



## MID TORFAEN MINISTRY AREA

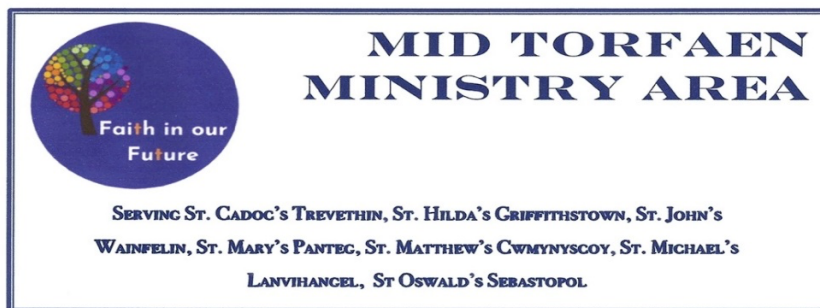
SERVING ST. CADOC'S TREVETHIN, ST. HILDA'S GRIFFITHSTOWN, ST. JOHN'S  
WAINFELIN, ST. MARY'S PANTEG, ST. MATTHEW'S CWMYNSCOY, ST. MICHAEL'S  
LANVIHANGEL, ST. OSWALD'S SEBASTOPOL



## MINISTRY AREA PROFILE



2022



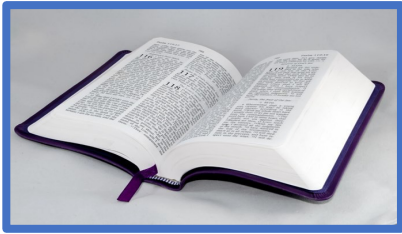
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**For Social and Cultural Statistics on some of our local community areas please go to:**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Sebastopol</b>    | <a href="https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/np45dr">https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/np45dr</a>   |
| <b>Wainfelin</b>     | <a href="https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/np46ef">https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/np46ef</a>   |
| <b>Trevethin</b>     | <a href="https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/np48dl">https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/np48dl</a>   |
| <b>Penygarn</b>      | <a href="https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/np48js">https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/np48js</a>   |
| <b>New Inn</b>       | <a href="https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/np40xb">https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/np40xb</a>   |
| <b>Panteg</b>        | <a href="https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/np45lx">https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/np45lx</a>   |
| <b>Griffithstown</b> | <a href="https://www.ilivehere.co.uk/statistics-griffithstown-torfaen-15824.html">https://www.ilivehere.co.uk/statistics-griffithstown-torfaen-15824.html</a> |
| <b>Pontypool</b>     | <a href="https://www.ilivehere.co.uk/statistics-pontypool-torfaen-30927.html">https://www.ilivehere.co.uk/statistics-pontypool-torfaen-30927.html</a>         |

Please note there are not statistics for each specific area within our Ministry Area. This information is included to give a flavour of the Eastern Valley villages and areas to potential applicants.



# 1. Invitation

Here within the Mid Torfaen Ministry Area, we would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone considering becoming our future House for Duty priest.

The Mid Torfaen Ministry Area is newly licensed and consists of 7 churches. The Ministry Area was created from the amalgamation of the Benefice of Panteg and Griffithstown, and part of the upper Torfaen Ministry area.

All our churches have been in a period of interregnum until a year ago, with the arrival of the new ministry area leader.

It has been a challenging few years for our churches, but we are proud that the new structures of the ministry area has been put in place, along with the addition of a new ministry area office to support our ministry. As we learn to live with a new normal, following the pandemic, we are now looking forward to developing our strengths and ministry, in particular how we can be Christ's body, hands and feet, showing God's compassion in this place.

Thus, we offer a profile of the Mid Ministry Area, its people, its strengths and its needs alongside its history, its place in the community, and our hopes for the future. We pray for a House for Duty priest who will minister as part of a team, supporting and encouraging the wider ministry area and taking special responsibility for ministering to St Oswald's and St Michael's. We are looking forward to welcoming a colleague who will be a valued part of the team, sharing their special gifts and experiences to enrich the team.

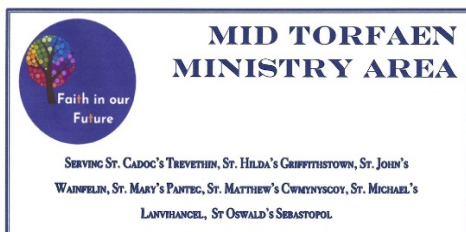
Our congregations are involved and enthusiastic and we would like a colleague who can help us to nurture faith and lay ministry, drawing in those on the periphery.

