



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

NADOLIG LLAWEN HAPPY CHRISTMAS

BOED I CHI DEIMLO TANGNEFEDD CRIST Y
NADOLIG HWN AC YN FLWYDDYN I DDOD.

MAY YOU KNOW THE PEACE OF THE
CHRIST CHILD THIS CHRISTMAS AND IN
THE COMING YEAR.





Coronavirus Guidance Update: 17th December 2021

The arrival of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 in Wales is a matter of great concern. Welsh Government has announced new restrictions to come into effect on the 27th December which will make social distancing measures a legal requirement again for certain premises especially shops and offices. We do not yet know whether these will formally apply to places of worship and community buildings and will update this website and guidance as soon as the position is clear.

Read more [here](#).

Ministry Share Q1 2022 & Ministry Share Support Fund

The Diocesan Board of Finance acknowledge that it remains an uncertain time for many and has agreed to continue its financial support to parishes. This includes a rebate for Q1 of 2022 and increased funding for the Ministry Share Support Fund.

Recognising the need for continued support to parishes, the DBF agreed a rebate of 10% for Q1 of 2022 at a recent meeting. This means that the Board will have offered a 40% rebate for three quarters of 2020 and two quarters of 2021 with a further 30% in Q3 of 2021 and 20% in Q4 of 2021 – a full two years of enhanced support.

Until Q2 of 2021 part of this support was received from the Representative Body of the Church in Wales, since then however, the DBF has been funding the enhanced rebate from its own reserves.

Aware of the difficulties and challenges facing our parishes and following

conversations with Ministry Area Leaders and Treasurers, the DBF understand that the pandemic has financially affected some churches and Ministry Areas more than others.

The DBF has therefore agreed to increase the Ministry Share Support fund to £140,000, meaning support can be offered where it is needed most.

Peter Lea, Chair of the Monmouth DBF, encourages those who are most in need to apply saying “throughout the pandemic we have seen the whole Church working together to provide financial support. During these challenging times the DBF are committed to supporting those churches who are most in need. I believe that by working together as a diocesan family we will be able to support one another and emerge from this pandemic with Faith in our Future”.

Detailed guidance for applying to the Ministry Share Support fund can be found [here](#).

New Appointment for Monmouth Ministry Area



We are delighted to announce that Revd Liz Perry is to become a House for Duty Priest in the Monmouth Ministry Area.

Liz comes with a wealth of experience and joins us from the Diocese of Bristol where she has been part of a multi-cultural city centre church, working alongside a homeless charity supporting those leaving homelessness to live in a working community. She has also served as a prison chaplain for the last 11 years.

Announcing the appointment, the Rt Revd Cherry Vann, Bishop of Monmouth, said: “This is an excellent appointment. Liz will bring gifts and experience that will benefit the wider diocese as well as the Monmouth Ministry Area and we really look forward to welcoming her in the New Year.”

Read more [here](#).

New Pioneer Evangelist for the Gwent Valleys Centre of Mission



Pioneer Evangelist Jenny Falcón Otero has been licensed to the Gwent Valleys Centre of Mission to work alongside Lead Evangelist Hannah Seal. You can watch the licensing service [here](#),



New Appointments for East Cardiff Ministry Area

We are delighted to announce that
Bishop Cherry has appointed three priests
to serve in the East Cardiff Ministry Area.

The Revd Rose Hill
and the Revd Anthony Beer
are currently in parish ministry in
the Diocese of Llandaff,
and the Revd Canon Andrew Hutchinson
is a school chaplain in Solihull.

We look forward to welcoming them in
early spring next year!



Reduced Service over the Christmas Period

Please be aware that the Diocesan Office will be working at minimal capacity over the Christmas period.

Most staff will be on leave between 17th December and the 4th January. We will respond to your enquiries as soon as possible in the New Year.

Friday Email moving to Wednesday!

We have received a number of comments that Friday is not best day of the week to receive our update. From the New Year our weekly emails will therefore be moving to a Wednesday.

We hope this change will make it easier for churches and Ministry Areas to use some of our content in their own communications. If you are responsible for your church or Ministry Area communications and would like any of the stories or pictures in a different format, then just let us know.

The last email of the year will be sent on Friday 17th December and they will resume on Wednesday 12th January.

We will continue sending out urgent updates as needed.

Announcement from Islwyn Ministry Area

The Rev Trevor Morgan will be standing down as a licensed priest in the Islwyn Ministry Area from 31st December.

He will then take a three-month break to consider where God may be calling him next on his ministry journey.

Rev Mark Owen, Ministry Area Leader, said: "His support, guidance and ministry has been hugely appreciated by many of us let alone his friendship to many. Trevor has been a huge support to me personally and a great friend over the years and I pray this will always be the case.

"I am sure with me; you wish him every blessing in his retirement and whatever God may have him do in the future.



