

# MONMOUTH Grapevine

Diocesan Conference  
2018 Edition

EICH EGLWYS LEOL  
YOUR LOCAL CHURCH IN WALES



## YN Y RHIFYN HWN INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 09 Current status of  
Ministry Areas
- 13 Bishop's Audit  
Update
- 14 What does mission  
mean to you?

@MissionMonmouth  
#LoveWithoutLimit

[monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk](http://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk)



# Grapevine Editorial

I have pleasure in introducing the Conference edition of *Grapevine* to inform conference members and all those in our diocese of key activities during the last year.

At last year's conference we agreed to create a third Archdeaconry (of the Gwent Valleys) and agreed to recruit a third Archdeacon who would also be our Director of Mission. We are now all delighted to have Venerable Sue Pinnington in this role and you can read her first contribution to *Grapevine* as she explains the significance of **@MissionMonmouth #LoveWithoutLimit** (see p14-15)

Sarah Burton, the Diocesan Projects Officer, updates progress on the Bishop's Audit programme and the role of the Churches & Pastoral Committee in implementing the recommendations which arise from these audits.

As in previous years you will find a summarised version of the Diocesan Board of Finance report to show how our resources are being used to support ministry and mission initiatives in the diocese. We have also included the current status of Ministry Areas and an update of the Ministry Share scheme which has proved successful in stabilising the diocesan finances in recent years.

I hope that you will find the content useful in elaborating the mission strategy of the diocese and how we can all contribute to Jesus' command to *"Go into all the world and make the Gospel known to all Creation"*

**Paul Glover**  
Guest Editor



Holiday Hunger project.....	03
Report from the Diocesan Board of Finance .....	04
Diocesan Board of Finance income and expenditure .....	05
Protect yourself against fraud .....	06
The cost of ministry .....	07
Ministry Area Update .....	08
Current status of Ministry Areas in the diocese .....	09-12
Bishop's Audit update .....	13
What does mission mean to you? .....	14-15
Focus on St Augustine's, Rumney .....	16-17
DAC news .....	18
Bishop's Lenten Appeal helps children in our link diocese in South Africa .....	19
Back Chat Welcoming the stranger .....	20

Monmouth Grapevine is produced and distributed by the Monmouth Diocesan Board of Finance

**Editor:** Debra Goddard,  
Diocesan Communications Officer

**Email:** [debragoddard@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:debragoddard@churchinwales.org.uk)

**Post:** Diocesan Office,  
64 Caerau Road, Newport. NP20 4HJ

**Deadline for next edition:**  
Thursday 1 November

**Publication date:**  
Thursday 13 December

To update the **FREE** order details for your church, please contact the Diocesan Office

**Email:**  
[libbieobrien@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:libbieobrien@churchinwales.org.uk)

**Tel:**  
01633 267490

**Designed by:** Mediadesign

All text and format complies with RNIB guidelines.

© Monmouth Diocesan Board of Finance.  
All information correct at time of going to press.

Monmouth Diocesan Board of Finance is a company registered in England and Wales.

**Company no:** 003489945

**Charity no:** 1067653



<http://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk>



Monmouthdiocese



@MonmouthDCO  
@MissionMonmouth

# Tackling child poverty

---

**A** Monmouth Church hall was at the heart of an initiative which provided more than 1000 meals to children during the school summer holidays.

Working with other organisations and volunteers from across the district, the parish of St Thomas' Church was able to use its refurbished hall – the Ty-Price Centre – to set-up and run the 'holiday hunger' scheme which provided packed lunches for up to 90 children per day who attended Summer play schemes.

Reverend Catherine Haynes, who was involved with the scheme, explained: *"A lot of people think of Monmouth as a rather posh town – an area with few problems. But, in fact, it is a town of two halves, and there are a significant number of families living in poverty here."*

*"Earlier this year we heard of a Welsh Government pilot project to help families receiving free school meals to access food during the summer holidays. Unfortunately, our council – Monmouthshire County Council – was unable to take part in the scheme, and so we decided to create the project on our own initiative."*

*"Using donations from the local community and a grant from the Monmouthshire Housing Association, Ty price, together with Transition Monmouth and volunteers from the Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches, as well as the W.I., we prepared a packed lunch for every single child taking part in the Monmouthshire Council Summer Playscheme in Monmouth – up to a maximum of 90 children. That's a lot of sandwiches!"*

Thanks to a team of 36 helpers making the lunches on a rota, 1092 healthy packed lunches were made during the scheme, which ran for 19 days during July and August.

**I**t is estimated that a staggering 200,000 children in Wales are living in poverty with more and more church volunteers stepping in to provide food and support for struggling families as cuts to public spending impact on child poverty.

The Welsh Government recently said it would not be able to reach its target of ending child poverty by 2020. This prompted the Church in Wales to organise an open event at this year's National Eisteddfod to highlight the issue and provide an opportunity for people to explore what could be done to help those in need.

Archbishop John Davies said: *"Poverty in childhood is an issue the Church is acutely aware of due to the work of our family centres, community projects, foodbanks, holiday hunger schemes and our collaboration with the Children's Society. We see at first-hand how poverty is affecting children across Wales and how the demand for these services continues to increase. We fear many children in Wales are having their childhood blighted by poverty – a 'poor upbringing'."*

As well as discussing local projects from across Wales, discussions were also held with The Children's Commissioner for Wales, Dr Sally Holland, who agreed that, *"without a doubt, child poverty is the biggest challenge facing Welsh Government today."*

She added: *"This year, my office will be meeting with children, parents and professionals from across Wales to hear what they think needs to change, and what extra support they need. We'll then be recommending concrete steps that Welsh Government and local authorities can take to reduce the impact of poverty on the most vulnerable children and their families."*



Archbishop John Davies addresses the issue of child poverty at the National Eisteddfod



Volunteers lend a hand in helping feed youngsters during the school holidays

# Diocesan funding for mission & ministry

## Report from the Diocesan Board of Finance for 2017

---



**Peter Lea,**  
Chairman of the  
Diocesan Board  
of Finance

**Bethan Davies,**  
Senior Finance  
Officer

It is the responsibility of the Diocesan Board of Finance to provide the resources for mission and ministry in our Diocese and to support the mission strategy through our Ministry Areas.

