

TEAM VICAR

Parish Profile

**MYNYDD
BEDWELLTE**

Ministry Area



From the Archdeacon of the Valleys

The Venerable Stella Bailey

Thank you for taking the time to explore this ministry opportunity as a Team Vicar in the Mynydd Bedwellte Ministry Area. All of our churches in the Diocese of Monmouth are united in beneficed groups with a Ministry Area Leader (Rector), supported by a lay and ordained team to bring about the flourishing of Gods Kingdom. By working in teams we seek to enjoy the benefits of not replicating administration and by supporting each other across worshipping communities.

The Mynydd Bedwellte team is lead by Matt Davis who brings an energy and passion which supportively pushes people beyond their limited horizon. With a background in pioneering ministry he is developing an ethos across the group, built upon process evangelism, to create a mixed economy of church. As a diocese we recognise and support these fresh shoots of growth with the significant investment which has expanded the staff team and experience into the Ministry Area which will have a cascading effect on the culture across all churches.

We are seeking a priest as Team Vicar with an understanding on how you develop community links and relationships in an area which is impacted by the issues of poverty and deprivation. A priest who has a heart to walk alongside people in their journey of faith and encourages them to be beacons of Gods presence in their communities. This is not always an easy ministry but it is highly rewarding and you will be surrounded by a supportive team and diocese to enable your flourishing.

There is great potential in this Ministry Area for the person who is able to have a vision for the opportunities God provides and the ability to take risks in stepping out in faith. If this is you, please do be in contact for further conversations and we pray for you in your continued discernment.

If you would benefit from a conversation to see if God is calling you into this role, if you would like more details about what life is like in the Diocese of Monmouth, or if you would like more information on the practical and cultural aspects of moving from a different province into the Church in Wales. Do feel open to be in contact with me.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Mynydd Bedwellte Ministry area. We are a group of 5 churches found in the South Wales valleys.

We are now looking for a team vicar who will bring their experience and talents to help us fulfil our potential as a ministry area and people.

It is important to us to have someone passionate about the community they will live in and profoundly appreciate the church's liturgical, eucharistic and spiritual life. Helping the churches live their inclusive worshipping life and supporting and encouraging new missional and pioneering initiatives.

We are looking for someone who will work as part of a team and be willing to invest in helping build teams and support the ministry area. We are looking for someone who will be a vital member of the ministry area team, led by the ministry area leader, with pastoral responsibility for St Sannan's and St Dingat's churches.

This position has some challenges surrounding poverty and deprivation common in this post-industrial area. However, there is a strong sense of community here, where people look out for one another, and we want to work together to tackle these issues. We are a registered charity and have united our finances as a ministry area.

You will find a warm welcome from the people here; we look forward to getting to know the right person well.

I hope you prayerfully consider this role, and if it is right for you, you will follow God's call to join us in this unique and beautiful part of Wales.

Rev'd Matt Davis

Ministry Area Leader

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The Role

We are looking for a new team vicar, with pastoral responsibility for St Sannans and St Dingats, who will be part of the ministry area team and report to the ministry area leader.

In this role you will:

- Be responsible for the pastoral care of the congregations of St Sannan's and St Dingat's.
- Maintain and develop our unique Christian presence within a diverse setting.
- Help foster the personal and collective spiritual life of the congregations and those who you encounter.
- Help shape and develop the intergenerational worshiping life of the ministry area focusing on St Sannan's and St Dingat's but working across the ministry area within the Welsh and historic context.
- Help and encourage people to engage in new missional activities within and out of the church.
- Take responsibility for the day - to - day running and ministry of St Sannan's and St Dingat's
- Be an active part of the ministry area team contributing to the ministry area and the teams within it.

The Person

- Loves people from all walks of life and can help develop a culture which will help the church family to thrive.
- appreciates and has a deep understanding of liturgical worship with the ability to be flexible and creative as you move us forward into growth.
- Engages with the community around them both within the church and out, listening well and supporting and maintaining both old and new endeavours.
- Can facilitate and encourage people into action and does not shy away from stewardship conversations and with the skills to make the best of resources and funding opportunities.
- Courageous in listening to the spirit of God and the confidence to step into the opportunities available.
- Has a driving licence and day to day access to a vehicle.
- Has excellent communication skills and a good use of ICT
- A good sense of humour

OUR LOCATION

Our ministry area covers a wide and diverse area. While we are all valleys communities we have our own unique qualities and strengths. They are close knit traditional working class communities. Our Churches are found in six distinct communities:

Bedwellty has the main features of the church and the pub there are a few houses which are found surrounding these places but it is really a beautiful haven away from the more built up areas of Aberbargoed and New Tredegar.

New Tredegar is made-up of areas, Phillipstown, Tirphil, Brithdir, Elliot's Town, inc. Cwm, Tanlan and Jubilee. Although New Tredegar is a beautiful area, parts of Tirphil and Phillipstown are reported to be in the top 4% of the most deprived communities in Wales. The town has 2 primary schools, Medical Centre, mining museum called Winding House, White Rose Information Resource Centre, Leisure Centre, Allotments and a train station with regular trains into Cardiff. The population is around 5,000. Several Church members are involved in community action such as Foodbank and Lunch-club

Tredegar which is situated in the borough of Blaenau Gwent, in South East Wales. Situated on the banks of the Sirhowy River, the town can be accessed from the Heads of the Valley Road. The population of the Parish area of Tredegar is just under 16,000 people. It has 5 primary schools and one secondary and has a wide selection of shops and amenities. Built on its iron works and collieries it has a rich industrial history, it is also famous for being the birthplace of Aneurin Bevan, the founder of the National Health Service with the roots of the NHS being found here.

