

TEAM VICAR

Parish Profile

**MYNYDD
BEDWELLTE**

Ministry Area

From the Archdeacon of Monmouth

The Venerable Ian Rees

Thank you for taking the time to look at this profile for this post working with the Ministry Area leader and other colleagues in the new Ministry Area of Mynydd Bedwellte.

The Development of Ministry Areas in the diocese offers an exciting opportunity to develop collaborative ministry and mission. This is a group of churches, some of whom have been used to working together, but who are now beginning to work together as a larger group.

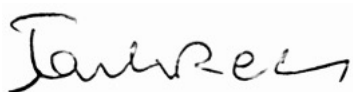
Many of the people recognise the benefits of growing closer together, realising the benefits of sharing resources, skills and the desire to grow spiritually and numerically.

The Diocese of Monmouth is split into 3 Archdeaconries, Monmouth, The Gwent Valleys and Newport. These are quite diverse but together, represent a wonderful opportunity for mission in the different communities.

With this post you will have the support of an excellent. Ministry Area Leader, Area Dean and Clergy Chapter, alongside my full support. I hope you will consider prayerfully if you are being called to the Mynydd Bedwellte Area. The Gwent Valley are places of passion, beauty and poetry. The people are warm, welcoming and have a genuine desire to grow the Kingdom of God in their communities.

For an informal conversation or further information please contact the Ministry Area Leader, The Revd Matt Davis.

With my best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Rees', with a stylized flourish at the end.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Mynydd Bedwellte Ministry area. We are a group of 6 churches nestled in the Welsh valleys.

Currently, we are going through the process of being formally joined as a ministry area and are exploring ways of working and ministering together.

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 who will be passionate about the community they will live in and has a deep appreciation for the church's liturgical, eucharistic and spiritual life. Thus, helping the churches live out their inclusive worshipping life but also help and encourage 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, St Dingat's and St Peter's churches.

This position comes with some challenges surrounding poverty and deprivation that are not uncommon in this post-industrial area and will no doubt be further complicated through post-covid recovery. However, there is a strong sense of community here, where people really look out for one another and we are looking to work together to tackle these issues.

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, St Dingats and St Peters., who will be part of the ministry area team and report to the ministry area leader.

In this role you will:

- 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.
- Be responsible for the pastoral care of the congregations of St Sannan's, St Dingat's and St Peter's.
- Help shape and develop the intergenerational worshiping life of the ministry area focusing on St Sannan's, St Dingat's and St Peter'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, St Dingat's and St Peter's
- Be an active part of the ministry area team contributing to the development of 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 and can bring out the best within in all our settings.
- 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.
- Is able to able to drive to be able to minister across the area.
- 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:

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.

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.

Aberbargoed village consists of mainly terraced houses with two schools one Welsh and one English speaking, a small high street and a care home, it also has three public houses and a very active working man's club it also houses the food bank hub. It like many places in this area it faces issues of deprivation but has a good sense of community.

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

OUR 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 post-covid. The main time of meeting at the moment are 9.15am on a Sunday.



St Dingat's New Tredegar - *More information below*

St Sannan's Bedwelty - *More information below*

St Peter's Aberbargoed - *More information below*



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.

St Dingat's church has a regular Sunday and weekday Eucharist. Around 20 people attend. Before COVID-19 the main Eucharist was on alternate Sundays with St. Sannan's and St. Peter's.

Activities have included:

Messy Church for families, Concerts, Christmas/ Summer Fairs, Community Coffee Shop (closed) and a Lunch Club (restarting).

Church people's involvement in worship:

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

There is a retired priest and 2 people training for ordination

Occasional offices - Estimated numbers per year

Weddings: 6 Funerals: 24 Baptism: 6





St. Sannan's, Bedwellty

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. Peter's in Aberbargoed, and 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, and working in the food bank.

Occasional offices - Estimated numbers per year

Weddings: 6 Funerals: 42 Baptism:6

St Peters Church

St Peters church is in the village of Aberbargoed in the Rhymney valley, situated on the main road South to north.

