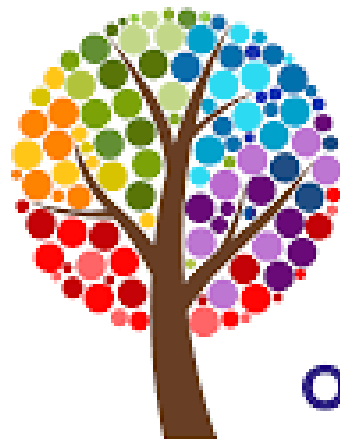


DIOCESE OF MONMOUTH

**MONMOUTH MARCHES  
MINISTRY AREA**

HOUSE FOR DUTY PRIEST



Faith in  
our Future

Diocese of Monmouth  
Esgobaeth Mynwy





## **Introduction from the Archdeacon of Monmouth, The Venerable Ian Rees**

Thank you for taking the time to look at this profile. We are seeking to appoint a House for Duty Team member for the Monmouth Marches Ministry Area based in the beautiful village of Llandogo.

This post will offer a role as part of a Ministry Team serving a new Ministry Area. It offers an exciting opportunity to work collaboratively with lay and ordained colleagues. As the Ministry Area is currently being formed there is a plan for the large area to be divided into 'clusters' so that people in each of the churches get to know a particular member of clergy very well, but also get to know others as well. This is a role that needs someone who enjoys connecting and working with others, colleagues, members of the congregation and the wider community.

The Ministry Area is very well served currently by three committed and active stipendiary priests as well as other ordained and lay ministers and we are confident that the teamwork already happening in the area will continue to grow. Within this 'cluster' of 6 churches (described later in the profile), there is another House for Duty Priest, and also a newly ordained non-stipendiary Deacon.

Whilst Monmouth itself is a busy place with plenty going on, there is also some excellent community spirit in the rural communities surrounding the town. They are places of great potential and there is a passion to proclaim the Good News in those communities. The people are warm, welcoming and have a genuine desire to grow the Kingdom of God.

For an informal conversation or further information please contact me on 07983 684151 or [archdeacon.monmouth@churcheinwales.org.uk](mailto:archdeacon.monmouth@churcheinwales.org.uk)

With my best wishes

Ian Rees

## **Locality**

The Monmouth Ministry Area covers the north eastern quadrant of Monmouthshire, bounded on the north by the River Monnow and on the east down to Tintern by the river Wye. Both rivers in this area form the boundary between Wales and England. To the South and West the boundary crosses beautiful countryside from just north of Chepstow, then west of Raglan and about half way between Monmouth and Abergavenny to the Monnow a little to the east of the village of Skenfrith.

Apart from Monmouth town – which is growing substantially – the area is entirely rural with a number of villages and smaller settlements. Monmouth town serves a hinterland which extends into England as the border is close to the town. Monmouth is an excellent former County town abounding in history but offering a full range of facilities and good shopping with a range of Supermarkets, multiples and independent shops. The proximity of the border means that Monmouth is the centre of an area which extends into The Forest of Dean and Herefordshire.

The Ministry Area comprises of the following churches:

St Oudoceus Church, Llandogo with Whitebrook  
St Michael's Church, Tintern  
St Michael and All Angel's Church, Llanfihangel Tor-y-mynydd  
St Denis Church, Llanishen                      St Tysoi's Church, Llansoy  
Trelleck Grange Church, Trelleck Grange  
Church of St Michael and All Angels, Mitchel Troy  
Old Church, Penallt                              St Nicholas, Trellech  
The Priory Church of St Mary, Monmouth  
The Church of St Thomas the Martyr, Overmonnow  
St Cenedlon's, Rockfield                      St Wonnow's Church, Wonastow  
Llangattock-Vibon-Abel                      St Maughans Church with Llangattock  
St Catwg, Cwmcarvan                      St Dingat's Church, Dingestow  
St Michael's Church, Llanfihangel Ystern-Llewern  
St Martins, Penyclawdd with St Govan's Llangovan  
St Mary's Church, Tregaer

Each church is encouraged to have its own Local Ministry Team and these local teams are supported by Ministry Area Leaders, a Ministry Area Community Engagement Priest, a Ministry Area Administrator and a number of other Ministry Area Team Priests/Ministers who support particular churches within the Ministry Area.

## **Responsibilities**

Your main responsibility as a Ministry Area Team Priest will be to work with the 6 churches in the south of the Ministry Area, focusing especially on the village church and community in Llandogo where you will live. You will also expect to become

embedded within the life of the wider Ministry Area. The expectation for working is 2.5 days per week, plus Sundays.