## MID TORFAEN MINISTRY AREA VISION

As a new ministry area, we are about to start work on developing a vision and development plan that is outward looking, whilst nurturing towards our congregations.

We desire to be a prayerful, loving and inclusive presence in all our communities proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and expressing the abundant love of God for everyone.

We aspire to be a Christian family that people will want to belong to.



## 2. Our New House for Duty Priest

We hope for a House for Duty priest who will be:

- ❖ **Forward looking and flexible** – has a creative and flexible approach to the ministry and outreach of this varied ministry area.
- ❖ **Caring** - has a strong pastoral heart and passion for encouraging the members of each of the congregations in discipleship, building a strong unity in Christ.
- ❖ **Collaborative in nature** - working well with the Ministry Team lay and ordained within the Ministry Area and is a good team player. Communicates well, supportive loyal of other colleagues
- ❖ **Confident and approachable** - able to work within appropriate boundaries. Able to support smaller church communities in their spiritual life, whilst encouraging them to look outwards and explore how they can serve their local community.
- ❖ **Community focussed** - being a visible presence both in the local communities and in the wider Ministry Area, working with the wider ministry area in discerning how we can best serve our community and show the love of Christ to those around us.
- ❖ **Engaging** - has skills in developing links with link schools and supporting the work with children and young people in the ministry area.

For this we envisage a person who:

- ❖ respects our sacramental tradition and is willing to explore new ways of worship and reaching out to the community, especially young families.
- ❖ is a competent and inspiring preacher.
- ❖ has good communication and organisational skills, and relishes working as part of a team.
- ❖ enjoys schools ministry and would share in the development of the Ministry Area's ministry to children and young people.
- ❖ will help us to value, engage with and encourage the older members of the communities.
- ❖ has a strong understanding of the diaconal element to their priestly ministry.
- ❖ is prepared to engage in our occasional offices to inspire faith and give welcome and invitation.
- ❖ embraces an inclusive church where all are welcome.
- ❖ has a good sense of humour and the desire to embrace Valley's life.

### 3. Church Life



The churches within the Ministry Area are traditional churches, alternating between morning prayer and eucharist. Music plays an important role within our worship and we have a range of organists to call upon as well as a choir.

Within our Ministry Area communities, we are rebuilding following the pandemic, and try to involve as many people as possible in the worship and activities of the Church. Our congregations have a wide range of knowledge, skills and talents and our churches strong teams of helpers involved in numerous rotas. We believe this is one of our strengths and it allows everyone to feel that they are contributing to the life of our churches.

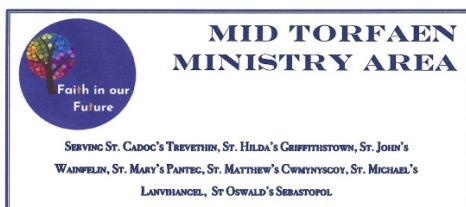
We have a ministry team, including a Licensed Lay Minister who regularly preaches and leads Sung Evensong and Morning Prayer. In addition, we have several Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Assistants, all of whom are involved in services. We are also lucky to have access to several retired clergy who hold 'permission to officiate' licenses who able to help lead some of our services.

The clergy are assisted at services by a team of servers within our churches. A group of assistants are authorised to administer the Chalice at Eucharistic services.

We believe that the welcome newcomers receive on arrival at any of our churches is crucial and we work very hard to make sure that this is achieved. We have a strong team of sidespersons who are responsible for welcoming people into our churches and ensuring that they feel comfortable and are greeted by a friendly face.

We have several weekday Eucharists on Wednesdays and Thursdays and the services are followed by a time for fellowship and refreshments. In addition, we have a regular online Zoom Compline.

As well as the normal Sunday and weekday Services, there are periodic special services, such as the ones held on Remembrance Sunday, Patronal Festivals, and memorial services, where families are invited who have lost loved ones in the previous year.



## 4. Our Congregations and Sunday service activity

### **St Hilda's Church, Griffithstown:**

Here the congregation is an ageing one, and congregational growth is slow. Average attendance at services on a Sunday is 30. Numbers are small. The Church is popular for Christenings and funerals, because of its size, with attendance being 60 – 100 at these services. St Hilda's has recently moved to a pattern of alternating between the eucharist and morning prayer.