Rhymney Situated at the head of the valley next door to Tredegar it has a population of just under 6,000 people. The housing in the area is a mix of traditional terraced houses, some post war social housing as well as some more recently built private housing estates. It has 3 primary schools. 60 percent of the population fits between the 18-60 age group.

Abertysswg a small village situated in the Rhymney valley just below Rhymney it is a close community. It is the home to the Abertysswg Falcons RFC and has shop and takeaway. It is also home to the relatively newly built Idris Davis school which covers ages 4-16.

OUR TEAM

The Mynydd Bedwellte Ministry Area is led by Revd Matt Davis, supported by Revd Elizabeth Jones (NSM priest) and a PTO priest. Together they form a caring and collaborative clergy team. We have been blessed to serve as a training parish for both curates and ordinands. Each church is strengthened by committed lay leaders supporting worship, outreach, and pastoral care. A strong Ministry Area Council (MAC) and active church councils enable shared leadership. Our churches work well together, with a deep commitment to supporting one another and living out our calling as the Body of Christ in our communities.

Our Churches



St. Dingat's Church Profile

St. Dingat's is the Parish Church in the Village of New Tredegar, a former mining town in the Rhymney Valley. The church, built in 1893 on the site of St. Margaret's Church, stands above the Square and behind the Village War Memorial.

The church has beautiful features including stained glass windows, carvings, a bell tower, Garden of Remembrance and gardens kept tidy by church people. The church has been renovated with the help of grants. And has on going work planned to help bring the building into the future including kitchen and heating renovations.

St Dingat's church has a regular Sunday and weekday Eucharist. Around 12 people attend

Activities have included:

Messy Church for families, Concerts, Christmas/Summer Fairs and a Lunch Club.

Church people's involvement in worship:

welcoming people, reading, leading prayers, cleaning, managing finances, making coffee, flower arranging and an occasional music group

Occasional offices - Estimated numbers per year

Weddings: 6 Funerals: 24 Baptism: 6



St. Sannan's, Bedwelty

The church of St. Sannan's is an ancient centre of worship in the area. It sits high above the Sirhowy and Rhymney valleys, with panoramic views across south east Wales, and up to Pen Y Fan in the Brecon Beacons.

Its place, straddling two valleys, watching over the many villages and towns that make up the local area, is both geographical and spiritual. It is close to the heart of its worshipping community and many local people, who continue to celebrate baptisms and weddings, as well as the lives of their departed loved ones within its welcoming walls. It is very dear to many local people, some of whom volunteer their time to maintain the church yard, and the ancient well just down the lane which has been transformed into a beautiful garden with the potential to become a place of regular worship, pilgrimage, and fellowship.

Worship at St. Sannan's is traditional, cheerful, and often peppered with humour. The congregation are active in reading, praying, cleaning the church, and all the many other tasks that allow the church to flourish.

The worshipping community of St. Sannan's has close bonds with St. Dingat's in New Tredegar, with members from these three churches often found in one another's congregations, sharing times of fellowship and work together. These times include: Christmas carol services, trips away (including past visits to London and the House of Parliament), fetes, church open days on Saturdays through and working in the food bank.

Occasional offices - Estimated numbers per year

Weddings: 6 Funerals: 42 Baptism:6

OUR OTHER CHURCHES

St George's Tredegar - Is a traditional Eucharistic community which is looking at ways to engage others in worship and mission. We run midweek activities such as a lunch club and scouts. The main times of meeting at the moment are 10am on a Sunday and Wednesday at 10am.



St David's Rhymney - The worship here is traditional and Catholic in style. Midweek coffee mornings happen often and the congregation is thinking about how they can engage in mission and ministry in the future. The main times of meeting at the moment are 10.30am on a Sunday and 10am on a Thursday.

St Paul's Abertysswg - Has a traditional Catholic style of worship. There is also the popular 'soup and pud' midweek gathering which is looking to restart. The main time of meeting at the moment are 9.15am on a Sunday.



Finances

The finances of the churches have been joined together with a joint bank account but with each church maintaining accounting pot within it to assess the financial health of each church. The churches finances have been rocky in post covid recovery though plans are in place to remedy this through fundraising and stewardship.

THE WIDER CONTEXT

Ministry Team

There have been some recent changes in the ministry team In the April of 2021 Rev'd Matt Davis joined as the ministry area leader as well as some retirements and the leaving of the vicar of St Sannan's and St Dingat's.

The ministry area team is run by the Ministry Area Leader as well as having an associate priest and currently three retired priest serving with permission to officiate from the bishop two of which help cover services in St Sannan's and St Dingat's.

We meet weekly to discuss issues within the churches, upcoming activities, services and events as well as to pray and support one another.

Making Space Community

Making Space is a Community of people from some churches in the Valleys who, together, explore and share the spaces in our lives for worship and celebration of the gifts from God.

We share a meal, pray and discuss issues connected with gaining a deeper understanding of our faith and the search for peace and justice in our world.

We encourage each other to use our skills, energies and time to serve our neighbourhoods and communities.

We welcome new people to the group, and are developing a residential option called Trinity Terrace Community in New Tredegar.



Accommodation and Expenses

The Accommodation provided is located in Aberbargoed next-door to St Peters Church.

It is a relatively new building with four bedrooms, two upstairs bathrooms, ample living area, office and toilet which can be isolated from the rest of the house if needs be and it has a detached garage next-door to the church.

There are plans to purchase a property in the New Tredegar Area as soon as possible.

The Ministry Area will cover the cost of water rates and 25% of heating and lighting, as well as the usual work and travel expenses.



CONTACT

Archdeacon Stella Bailey

stellabailey@churchinwales.org.uk
07741 661154

Rev Matt Davis
Ministry Area Leader

Matt@mynyddbbedwellte.church
07800750259



mynyddbbedwellte.church