The Rectory for the parish is approximately 17 years old and situated in the church grounds, the church is 65 years old and built of red brick and a slate roof, it benefits from a restoration which was completed 12 years ago, it has some small movable pews and quite a useable space, sound system, rollaway cinema screen and all the electronic equipment a church would need.

It is located in the middle of the village with well tendered gardens to the front and sides and it is looked after by two members of the community (not church members).

The congregation is very small, but due to Covid this is quite understandable.

The Foodbank is at present operating out of the church and is also now the central store, so it looks now more like a warehouse.

The possibilities are endless for St Peters for the right person.

The local community can be very supportive of the church and it is also a magnet for the children where they play games and sit on the steps eating their takeaways.

An example of community support was a few years ago, at a Christmas time we all walked around the village carrying lanterns paper mache angels, stars and reindeers, we were expecting approximately 200 people and about 2000 turned up, and like five loves and two fish we coped and fed everyone who came into the church, the event continued for a few years and even the Bishop attended one of the events.

Occasional offices are not held in St Peters church as it houses the food bank.

Finances

The finances of the churches are sound, and parish share payments are up to date. Covid 19 has had an obvious effect on the finances of the ministry area, but this has not had a destabilising effect.

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, St Dingat's and St Peter's.

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

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

Food Bank

Rhymney Valley Foodbank - an initiative of the Parish of Bedwellty and New Tredegar, now Mynydd Bedwellte was established in 2012 following research undertaken and a critical need for service provision in the Upper Rhymney Valley (URV) communities of Caerphilly CB.

The Foodbank has grown considerably over the last 10 years and we now cover a larger area.

At the start of the global Coronavirus Pandemic in March 2020, the Foodbank moved in its entirety to St Peter's Church Aberbargoed. St Peter's is now the primary location for our warehouse and the Foodbank operates out of two other community Hubs in different communities across the URV.

We are blessed with a core group of volunteers who supports the Foodbank passionately. We are located in the heart of the community and proud to be a beacon of hope and a life-line to people in most need.

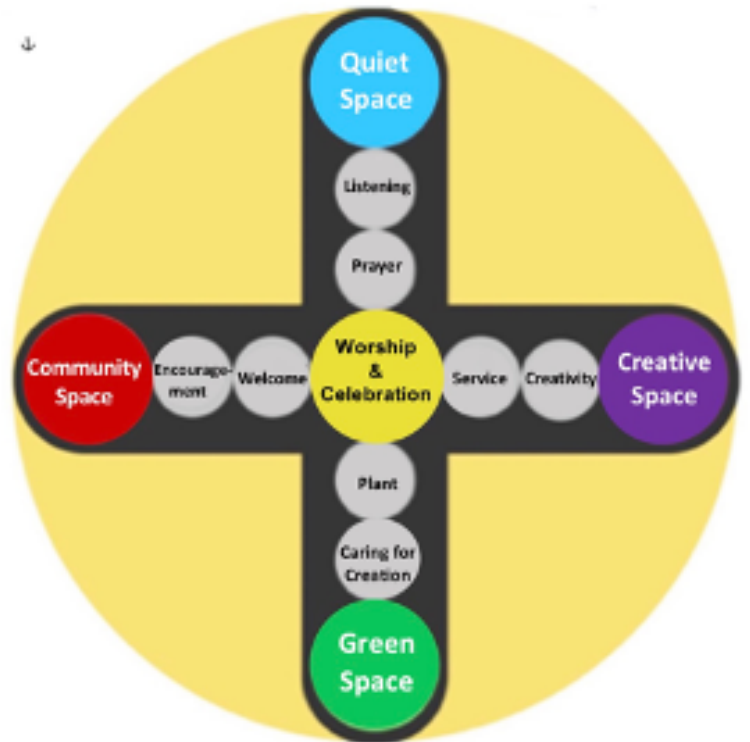
Making Space Community

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.

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.

