



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



Updated Guidance - last update 17th December

As we approach Christmas, we are aware that Wales is entering the highest alert level for Coronavirus (largely from 28th December). Whilst places of worship do not need to close for services and worship under this level, we urge churches to carefully review the services they plan to offer over the coming weeks. It is more important than ever that risk management and mitigation measures are robust and that resources are in place to implement them. We owe a duty to all those attending services to do all we reasonably can to keep people safe even if that may mean reducing the number and frequency of services offered in some cases. Please review your plans and risk assessment procedures accordingly to make sure people can be certain of a safe environment at church services.

View the latest guidance [here](#).

Happy Christmas from the Diocesan Team!



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 24th December and the 4th January. We will respond to your enquiries as soon as possible in the New Year.

Acting Archdeacon of Monmouth - Archdeacon Sue



Archdeacon Sue can be contacted at,
archdeacon.gwentvalleys@cinw.org.uk

Phone: 01495 449946

Mobile: 07741661154

If things can be dealt with locally please contact your Area Dean.

Live-streamed Services & Reflections Over Christmas:

Watch Bishop Cherry's Tuesday reflection [here](#).

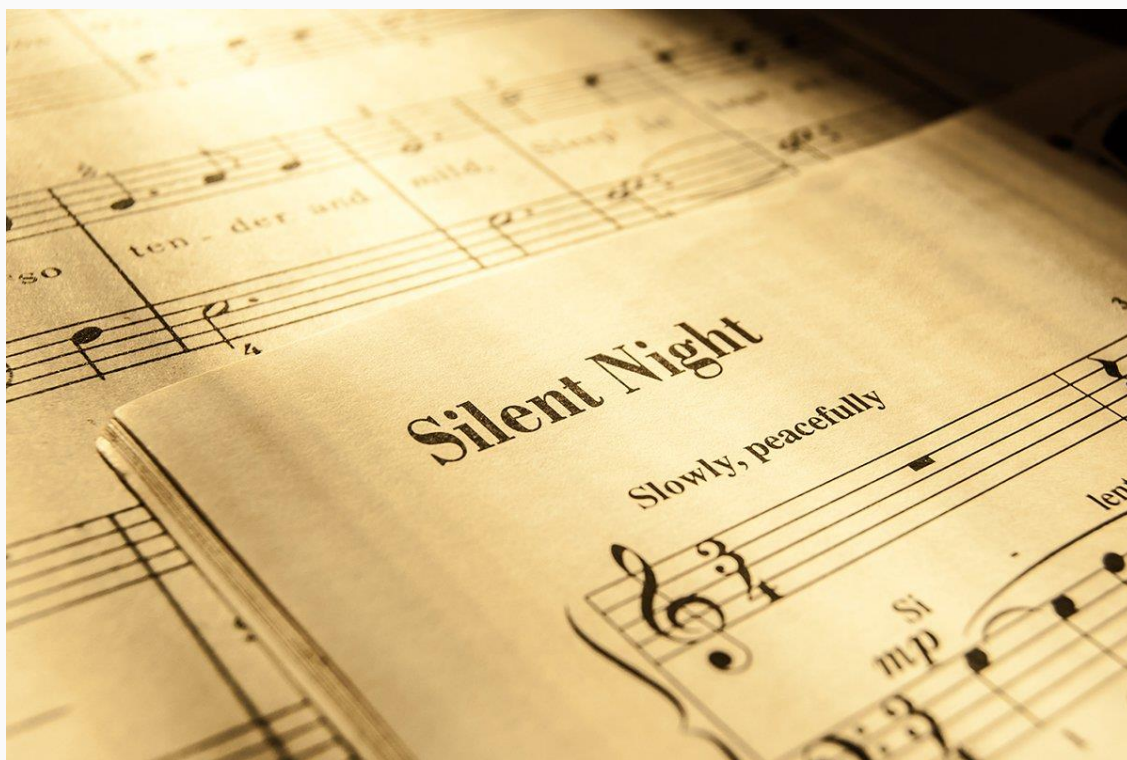
Join a Sunday Eucharist from the Cathedral at 10:30am [here](#).

Join a Crib Service from the Cathedral on the 20th of December at 16:00pm [here](#).

Join a Christmas Carol Service from the Cathedral on the 24th of December at 15:00pm [here](#).

Join the First Eucharist of Christmas from the Cathedral on the 24th of December at 21:00pm [here](#).

A Carol for Wales



With carol services in churches unlikely to happen this year, an old Welsh tradition is being revived – singing carols from outside our homes.

Join in “a Carol for Wales” on Christmas Eve by singing one of our favourite carols, Silent Night, from your doorstep at 7pm.

It's a simple and effective way to tell people about the Christmas story, says the Revd Kevin Ellis, vicar of Bro Eleth in the Diocese of Bangor and one of the organisers.

“A Carol For Wales will hopefully, in the strangest of times and a single moment, bring people together, even though we are apart. ‘Silent Night’ helps us to focus on the fragility and gift of life as we once again live, love and laugh with the Christ child.”

Find out more at the Carol For Wales Facebook page where you can also register to show you are taking part.

<https://www.facebook.com/canutawelnos>

Christmas in some of our Churches



"Upper Islwyn MA donated 800 Christmas Story Books to enable every child in four of our schools to have one to take home this Christmas as we have not been able to go into schools and they have not been able to come into us as usual."



"At Llandogo, unable, like everyone else, to stage the traditional Nativity production, we have constructed a life size tableau of it in the churchyard, with, from left to right, shepherd, Mary, Angel, Jesus, Joseph and one wise man.

After dark it is illuminated.

The figures are made from wire and wood padded with bubble wrap and have proper mannequin heads."

