



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

News



Bishop Continues Commissioning Services



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

The second of these was Islwyn Ministry Area, which was inaugurated at a special service on Thursday 13th January at St Paul's Church, Newbridge.

Before launching these services last week, 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.

"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 Canon Mark Owen was licensed as its Ministry Area Leader. Other members of the Ministry Team - Fr Nicholas Gill (Vicar), Rev Nick Adams (Vicar), Rev Lisa Taylor (Assistant Curate), Rev Heulwen Rees (Assistant Curate), Rev Andrew Nelmes (Assistant Curate), Rev Stephen Smith (Associate Priest), Mrs Maureen Morgan (Lay Minister), Mrs Mary Rees (Lay Ministry) – were also be licensed. Rev Ashley Hunt (PTO) will also be a member of the Ministry Team.

You can watch the service back here,



The next commissioning service will be for Newport North West Ministry Area on the 23rd of January.

New Part-Time Vicar for Islwyn Ministry Area



The Bishop of Monmouth is delighted to announce that Revd Rufus Noy has been appointed as a part time Vicar in the Islwyn Ministry Area.

Rufus will be a familiar face to some, as he returns to the diocese after a spell working in the Diocese of Hereford. He brings a wealth of experience in ministry as well as a good knowledge of the area where he will minister.

Rufus will be licensed by the Bishop early in March.



Coronavirus (Covid-19) guidance

Update: 14th January 2022

The First Minister has signalled that Wales will return to Alert Level Zero from 28 January. Restrictions on the number of people gathering outdoors are being relaxed sooner. The announcement can be found at:

- [Plan to ease alert level 2 protections announced | GOV.WALES](#)

Church in Wales guidance will be revised as these changes are confirmed. It is likely that social distancing will become advisory again (rather than a legal requirement under Alert Level 2). It seems clear that the wearing of face coverings will continue to be a requirement in indoor public spaces.

Read more [here](#).

Third Sector Resilience Fund for Wales

Charities and voluntary organisations in Wales are facing existing and new challenges as they deal with the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Support is available through Phase 3 of the Third sector resilience fund for Wales (TSRF) which is part of the £2.4m of support announced by Welsh Government. Grant funding of up to £50,000 is available to help voluntary organisations with the costs of surviving the COVID-19 pandemic and / or invest in new or additional activity which will generate a return beyond the period of funding.

Churches can apply for funding to be used to support 'outreach' type activities but not for what might be termed 'worship'.

Expressions of Interest need to be submitted by the end of January. More information, including eligibility guidance and how to apply, is available here: <https://wcva.cymru/funding/social-investment-cymru/third-sector-resilience-fund-for-wales/>

If you are interested in other fundraising opportunities there's lots of information and advice on [Ecclesiastical's Fundraising Hub](#).

Libby can also offer advice and support and can be contacted at libbymorgan-owen@churchinwales.org.uk or 07508 801511.



Allchurches Trust Mental Health Survey

As the recipient of an Allchurches Trust General grant we have been invited to complete a brief survey to help Allchurches Trust to better understand how they can strengthen the ability of the Christian community in the UK and Ireland to respond more effectively to increased mental health needs, especially those arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The survey can be accessed by clicking [here](#), and should only take a few minutes to complete, as it has been designed to ensure that only questions of relevance are displayed, dependent on the answers you provide at each stage.

The survey will be of greatest relevance to:

- Local churches and charities providing, or planning to provide, support or social groups that aim to promote better mental health and wellbeing in local communities
- Organisations with an established mental health ministry or service run on a professional, qualified basis (e.g. a counselling service), providing support for those experiencing acute mental health difficulties
- Organisations which help to train, equip and resource churches and communities in better mental health awareness and mental health first aid, and in establishing mental health and wellbeing support groups or similar provision
- Organisations which provide personal mental health and wellbeing support for clergy and other key church leaders/workers

However, all responses will be very welcome, whether or not your church, charity or organisation provides one or more of the services listed above.