The Board set a budget of £3.32m in 2017 and the categories of income and expenditure are shown in the graphic on p5.

### INCOME

63% of the DBF's income came from Ministry Share and 33% from the Representative Body of the Church in Wales (including the Transformation Fund).

The Diocese again benefitted from the Transformation Fund which the RB has made available for 3 years (2015-17) to support dioceses in their implementation of the new mission and ministry strategy.

### EXPENDITURE

As in previous years, the majority of the DBF's income was spent on ministry (stipends, pensions, housing and training). In addition, there was a significant budget for Ministry Area Support, together with the costs of Governance, grants, office staff and transformation projects.

During the year we were informed of the Church in Wales Evangelism fund (£10m) which will be available from late 2018 for Dioceses to bid for evangelism projects to encourage engagement with groups currently under-represented in church activities. The Diocese is required to make a contribution to the project costs and the DBF decided to create its own fund in order to start the bid process and allocated £120k (including a £20k bequest) for this work in late 2018 and early 2019.

### SURPLUS

During 2017 there were several unfilled stipendiary posts. Consequently, the total expenditure was less than the allocated budget and there was a surplus of £145,000 at the end of 2017.

### MINISTRY SHARE

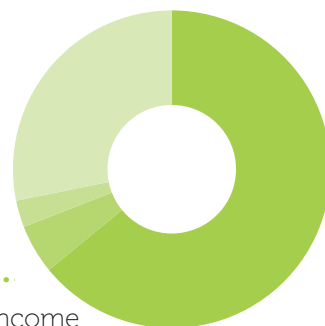
The new Ministry Share scheme (introduced for Q1 2016) was successful in ensuring a higher level of on-time payments. Over 90% of our parishes paid by Standing Order (for which they received a 5% rebate) and only 1% of the 2017 share remained outstanding at the end of the year. More details of Ministry Share can be seen on page 7.

### OUTLOOK

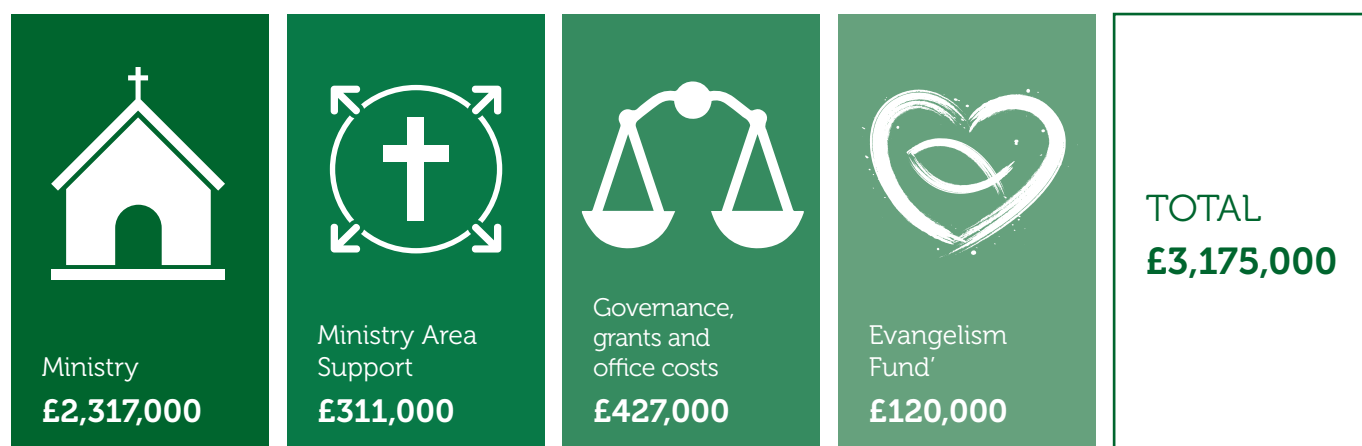
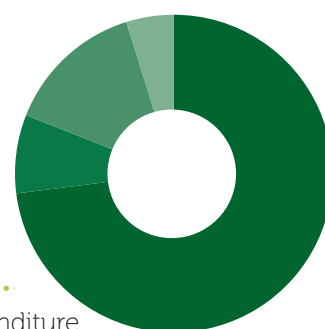
The trustees are aware of the long-term trend in reducing Sunday attendance and the consequent reduction in giving, together with the increased costs of clergy pensions, training and safeguarding. At the same time, they are conscious of the need to invest in evangelism and mission in order to develop the church for 2020 and beyond. Therefore, the trustees have agreed to carry forward any surplus funds to provide additional resource in future years.

