

HEART OF MONMOUTHSHIRE PROFILE FOR TEAM VICAR



Diocese of Monmouth

Mattress:Tangling:Drones

If you use 'What Three Words' and follow the link it will take you literally to the Heart of the Monmouthshire Ministry Area!

Fascinated? Would you like to know more?

Then please read on because we would love you to know more about our wonderful area and the people who make it so great.

Our Ministry Area vision is encapsulated in the following

**“Sharing the generous love of God within our communities
as we grow together in faith and hope”**

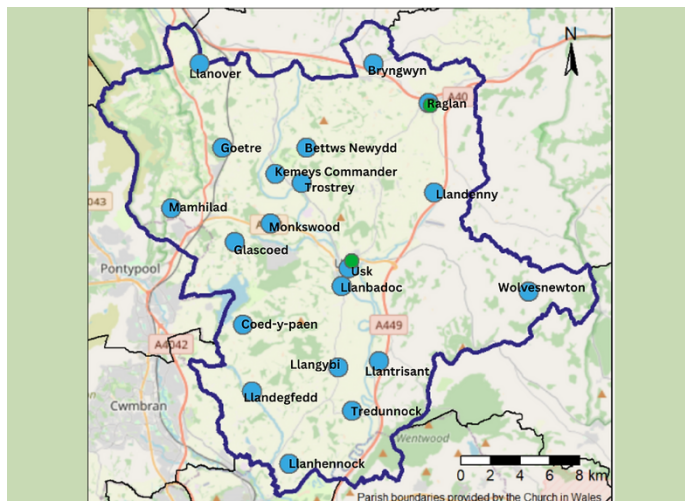
A new Team Vicar

Over the past three years our outgoing Team Leader has led us through the pandemic and also guided us through setting up the Ministry Area as it now is. We now have a new Team Leader in Rev'd Sally Ingle-Gillis who has been a wonderful team Vicar over the past three years and now has the enthusiasm to guide us forward. We have a strong team for our Ministry Area Council with all positions (apart from one) currently filled. It should be noted that the MAC is the sole PCC and its members the Trustees of the single registered Charity.

We are now seeking a new Team Vicar who will take us on the next stage of our journey – concentrating on our Mission and Discipleship.

Who We Are

To get down to basics we are an area comprising 20 churches, 32 churchyards and 5 church/village halls, spread over a large and beautiful rural area in the centre of Monmouthshire.



For photographs and details of our churches do visit our website:

<https://www.homma.org>

FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF MONMOUTH



Thank you for taking the time to look at this profile for the post of Team Vicar in the Heart of Monmouthshire Ministry Area. This Ministry Area offers an exciting opportunity to engage in collaborative ministry and mission, working closely together in a new team.

Whilst a lot of the churches have worked together for some years, the Ministry Area is growing closer together, realising the benefits of sharing resources, skills and the desire to grow spiritually and numerically.

The Ministry Area is very well served currently by two committed and active full-time priests: Rev'd Sally Ingle-Gillis is the newly appointed Ministry Area leader and The Rev'd Sue Davies-Fletcher. There are lots of other gifted potential colleagues for you, both lay and ordained, and the 'team' element of the role is very important.

These are beautiful parts of Wales in which to live and minister and also places of great potential and passion to proclaim the Good News in the communities. The people are warm, welcoming and have a genuine desire to grow the Kingdom of God in their communities.

For an informal conversation or further information please contact the Rev'd Sally Ingle-Gillis (SallyIngleGillis@cinw.org.uk)

With my best wishes
Ian Rees

Meet the team

Currently our Team is made up of Team Leader, Rev'd Sally Ingle-Gillis, a Team Vicar, Rev'd Sue Davies-Fletcher, a Team Curate, Rev'd Sarah Rosser and a non-stipendiary Team Deacon, Rev'd Bill Savage. These are supported by other retired clergy who live in the area. We require a second Team Vicar who will work with the existing team to grow and develop the area.

The team is relatively new and are discerning ways of best working and ministering across the whole geography of the Ministry Area. We have a range of church traditions and styles of working and are ready to talk about using the skills and gifts of the whole team for the benefit of our mission and worship plans. Are you interested in discipleship, and developing worship? Are you someone who is excited by good communication, by reaching those who are not familiar with church, and really have a heart for rural ministry? Alongside the person spec and other essential skills, answering yes to these questions would be a good fit for our team.



Eight Worship leaders have recently undertaken training and they lead non-eucharistic services across the Ministry Area. Likewise, a number of lay people have also undergone a Pastoral Assistants course and are eager to start visiting people in need in the community. The senior team of ordained and lay people are also undertaking a Lead Academy course on Leadership; four people including Rev'd Sally recently attended LYCiG (Leading Your Church into Growth) which she is keen to develop further in the Area.

Although there are 20 churches, not all have services each week and there are a variety of services held embracing traditions and cultures particular to their own areas. We encompass the Diocesan Visions of Discipleship, Stewardship, Social Justice, Equality and Diversity and the Environment. More on this in our paragraph on Church Life.

It is also important to say, at this stage, that although we have a large number of buildings, according to our latest financial statements; "no churches are consistently eating into reserves year on year. In fact, all bar two generally manage to maintain reserves of £20,000 or more". Thus, we feel that our area is sustainable and fit for the future. Some of the buildings are listed and are real treasures both for our ministry area and the wider community.