The survey should not take long to complete, but if you need to you can return to the survey using the same link as it will automatically save your response. If you have any questions, please e-mail us at atl@allchurches.co.uk and we will respond as soon as we can.

Thank you in advance for responding to the survey, and helping Allchurches Trust to understand how they can help churches and Christian charities respond to the significant mental health challenges in our society at this time.

Help Needed

Wanted: Room for a Life-Size Nativity Set



The future of a life performance of the Christmas story in Cardiff city centre is in doubt because volunteers are struggling to find storage space for their life-size set and props.

Watching the “Christmas - The Story” has become something of a tradition for shoppers over the past ten years in the three weeks running up to Christmas. Performed daily on a loop by volunteers and featuring life donkeys, the 20-minute free and bilingual show took the nativity story to thousands of people. It also proved a highly successful as a free school trip. It began in 2010 outside Tabernacl Chapel in the Hayes, with the idea subsequently being taken up by churches in Aberdare, Carmarthen, Port Talbot, Barry and Bridgend.

The impact of the Covid pandemic, however, resulted in the Cardiff show being put on hold, replaced by a puppet nativity (along with the donkeys) for schools for the past two Christmases.

Now the volunteers are facing another challenge. The farm barn in Mid Wales where the show’s high quality scenery and props were stored out of season is being sold and new storage is urgently needed. Without it the equipment will have to be scrapped or given, free of charge, to volunteers in another town for them to continue with the show.

Organiser, Sally Humble-Jackson, says, “‘Christmas - The Story’ brings to life the 2,000 year-old nativity story, using adult actors, professional costumes and staging, plus some unique and exquisite puppets. It has been a creative piece of life theatre right in the heart of our capital city.

“Based in a city we have grappled with storage issues from the outset. We are trying to resolve them, but unless we pay for storage – around £1,500-£2,000 per year – money which we don’t have and which would be near impossible to raise in the current situation – we will have to take all our quality stuff to the tip as scrap.

“There are two alternatives. Firstly, someone, somewhere, will be able to offer us free (or very low-cost) storage – if only for a few months to buy us time (more than a garage-full, a little less than a container-load.) Or Christians elsewhere will take it all – as a free gift – and will replicate the project in their own town-centre church building, gathering volunteers from across the denominations to step into our fabulous costumes. We would provide soundtracks, posters, advice and guidance on every aspect.”

Anyone who is able to help with storage or who would like to have the equipment, should contact Sally at sally_humble_jackson@hotmail.co.uk

For more information about Christmas – The Story visit www.the-story.org.uk and www.y-stori.org.uk or connect on Facebook @ChristmasTheStory.

Training and Events

Holocaust Memorial Day Wales 2022

Holocaust Memorial Day is a significant moment in our nation’s history, when we pause to pay tribute to those persecuted and killed during the Holocaust and other genocides throughout the world.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic we have once again made a pre-recorded ‘virtual’ ceremony of 2022 Holocaust Memorial Day Wales commemoration which members of the public can view safely in their own homes on the Cardiff Council YouTube channel.

Broadcast from City Hall, Cardiff the multi – faith commemoration will be hosted by First Minister Mark Drakeford, Councillor Huw Thomas, Leader of Cardiff Council and led by The Reverend Canon Stewart Lisk.

The Wales commemoration will be available from 11:00am on Thursday 27th January 2022 at www.youtube.com/cardiffcouncil.

Each year Holocaust Memorial Day activity in the UK is underpinned by a specific UK wide theme chosen by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. For 2022, the theme is '**One Day**'. This will be the theme of the commemoration at City Hall and of other events across Wales held to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

The UK Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 will be streamed online on Thursday 27 January at 7pm. Register below to watch the Ceremony online.

[Holocaust Memorial Day Trust | UK Holocaust Memorial Day: 2022 Ceremony \(hmd.org.uk\)](http://HolocaustMemorialDayTrust.org.uk)

The Ceremony will run from 7–8pm.