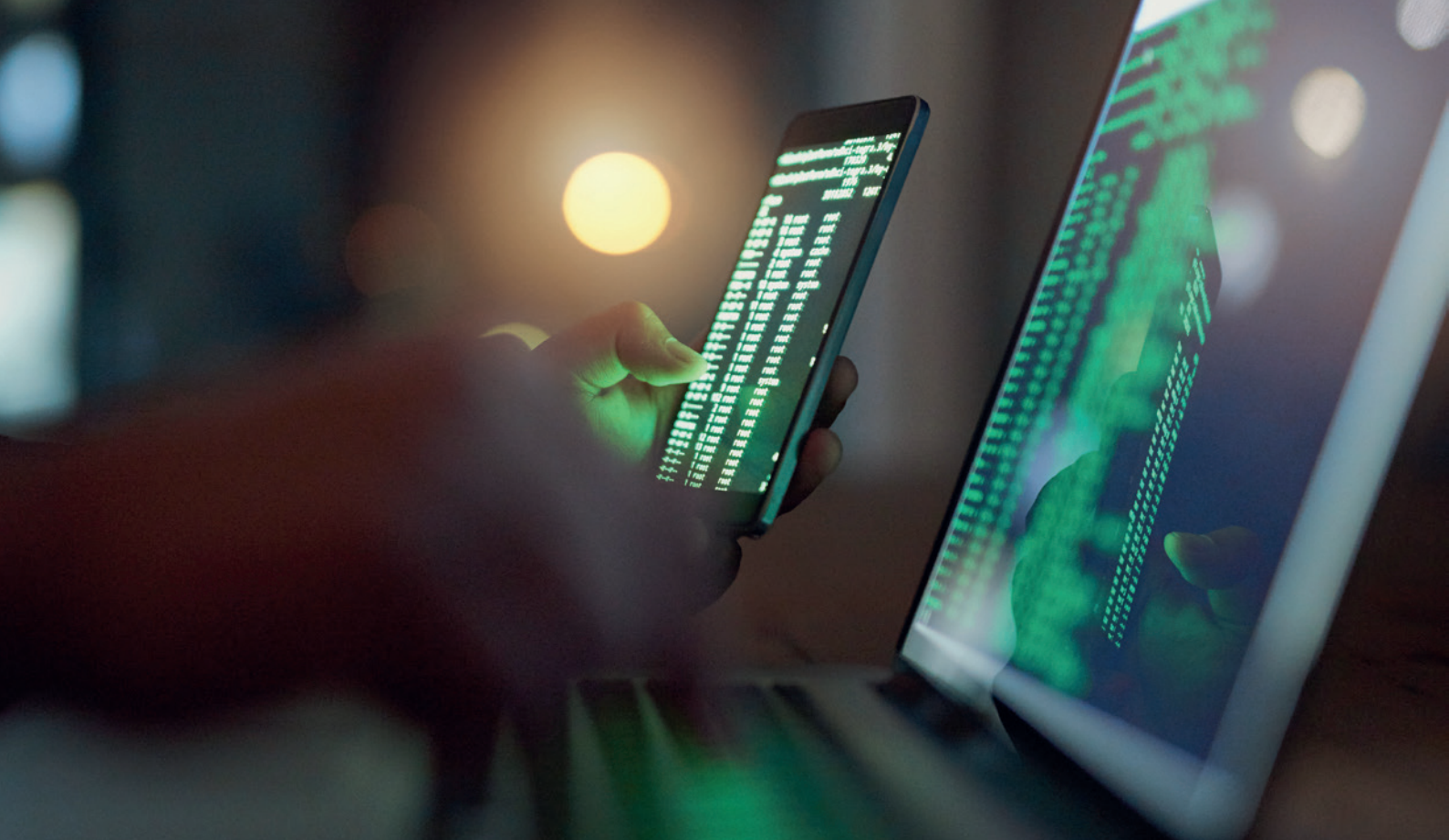


# DBF Income 2017



# DBF Expenditure 2017





# Protect yourself against **fraud**

**Please keep vigilant!**

---

**I**t is a sad warning but please do keep aware!  
The Church in Wales continues to be a target for fraudsters and our parishes are particularly vulnerable.

Everyone is at risk as the prevalence of email scams and invoice fraud is increasing. The fraudsters are getting really quite clever at mimicking the language used in our day to day communications to trick us into parting with personal data or money.

Never accept a change of bank details via email, ask for changes by post accompanied by a paying in

slip or cancelled cheque. On receipt of the details telephone the supplier using a pre-existing telephone number to confirm the changes.

Never transfer money from your account after being instructed to do so by someone informing you of security issues with your account.

Never allow remote access to your computer when someone calls you unexpectedly.

Nothing is so urgent that there is no time to make a few enquiries, if there is any doubt at all do not make a payment.

**Please see some of the following websites/articles for more information**

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/scam-emails>

<https://www.cripps.co.uk/invoice-fraud-real-threat-business/>

[www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/advice/how-to-spot-an-email-scam](http://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/advice/how-to-spot-an-email-scam)

---

# The cost of ministry



The new Ministry Share scheme was introduced in January 2016. In most areas it has been well received with over 90% of parishes now paying by standing order and receiving a 5% rebate.

Seven parishes are donating their rebate to others in greater need and several parishes are using the rebate to pay off outstanding arrears.

In 2017 the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) collected 99% of the requested share, compared to 88% in 2015.

For information, we are now updating the details of the calculation of Ministry Share for 2019 and would like to draw your attention to the Ministry Share Support Fund and the calculation of attendance for churches with less regular services.

## Cost of ministry 2019

The average cost of ministry posts within the Diocese for 2019 has been calculated as:

	MA Leader	Stipendiary	House for Duty
Stipend & N.I.	£28,520	£27,100	
Pension	£10,120	£9,640	
Housing (inc. Council Tax)	£7,380	£7,380	£7,380
Proportion of other Clerical Costs	£2,150	£2,150	£1,710
Proportion of Training (inc. Curacies)	£3,000	£1,530	£1,530
<b>TOTAL (per annum)</b>	<b>£51,170</b>	<b>£47,800</b>	<b>£10,620</b>
<i>cf TOTAL (for 2018)</i>	<i>£49,788</i>	<i>£46,678</i>	<i>£10,372</i>

The total cost of ministry paid centrally by the DBF in 2019 is expected to be £2.71m. (There are also some additional ministry costs and clergy expenses paid locally).

## Which costs are covered by Ministry Share and which are not?

Ministry Share in 2019 (£2.05m) will cover 76% of the Cost of Ministry (£2.71m). The remaining costs of ministry will be covered with contributions from other sources of income (Church in Wales grant and investment income).

