

# TEAM VICAR

*Parish Profile*

**MYNYDD  
BEDWELLTE**

*Ministry Area*

Mynydd Bedwellte



Ministry Area

# From the Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys

## The Venerable Stella Bailey

Thank you for taking the time to explore this ministry opportunity as a Team Vicar in the Mynydd Bedwellte Ministry Area. All of our churches in the Diocese of Monmouth are united in beneficed groups with a Ministry Area Leader (Rector), supported by a lay and ordained team to bring about the flourishing of Gods Kingdom. By working in teams we seek to enjoy the benefits of not replicating administration and by supporting each other across worshipping communities.

The Mynydd Bedwellte team is lead by Matt Davis who brings an energy and passion which supportively pushes people beyond their limited horizon. With a background in pioneering ministry he is developing an ethos across the group, built upon process evangelism, to create a mixed economy of church. As a diocese we recognise and support these fresh shoots of growth and are significantly investing into the formation of a Hub Church to be launched in Tredegar. This will bring an expanded staff team and experience into the Ministry Area which will have a cascading effect on the culture across all churches.

We are seeking a priest as Team Vicar with an understanding on how you develop community links and relationships in an area which is impacted by the issues of poverty and deprivation. A priest who has a heart to walk alongside people in their journey of faith and the messiness of life, encouraging them to be a visible presence of Gods love in their community.

There is great potential in this ministry area for the person who is able to have a vision for the melody of Gods future and the ability to take risks in stepping out in faith to dance to that melody. If this is you, please do be in contact for further conversations and we pray for you in your continued discernment.

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Mynydd Bedwellte Ministry area! Our group of six churches is in the beautiful South Wales valleys.

We are currently seeking a team vicar to join us and bring their experience and talents to help us fulfil our potential as a ministry area. We are looking for someone who is passionate about the community they will live in and appreciates the church's liturgical, eucharistic, and spiritual life. The ideal candidate will help the churches live their inclusive worshipping life and support and encourage new missional and pioneering initiatives.

As part of our team, you will be willing to invest your time and talents in build teams and support the ministry area. We are searching for someone who will be an integral member of the ministry area team, with pastoral responsibility for St Sannan's and St Dingat's. There is a great opportunity to explore the potential for missional activities with our church and local communities.

- St. Sannans: an important local heritage site at our fingertips, we can build on open-day events and the love of the church by the local community and use the attractive church grounds to create an excellent space for nature and community resources.

- St. Dingats: is in the process of expanding the kitchen and toilet facilities. Once completed, there is an excellent vision for the space, offering the possibility of a café and community activities from toddler groups to dementia cafes. The reordering of the church provides numerous options for exploring pioneering worshipping communities.

As a ministry area, we have recently become a charity and united our finances, and are working to apply our vision statement to our daily life and work. Alongside this we have many exciting initiatives including a large grant to plant a new hub church in our ministry area based in Tredegar.

This position comes with some challenges surrounding poverty and deprivation common in this post-industrial area. However, there is a strong sense of community, and we are committed to working together to tackle these issues. You will find a warm welcome from the people here, and we look forward to getting to know the right person well. We hope that you will prayerfully consider this role and, if it is right for you, follow God's call to join us in this unique and beautiful part of Wales.

Rev'd Matt Davis  
Ministry Area Leader

# The Person

- Loves people from all walks of life and can help develop a culture which will help the church family to thrive.
- Appreciates and has a deep understanding of liturgical worship and can bring out the best within all our settings.
- Engages with the community around them both within the church and out, listening well and supporting both old and new endeavors.
- An excellent leader who can nurture the gifts of those inside the congregation and community.
- Can facilitate and encourage people into action.
- A good manager of time, projects, and people.
- Has a driving license and access to a car to drive across the Ministry Area.
- Has excellent communication skills and a good use of ICT
- A good sense of humor

# OUR MINISTRY AREA

## Ministry Team

The ministry area team is run by the Ministry Area Leader (Rev'd Matt Davis) as well as having an associate priest (Rev'd Elizabeth Jones), a non-stipendiary Curate (Rev'd Rachel Nelmes) and one retired priest (Rev'd Joe Hasler) serving with permission to officiate from the bishop who helps cover services in St Sannan's and St Dingat's.

We meet weekly to discuss issues within the churches, upcoming activities, services, and events as well as to pray and support one another.