At 8pm, get ready to Light the Darkness with us. Households across the UK will be lighting candles and safely putting them in their windows to:

- remember those who were murdered for who they were
- stand against prejudice and hatred today

Light a candle and put it in your window at 8pm on 27 January 2022 (if you are able to do so safely).

#HolocaustMemorialDay #LightTheDarkness

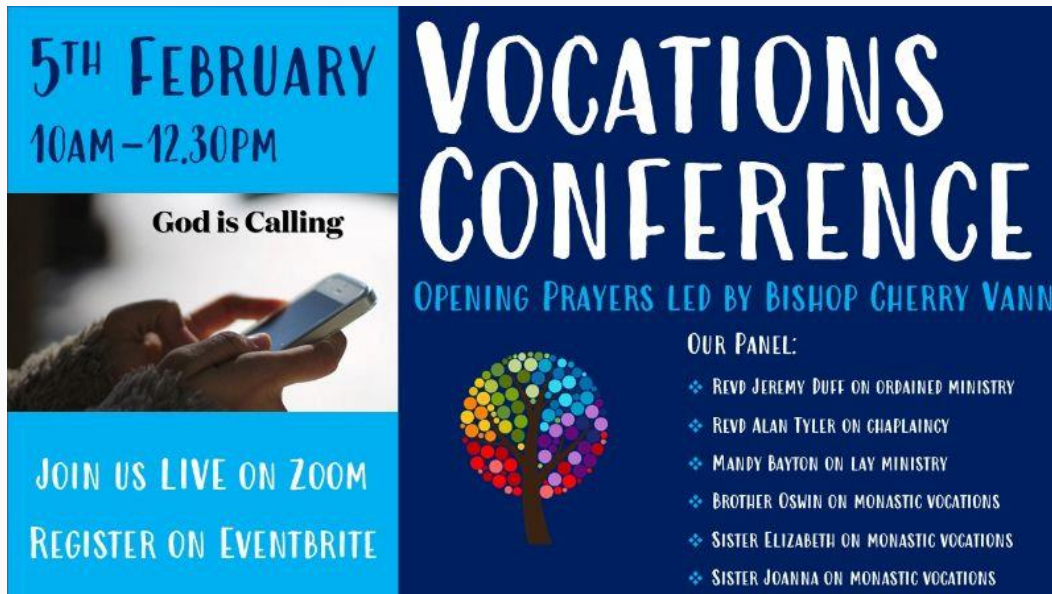
Training for Intercessors

The Cathedral Dean, Ian Black, is offering training for those who lead intercessions and any who would like to start leading these. One session will be on Tuesday 1st February at 7.15pm and another on Wednesday 2nd February at 2.00pm: both in the Cathedral in Newport. If you are interested please email deanofnewport@churchinwales.org.uk so that he knows how many to expect.

Dean Ian has written three books of prayers, which are widely used.

During the sessions we will reflect on what it is we are doing and what we are not, look at some resources available to help – a stall will be available from the Cathedral Shop.

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 with many small circles in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) forming the foliage.

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 •

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Diocesan Service for Healing, Wholeness and Reconciliation



Diocesan Service for Healing, Wholeness & Reconciliation

Led by Fr David Matthews
Reflection by Bishop Cherry

Tuesday 15th February
at 7.30pm via Zoom

• Register on Eventbrite •

Register [here](#).



Faith in the Future Webinars

National Churches Trust and the Welsh Historic Places of Worship Forum are holding their next series of webinars over February and March.

These will take place on:

15th February: Building connections and engaging communities

8th March: Innovative ways to raise funds and income

29th March: Rising to the climate change challenge

Each event starts at 1.30pm for about two hours and will involve hearing from interesting case studies with some presentations from key speakers.

Book your place [here](#).



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 19th 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) 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.

SAVE THE DATE

*Week of
Guided Prayer*

27th March – 2nd April



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/>

Services and Resources

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

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.

Vacancies

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

Closing Date: Friday 11th February

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