Where We Live

The Heart of Monmouthshire is a beautiful place in which to live and work. It has the main town of Usk with Raglan and Penperlleni (Goytre), being important as bases for our other Team Vicars. It is situated close to the towns of Abergavenny, Newport and Monmouth. Less than half an hour from the Severn River crossings and also an easy distance from Cardiff. It is a mainly rural, agricultural area, with a lively livestock market at Raglan operating a couple of days a week. There are also local markets as

well as major supermarkets nearby. There are three primary schools within the MA, two of which are Church in Wales Voluntarily Controlled and the third a state primary. There are secondary schools in Abergavenny, Monmouth and Newport and a series of Haberdasher's Schools for all ages in Monmouth. There are also two prison establishments within the area.

There is so much going on in all the villages in and around the area, much of which can be accessed by following various social media groups and websites such as Raglan Matters, Usk in Bloom and Goytre Village. Usk also has an active Town Council which frequently liaises with the church.

As well as the usual facilities and amenities in the area we are blessed with good doctors' surgeries, dentists and two hospitals within easy reach. There is also an abundance of good places to eat!

Accommodation

The accommodation available for our new Team Vicar is a four-bedroom detached house in Usk, an easy drive off the main Monmouth Road, opposite the school and 5 minutes' walk to St Mary's Church and the centre of Usk. It is well situated to reach all parts of the MA as our roads, although quiet country roads, are all easily navigable.

The house comprises:

Ground floor - Entrance porch, hall, reception room suitable for a study, sitting room, cloak room, kitchen (includes dishwasher, oven and hob built-in)/dining/family room with bi-fold doors to the garden, utility room.

First floor - Main bedroom with en-suite shower room, family bathroom, two bedrooms.

Second floor - Single bedroom with en-suite shower room, small landing and a room suitable for child's play/study space, access to roof storage.

Outside - Level garden to front and large rear garden on two levels with lighting and steps, raised planting beds, timber shed, patio area, single detached garage.

An intruder alarm has been fitted.



Church Life

Our churches and church communities are busy, bustling and vibrant places and we have full diaries of events circulated to all the churches every month. (Please see link to the diary in our website).

We have a common purpose in our vision and try to outreach to all those in our communities who are not as connected with the church as we would like. The following is a list of some of the activities carried out within the area:

Forward Together – lay led services once per month around the churches to get people together across the MA

Being a Blessing – a home group to discuss the various ways of being a blessing to ourselves and others

Baby and Toddler Group – one already set up in Usk and another planned for Raglan

Wellbeing Café – The café began as an idea to befriend those who find going out of the village difficult and are lonely and over two years has grown from 3 to 50 people. They now have lunches and outings as well as the weekly meetings.

Cymorth – a weekly coffee group in the local pub in Raglan to help people with any problems and have talks about such things as wills, probate and legacies.

Open The Book – two groups in Usk and Raglan visit the local CinW Schools telling bible stories, with plans to investigate going to the third school

Big Breakfast – a revitalised (since Covid) open breakfast for anyone – free or donations – locally sourced food.

Two small choirs in Usk and Raglan churches who get together for joint Ministry Area services

A handbell ringers' group in Raglan – always looking for new members!

Adding to the above list and fulfilling our role in equality and diversity we have played a great part in hosting and entertaining Ukrainians, recently took part in Pride in Usk and have an annual agreement to hosting the chaplaincy tent at the Usk Agricultural Show.

We have number of ecumenical links; with the Baptist Chapel in Usk, the Roman Catholic Church and Community in Usk and the Roman Catholic Community in Llanarth.

Importantly there is a recording system in the St Cadoc's, Raglan, allowing services to be live streamed through Zoom as well as recording Life Events for those who wish.

Opportunities and Challenges

A recent workshop under the facilitation of Archdeacon Ian Rees came up with a long list of challenges but also the opportunities these give us – some of the conclusions were: -

- There is a need to develop a pattern of services which cater for existing congregations but also attract those outside of our current regular church congregations.
- Also, a need for more small groups – bible study, faith groups, prayer groups.
- Problems in communication – although the website and emailing are improving what about those who are not computer savvy?
- An audit of buildings would be useful

- More work could be done on our environmental image

Our Next Team Vicar

We are looking for the impossible! But are you that person?

Someone who has a heart for Mission and Discipleship, knows how to talk to and treat all people in the community regardless of sex, race or religion. Someone with the willingness to go out into our communities and spread not only the words of the gospel but also the work of the churches in our area. Someone who can continue to build on the existing team, especially bringing in younger vibrant people. Someone who can embrace the variety and diversity within our churches while respecting their traditions and the common purpose and vision of the MA. Someone who can take on the pastoral care for a section of the 20 churches while also supporting the others in the team.

This all seems a lot of work but you will get the full support of your Ministry Team, will be expected to take annual leave, go on retreats, courses etc. your expenses will be paid centrally through the MA funds which are allocated across the churches and budgeted for annually. Most day-to-day financial matters are delegated to the individual churches and their Treasurers are subject to the use of a common Accounting System, this is overseen by the MAC Treasurer.

We have also recently appointed a part time administrator who is tasked with keeping the website up to date, helping with communication, bulk purchasing, recording of Life Events.

Ministering in this area offers lots of possibilities and opportunities at a really exciting time for this ministry area. It is also an important time for our diocese as we continue to live out the diocesan vision with a view to growing and equipping our churches as we continue to share God's love in our communities.

For more details of the diocesan vision see :

<https://monmouth.contentfiles.net/media/documents/10925g - Faith In Our Future Brochure.pdf>