The Team Priest appointed will work with the Ministry Area Leaders and will play their part in the monthly Ministry Team meetings. The person appointed will naturally be a member of the local church ministry teams in the cluster area. In exchange for 2.5 days per week spent in ministry we will provide a Vicarage in the lovely village of Llandogo together with ministry expenses.

Working and living in a village is different from urban ministry. Many in the community see the church as their church even if they only attend on high days and holy days. The Priest is very much part of the local community and their role is to the church and non-church in the community.

As mentioned, you will also though be a part of the larger Ministry Area with the advantage of wider resources to call upon, together with the opportunity to be part of a team that will support and work with you.

***We hope for a Priest who will be:***

❖ **Caring** - Pastoral care is the most important issue for us as a congregation and as a community. It is only someone who has a strong pastoral heart and a passion for encouraging, not only our congregation, but the extended community, that will be able to build positive relationships in the village and beyond.

❖ **Collaborative in nature** – Someone is needed who will work well with the Ministry Team, both lay and ordained, within the Ministry Area and who is a good team player.

❖ **Community focussed** – Having a visible and well known presence in the local communities and in the wider Ministry Area is really important, helping us to develop both our ministry of service and blessing to our diverse communities and our ministry to all people.

❖ **Engaging** – It is vital to have someone who has the energy and commitment to engage with the local communities and is sympathetic to the needs of rural communities and who is able to help facilitate a growth in cooperation and inter-action within our churches

Please see the appendix for details of the local churches in and around this cluster and also the Vicarage

# APPENDIX

## St Oudoceus Church, Llandogo with Whitebrook



St Oudoceus Church in Llandogo is a Grade II listed building, dedicated to St Oudoceus, who was the Bishop of Llandaff during the 6th Century. The village takes its name from Llan (meaning enclosure) and Dogo (Latin for Oudoceus). The present church, built on the site of a previous place of worship, was built in the Gothic Revival style by the Victorians in 1860. The Church is noted as a good example of late Victorian architecture

and has some fine wall paintings from 1889 in the chancel. The paintings were considered so important that CADW provided funds for their restoration in the late 1990s, when other internal changes were made to the Church. More recently the pews in the side aisles have been replaced with chairs, to extend the functionality of the building, and a new servery is shortly to be installed.

Services are held every Sunday and once a month, on the first Thursday, a eucharistic service is held based on the Iona pattern of worship. Additional celebratory services, such as remembrance services, carols on the green, harvest supper etc, are held during the year and the local school also uses the building for its special celebrations. In addition two house groups are held each week, the church supports a monthly tea for retired singles and regularly holds a communion service for residents of the Priory Nursing Home in the village.

The Churchyard and the adjacent Burial Ground, which currently has over 50% of its capacity available, is well maintained and each year land in the Churchyard is set aside during the Summer months, to encourage the growth of wild flowers, butterflies, insects and other wildlife.

The village itself has a school, a pub and a shop, which is presently under refurbishment. Many local groups meet in the Millennium Hall such as the Early Years Nursery, Women's Institute, the Village Produce Association (gardening club), a History Group together and a Badminton Group.

Despite a shortage of parking in the village, the Church receives a steady stream of visitors throughout the year, many of whom are walkers, and the church remains open all day, every day.

*Other churches within ministry group south which are served by a Team Deacon and a House for Duty Team Priest include:*

### **St Michael's Church, Tintern**



St Michael's Church in the beautiful village of Tintern is one of the closest Welsh churches to the border with England, with the River Wye running right alongside the church. The current building stands on the site of an old Celtic Church established by the year 765AD. Parts of the medieval church which replaced that Celtic church still survive the building of an extension in 1846.

The church has recently undergone a fine restoration with the provision of kitchen and toilet facilities. These improvements along with some internal reordering allow the church to be a flexible space for a variety of different events whilst still preserving the peaceful and prayerful ambience of the church. The building is left unlocked during the day and attracts a good number of visitors. There is one service on a Sunday each week and this is sometimes attended by members of the Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade with whom there are excellent links.

### **St. Denis Church, Llanishen**

St. Denis's Church is situated in the centre of the village on a very steep site with magnificent views across the Usk valley towards Cwmbran and Pontypool.



The present church is Victorian, but the location has been a Christian site for nearly 1500 years. Its first dedication was to St. Isan, the early 6th-century monk - and probably abbot - from Llanilltyd Fawr (Llantwit Major) who had founded a monastery at the other Llanishen which is now in Cardiff. It seems very likely that our site was founded by the same man.

Llanishen has a large and active hall in the village which also serves Llanfihangel Tor-y-Mynydd and Trelleck Grange. It is hired by many organisations around the area and so is frequently in use. The hall is also used for the very popular Parish Breakfasts. The breakfasts are prepared jointly by the members of 4 of the churches in this cluster and are very well supported.