The Ministry Share does NOT pay for the Bishop and secretary; Diocesan Office staff; Diocesan Trust; DBF governance & communications; Ministry Area support activities; the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

Ministry Share will be allocated on the basis of the planned Ministry Area structure (see pages 9-12). The individual area's Ministry Share will be calculated in two parts; one part to cover 50% of the cost of ministry in the area and one part linked to church attendance. For 2019, the 2nd part of the calculation will be based on a contribution of £277 per Average Sunday Attender (cf £270 in 2018)

If a church does not have a weekly service, it is possible that some parishioners will attend services at other churches in the Ministry Area. In this case the diocese will make an adjustment to the ASA if details

are provided of the individuals attending multiple churches.

## Ministry Area Support Fund

This fund is intended to provide exceptional support to Ministry Areas which have genuine difficulty in paying their share. In 2018 the DBF allocated £59k to the Ministry Area Support Fund and supported eight Ministry Areas.





# Ministry Area Update

## Cwmbran has some new team members...

---

After being in interregnum for the past two years, the Benefice of Cwmbran find themselves with not only one new priest but two! The Rev Nick Perry and Rev Liz Kerl have been appointed as Team Rector and Team Vicar. Their licencing was conducted by Archdeacon Sue on 6th September 2018.

When talking about their licensing both Nick and Liz were struck by the positive feeling from everyone who attended the very enjoyable occasion. They are excited to get 'stuck in' and have already been approached by a number of key figures in the local community to meet in the hope of building links. The people of Cwmbran, both church and non-church going, have been very welcoming offering hugs, cards, and wine to both Nick and Liz as they moved in.

But both Nick and Liz were keen to point out that they are not 'knights in shining armour' who have come to rescue Cwmbran! They have been affirmed and excited to see what the ministry team in the Benefice of Cwmbran has been doing during the two years of interregnum. The existing LLMs, LEMS, House for Duty Priest and retired clergy have done a brilliant job in enabling the Benefice to keep going and made sure that not a single service was missed. Rather than a declining church, which can often be the case for churches in interregnum, Nick and Liz are excited to be joining in and building on the work that is already underway.

When asked what they are looking forward to, the reply was "some good old-fashioned vicar-ing!". In short, Nick and Liz are looking forward to living and working alongside people within the Benefice. They plan to follow the model of ministry as seen in the book of Acts; where the apostles devoted themselves to teaching; prayer; the breaking of bread; and fellowship. An attractive church is one that loves unconditionally and is accepting of people. Nick and Liz hope to enable people to take risks and try new things, without fear of being criticised should it not quite work out. They want to help more people understand the Christian faith; to have confidence in their beliefs; and for them to become animated for God.

The churches in the Benefice of Cwmbran are all very different and have their own character and strengths. Nick and Liz want to encourage those differences and then enable the churches to come together; to prayer together; to support each other; to work together; and to worship God together. When meeting with Nick and Liz there was a real sense of excitement and energy and we look forward to hearing all the news in the coming year.



Rev Liz Kerl with Rev Nick Perry



# Current Status of Ministry Areas in the Diocese



## Newport Archdeaconry

Ministry Area	Current Parishes	Current Churches	Planned number of		Status of Ministry Area
			Stipends	House for Duty	
Archdeacon			1		
Cathedral		St Woolos	2		In progress
Newport West	Cathedral Newport (St Mark) Newport (St Paul) Newport (St Stephen) Newport (Maesglas) Newport (St John Baptist)	St Martin-in-the-Gaer St Mark St Paul St Stephen St Thomas St John Baptist	2	1	In consultation
Caerleon	Caerleon Llanhennock Llanfrechfa Llandegfedd	St Cadoc St John All Saints St Tegfeth	2		Formed
Newport North	Malpas Bettws Newport (All Saints)	St Mary St David All Saints	1	2	Formed
Newport East	Newport (Maindee)  Newport (Lliswerry)  Newport (St Julian) Newport (St Teilo) Newport (Christchurch)	St John St Mary St Andrew St Philip Ss Julius & Aaron St Teilo Holy Trinity	2	1	In formation
Bassaleg	Bassaleg (RB)	St Basil St John Baptist St Anne	2		Formed
Wentloog	Rumney Llanrumney St Mellons Marshfield St Brides	St Augustine St Dyfrig St Mellon St Mary St Bridget	2	1	In formation
Bedwas with Machen with Michaelston-y-Fedw with Rudry	Bedws  Machen  Rudry Michaelston-y-Fedw	St Barrwg St Thomas St Michael St John St James St Michael	1	1	Formed
Cyncoed	Cyncoed (RB)	All Saints, Cyncoed All Saints, Llanedeyrn St David St Ederym	2		Formed and Celebrated
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	

Non-Stipendiary Ministers = **10** Lay Eucharistic Ministers = **59** Licenced Lay Ministers = **9**

## Current Status of Ministry Areas

Gwent Valleys Archdeaconry					
Ministry Area	Current Parishes	Current Churches	Planned number of		Status of Ministry Area
			Stipends	House for Duty	
Archdeacon			1		
Upper Islwyn	Upper Islwyn (RB)	St Tudor St Augustine St David St Theodore St Margaret St David St Thomas St Sannan St Peter St Dingat	3	1	Formed
Lower Islwyn	Lower Islwyn	St Paul St Peter St Mary St Margaret St Catherine (closed) St Luke St John the Evangelist (closed)	1	1	Formed
Rhymney and Tredegar	Rhymney & Abertysswg Tredegar	St David St Paul St George & St James	1		In formation
Panteg and Griffithstown	Panteg Llanfihangel Pontymoile Giffithstown	St Mary St Michael and All Angels St Hilda St Oswald	1	1	Formed
Upper Torfaen	Blaenavon  Pontypool (RB)	St Peter St Paul St Cadoc St Matthew St John	2		In formation
Cwmbran	Cwmbran (RB)	St Gabriel St Michael and All Angels St Mary St Peter Henllys Worship Centre Holy Trinity	2	1	Formed
<i>The number and shape of Ministry Areas involving these parishes is still to be finalised</i>	Upper Ebbw Valleys (RB)  Abertillery Cwmtilery Llanhileth Six Bells	Christ Church St David St Paul St Peter Holy Trinity and St Anne St Michael and All Angels St Paul St Mark St John	2	1	In consultation
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	