Evensong has restarted following Covid and is rotated on a fortnightly basis at each church in the ministry area. Prior to Covid the congregation averaged around 20 people.

### **St Oswald's Church:**

Most of the congregation are aged 70+years, their Sunday Eucharist service attracts a congregation of approx. 10. There is an All-Age worship Service every Friday evening where attendance averages 6. On Thursdays at 10am we have a eucharist followed by refreshments and around 8 people attend.

### **St Mary's Church, Panteg:**

Worship at St Mary's is at 9.30am and alternates between eucharist and morning prayer. We are in the process of developing a monthly family service

We have said Eucharist and coffee morning on Wednesday, in the Church Hall which is very well attended and an important source of well-being and community.

### **St Cadoc's, Trevethin:**

Worship at St Cadoc's is at 11am and alternates between eucharist and morning prayer. We have an organist and an active bell ringing team. We have a lively Boys Brigade which meet at the Church every Friday evening.

### **St Matthew's, Pontypool**

Worship at St Matthew's is at 9.30am and alternates between eucharist and morning prayer.

### **St Michael's,**

Worship at St Michaels is at 9am and is eucharist on the first and third Sunday.

### **St John's, Wainfelin**

St John's worship is a 11.15am and alternates between eucharist and morning prayer. In addition, there is a Children's Crafty Church Club meeting weekly, using Susan Sayer materials based on lectionary readings. Every other week the clergy attend to do a short slot and informal communion will be offered once a term. Around 30 children attend plus around 4-5 leaders.

On 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, the seven churches gather for a Eucharist.

# 5. Ministry Area Information



## Mission and Ministry

Within our Ministry Area, we place great importance on our role as a channel of Christ's Mission. We seek to develop our own community life and to nurture faith of church members, whilst at the same time reaching out to the wider communities. We are aware of the impact made by individual church members in their daily lives, maintain a Christian presence in the wider world.

There is a strong sense of fellowship within the congregations which spans the generations leading to a friendly atmosphere and warm relationships. The level of concern people show to one another is reflected in the way they care for each other and go out of their way to offer their support to the other churches in our Ministry Area and beyond. There is very much a feeling 'of family' within our Ministry Area.

## Location of our Churches

The Ministry Area covers a large geographic area covering Sebastopol in the South (1 Church), Griffithstown (1 Church), New Inn and Panteg (2 Churches) in the centre, and Pontypool to the North (3 Churches).

- **St Oswald's Church** Sebastopol (1915) is in the southern most suburb of Pontypool. It is named in honour of the Russian city of Sebastopol which was taken during the Crimean War.
- **St Hilda's Church** built in 1888 is located within the large and fairly affluent suburb of Griffithstown.
- **St Mary's Church** is Grade 11 listed and is believed to have originated on its present site during the sixth century. During the time of Cromwell, much damage was done to the church and churchyard. Many repairs and alterations have been made to St Mary's, including an almost complete rebuild in 1849, with further works added in 1879. The tower is by far the oldest part of the church believed to be founded in Norman times.
- **St Michaels Church** The site of St Michaels was determined from the early existence of hermit cells (6th and 7th Century) and by stages developed into the church building as it stands today. The Church has its own Churchyard with a Garden of Rest and some very old Yew trees. St Michael's Church lies at the edge of the village of New Inn and sits back from the road next to an old listed Inn called the Horse and Jockey which has been newly renovated and opened in July 2020.
- **St Cadoc's Church** stands at the entrance of the area known as Trevethin in Pontypool. The first historical recording of the church is in the 13th Century in the Norfolk Tax Census of 1258. The church has undergone several refurbishments during the centuries the last one being completed in 2017, the church now boasts moveable chairs instead of pews. The internal area can be adapted to accommodate community events and can also be used for seminar facilities.
- **St Matthew's Church Cwmynyscoy** is a small but attractive tin church built in 1895 and is located near to West Monmouth Comprehensive School on the outskirts of Pontypool on Blaendare Road.
- **St John's Church** is in Wainfelin. The church was opened in 1913. The church building has recently undergone a large refurbishment project which will make us better able to serve as a community centre.

