The Ministry Area Council handles the main oversight and legal responsibilities as the trustees of the charity. Local decisions and planning are split amongst 3 church councils: St Georges, St Davids and St Pauls and the final one encompasses St Dingats, St Peters and St Sannans.

In line with the diocesan vision, we work as a team ministry with key lay people to make sure we can effectively work together. The two ministry area wardens are Andrea Thomas (vicars warden) & Peter Harrington (peoples warden) and we have a lay chair, Kathy Rist. We are working on enabling more local leaders who will help with the day-to-day management of our places of worship.

## Our Vision

We have adopted the Diocese of Monmouth vision and strategy based on the 5 marks of mission, and made it our own. We use this to guide our discussion on a local and ministry area level.

### Discipleship

In our discipleship, we encourage spiritual growth with prayer and gathering together, empowering people to live out faith in words and action.

### Stewardship

In our stewardship, we are creative and generous in using our God-given resources, gifts, time, money, and buildings to share within our communities. Recognising we are the hands, feet, and voices of our faith wherever we are.

### Caring For Creation

In our caring for creation, we recognise environmental challenges. We look to reduce our impact on the natural world in all we do and look for the best use of our outdoor space. We believe that caring for creation also includes caring for our fellow humans.

### Social Justice

In our Commitment to social justice, we are a catalyst for reducing hardship in our communities, standing with the marginalised and forgotten by society—challenging inequality through our words and actions making our churches safe for all.

### Equality & Diversity

In our Commitment to equality and diversity, we are a church where representation matters, and differences are accepted. We understand all are made in God's image and worthy of love and respect. We aim to make our spaces and gatherings accessible and welcoming for all, empowering all to participate fully.

## OUR LOCATION

Our ministry area covers a wide and diverse area. While we are all traditional, close-knit, working-class, valleys' communities, we have our own unique qualities and strengths. Churches are found in six distinct locales:

Bedwellty has the main features of the church and the pub there are a few houses which are found surrounding these places, but it is really a beautiful haven away from the more built-up areas of Aberbargoed and New Tredegar.

New Tredegar is made-up of the areas of Phillipstown, Tirphil, Brithdir, Elliot's Town, inc. Cwm, Tanlan and Jubilee. Although New Tredegar is a beautiful area, parts of Tirphil and Phillipstown are reported to be in the top 4% of the most deprived communities in Wales.

The town has 2 primary schools, Medical Centre, mining museum called Winding House, White Rose Information Resource Centre, Leisure Centre, Allotments, and a train station with regular trains into Cardiff. The population is around 5,000. Several Church members are involved in community action such as Foodbank and Lunch-club.

Tredegar is in the borough of Blaenau Gwent, in Southeast Wales. Situated on the banks of the Sirhowy River, the town can be accessed from the Heads of the Valley Road. The population of the Parish area of Tredegar is just under 16,000 people. It has 5 primary schools and one secondary and has a wide selection of shops and amenities. Built on its iron works and collieries it has a rich industrial history, it is also famous for being the birthplace of Aneurin Bevan, the founder of the National Health Service with the roots of the NHS being found here.

Rhymney Situated at the head of the valley next door to Tredegar has a population of just under 6,000 people. The housing in the area is a mix of traditional terraced houses, some post war social housing as well as some more recently built private housing estates. It has 3 primary schools. 60 percent of the population fits between the 18-60 age group.

Abertysswg is a small village situated in the Rhymney valley just below Rhymney it is a close community. It is home to the Abertysswg Falcons RFC and has a shop and takeaway. It is also home to the relatively newly built Idris Davies school which covers ages 4-16.

# Our Churches



## St. Dingat's Church Profile

St. Dingat's is the Parish Church in the Village of New Tredegar, a former mining town in the Rhymney Valley. The church, built in 1893 on the site of St. Margaret's Church, stands above the Square and behind the Village War Memorial.

The church has beautiful features including stained glass windows, carvings, a bell tower, Garden of Remembrance, and gardens kept tidy by church people. The church has been renovated with the help of grants. And has on going work planned to help bring the building into the future including kitchen and heating renovations.

St Dingat's church has a regular Sunday and weekday Eucharist. Around 12 people attend.

Activities have included:

Messy Church for families, concerts, Christmas/Summer Fayres, and a Lunch Club.