**Non-Stipendiary Ministers = 8   Lay Eucharistic Ministers = 59   Licenced Lay Ministers = 10**

Monmouth Archdeaconry					
Ministry Area	Current Parishes	Current Churches	Planned number of		Status of Ministry Area
			Stipends	House for Duty	
Archdeacon			1		
Abergavenny	Abergavenny Abergavenny  Llanwenerth Citra Llantilio Pertholey w Bettws Govilon Llanfoist Llanelen Llanfihangel Cruorney Cwmyoy Llanthony Llantilio Crossenny Penrhos Llanvetherine Llanfapley Llanddewi Rhydderch Llangattock-juxta-Usk Llansantffraed Llanddewi Skirrid Grosmont Skenfrith Llanfair Llangattock Lingoed	St Mary Christchurch Holy Trinity St Peter St Teilo Bettws Chapel Christchurch St Ffwyst St Helen St Michael St Martin St David St Teilo St Cadoc St James the Elder St Mable St David St Cadoc St Bridget St David St Nicolas St Bridget St Mary St Cadoc	4	4	In formation
Monmouth	Monmouth Overmonnow Wonastow Mitchel Troy Rockfield Llanfihangel-ystern- Llewern Dingestow Penyclawdd Tregaer Cwmcavran St Maughans Llangattock-vibon-Avel Trellech Penallt Llanishen Trellech Grange Llanfihangel-tor-y- Mynydd Llansoy Llandogo Tintern Pava	St Mary St Thomas the Martyr St Wonnow St Michael and All Angels St Cenedlon St Michael and All Angels  St Dingat St Martin St Mary St Catwg St Meugan St Cadoc St Nicholas Old Church St Dennis Trellech Grange Church St Michael and All Angels  St Tysoi St Oudoceus St Michael and All Angels	2.5 or 3 (to be decided)	2	Formed and celebrated
Wentwood Group	Caerwent Llanfair Discoed Newchurch Penhow St Brides Netherwent Llanvaches Llandeud	Ss Stephen and Tathan St Mary St Peter St John the Baptist St Bridget St Dyfrig St Peter	1		Formed and celebrated



## Current Status of Ministry Areas

Monmouth Archdeaconry					
Ministry Area	Current Parishes	Current Churches	Planned number of		Status of Ministry Area
			Stipends	House for Duty	
Magor	Magor (RB)	St Mary (Magor) St Thomas (Redwick) St Mary (Undy) St Mary Magdalene (Goldcliffe) St Mary (Nash) St Cadwaladr (Bishton) St Mary (Wilcrick) Langstone Church St Martin (Llanmartin) St Mary's (Llanwern)	2	1	Formed and celebrated
Caldicot	Caldicot (RB)	St Mary (Caldicot) St Mary (Portskewett) St Mary (Rogiet)	1	1	Formed
Chepstow, Mathern and St Arvans	Mathern Moun-ton St Pierre Shirenewton St Arvans w Penterry Itton Devauden Kilgwrrwg Chepstow	St Tewdric St Andoenus St Peter St Thomas a Becket St Arvan St Mary St Deiniol St James Holy Cross St Mary St Christopher	3		In progress
Goetre and Mamhilad	Goetre Llanover Mamhilad Monkwood w Glascoed	St Peter St Batholomew St Illtud St Matthew St Michael and All Angels	0.5		Formed
Raglan	Raglan Llandenny Bryngwyn Bettws Newydd Trostrey Kemys Commander Llanfihangel Gobion	St Cadoc St John Apostle St Peter Bettws Newydd St David All Saints St Michael and All Angels	1		Formed and celebrated
Usk	Usk Llantrissent Llangybi with Coed-y-Paen Llanbadoc Tredunnoc Llangwm Wolvesnewton	St Mary SS Peter, Paul and John Sy Cybi Christ Church St Madoc St Andrew St John (closed) St Thomas a Becket	1	1	Formed and celebrated
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>9</b>	

**Non-Stipendiary Ministers = 13   Lay Eucharistic Ministers = 52   Licenced Lay Ministers = 18**

Diocese Total	Current Parishes	Current Churches	Planned Stipends	Planned House for Duty
	<b>122</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>47.5 + 3-4 curates</b>	<b>20</b>

**Non-Stipendiary Ministers = 31   Lay Eucharistic Ministers = 170   Licenced Lay Ministers = 37**

# Bishop's Audit Update

Since the last edition of *Grapevine*, the Diocesan team has been continuing with Monmouth Ministry Area's audit and subsequent consultation. Whilst the following two audits were unfortunately postponed, we look forward to starting Caldicot Ministry Area's audit later in the year. To support the Ministry Areas with their audit recommendations, the Churches and Pastoral Committee (CPC) has been given a new lease of life.

---

## Churches and Pastoral Committee

### BACKGROUND

The Churches and Pastoral Committee (CPC) was disbanded in 2013 following a Church in Wales review. However, this raised a number of constitutional issues with regard to church redundancy which necessitated the reinstatement of the committee. Additionally, the development of Ministry Areas and the introduction of the Bishop's Audit has presented new and exciting challenges for our diocese. There is now a very strong need for a committee which supports the pastoral needs of churches (both their buildings and their communities).

### ROLE

The Bishop has embarked on his audit of all Ministry Areas to help Parishes and Ministry Areas to face the current challenges. An output of the audit for each Ministry Area is a list of recommendations to help them to further their mission and ministry. These recommendations are wide-ranging, and some will be challenging to implement. The CPC is ideally placed to support the Bishop in providing practical guidance to Ministry Areas to take forward his recommendations and to make their vision a reality. Additionally, the CPC can assist the Bishop by reviewing the progress of the Ministry Areas on an annual basis and providing specialist advice.

