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# Esgobaeth Mynwy



## Diocese of Monmouth

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

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From all at the diocesan office

*Merry Christmas*



Please be aware that the diocesan office will be closed from 5pm Friday 22nd December to 9am Thursday 4th January 2024. We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

**Nadolig Llawn!**

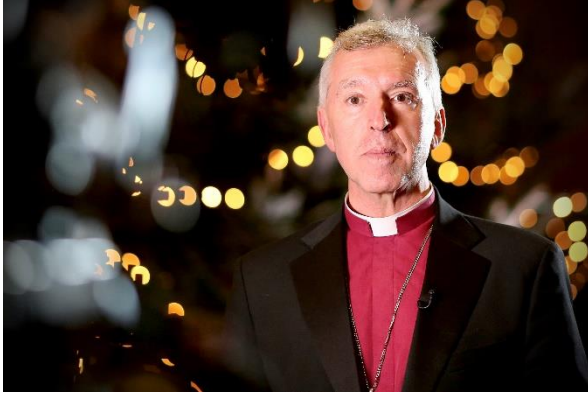
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## News

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### **Pray for Peace this Christmas** Joint message from Wales' Christian leaders

Christian leaders, representing churches and chapels across Wales, are joining together to invite people to pray for peace this Christmas.



The Anglican Archbishop of Wales, Andrew John, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cardiff and Bishop of Menevia, Mark O'Toole, and the Moderator of the Free Church Council of Wales, Simon Walkling, are issuing a joint message which acknowledges the tensions and tragedies in the world today and invites people to church to reflect and pray for peace.

*They said, "We need peace in our world. We may want to be free of tension in our families. We may long for five minutes of peace for ourselves in all the Christmas preparations. Why not come to church to find space to reflect and make time to pray for peace this Christmas? We are praying for joy and hope for us all."*

To read the full message, please download the PDF here: [Joint Christmas Message](#)

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## Announcement

Bishop Cherry is delighted to announce that following an application and interview, the Revd Sally Ingle-Gillis has been appointed as the Ministry Area Leader for the Heart of Monmouthshire. Prior to serving as a vicar in this ministry area, Sally was the Ministry Area Leader for the Usk group, having served a curacy in the Wentwood group of churches.

Bishop Cherry said: *"I am delighted that Sally has accepted the offer of this post. The interview panel was impressed with her leadership qualities and her vision for the ministry area. She has the necessary gifts and passion to build on the firm foundations that Kevin has left and to lead the*



*congregations and ministry team into a new chapter in their life and witness together."*

The licensing service will be held in Raglan on Sunday January 14th at 4pm.

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## Advent Reflections - Week 4

The Diocesan Prayer and Spirituality Group thank you for joining them on their journey through Advent, and hope these reflections have been helpful in preparing you for Christmas.

The final week's Advent reflection comes from Bishop Cherry.





## News from Tredegar Park MA

For a number of years St Basil's Bassaleg and St John's Rogerstone have collected toys and presents to give to Raven House Trust to be distributed to those in need.

This year the other churches in Tredegar Park MA joined, as did many from the community. Over 350 gifts were taken to Raven House Trust to help make Christmas a little brighter! A big thank you to all who gave so generously.



# For Your Prayers

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## **Fr Jeremy Dowding**

We were saddened to hear of the death of Fr Jeremy Dowding. Fr Jeremy was brought up at Holy Trinity, Abergavenny in the days when it was fairly 'high church'. He was a server, played the organ and served as Churchwarden there before heading off to train for the priesthood at St Stephen's House, Oxford. He returned to be curate of St Stephen's Newport and then St Mary's Risca before leaving the diocese for his incumbencies.

Retiring in 2019 and living in Crickhowell, Fr Jeremy served both this diocese and the diocese of Swansea and Brecon with PTO. He helped out in Abergavenny right up until just before he was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. His ministry was greatly appreciated in the churches there. Before entering the ministry, Fr Jeremy was a psychiatric nurse at Pen-y-Fal Hospital in Abergavenny. Please do remember his wife Diane and sons Tom and Christopher in your prayers.