## Trelleck Grange Church



Trelleck Grange is located next to Llanishen parish in a south easterly direction within the Wye Valley. The majority of the parish is farmland. The Cistercian monks from Tintern Abbey farmed the Trelleck Grange lands.

There is a positive and enthusiastic community spirit for events held, some of which are church based such as the Harvest Festival lunch following a church service, annual fund-raising evenings at The Fountain Inn and a get together following the Carol Service.

The church is basically medieval. It is a small single roomed building which was used as a chapel by Tintern Abbey monks. The church is reputedly the last remaining Cistercian chapel still used for regular worship.

## St Tysoi, Llansoy

Llansoy is a small village in rural Monmouthshire, about four miles from Raglan and Usk in different directions and roughly equidistant, at around ten miles, from the larger towns of Monmouth, Newport, Chepstow, Cwmbran, Abergavenny. Although we are a bit off the beaten track, it is only eight miles to the Severn Bridge, and there is excellent road access to all parts of Wales and England.

St. Tysoi is a Grade I listed building dating back to medieval times but significantly renovated by the Victorians. The church comprises chancel, nave and tower with seating for around 100. There is a small vestry, and a pedal organ. At present, there is electricity to supply light and a little heat but no water supply and therefore no toilet or washing facilities although there is a big project underway to provide a kitchen and toilet. The graveyard is nearly full but still in use and the PCC arranges for mowing throughout the summer. The churchyard also has one of the largest yew trees in the county.



The congregation at Sunday Eucharist Services, twice a month, is generally drawn from the older residents but special services such as at Harvest, Easter, and the Carol Service at Christmas more than half fill the pews and attract a wider age group. On the other hand, funerals tend to fill the church, as do occasional weddings, christenings, confirmations, and concerts.

## **St. Michael's, Llanfihangel tor y Mynydd, nr. Usk**

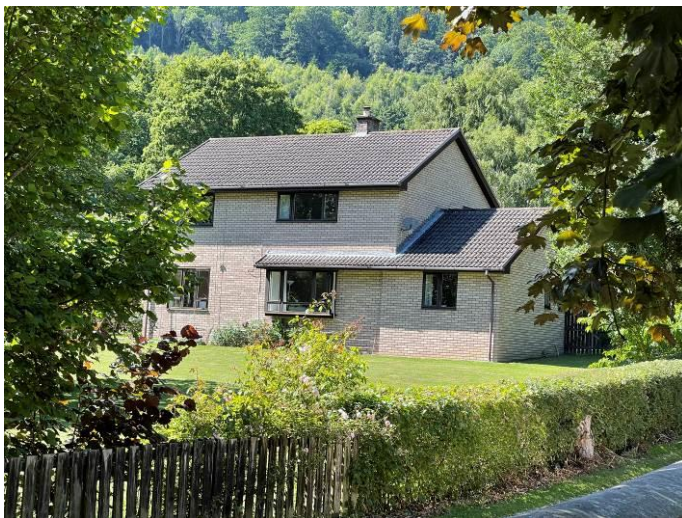


Llanfihangel tor y Mynydd combines actively cultivated farmland with pockets of generally high value housing. There is a successful pub, hairdressing salon, several holiday-lets and a number of self-employed parishioners 'working from home'. The pub, the Star on the Hill, provides an important focus for the community.

St. Michael's is an historic Grade 2\* Listed building. It is an ancient church, simple in design, nestled in a picturesque location. Part of the historical importance of the church is the surrounding landscape itself. When the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust investigated the area as part of its early medieval landscape imaging project, it concluded that the arrangement of a 'kernel' of large farms meeting at St. Michael's represents an excellent example of a pre-conquest 'fossilised landscape'. Some features are even older. The view across the valley from the church porch faces the Gaer Fawr Iron Age hillfort. Remnants of a bank and ditch enclosing a sub-circular churchyard help to explain the 'llan' element in Llanfihangel and also point to an early church on the site. The present church is listed by Cadw as 'an attractive and well-preserved medieval church'.

Services at St. Michael's are 'low church' and have a very Ecumenical feel as regular members of the congregation come not only from Church in Wales backgrounds but also Methodist, Baptist, Roman Catholic, and Russian Orthodox traditions. We stress that all are welcome at St. Michael's.

## **The Vicarage**



There is a detached 4 bedroom house on the edge of Llandogo Village within walking distance of the church and the local shop. The house was built in 1983. Larger shops can be found in nearby Monmouth or Chepstow.

There is a detached double garage and the garden is bounded by stone walling, timber and wire fencing and hedges. There is space for several cars on the driveway.