The constitutional role of the committee to provide a recommendation to the Bishop on church redundancies and to make decisions on diocesan grant applications. All these roles are part of the process of supporting the development of the Ministry Areas to achieve their vision.

### COMPOSITION

As required by the constitution of the Church in Wales the committee is made up of

- The Archdeacons of the Diocese
- The Chairman or Vice-chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance
- The Chairman of the DAC
- Three members elected by the Diocesan Conference (last elected in 2017)
- Three members appointed by the Bishop
- And, "suitably qualified persons to act as consultants."

Given the rigorous nature of the Bishop's Audit and the likely work that it will generate, no distinction is made between the "three members appointed by the Bishop" and the "suitably qualified consultants". The Bishop has appointed a sufficient number of members with the necessary skills and expertise so that they can reasonably fulfil their role in supporting his audit recommendations in each Ministry Area.

The Bishop appointed members with the following specialisms to reflect the audit: -

- Ministry and Worship
- Mission, Outreach and Community Engagement
- Education, Children and Youth
- Buildings/Property
- Finance
- Governance

### GRANTS

A core responsibility of the CPC is to distribute grant money from the DBF and other sources. In the past these grants have been divided between the Church Fabric Repair Grant and the Churchyard Improvement Grant. The criteria for these grants has been very flexible and we have not rejected any application in the last few years. Although these grants are very much appreciated by the parishes who receive them, the amount of money (£5,000 for the Church Fabric Repair and £2,000 for Churchyard Improvement Grant) is relatively small compared to the overall need.

### MEMBERS

Archdeacons  
Sandy Blair  
(elected by conference)  
Pip Masters  
(elected by conference)  
Rev Chris Walters  
(elected by conference)  
Paulette Brown  
(Vice-Chair of DBF)  
Rob Wall  
(Chair of the DAC)  
Steve Martin  
Rev John Connell  
Janet Jones

Rev Justin Groves  
Ed Hodge  
Jayne Collier

### Diocesan Officers:

Paul Glover  
Sarah Burton  
Rachel Nelmes  
Isabel Thompson  
(Secretary to the CPC)  
Bethan Davies  
Helen Shepherd  
Vicki Brackpool

You may have come across **@missionmonmouth #lovewithoutlimit** and wondered what it was all about. Mission Monmouth is an initiative led by our new Director of Mission, Archdeacon Sue, and is supported by groups of lay and clergy from across the diocese. Mission Monmouth is our collective vision for mission in the diocese and we will use it as the basis for developing our bid to the CinW Evangelism Fund. Mission Monmouth builds upon Monmouth 2020 and puts mission at the heart of everything we do.

The detailed work done so far with Ministry Areas who have had their Bishop's Audit has informed this vision. Mission Monmouth will, in turn, inform and develop the Bishop's Audit as the Bishop and his team continually work to improve and refine the process.

# "Go into all the World and the Gospel known to all

## What does mission mean to you?

Whatever we think mission is and whether we realise it or not, we are all involved with it. We are involved because we are the people of God and the World in which we live is God's mission. The mission of God, is going on all around us, 24/7, as God is present and active in all of Creation.

God desires his mission to transform lives, communities, the whole world so that it is reconciled and experiences deeply, a **love without limit**. The Love of God.

As the people of God we are called to share in God's mission and to be engaged in growing the Kingdom of God. The mission that says to our family, our neighbours, our work colleagues, the stranger in the street, the lonely, the broken, the joyous, the grieving, the wealthy, the homeless, the powerful and the voiceless, whoever it is: YOU MATTER, and what you do matters, and not just now, but eternally. And it matters because you are loved without limit.

That is why our Bishop, with lay members and clergy from across the diocese and the Diocesan Team have been praying, talking and focussing on Growing the Kingdom of God and sharing in God's Mission plans for Monmouth. They have done this by placing mission at the heart of Monmouth 2020, the Bishop's Audits, and not least investing in the post of Director of Mission.

The realisation that mission is at the heart of who and what we are as a church, whether that means building community relationships; offering hospitality to those who are struggling; working in schools, training or development; planning the work of the Diocesan Boards, or PCCs and Ministry Areas.

We are sharing in God's mission, sharing GOD's LOVE, and we do it because we know ourselves to be loved without limit.

So, **Mission Monmouth** is about us as individuals, churches, Ministry Areas and a Diocese, because we have a responsibility to make God's love real to the people of South East Wales. And within our mission we must be sharing the Good News, the word of God so people can know Jesus - in other words evangelism. We have a perennially ambivalent relationship or even fear of evangelism, because it feels risky, embarrassing or frightening.

It's much easier to do things, to witness by actions, good deeds, than to witness by sharing the word of God.

If we are to be **Mission Monmouth** we need to do both. Witness in deed and in word. We are called and empowered to serve the Word made Flesh, Jesus Christ, the incarnational presence. We are called and empowered to live in such a way that people see and experience something of God through us, our words and actions.

**Mission Monmouth** is about seeing the Kingdom of God growing by seeking to encourage and support every type of mission, outreach and evangelism in our diocese by:

- Celebrating and valuing all that is currently happening.
- Encouraging and supporting new acts of mission and evangelism, however big or small.
- Supporting mission to grow through sharing learning and resources.

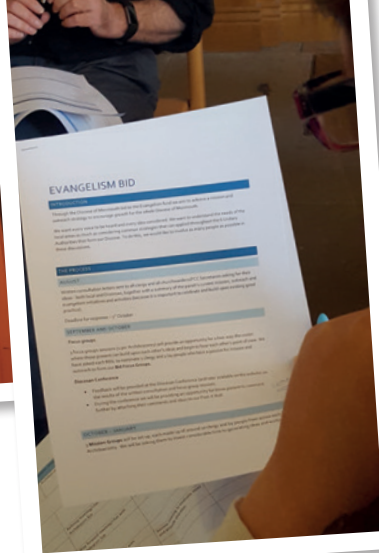




There is buzz of excitement as plans start to be made!