## MID TORFAEN MINISTRY AREA

SERVING ST. CADOC'S TREVEETHIN, ST. HILDA'S CRIFFITHISTOWN, ST. JOHN'S  
WAINFELIN, ST. MARY'S PANTEG, ST. MATTHEW'S CWMYNYSCOT, ST. MICHAEL'S  
LANVHANELL, ST. OSWALD'S SEBASTOPOL

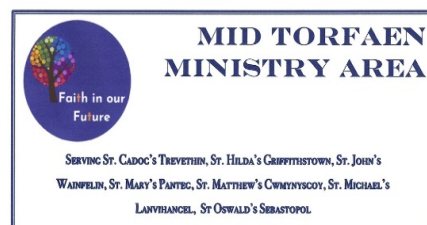
# 6. Community Activities and Organisations

| Church       | Choir | M.U.                                | Boy's<br>Brigade | Eastern<br>Valley<br>Food<br>Bank | Trac 2 | Newport<br>home-<br>less<br>charities | Craft<br>and<br>Chatter | Guild<br>Ladies<br>Forum |
|--------------|-------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| St Cadoc's   | yes   | yes                                 | yes              | yes                               | yes    |                                       |                         |                          |
| St Hilda's   | yes   | yes                                 |                  | yes                               | yes    | yes                                   | yes                     |                          |
| St John's    |       |                                     |                  |                                   |        |                                       | yes                     |                          |
| St Mary's    |       |                                     |                  | yes                               | yes    |                                       | yes                     | yes                      |
| St Matthew's |       | yes                                 |                  | yes                               |        |                                       | yes                     | yes                      |
| St Michael's |       |                                     |                  | yes                               |        |                                       |                         |                          |
| St Oswald's  |       | Yes<br>(part of<br>St Hil-<br>da's) |                  | yes                               | yes    | yes                                   |                         |                          |

### Other:

-  Bell Ringing Team (St Cadoc's)
-  Open Days/Family History
-  Community Outreach tea and coffee (St Cadoc's, St Mary's)
-  Christian Aid
-  Charity Concerts
-  Fetes
-  Cuppa and Chat mornings in partnership with Pontypool Rotary Club
-  Trussell food bank
-  Historic churches tours
-  Regular coffee mornings
-  Panteg Scout group (affiliated to St Mary's Church.)
-  Boys Brigade
-  Quiet Days
-  Lent Course

## 7. Geographic Information including schools and education



Torfaen is situated in Southeast Wales and is the most easterly of the South Wales Valleys. It is an area of great beauty with mountains to the west and north and rolling countryside to the east. It is steeped in tradition and history with many historical sites from the Roman Empire to the industrial revolution, many of which are of primary importance.

Sebastopol and Griffithstown are situated to the south of the Ministry Area and are in close proximity of the valley town of Pontypool where 3 of the 7 churches of our Ministry Area are located. New Inn and Panteg are adjacent to Griffithstown.

The new town of Cwmbran is situated to the South of the Ministry Area and the new development of South Sebastopol is part of the Ministry Area. There is a short commute to the cities of Newport (7miles) and Cardiff (25 miles). Cwmbran was part of the new town developments in Wales and has a large undercover shopping area where parking is currently free. A regular bus service runs through the Ministry Area with express services to Cardiff. Cwmbran and Pontypool and New Inn both have a railway station with trains and connections to London, Liverpool, Manchester, Bath, Cardiff, Swansea, London and the South West. Cwmbran also has its own theatre.

The M4 at Newport is easily accessible and enables journeys to the south of England via the Prince of Wales Bridge and the Severn Bridge and to the Midlands and the North by the M50 and M5 motorways.

The new Grange University Hospital in Llanfrechfa Cwmbran, opened in November 2020. it is the critical care centre for Greater Gwent and will relieve demand on the other two main hospitals that serve this area, the Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport, and Neville Hall in Abergavenny. County hospital in Griffithstown, has limited outpatient departments, inpatient beds, plus a psychiatric department.

To the south of Sebastopol, new housing developments have been built and incorporate a mixture of detached, semi-detached houses which area mixture of private and social housing. To the West of Sebastopol there is the south Sebastopol development which is currently under construction providing up to 1500 new homes. These developments have increased the number of new families to the area, and the developments are classed as part of the parish of Griffithstown.