Church people's involvement in worship:

welcoming people, reading, leading prayers, cleaning, managing finances, making coffee, flower arranging and an occasional music group.

Occasional offices - Estimated numbers per year

Weddings: 6 Funerals: 24 Baptism: 6



## St. Sannan's, Bedwellty

The church of St. Sannan's is an ancient centre of worship in the area. It sits high above the Sirhowy and Rhymney valleys, with panoramic views across southeast Wales, and up to Pen Y Fan in the Brecon Beacons.

Its place straddling two valleys, watching over the many villages and towns that make up the local area, is both geographical and spiritual. It is close to the heart of its worshipping community and many local people, who continue to celebrate baptisms and weddings, as well as the lives of their departed loved ones within its welcoming walls. It is very dear to many local people, some of whom volunteer their time to maintain the church yard, and the ancient well just down the lane which has been transformed into a beautiful garden with the potential to become a place of regular worship, pilgrimage, and fellowship.

Worship at St. Sannan's is traditional, cheerful, and often peppered with humor. The congregation are active in reading, praying, cleaning the church, and all the many other tasks that allow the church to flourish.

The worshipping community of St. Sannan's has close bonds with St. Peter's in Aberbargoed, and St. Dingat's in New Tredegar, with members from these three churches often found in one another's congregations, sharing times of fellowship and work together. These times include Christmas carol services, trips away (including past visits to London and the House of Parliament), fetes, church open days on Saturdays and working in the food bank.

Occasional offices - Estimated numbers per year

Weddings: 6 Funerals: 42 Baptism:6



## OUR OTHER CHURCHES

**St George's Tredegar** - Is a traditional Eucharistic community which is looking at ways to engage others in worship and mission. We run midweek activities such as a lunch club, toddler group, Art Club and choir. The main times of meeting are 10am on a Sunday and Wednesday at 10am.



**St David's Rhymney** - The worship here is traditional and Catholic in style. Midweek coffee mornings happen often and the congregation is thinking about how they can engage in mission and ministry in the future expanding on successes like the family church St David's Den. The main times of meeting are 10.30am on a Sunday and 10am on a Thursday.

**St Paul's Abertysswg** - Has a traditional Catholic style of worship. There is also the popular 'soup and pud' midweek gathering which is looking to restart. The main time of meeting are 9.15am on a Sunday.



## Church Evangelism Hub

We have received a large grant from the Church in Wales through a diocese led project to establish a church evangelism hub in St George's Church, Tredegar. It will employ several people to set up a new worshipping community to run alongside our existing congregation and activities and look to grow the church with those under 40. We are excited about this opportunity, and we hope that the resources and knowledge gained from this endeavour can be shared with the ministry area.

## Finances

The finances of the churches have been joined together with a joint bank account but with each church maintaining an accounting pot within it to assess the financial health of each church. The churches finances have been rocky in post covid recovery though plans are in place to remedy this through fundraising and stewardship.

# MINISTRY AREA STRUCTURE

## Ministry Area Council (MAC)

Is the legal representatives of the Ministry Area it receives items of business from the church councils for large spends and building work. As well as receives items from the diocese and Representative Body which need discussion or need passing on.

Over all the MAC sets the vision and direction for the Ministry Area and makes sure we are keeping good governance and working within church and national Law.



**St George's  
Church  
Council**

**St David's &  
St Paul's  
Church  
Council**

**St Dingats  
&  
St Sannans  
Church  
Council**

**Church Hub**

The church councils focus on general running of the individual churches such as maintenance, events and future plans. It also highlights work that needs to go to the MAC this is to enable us to have good oversight and to share ideas and good practise.

### Other groups:

#### Clergy Team

Involved in service planning, pastoral care, matters of worship and praying for you.

#### Finance

Made up of the treasurers to ensure good practise and financial planning

#### Maintenance

We may wish to gather people who are interested in painting our buildings sharing good ideas and help.

#### Safeguarding

This group is led by the safeguarding lead and involves the individual church officers.

# THE WIDER CONTEXT

## Food Bank

Rhymney Valley Foodbank – It was established in 2012 following research undertaken and a critical need for service provision in the Upper Rhymney Valley (URV) communities of Caerphilly County Borough.

The Foodbank has grown considerably over the last 10 years, and we now cover a larger area.