Archdeacon Sue introduces @MissionMonmouth and #LoveWithoutLimit



Church in Wales invites bids for its £10m Evangelism Fund

# make Creation"



@MissionMonmouth  
#LoveWithoutLimit

- Bringing in new funding from other agencies and charitable foundations.
- Seeking out the new, the creative, the innovative, the risky hopes, dreams and aspirations for new ways of being God's people.
- Discovering new ways to nurture individual discipleship and faith.
- Continuing to learn from the Bishop's Audits.
- Working with the Church in Wales, as we submit a major bid to the Evangelism Fund.
- By asking every PCC, Ministry Area, Diocesan Board or Committee to put sharing in God's mission on the agenda.

*"Go into all the World and make the Gospel known to all Creation"* commands Jesus, but how do we do it?

We can only do this by listening attentively to God, by being faithful in prayer, worship and reading the Bible, embracing a love without limit and becoming the people God calls us to be. And **YES, IT IS A CHALLENGE**, but one we must rise to if we want to see our churches grow and flourish, within flourishing communities: city, town and village.

Please pray, listen to God and discover how He wants and needs you to share in His mission.

**The Venerable Sue Pinnington**  
Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys  
and Director of Mission

@MissionMonmouth  
#lovewithoutlimit



Archdeacon Sue is supported by her fellow archdeacons and Bishop Richard on her special day

Friends, family and local dignitaries filled Newport Cathedral on a sunny afternoon in July to celebrate the creation of the new Archdeaconry of the Gwent Valley's and the installation of the **The Venerable Sue Pinnington** as Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys and Director of Mission.

Sue has already held several senior positions within the Church of England and was awarded a MBE in 2010 for her work in leading a multi-million pound community project at Cottingley, West Yorkshire.

The decision to create a third archdeaconry was ratified at the Diocesan Conference last October.

Speaking at the conference, Bishop Richard talked of something more 'radical' being needed to turn around the diocese and to realign church in a different way that engages with communities and encourages New Church growth.

*"We need mission and evangelism otherwise this Diocese will find it difficult to survive,"* he warned.



# One of our oldest churches has a very modern vision

**It may have been built in the 12th Century, but St Augustine's in Rumney is definitely a 21st Century Church!**

**M**ajor refurbishment has created a fantastic, flexible space which is being put to good use by the community.

From the introduction of a new website and embracing all modern media platforms to raise the profile of the church and spread the Gospel, to the launch of its **#inclusionis** campaign, there is certainly a 'buzz' among this church family.

As Fr John Connell, explained: *"As well as important repairs to the fabric of the building, ensuring it is still standing for future generations, we have also returned the nave of the church to its original purpose as 'the people's space', where social and community events can be held as well as our daily round of services."*

The church is now more comfortable, lighter and brighter and has new facilities for serving light refreshments and is fully accessible for wheelchair-

users. And for the first time in over 910 years, St Augustine's has a toilet in church.

Thanks to the reordering of the church, the flexible space was used to 'test-drive' its new website **parishofrumney.org** at its recent launch.

Following Parish Mass, clergy were able to set up a few internet stations where parishioners were able to visit the new website and surf away with a cuppa.

The website keeps people informed about regular services and special events at St Augustine's. It also enables people to book baptisms, weddings, and make donations to the church through online giving.

The parish's social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) are all embedded into the website to ensure that the latest news from the church and parish are shared with as wide an audience as possible.





There's certainly never a dull moment at St Augustine's!

Alongside its new website, St Augustine's also launched its **#inclusionis** campaign.

Fr Ross Maidment, explained: *"St Augustine's seeks to be an inclusive church which welcomes, affirms and includes all God's people and our new website enables us to witness to a wider community for whom the internet is at the centre of everyday life."*

*"As we seek to proclaim the Good News of God's love for all his rainbow people, we launched our website alongside our #inclusionis campaign. Members of our church family from the youngest to the oldest were invited to write down what being an inclusive church really means to them. It is these powerful messages of inclusion that form the heart of our inclusivity statement on our website."*

With an appearance at this year's Pride event in Cardiff with more than 25 people joining in the Pride Cymru Parade and being filmed there for the new Church in Wales film, 'Faith in Evangelism' and a growing congregation, what's next for this forward-thinking church?

'St Augustine's Church is a church which doesn't stand still,' explains Fr John, 'now that we have our beautifully re-ordered and flexible building we are working hard to ensure that the building is being used daily not only for worship, but also by as many as possible from our local community. This autumn we are running Theology for Life from a new learning hub here, as well as running nurture courses for adults, children and young people. We have already hosted all the staff from St Teilo's Church in Wales High School for a Mass and inset day training and are working with the local Community Wellbeing Officer to identify local needs which we can help to meet through the use of our buildings.'

Music also plays a vital role in the worshipping life of St Augustine's and they are currently raising funds for a new state of the art organ and hoping to recruit an organ scholar and choristers of all ages for their choir, working with local schools and universities in Cardiff. There never seems to be a dull moment at St Augustine's Rummey as this local church seeks to live and proclaim God's generous love in Jesus Christ for all God's rainbow children. Find out more at [parishofrumney.org](http://parishofrumney.org) !



# Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) News



A new face has joined the Diocesan Team, so welcome **Stephen Peel** as our new DAC Secretary.

Stephen joined us in mid August and comes with a wealth of experience having worked for Torfaen Council as a Buildings Conservation Officer for nine years.

As a committed Christian, Stephen is enjoying working for the Church in Wales and sees it very much as ministry.

There is also his love of old buildings too – particularly historic church buildings! He developed this love at a young age when he swapped his stamp collection for a book about them!