Rev Becca Stephens has been taking Mary and Joseph all around Newport, have a look [here](#) to see how many places you can recognise.



Caerleon Ministry Area have been gifting parishioners lovely knitted stars.

"Many thanks to all who knitted these special Christmas decorations. You are a gift to the Ministry Area. May all who receive these gifts know that they are in our thoughts and prayers as we celebrate the greatest gift of all, Jesus our Saviour."



Curl up somewhere comfortable and join Cyncoed MA for an online Christmas Eve Bedtime Story live at 6pm!

Sign up here to get an email

reminder: <https://cyncoedma.churchsuite.co.uk/events/xaqd1al3>

CMD

In the new year, we will be offering two new CMD sessions in preparation for our upcoming Diocesan Lent Course.

1st Session: Leading an online small group

A guide to running online small groups using Zoom, or similar platforms, and facilitating group discussions. Including a preview of our 2021 Diocesan Lent Course, 'Dying to Live'.

- Tuesday 26th January, 2-3.30pm
- Wednesday 27th January, 7.30-9pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leading-an-online-small-group-registration-133325864249>

2nd Session: Small groups, belonging and lifelong discipleship

A chance to discuss in more depth the role that small groups and discipleship courses can play in the life of our Ministry Areas. How can small groups encourage belonging, facilitate pastoral care and enable lifelong discipleship?

- Tuesday 9th February, 2-3.30pm
- Wednesday 10th February, 7.30-9pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cmd-small-groups-belonging-and-lifelong-discipleship-registration-133330738829>

The Wisdom's Table Podcast with Rev Philip Averay



Listen [here](#).



**Global
Leadership
Network**

United Kingdom
and Ireland

Global Leadership Network (GLN) Church in Wales Summit

Date: Monday January 11th 2021

Timing: 10:00-16:30

Speakers:

Amy Edmondson Fearless Organisations Demand Psychological Safety

Marcus Buckingham How the Best Leaders Build Resilience

Vanessa Van Edwards The Science of Leadership

Bishop T. D. James The Metrics of Migrative Leadership

Sadie Robertson Huff Forces that Affect your Influence/Faith and Authenticity

Craig Groeschel Leading Through the Dip

In addition to the above there will be a number of short interviews interwoven into the day, including some from the Church in Wales.

Format:

After each keynote speaker, there will opportunity to discuss and process what has been heard via a series of breakout sessions. Each breakout room will contain no more than 8-10 attendees.

There will be a 45-minute break for lunch at Midday, and another break for 15 minutes midway through the afternoon.

Book a place [here](#).

The deadline to book your place is the 23rd of December.

If you have any issues please email zoeward@churchinwales.org.uk



Safeguarding Training

Please see below the January dates for Safeguarding Training on zoom.

Places can be booked by emailing safeguardingtraining@stpadarns.ac.uk

14 January 14.00 - Part 1

15 January 10.00 - Part 1

19 January 14.00 - Part 1

21 January 14.00 - Part 2

22 January 14.00 - Part 2

27 January 10.00 - Part 2

29 January 10.00 - Part 2



Calling All Amateur Photographers

We know you are out there..... we've seen your work on social media over the last couple of months and it's been fantastic! Lockdown has given us all a different perspective on things - nature, wealth, health, family, freedom - what really matters to us! This new perspective has made us all better photographers!

A few months ago, Bishop Cherry announced that her three key areas of focus were around eco church and environmental issues; diversity and inclusion and social justice. We are encouraging you to share your interpretation of what this means in your church or parish in the form of a photograph. We will then use this imagery to in promotional material for the Diocese.

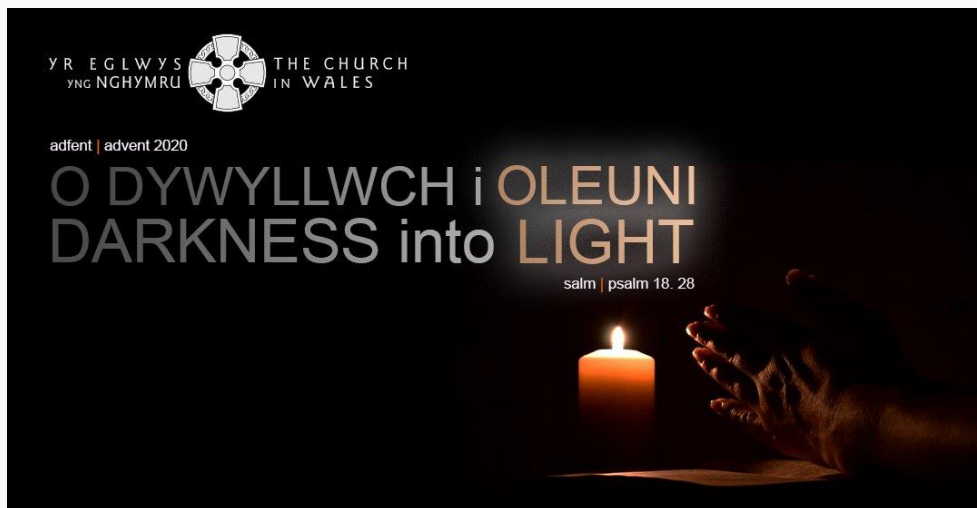
We would welcome entries from all age groups (we know children are great eco campaigners!), we just ask that you are happy for us to share your photographs to reflect a true picture of our diocese from those who live and worship here!

Photographs maybe used on our website/social media campaigns and many other promotional and informative material.

Entries should be sent to debragoddard@churchinwales.org.uk

Find out more and read the terms and conditions [here](#).

Darkness Into Light



Find out more about the Church in Wales' advent campaign [Darkness into Light](#).