## **Revd Robert Prescott**

We are also saddened to announce the death of Revd Robert Prescott SSC. Fr Robert served as curate of Abertillery from 1995 to 1999 and Vicar of Llanhilleth from 1999 until his retirement in 2003. We give thanks for his ministry and pray for his family in their loss. His funeral will be at 2pm on Friday 5th January at St Paul's Church, Cwmtillery.

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# Training and Events

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**Quiet Days at Tymawr Convent 2024**

The Society of the Sacred Cross invites you to join them for their Quiet Days in 2024, with an exciting variety of topics and speakers.

Each Quiet Day begins at 10am with coffee (Terce at 9.30am is optional), followed by the speaker for the day and time for rest and prayer before the midday Eucharist. After a 'bring your own' lunch, the speaker will lead the afternoon session which will end with Vespers at 4pm.

There is no charge for the day but donations are welcome. Please book your place for each Quiet Day by emailing [SSCchaplain@gmail.com](mailto:SSCchaplain@gmail.com) or by post to The Chaplain, Tymawr Convent, Lydart, Monmouth, NP25 4RN.

**18th April 2024**

*Jewish perspectives on the material world* with Rt. Revd. Rowan Williams

**11th May 2024**

*Catherine of Siena's ruthlessly sacrificial 'engagement with the matter of this world'* with Dr. Jane Williams

**13th July 2024**

*Holy Disobedience - Is it ever justified for Christians to break the law?* with Revd. Sue Parfitt

**7th September 2024**

*'The Flesh that Needs to be Loved': Finding God in the Matter of the World*

with Revd. Rachel Mann

**5th October 2024**

*Notes from a Eucharistic Life* with Revd. Dr Manon Ceridwen James

*'It is the Lord', by Katharine Hall*



**9th November 2024**

*Let our Ordered Lives confess the Beauty of God's Peace: Holding Faith with the matter of the World* with the Very Revd. Dr Frances Ward

For more information please download the following document: [Quiet Days 2024](#)

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## Celebrating Chaplaincy

We are once again holding a service at the Cathedral to celebrate chaplaincy and the wonderful ministries undertaken by our chaplains in a whole variety of contexts.

Chaplains meet and work alongside people that clergy and the local church congregations, on the whole, don't have the opportunity to meet. We have chaplains not only in hospitals, prisons and places of education, but with the armed forces, seafarers and members of the Deaf community – and other places too!

The celebration is being held on **Sunday January 21st** at 4pm. We will be hearing from four chaplains about their roles and offering prayers and hymns chosen by some of them. Please do come along to support, pray for and celebrate these vital ministries and so encourage the people who serve God's world in this way.



## Safeguarding Training 2024

Date	Day	Time	Location	Postcode	Course
16/01/2024	Tuesday	10am	St Mary's Church, Marshfield	CF3 2UF	B
22/01/2024	Monday	1pm	St Georges, Tredegar	NP22 3DU	B
29/02/2024	Thursday	10am	All Saints Church, Brynglas Road, Newport	NP20 5RY	B
29/02/2024	Thursday	1pm	All Saints Church, Brynglas Road, Newport	NP20 5RY	C

Dates for Safeguarding training in 2024 have just been released. All of the available sessions, including online sessions, can be found by following this link: [SafeguardingTraining - The Church in Wales](#).

The two courses shown above are as follows:

**Course B - *Understanding Safeguarding in the Church*** - for all those in the church who have a role with children, young people or adults at risk, anyone with a church office and all clergy.

**Course C - *Safeguarding and Leadership*** - for all MALs, MAC members, focal ministers, Lay Co-Chairs and church wardens.

Places can be booked via the webform [SafeguardingTraining Booking Form - The Church in Wales](#), by emailing [safeguardingtraining@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingtraining@churchinwales.org.uk) or by calling 07376 199668.