One of Stephen's key roles is to roll-out the new on-line faculty system.

The Church in Wales has invested in a new Online Faculty System (OFS) that is already in use in four dioceses across Wales and is very similar to that used throughout the Church of England.

The system offers huge advantages compared to the old paper system, particularly that it is fully transparent. Once you have submitted an application you will be able to log in and see where it is anywhere in the process.

As well as being an online system, OFS also allows for some simplification of the faculty process so that minor works do not need to go through DAC meetings and permission can be given quicker.

Training sessions are being held on Thursday 8 November 2-4pm, St Christopher Church in Bulwark, Chepstow and Tuesday 11 December 10am-12pm, St Augustine's Church, Rumney.

Booking is essential for all these events and will need to be done at least a week in advance. We will send through reminders for these nearer the time. Please e-mail Lisa Sheppard ([lisasheppard@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:lisasheppard@churchinwales.org.uk)) to book a place.

In addition to the training, Stephen is also holding 'surgery sessions' in the Diocesan Office in Newport. The next session is planned for Thursday 22 November 10am-4pm.

On these dates you will be able to book you an hour slot where he'll guide you through the process and help you fill in your application. Please email [Lisasheppard@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:Lisasheppard@churchinwales.org.uk) to book.

For quicker enquires Stephen can also be contacted by email at [Stephenpeel@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:Stephenpeel@churchinwales.org.uk) or telephone on **01633 267490**.

## ONLINE HELP

The Church in Wales has written very detailed guidance that explains every part of the process. These can all be found here <https://churchheritagecymru.org.uk/user-guides>

The OFS can be found here: <https://churchheritagecymru.org.uk/Secure/Register.aspx?returnurl=%2fchurches> and all you need to do is register to start using it.



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the sudden death of **Richard Spencer Dean**.

Richard was a very well-respected conservation architect who volunteered as an active member of the DAC since 2014. He has also been a member of the Cathedrals and Churches Commission for the Church in Wales since 2016 and his wisdom, experience and good humour will be missed by his colleagues on these committees and by the parishes he helped.

As a practicing architect, Richard's firm, Page and Dean Consulting (which he ran with his wife, Jo-Anne Page) was appointed by the Diocese as a Quinquennial Architect. He was also recently commissioned to start a joint project between the RB and the Diocese to undertake a detailed survey of all the churches in advance of the Bishop's audit to provide further help to those looking after their church buildings.

Richard had a passion for church buildings and believed in making them sustainable for future generations.

His death is a sad loss for church buildings and heritage conservation in Wales and elsewhere.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time.



# Bishop's Lenten Appeal helps children in our link diocese in South Africa

Thanks to the generosity of the kind people throughout our diocese, £20,000 has been donated to a project in South Africa which helps feed and educate children in a safe environment.

Bishop Richard chose the Mayflower project as the beneficiary of his Lenten Appeal this year, which will provide classrooms to house the growing number of children needing day care and a space for community events.

The Mayflower is in the Diocese of the Highveld, which has been our 'link' diocese for 15 years.

During his recent visit to say a big 'thank-you' for the donation, Bishop Charles from the Highveld, said: *"The completion of this structure will allow us to make use of this for our expanding Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD) and our Safe Park in the afternoons. The ECD centre currently caters for approximately 100 children and this will allow us to accept another 40 children into the school."*

*"Our Safe park currently operates in the church. Having this hall completed will allow them to have a special place to call their own in the afternoons where they can complete their homework, have*

*counselling sessions and life skills training. This structure will also be used as a Community Centre catering for community meetings, and wellness days from the clinic. It will also be used as a training centre for the almost 26 Home Based Care projects in the surrounding areas.*

*"We are very blessed in having the Diocese of Monmouth support the expansion of this project for the benefit of this neglected community."*

Over the years, link parishes have developed and last year a pilgrimage was made to these parishes – including a visit to the Mayflower.

It was clear to everyone involved that more space was needed at the Mayflower to fulfil all the good work being done there.

Orthandweni Early Childhood Development Centre is based there and approximately 100 children are looked after and fed twice daily in cramped conditions.

A start has been made on a building to house two more classrooms and to provide a space for Community events. The money raised by the Bishop's Appeal will enable this building to be completed.



# Back Chat

## Welcoming the Stranger

---

*"And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you ..?"*

**Matt.25:38**

**H**ow does your church look to a stranger? And what would this stranger write in a report on your worship, armed with questions including: **Did anyone welcome you personally? What was the age range and diversity of the congregation? On a scale of 1-10, how good was the preacher? Which part of the service was like being in heaven? And which part was like being in... er... the other place?** And the killer question: **Did the service make you feel glad to be a Christian?**

Just such a stranger visited St. Cadoc, Llangattock Lingoed near Abergavenny, last October for a harvest evening service led by the Priest in Charge, Revd. Gaynor Burrett. He was no ordinary stranger, but a Mystery Worshipper from The Ship of Fools website. He published a report of his experience online. The report was positive, and his answer to the decisive last question: **Did the service make you feel glad to be a Christian?** was a resounding: **'Yes it did. Village life very much alive in the border country.'**

The diocesan Equality and Diversity Monitoring (EDM) has been working during the past year on an Action Plan for the diocese to encourage, train and resource each ministry area and parish to be an inclusive church where everyone feels at home and is supported in their Christian journey, whether they are wondering about taking the first step or have been on its path most of their life. The Action Plan will be distributed with the Conference papers in October.

**Jean Prosser Chair**  
EDM group

**Note\*:** The Mystery Worshipper, who produced this report, is run by [shipoffools.com](http://shipoffools.com), the online magazine of Christian unrest. Mystery Worshipers are volunteers who visit churches of all denominations worldwide, leaving a calling card in the collection plate and posting a first-timer's impression of services on Ship of Fools. For further reports, visit the Mystery Worshipper at: [shipoffools.com](http://shipoffools.com).



welcome