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

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## News

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## Bishop Cherry Commissions the First Ministry Area



The Bishop of Monmouth is to commission several new Ministry Areas across the diocese.

The first of these was Beechwood Ministry Area, which was inaugurated at a special service yesterday (Tuesday 11th January) at St John's Church, Maindee.

The Bishop of Monmouth, the Rt Revd Cherry Vann said: "At the beginning of this new year we are in the wonderful position of being able to inaugurate half of our new Ministry Areas. This is an outstanding achievement which is down to the hard work, dedication and commitment of diocesan staff, Archdeacons and, most importantly, the clergy and congregations of our churches.

"As we celebrate the creation of the Beechwood MA, the first to be inaugurated, I want to thank everyone for all that you are doing to bring the churches of our diocese together and to assure you all of my continuing prayers and support."

During the service, the Revd Will Ingle Gillis was licensed as its Ministry Area Leader. Other members of the Ministry Team - Revd Sue Pratten (Vicar), Revd David Matthews (Vicar), Revd Linda Batt (Vicar), Revd Stephen Blewett (Associate Priest), Janis Davies (Lay Minister) – were also licensed.

The service is available to watch back here <https://youtu.be/KRIG8aetVpE>



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The next Ministry Area to be commissioned will be Islwyn on the 13th January at 7pm, you can watch the livestream [here](#).

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## New Vicar in Netherwent Ministry Area



The Bishop of Monmouth is delighted to announce that Revd Peter Letson has been appointed as a Vicar in the Netherwent Ministry Area.

Working with Ministry Area Leader, Revd Canon Jeremy Harris, and other members of the Ministry Team, Peter will hopefully begin his ministry in early April.

Peter grew up in various vicarages around Wales, with his father serving as a Vicar.

Following a gap year which included three months in Uganda, he went to university in Norwich, studying Law with French Law and Language before spending a year working as an intern at the charity CPAS in Coventry. During this year he went through the discernment process and started at St Padarn's Institute in September 2017.

Peter was ordained in June 2019 and has been serving as Curate in Glan Ithon parish and the West Radnor Ministry Area in Swansea and Brecon Diocese and for the last year has also been based in the Upper Wye parish within that Ministry Area.

He is married to Clare who also grew up as 'a child of the vicarage', but across the border in England. Clare is particularly proud of her Devonian roots but due to a family connection, supports Wales in the rugby – so arguments on match day are kept to a minimum!

He enjoys walking, reading and listening to music, but can also often be spotted in local cafes enjoying coffee, cake or cooked breakfasts (and sometimes all three!).

# Coronavirus (Covid-19) guidance

**Update: 8th January 2022**

The latest version of the Coronavirus regulations permits some greater flexibility over social distancing than previously. It is now legally possible for premises, including places of worship, to permit people not from the same household to sit in groups of up to 6 people as for cafes, pubs etc. Such groups should be socially distanced from other individuals and groups.

However, places of worship or activity organisers are not obliged to permit this and through their local risk assessment may adopt alternative arrangements.

These might include:

- requiring that only members of the same extended household sit together
- requiring that a group must book in advance
- permit smaller groups only (for example, groups of 2 or 3 in order to permit people who would otherwise need to sit alone to have some company).

The Omicron variant is clearly more readily transmissible than previous variants of Covid-19, so a careful approach based on consideration of the nature and make-up of your congregation and community is advised. This rule of 6 also permits some flexibility over activities such as bell-ringing where social distancing may be harder to maintain.

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## Training and Events

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### Training for Intercessors

The Cathedral Dean, Very Revd Ian Black, will be leading a training evening on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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:

- ❖ REVD JEREMY DUFF ON ORDAINED MINISTRY
- ❖ REVD 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 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>

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## Open Table Network

We are inviting anyone who is interested in establishing a worshipping community that is part of the [Open Table Network](#) (OTN) to a meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at St Christopher's Chepstow. OTN is a growing partnership of worshipping communities which welcome and affirm people who are LGBTQIA+. The Network Co-ordinator, Keiran Bohan, will be with us to talk about OTN and to discuss with us the possibilities of starting up an OT worshipping community within our diocese.

The meeting is for clergy and laity alike. We can host 30 people so if you would like to come, please contact Bishop Cherry's PA (01633 263510, [monbishpa@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:monbishpa@churchinwales.org.uk)) to register your interest. The address is 2 Pembroke Road, Bulwark, Chepstow, NP16 5AF. There is limited parking at St Christopher's so car sharing is encouraged where possible.

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## 2022 Festival of Prayer - 9th July 2022

Bookings are now open for the 2022 Festival of Prayer. A day of varied and stimulating lectures, discussions and different opportunities for prayer. Participants will have the opportunity to select 3 workshops to attend out of the 19 topics available.



The day also includes a welcome address Bishop Cherry. To find out more or book your place: <https://festivalofprayer.live/>

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## Services and Resources

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

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## Esgobaeth Mynwy Gwasanaethau Cymraeg Chwefror 2022

Chwefror / February 8th

Tuesday / Dydd Mawrth

7pm / y.p.

Eglwys Santes Fair, Magwyr, NP26 3EP / St Mary's Church, Magor, NP26 3EP

Ewcharist / Eucharist

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.

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# Vacancies

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## **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](mailto:archdeacon.newport@churchinwales.org.uk)

Closing date: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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

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## **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: 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.

For further details and an application pack, please contact [revcmhaynes@btinternet.com](mailto:revcmhaynes@btinternet.com)

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## **Team Vicar - Mynydd Bedwellte Ministry Area**

Mynydd Bedwellte MA are looking for an enthusiastic and creative priest to join them in a new Ministry Area in the South Wales valleys, mainly focused on the towns and villages of Bedwellty, New Tredegar and Aberbargoed.

This is a great opportunity to be part of a developing ministry team and work collaboratively across a diverse area. They want you to help build up the local church in its worshipping and spiritual life and be rooted in mission and community ministry.

For an informal conversation please contact:  
The Revd Matt Davis, Ministry Area Leader on  
[07800 750259](tel:07800750259) or [mattdavisciw@gmail.com](mailto:mattdavisciw@gmail.com)

Closing Date: Friday 11th February

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