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## Resources

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## Diocesan Grant Schemes

Standing Committee recently approved some changes to the diocesan building grants, to align with changes from the RB for the portion of the funds from them that we administer. We will now have a:

- **Eco Grant** - up to £7,500 per church for work which improves carbon footprint/biodiversity/environmental impact of church building and churchyards, available to apply for every three years.
- **Churchyard Grant** - up to £2,000 per church for works in a churchyard, available to apply for every three years.
- **Large Building Grant** - up to £5,000 per church for works to a church or church hall, available to apply for every three years.
- **Small Building Grant** - up to £1,000 per church for urgent and/or emergency works to a church, churchyard or church hall, available to apply for every year.

You can find out more about all of these grants and download the full criteria and applications forms from the diocesan website [here](#).

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## The G I Evans Memorial Trust

The Church in Wales is a bi-lingual church and here, in the Diocese of Monmouth, we are keen to play our part by encouraging our clergy and LLMs to learn some Welsh, even if it's only a few phrases.

The G I Evans Memorial Trust is a possible source of funding for Welsh language courses. This trust is available for clerics and ordinands to attend Welsh language courses at established educational institutions. (There is no specific list of 'established educational institutions' and this distinction is intended to ensure that proper teaching takes place – courses via universities or colleges or local providers would satisfy this requirement.)

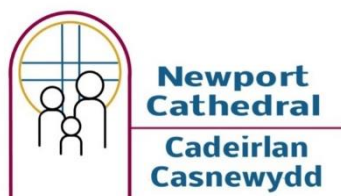
The trust is administered by Natasha Aldridge ([natashaaldrige@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:natashaaldrige@churchinwales.org.uk)) in the legal department and the application form can be found [here](#).

The trust is quite small with about £5,000 or so of funds available to spend each year. Larger grants can be sought via the Isla Johnston Trust, if applicants meet that trust's criteria.

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# Services

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Join us for the following services from the Cathedral throughout the weekend:

**Carols at the Crib** - 5pm, Saturday 23rd December

**Advent 4** - 10.30am, Sunday 24th December

**Nine Lessons and Carols** - 4pm, Sunday 24th December

**Midnight Mass** - 11pm, Sunday 24th December

**Christmas Day** - 10.30am, Monday 25th December

The service on Sunday 31st December at 10.30am can be joined [here](#).

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# Vacancies

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## **Team Vicar - Mynydd Bedwellte**

Mynydd Bedwellte in the heart of the Welsh Valleys is a vibrant and exciting group of churches. If you enjoy working as part of a team ministry with supportive colleagues, then maybe God is calling you to join us in ministry at a time when we are blessed with additional resources to support us.

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 encourages them to be beacons of God's presence in their communities.

There is great potential in this ministry area for the person who is able to have a vision to engage with the local community and nurture the gifts of congregation and community to bring about God's hope and love.

Are you someone who:

- loves people from all walks of life and can help develop a culture which will help the church family to thrive?
- can facilitate and encourage people into action?
- is a good manager of time, projects, and people?
- has excellent communication skills and good use of IT?

If you think this could be you then we would very much like to hear from you.

**We are striving to be an inclusive diocese and would welcome applications from all suitably qualified clerics.**

For an informal conversation please contact Revd Matt Davis on 07800750259 or [mattdavisciw@gmail.com](mailto:mattdavisciw@gmail.com)

Application form and full profile available at:

<https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/news-and-events/team-vicar-mynydd-bedwellte-ma/>

Applications should be submitted by email to:

[stellabailey@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:stellabailey@churchinwales.org.uk)

**Closing date for applications:**

Friday 26th January 2024

*Interviews to take place on Friday 2nd February 2024*

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For a downloadable and printable version of this email please click **here**.

You can find the one-stop-shop for all you need to know and this week's updates [here](#).

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## Diocese of Monmouth · Esgobaeth Mynwy

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