST**
The Torch Trust for the Blind. A company limited by Guarantee.
Registered in England number: 4616526 Registered Charity number: 1095904

*RNIB

Diocesan Service for Healing, Wholeness and Reconciliation



**HEALING
WHOLENESS
RECONCILIATION**

**Diocesan Service for
Healing, Wholeness
& Reconciliation**

*Led by Fr David Matthews
Reflection by Bishop Cherry*

**Tuesday 15th February
at 7.30pm via Zoom**

• Register on Eventbrite • 

The Diocesan group for Healing Wholeness and Reconciliation invites you to join us for an online service on **Tuesday 15th February at 7.30pm** led by Fr David Matthews; with a reflection by Bishop Cherry.

Healing and reconciliation lie at the heart of our Christian faith.

Whilst anointing and the laying on of hands will not be possible, there will be an opportunity for each person present to be prayed for in small break-out rooms as part of the service.

This is an invitation for us to draw nearer to Christ and open ourselves to the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Register [here](#).



Faith in the Future Webinars

National Churches Trust and the Welsh Historic Places of Worship Forum are holding their next series of webinars over February and March.

These will take place on:

15th February: Building connections and engaging communities

8th March: Innovative ways to raise funds and income

29th March: Rising to the climate change challenge

Each event starts at 1.30pm for about two hours and will involve hearing from interesting case studies with some presentations from key speakers.

Book your place [here](#).



Open Table Network

We are inviting anyone who is interested in establishing a worshipping community that is part of the [Open Table Network](#) (OTN) to a meeting on February 19th at 2pm at St Christopher's Chepstow. OTN is a growing partnership of worshipping communities which welcome and affirm people who are LGBTQIA+. The Network Co-ordinator, Keiran Bohan, will be with us to talk about OTN and to discuss with us the possibilities of starting up an OT worshipping community within our diocese.

The meeting is for clergy and laity alike. We can host 30 people so if you would like to come, please contact Bishop Cherry's PA (01633 263510, monbishpa@churchinwales.org.uk) to register your interest. The address is 2 Pembroke Road, Bulwark, Chepstow, NP16 5AF. There is limited parking at St Christopher's so car sharing is encouraged where possible.

SAVE THE DATE

*Week of
Guided Prayer*

27th March – 2nd April



Services and Resources

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

Esgobaeth Mynwy Gwasanaethau Cymraeg Chwefror 2022

Chwefror / February 8th

Tuesday / Dydd Mawrth

7pm / y.p.

Eglwys Santes Fair, Magwyr, NP26 3EP / St Mary's Church, Magor, NP26 3EP

Ewcharist / Eucharist

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.

Vacancies

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 11th February

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