Sport and Leisure Amenities are plentiful. Pontypool Park is close to us with its Rugby and Dry ski slope, and there are leisure centres and sports complexes in Cwmbran and Pontypool leisure centres in Pontypool and Cwmbran. This is a beautiful part of Wales, with rural landscapes, mountains, Brecon Beacons National Park and coastal scenery all within our reach.

There are three private leisure facilities within the Cwmbran Area, one within the Great Western Parkway Hotel, which is a large hotel open to non-residents, and Nuffield sports Centre to the east of Cwmbran. Within the cinema/food leisure complex in Cwmbran there is also a gym facility.

Blaenavon is situated 5 miles away and is the home of the National Heritage site of Big Pit, National Coal Museum which provides underground tours with real miner's telling the tempestuous story of the world's greatest coal industry. In addition, the World Heritage site of the historic iron works is located nearby, as is a renovated stem railway.

Locally there are a range of uniformed organisations including the Boy's Brigade, Brownies, Guides, Scouts, Beavers, Cubs, St Johns' Ambulance, ATS.

## PLACES OF INTEREST IN OUR MINISTRY AREA



Folly Tower, Pontypool



Sebastopol, Monmouth Brecon Canal



Trevechin

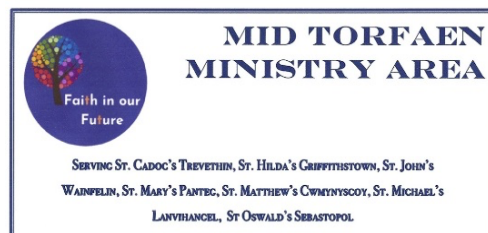


Pontymoile Basin



Pontypool Park Gates

## Schools and Education



The provision of educational establishments in the Ministry Area are good. Educational establishments are available for children aged from 2 through to 18 years of age.

Primary education is provided in both located across the Ministry Area, Ysgol Panteg provides primary education in the welsh language and is situated on the southern edge of Griffithstown, adjacent to the boundary with Sebastopol.

When children move to comprehensive education, parents have a choice between West Mon. Comprehensive School, St Alban's Catholic school in Pontypool or some children go to Croesyceiliog Comprehensive School in Cwmbran. The Welsh comprehensive School Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyn is situated in Trevethin in close to St Cadoc's Church. All schools in Wales teach Welsh to GCSE level and above, although it is not necessary for our new incumbent to speak Welsh, as most of our services are in the English Language. The new 6<sup>th</sup> form college, in Cwmbran, and is called the Learning Zone opened in January 2021 and is part of Coleg Gwent.

Schools use our Church buildings for a range of activities and events including:

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| * Harvest Festival Service             | * Christmas Carol Concert |
| * History of Church Buildings Sessions | * Singing Concerts        |



As a result of COVID-19 restrictions children were not allowed to visit the church.

When restrictions were lifted St Cadoc's was visited by some local school children along with their teachers and teaching assistants.

The children were very explorative and had lots of questions for Father Philip who enjoyed answering all of them.

We look forward to many visits like this in the future.

## 8. The Ministry Area Team



At present the Ministry Area has 2 Clergy who are supported by:

| <b>Church</b>       | <b>LLM (1 who covers the MA)</b> | <b>LEM</b> | <b>LEA</b> | <b>Organist</b> | <b>In training</b> | <b>Junior Church</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <b>St Cadoc's</b>   |                                  | 5          |            | 1               | 1 LLM              |                      |
| <b>St Hilda's</b>   |                                  | 3          | 3          | 1               |                    |                      |
| <b>St John's</b>    |                                  | 1          | 1          | 1               |                    |                      |
| <b>St Mary's</b>    |                                  | 2          |            | 1               |                    |                      |
| <b>St Matthew's</b> |                                  | 2          | 2          | 1               |                    |                      |
| <b>St Michael's</b> |                                  |            |            | 1               |                    |                      |
| <b>St Oswald's</b>  |                                  |            | 1          | 1               |                    | yes                  |

We operate teams in all our churches who undertake the roles of Verger, sacristans and sexton. There are several people on a rota for sides persons and readers. The congregation are very supportive of our churches and contribute to buying of flowers, cleaning the churches, flower arranging, and general duties as required.

St Hilda's and St Cadoc's have choirs which often team up to support ministry area services and sung evensong. We have regular organists, although they are getting older throughout the Ministry Area.