Five Themes and Conference Minutes

The second day of the 2021 Diocesan Conference was dedicated to exploring five themes which will underpin our Diocesan Vision. These themes were set by Bishop Cherry and included: Discipleship, Stewardship, Equality & Diversity, Caring for Creation, and Social Justice. The review of these themes involved feedback from small groups which has since been compiled into a comprehensive report for the Diocesan Standing Committee. The Standing Committee wishes to share this report with the rest of the diocese; along with the Minutes of Conference.

The foundations set in this report will be used as we continue to move forward in shaping our Diocesan Vision in 2022. We would like to thank all members of Conference for their contributions to the exercises and discussions. We would also like to thank all the small group facilitators for their work in leading discussions and recording feedback. Thank you all for your support and engagement. We look forward to sharing more details on the continued development of our vision in the new year!

Diolch yn fawr!

[Download the Five Themes Report here.](#)

[Download the Conference Minutes here.](#)

Good News Worth Sharing

Congratulations!

Congratulations again to our Eco Competition prize winners Ava and Isabel. If you're working on about projects about Caring for Creation in the new year please let us know!





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

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

Training and Events

Christmas Services at the Cathedral



Christmas Services at Newport Cathedral 2021

Sunday 19th December

3.00pm - Crib Service (come dressed as a shepherd or an angel - optional)

Christmas Eve - 24th December

3.00pm - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols *
11.00pm - Midnight Eucharist of the Nativity *

** These services are ticketed due to capacity - please book through the website or via the Office.*

Christmas Day - 25th December

8.00am - Holy Eucharist
10.30am - Christmas Day Choral Eucharist

www.newportcathedral.org.uk
Cathedral Office: 01633 267464

St John's Maindee Nine Lessons and Carols

If your church enjoyed the music provided by St John's Maindee in our Diocesan Music Database, you now have the opportunity to enjoy them live at their upcoming carol service. See the details below.

Our Diocesan Music Database is still available on our website: <https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/clergy-and-members/monmouth-music/>

If you would like to contribute new music to the database, please send it to admin.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk

St John's Church, Maindee *Nine Lessons and Carols* *Sunday 19th December 6pm*



Enjoy singing well known carols, listening to the wonderful and familiar words of the readings, and sit back to listen to the choir singing well loved and new carols, all in atmospheric candlelight.



There will be mince pies and mulled wine to enjoy after the service, along with the opportunity to chat to old friends and new.

St. John's Road, Newport NP19 8GR

A Nativity Encounter – 22nd December



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

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

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

Training for Intercessors

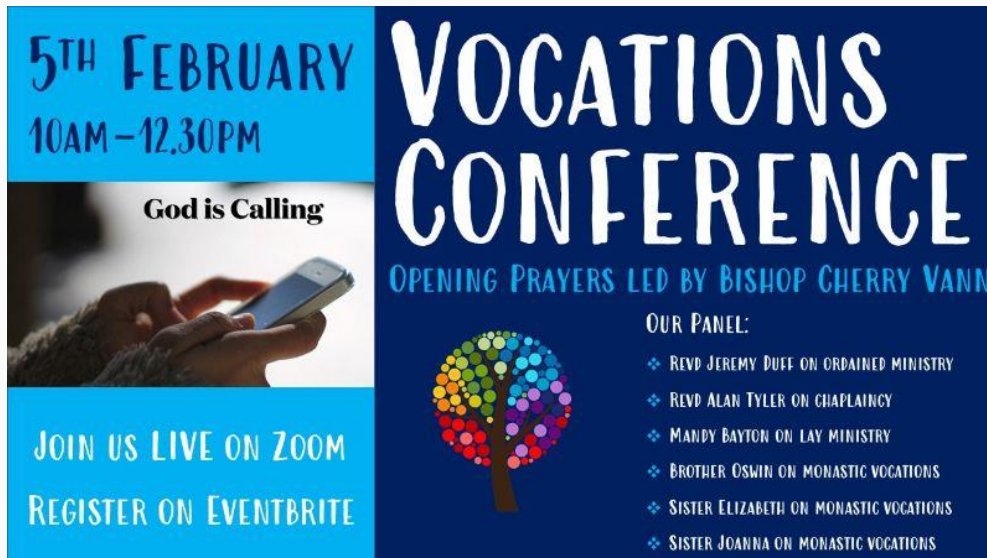
The Cathedral Dean, Very Revd Ian Black, will be leading a training evening on Tuesday 1st February at 7.15pm in the Cathedral on leading intercessions in church. It is open to both those who currently exercise this ministry and anyone who would like to start leading these.

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

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

– dean@newportcathedral.org.uk

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:

- ❖ REV. JEREMY DUFF ON ORDAINED MINISTRY
- ❖ REV. 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 colorful tree graphic made of dots is positioned between the panel list and the opening prayers text.