At the start of the global Coronavirus Pandemic in March 2020, the Foodbank moved in its entirety to St Peter's Church, Aberbargoed. St Peter's is now the primary location for our warehouse and the Foodbank operates out of two other community Hubs in different communities across the URV. For operational reasons we have just gone through a process of moving the Minsitry Area boundary to locate St Paters into the neighbouring Isalywn Ministry Area.

We are blessed with a core group of volunteers who supports the Foodbank passionately. We are in the heart of the community and proud to be a beacon of hope and a lifeline to people in most need.

It is under the oversight of the Islywn Ministry Area but works up the Rhymney Valley.

## Making Space Community

Making Space is a community of people from some churches in the Valleys who, together, explore and share the spaces in our lives for worship and celebration of the gifts from God.

We encourage each other to use our skills, energies, and time to serve our neighbourhoods and communities.

We welcome new people to the group.



## Accommodation and Expenses

The current accommodation provided is in Aberbargoed next-door to St Peters Church. It is a relatively new building with four bedrooms, two upstairs bathrooms, ample living area, office and toilet which can be isolated from the rest of the house if needs be, and it has a detached garage next-door to the church.

However, as result of changing the Ministry Area Boundary we are looking to purchase an alternative property in the Ministry Area for you to live in. Do call for more information.



The Diocese cover council tax and maintenance and the Ministry Area will cover the cost of water rates and 25% of heating and lighting, as well as the usual work and travel expenses.

# Role Description Vicar in a Ministry Area

**Purpose:** To support the Bishop as Chief Shepherd, Pastor and Minister of the Diocese, a visible sign serving the Church's unity and continuity in apostolic life, mission, and ministry and to play an appropriate part in the life of the Ministry Area.

**Responsible:** For furthering the mission and ministry of the church as part of the Ministry Team and as a member of the Ministry Area Council.

## Principal tasks & duties (in collaboration and co-operation with others)

### Discipleship

Under the oversight of the Ministry Area Leader to participate in the call and growth of new and existing Disciples through:-

- preaching and teaching the faith through word and action within and beyond the worshipping community
- sharing in God's grace celebrated in the Sacraments
- maintaining a wholesome and energizing pattern of worship accessible to all
- encouraging a sense of corporate belonging and mutual respect and responsibility
- modelling and teaching integrity and service
- empowering the fullest human potential of all people
- Promotion of Christian Stewardship in all its aspects

### Mission and Evangelism

Under the oversight of the Ministry Area Leader and with the Ministry Team to share in mission and evangelism by:

- building up God's people to be missionary communities
- enabling all God's people to bear witness to their faith
- enabling the local church to see itself to be a servant of the wider local community
- inspiring outreach to the poor, the sick and the marginalized
- to seek to address unjust systems and structures in society
- encouraging the development of new ministries and ways of being church
- developing good relationships with other churches and faiths in the area
- building up links with local government, schools, and community groups

## Pastoral Care

Under the oversight of the Ministry Area Leader to work with the ministry team in the provision of pastoral work and care across the Ministry Area, including:

- general pastoral ministry to all people who seek it within the parish
- baptisms and preparation for all those involved
- ministry to the sick and dying
- funerals and ministry to the bereaved
- preparation and care for those preparing for marriage and conducting marriage services
- care of any in particular need of support and spiritual counsel and referral of those for whom particular care is needed
- seeking out those who have strayed from the faith that they may be restored

## Strategic Development

With the Ministry Area Council and other groups to share in the strategic development of the Ministry Area taking into account the:

- call of God to serve the world as servants of Christ
- opportunities to serve the local community
- needs of the congregations in the Ministry Area
- needs of the wider church including the Diocese and Province
- exercise of a prophetic heart and mind
- discerning opportunities to establish new Christian communities
- maintaining engagement in support of the poor, marginalized and victims of injustice

## Administration

Under the oversight of the Ministry Area Leader and with the churchwardens and other officers to assist in the effective administration of the Ministry Area, including:

- compliance with the law of the land and church regulations particularly in relation to the following: – Marriages and deaths – Child protection – Financial accountability – Health and Safety
- maintenance of necessary records of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, and other services (where appropriate)
- supporting the work of the electoral roll officer
- encouraging, supporting, and participating in the administrative business of the Ministry Area Council and other groups and committees including: – Appointments – Organizing meetings – Maintenance of accounts – Inventory of furniture, fittings and artefacts – Care of Church buildings

# CONTACT

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