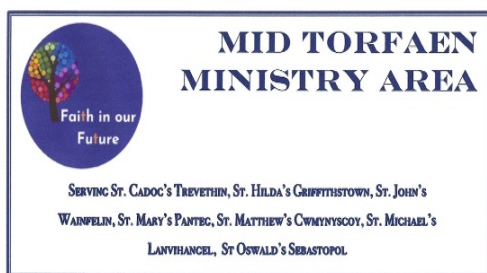
### Representatives

**Diocesan Conference:** Paul Johnson, Michael Younger

**Deanery Conference:** Ann Jones, Jim Thompson (Secretary to Conference), Michael Younger, Howard Cole

**Diocesan Standing Committee:** Mike Younger

**Governing Body of the Church in Wales:** Ministry Area Leader



## 9. The Buildings – Churches, Church Halls & Vicarage

### Churches

**St Cadoc's Church** is now essentially a Victorian Building with features showing its medieval past e.g., a surviving Baptismal Pool and the lower part of the tower. It is now a Grade 2 listed building with an exceptionally large, still active churchyard. Refurbished in 2015-17 the church now boasts moveable chairs instead of pews. These give the church a light, airy feel and allow a more flexible use of the space available. The church has toilets and kitchen facilities and the disabled access to the church is good.

The overall fabric of **St Hilda's Church** is good. However, there are some areas of work required. The West wall, the south aisle wall and the vestry walls have damp entering them and work needs to be carried out on the outside of the building. There is a children's area at the back of the Church, and this is carpeted and has toys and books for younger children. A pipe organ is present, it is regularly maintained and is in general good repair. There is a loop system for those with hearing impairment, and the church has microphones with speakers throughout the church. The grounds of the church are clean and tidy and is kept this way by volunteers from the congregations. A memorial garden where ashes can be interred is situated west of the church. The church has several ramps which aid access to those with mobility problems.

The fabric of **St Oswald's Church** is sound structurally and the building requires no major work. External and internal painting and decorating has just been completed following faculty approval. Seating comprises of upholstered and plastic chairs which can be arranged according to need. There is also a portable altar which is in the Nave. The pipe organ needs repair, however there is an electric organ which is used to provide music. St Hilda's and St Oswald's Churches have a portable hymn machine which can supplement the need for music at any of our services. Toilet facilities and tea making facilities are present in both churches.

**St Mary's Church** is a Grade 2 listed building. It consists of a tower, nave, north aisle, chancel, rector's vestry and a choir vestry, with small cloakroom off. It is well maintained, with the most recent Quinquennial report, completed in 2019, stating that the church is in a good condition, and all recommended works are in the process of completion. There is a toilet and wash hand basin, but at present this is fed from a stream in nearby woods, and we are in the process of awaiting mains water installation. All faculty and legal agreements are in place. The church benefitted from government grants available for work to church roofs approx. 3 years ago, and a full programme of redecoration, was also carried out at this time. The church has pew seating, for approx. 120 persons. There is a pipe organ which was rebuilt in 1984 and is serviced and tuned annually. Access to the church is by means of a lane, approximately half a mile long, giving access to farms and houses. There is a reasonably large car park, with additional parking available, if necessary, in an adjacent field. The churchyard is large, with over 300 graves. Closed now for burials, we have a Garden of Rest for cremated remains. The scout groups use the paddock behind the church for camping and other activities in connection with their badges and look after the area in return.

**St Matthew's Church Cwmynyscoy (sometimes referred to as the 'Tin Church')**. The Church was re-ordered about 8 years ago, giving more room in the chancel. The toilet and vestry along with the hall were also upgraded and there is wheelchair access which complies with current legislation. There is a tabernacle

located in the sanctuary. The last quinquennial inspection gave the church a generally good report. It is a small but attractive tin church built in 1895 and is located near to West Monmouth Comprehensive School on the outskirts of Pontypool on Blaendare Road.

**St John's Church is in Wainfelin.** The church was opened in 1913. The church building has recently undergone a large refurbishment project which will make us better able to serve as a community centre.

## **Church Halls**

### **St John's Tranch Hall**

It is rented out to a community group on an ongoing basis.

### **St Matthew's Church Hall**

This building has had a new roof and the exterior walls have been painted. The hall allows greater interaction with the local community and several groups meet in the hall. The hall has a small kitchen and holds about 40 people sitting at a maximum. It is available for hire and is used by the Council as a polling station.