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

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• JOIN US ON ZOOM •

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE

A colorful tree graphic made of dots is positioned at the bottom right of the panel list.



A Song for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons

'This is a unique tribute to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II'

For the first time in history, on June 2nd 2022, as the Beacons are lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK Overseas Territories and in the Capital Cities of the Commonwealth countries in celebration of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a specially-composed **Song for the Commonwealth** will also be sung by choirs of all sizes and age groups, especially those linked to churches and cathedrals.

On June 2nd 2021, the official **Song for the Commonwealth Competition** was launched, inviting people everywhere to create lyrics and music suited to this historic occasion and moment in The Queen's life on 2nd June next year. We had an amazing response and received many wonderful and meaningful entries from all over the Commonwealth.

The chosen song was announced on December 2nd 2021.

This song including its words, musical score and parts will be available to view and download from **January 2nd 2022** online.

at <https://www.commonwealthresounds.com/qpbj/>

The material will be carefully prepared and presented for choirs to learn and there will also be audio recordings for choirs who don't read music. The song can sung either as a solo or in harmony by choirs in central locations of their choice within their local communities at **9.45 pm** in local time zones that evening around the world. This can happen whether or not a Beacon is being lit locally there, **uniting the world in music and song in tribute to Her Majesty The Queen.**

All choirs are welcome to join in this unique aspect of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, and we would be grateful if they each **register their involvement** by using the link below, enabling us to list their participation, along with sending them a Certificate of Grateful Recognition after the event as a permanent reminder of their taking part that night on **2nd June 2022**.

<https://www.commonwealthresounds.com/qpb/>

Bruno Peek - LVO OBE OPR, Pageantmaster, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons

Alison Cox OBE, Founder and Chair of Trustees, The Commonwealth Resounds



Photo credit – Simon Jay Price

Services and Resources

Christmas Services Livestreamed from the Cathedral

Advent 4 10:30am Sunday 19th December <https://youtu.be/ITCvrGyooKQ>

Nine lessons and Carols 3pm Friday
24th December <https://youtu.be/qvsVQP12V8s>

Midnight Mass 11pm Friday 24th December <https://youtu.be/CE65J5mubTc>

Christmas Day 10.30am Saturday 25th December <https://youtu.be/LPsrYrvxTLo>

No streamed service on Sunday 26th December

Christmas 2 10.30am Sunday 2nd January <https://youtu.be/XwANRM4G0MM>

Esgobaeth Mynwy Gwasanaethau Cymraeg Ionwr 2022

Ionwr / January 8th

Saturday / Dydd Sadwrn

5pm / y.p., Cadeirlan Casnewydd / Newport Cathedral

Plygain

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.

Advent Guided Reflection – Christ's Healing Light

For those who were unable to attend last week's healing service, the Diocesan Healing Wholeness and Reconciliation Group has recorded the guided reflection and made it available on the diocesan YouTube channel. We invite everyone to pause and take a moment for prayer; especially in this often busy and sometimes stressful season of Advent. Join us in a celebration of Christ's healing light. We hope you find this a valuable and useful resource; and encourage you to share it with friends.





A Prayer for Christmas 2021

From Cynnal, The Counselling Service for Clergy,
Ministers of Religion, Christian Workers, and Their Families.

O God our Father, help us to welcome
Your Son, Jesus Christ, into our hearts,
to drive out fear. May His light scatter the darkness,
and bring healing to the broken,
joy to the sad and lonely,
strength and hope to those who struggle.
May He fill us all with love, for each other, and for you.
Love, which overflows in care and support for others,
and ourselves.

At this time of joy, and hope, and peace,
we pray for those who know none:
the poor, the marginalised, for all who suffer,
and particularly for those who know the tyranny of addiction.
May they know the freedom that comes from you, and trust in you alone,
whose service is perfect freedom,
and in serving others may we know true joy.

We pray for a world, often deaf to your message of peace,
wrapped up in selfishness. Help us to live out your love,
in reconciliation, and forgiveness, that your will may be done,
and your kingdom come. May we join our song with the angels,
and be reminded of the hope we share: born in Bethlehem,
fragile and vulnerable. Come into our hearts, and set us free.
Fill us with your blessings, O giver of all good things. Amen.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

wynfordellisowen@adferiad.org

Telephone: 07796464045

www.cynnal.wales

The Lectio for Families app from 24-7 Prayer

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

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

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

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

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

Download Lectio for Families on App Store and Google Play.

Vacancies

Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys & Diocesan Director of Mission

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

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

We are looking for someone who can demonstrate that they:

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

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

For an informal conversation please contact:

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

Closing date: Friday 14th January 2022

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

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

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

RSCM rates apply.

Closing Date for Applications: 15th January, 2022.

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