### **St Mary's Church Hall**

It was built in 1930, and situated in the centre of New Inn, next to the Rectory the church hall comprises a large central hall area, with stage, an extension with kitchen, cloakrooms, and Conference Room. The extension was added in the 1990's.

The hall is licensed for music, and alcohol consumption, but not for its sale. It was redecorated to a high standard in 2018, included new curtains for the windows and stage, and has proved to be a very popular venue for meetings, private parties, concerts, groups, and church activities, including a weekly church service with refreshments, popular with those who would find it more difficult to access the church itself. The hall is run by a caretaker/booking's manager, who is employed by the PCC.

There is a large lawn area to the left of the hall, and a private car park for users of the hall, with space for about 30 cars. The lawn is used for the August Bank Holiday summer fete, when we have live music from a local brass band, and a good range of stalls and games, and for occasional activities such as a classic car event.

We have good support from the local community, in terms of generous donations of raffle prizes, and attendance and participation on the day. The hall is an important source of outreach and is used every weekday by wellbeing groups e.g., Stroke association, Floral Art, Yoga, Zumba, Probus, Women's guild and children's groups.

### **St Hilda's Church Hall**

The Church Hall is vested to the care of the Incumbent and the two wardens of St Hilda's Church. There are four areas, the main hall which has a stage, the Gun Room (so called because of the Church's link with the armed forces and in particular the 1<sup>st</sup> world war when the area beneath the stage was used as a shooting range), a fully equipped kitchen with serving hatches into the two halls and the business suite upstairs.

The main hall is perceived by the community as being central to community life.

It is the largest hall in the area and one of the few to have a stage. It can hold 250 people theatre style and 150 if seated at tables.

The fabric of the building is in good order – following the refurbishment of the hall in 2013 when WAG and National Lottery grants were awarded (£629K).

The hall is used by the local community on a regular basis and has bookings on every day of the week and often at weekends. Because of its size it is used for many diocesan and deanery events.

## Vicarage

The Vicarage is on the Highway, New Inn, next to St Mary's Church Hall.

On the ground floor there is a porch opening onto a hall. There is dining room, lounge, kitchen, study, utility room and a downstairs toilet.

There are four bedrooms and a bathroom.

The house is in the heart of the village and has a garden and drive to the front of the property with a large back garden, all of which are maintained and laid to lawn and flower beds.

There is a single garage attached to the house.



## 10. Where are we now?



Relationships with other denominations have lessened due to the pandemic and changes in ministerial appointments but is something we would like to develop.

Outreach is both formal and informal. As part of the Diocese of Monmouth, the Ministry Area supports the work of the Church in the link diocese of the Highveld. We support the Bishops Lenten appeals.

We have donation stations in several churches for clothing, food, and toiletries. These are distributed to Edengate, The Wallich, the Salvation Army, St Paul's Church.

We also support: Eastern Valley Food bank, TFC charity, Rotary Club of Pontypool, Newport and Usk Vale Lions Club, Rotary Club of Henllys, TRAC2, Christian Aid, St David's Hospice, Samaritan Purse Christmas Appeal, Panteg Scout group affiliated to St Mary's Church, Mission to Seafarers, Ty Mawr convent, HCPT, Women's Aid, British Red Cross, Diocese of the Highveld, Sight savers, The Leprosy Society and Ty Hafan. In recent months, we have supported the Tongan Appeal and Ukrainian Refugees.

Local Schools regularly use our churches for services throughout the year.

Some of our church's committees have organised a variety of fundraising events to supplement church funds or raise money for specific charities. These events provide regular opportunities to gather for fellowship and friendship. These activities need rebuilding following the restrictions placed on us by the pandemic.



# 11. Communication

The Mid Torfaen Ministry Area communicates in several ways to ensure church worshippers and individuals within the community can keep up to date with news and information. This was particularly important during the Pandemic.

The Mid Torfaen Ministry Area has a Facebook page whereby stories, news and information is shared. The Mid Torfaen Ministry Area distributes a weekly newsletter through a digital platform and provides copies of the newsletter for those who prefer traditional methods of communication.



All our churches have information and notice boards which are used to promote services and events with the wider community.

| MID TORFAEN MINISTRY AREA   |   |
|---|---|
| EASTER SERVICES   |   |
| <b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b><br>3pm at St Michael's - Stations of the Cross<br>3pm at St Oswald's - Stations of the Cross  | <b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b><br>10am at St Mary's Church Hall - Eucharist<br>3pm at St Hilda's - Stations of the Cross<br>3pm at St Matthew's - Stations of the Cross<br>7pm at St Cadoc's - Stations of the Cross  |
| <b>Maundy Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b><br>10am at St Oswald's - Eucharist<br>2pm at St Mary's - Stations of the Cross<br>4pm at St John's - Eucharist with children<br>7pm at St Mary's - Ministry Area Eucharist of the Last Supper and Foot washing | <b>Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b><br>St Hilda's open for prayer<br>10am at St Mary's - Service in hall with hot cross buns<br>10am at St Matthew's - Service<br>10am at St Oswald's - All age worship with hot cross buns<br>2pm at St John's - Stations of the Cross for children<br>2pm at St Hilda's - Meditation and exposition of sacrament<br>2pm at St Cadoc's - Service<br>2 - 5pm at St Michael's - Service |
| <b>Holy Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b><br>8pm at St Cadoc's - Ministry Area Easter Vigil with Bell ringers  | <b>Easter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b><br>9.30am at St Mary's - Eucharist (jointed by St Michael's)<br>9.30am at St Matthew's - Eucharist<br>11am at St Hilda's - Eucharist (jointed by St Oswald's)<br>11am at St Cadoc's - Eucharist (jointed by St John's)<br>5pm at St Oswald's Easter Praise   |

During lockdown, on online presence was necessary and the Mid Torfaen Ministry Area was proactive in introducing new digital methods of communications, such as Zoom for prayer, church committee meetings and church services. Facebook and WhatsApp groups were created for keeping in contact with congregations and members of the community.

All churches currently have links to their Benefice Website through the Diocesan Website however, plans are currently in place to develop a Mid Torfaen Ministry Area Website.

## 12. Future Focus



We want to be a pioneering Ministry Area which includes each of the 7 churches and communities we are situated in. We want to plan our future, we have a vision that we want to set out a yearly plan to aspire to. A plan which is clear and has measurable outcomes, so we can track how we are doing on our journey as a Ministry Area.

Some churches are already offering workshops to the local primary schools and we want to develop this further across the Ministry Area to involve each of our churches.

The local Welsh Medium Schools and the Comprehensive School use our venues annually for their special services e.g., Harvest, and Carol Services and we would like to extend this to other schools within the Ministry Area.

There is also a need for a dedicated team for children and young people to further develop the concept of a young person club, somewhere they can come to get encouragement and nurturing toward finding employment or giving them the confidence to leap-forward to further education. This could be linked to the development of pioneer ministry within the Ministry Area.

The location of many of our churches within the community needs to be capitalised upon as there is the opportunity to catch parents coming home from dropping their children at school in the morning or prior to pick up at the end of the school day. A network of drop-in centres where parents and guardians can drop in for a chat and a cupper, access information and resources and be given guidance and support. The Church needs to become more aware of the need in our communities and widen their focus to our communities where there are families, many of whom are in poverty and need support.

We need to be pro-active in developing further our links with Hospitals and Nursing Homes which are located within the Ministry Area. We also need to further develop inter-faith and ecumenical links with other churches in our area.

There needs to be ongoing review and development of services to ensure the churches remain an attractive and viable option for people wishing to engage in and develop their faith and beliefs.

Our future focus should be on the development of a broad churchmanship, with some specific focus on the development of children, young people and family ministry across the 7 churches.

It would be beneficial to the Ministry Area and the communities it serves if there could be more formal partnership links with the charities covering our geographic area, so we can work together, minimise duplication and help and support those who are less fortunate than our selves.

We need to strengthen our presence within the communities, by further developing relationships with the local papers and monthly publications as well as ensuring our distribution networks for leaflets, flyers and notices is more robust and effective.



## **MID TORFAEN MINISTRY AREA**

**SERVING ST. CADOC'S TREVETHIN, ST. HILDA'S GRIFFITHSTOWN, ST. JOHN'S  
WAINFELIN, ST. MARY'S PANTEC, ST. MATTHEW'S CWMYNSCOY, ST. MICHAEL'S  
LANVIHANCEL, ST OSWALD'S SEBASTOPOL**

**Whatever your reasons are for reading this publication, thank you for your  
interest in our Ministry Area.**



**Please pray with us for the person whom  
God is already calling to serve as  
our House for Duty Priest.**