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Esgobaeth Mynwy

Diocese of Monmouth



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

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News

Conference 2026

It was wonderful to welcome a record number of delegates to our Diocesan Conference on Saturday.

More than 150 people from across the diocese attended St Teilo's High School for a morning of worship, conference business, and the launch of a new discipleship course, which focuses on the Social Justice branch of our Diocesan Vision.





In her opening address, Bishop Cherry marked the 500th anniversary of William Tyndale's English New Testament (1526) and used this milestone to reflect on the place of Scripture in Christian discipleship today.

She called for us to re-engage deeply with scripture, not simply as a historical text but as God's living word. Inspired by the sacrifices of people like William Tyndale, we are encouraged to read, study, and discuss the Bible with open hearts, allowing it to shape us into



faithful disciples whose lives are marked by love, service, and generosity.



She said: “This coming year as a diocese, we’re focussing on discipleship and I’m delighted that later this morning Archdeacon Ian is going to be introducing both the Love Your Neighbour Campaign and the Discipleship Course that focuses on

living out our faith in a way that serves the needs of others. It’s been immensely encouraging to hear the many stories of what’s already happening across the MAs of our diocese. It’s clear that in so many places and in so many ways, people are seeking to pattern their lives on the one who came not to be served but to serve. Which is wonderful to see.”

Along with thinking about the privilege of having the bible in our own language and how we should be using it, we also received really positive and encouraging reports about how things are going across the diocese. Nicola Roylance, our Deaf Community Mission Outreach Worker, gave a brief introduction explaining how she can help in ministry areas.





Delegates also agreed a motion affirming and encouraging social action projects and encouraging working together to help transform unjust structures of society.

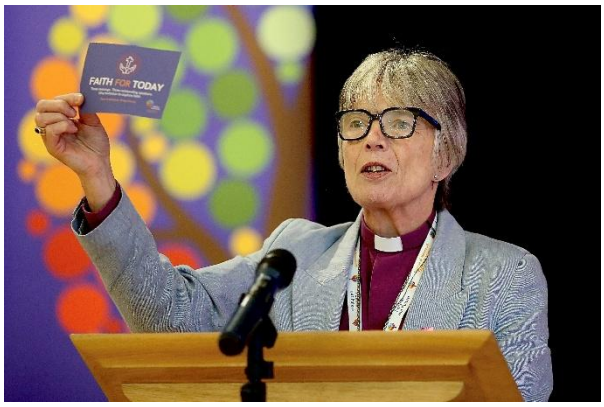
The date of the next Diocesan Conference was announced as Saturday 16th October 2027.

You can read the full address **HERE**

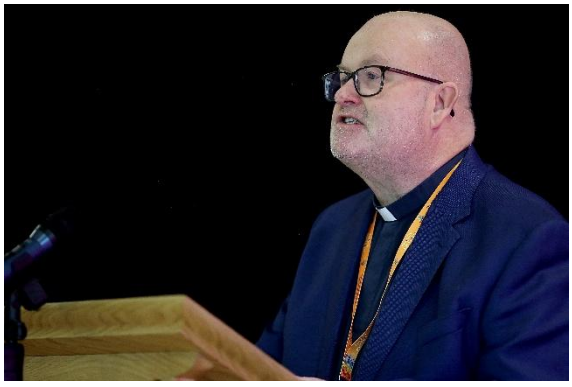
Love Your Neighbour and Discipleship Course

Our recent Diocesan Conference highlighted the Social Justice branch of our Vision and identified it as a priority for the coming year.

Conference demonstrated this commitment by passing a motion which celebrates the Church's service to local communities and encourages us to work together, in a prayerful and non-partisan way, to speak out on social issues identified through our pastoral ministry and community engagement, helping to bring about "the transformation of unjust structures of society".



This work will be supported by the launch of the **Love Your Neighbour** programme and a new four-part discipleship course, **Faith in Action: Loving Our Neighbour, Sharing Our Hope**.



Introducing **Love Your Neighbour**, Archdeacon Ian Rees said: "This is not a new initiative asking churches to start from scratch, nor is it a compulsory programme. Rather, it is an opportunity to celebrate, encourage and connect the work already taking place across our Diocese, while inspiring others to consider what more could be done.

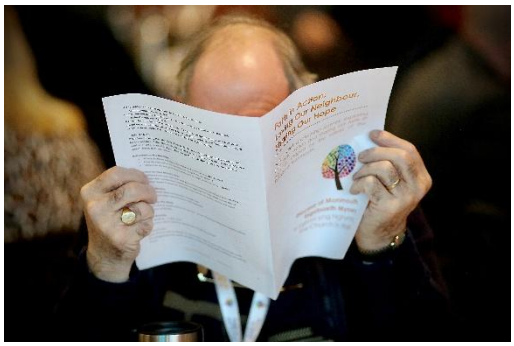
“It gives us a simple and shared way of telling our story and reminding ourselves, and others, why we do what we do. As its central message puts it: 'Because of Jesus, we choose to love our neighbours in practical ways.'

“The programme is intended to strengthen confidence, not create pressure.

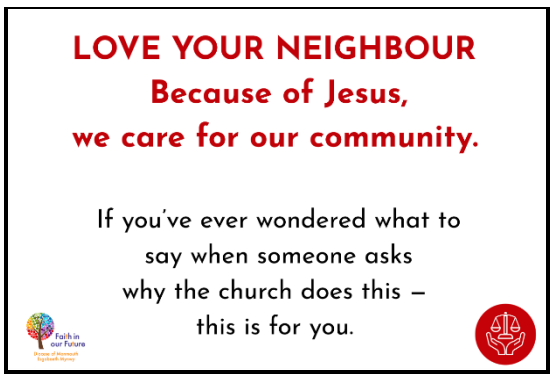
“Confidence to help churches tell their local story. Confidence for volunteers to answer the simple question, 'Why does the Church do this?' It provides an opportunity to celebrate good practice, encourage one another, and recognise that we are part of something bigger than ourselves: a diocesan family seeking together to reflect Christ's love in our communities."







A range of resources is available to support the programme, including conversation cards, promotional materials and customisable posters for local projects. Resources have been distributed to ministry area but are also available on Canva **HERE**, and PDF documents can be downloaded below:





Faith in Action: Loving Our Neighbour, Sharing Our Hope is a four-part course designed to help churches explore how social action and Christian witness belong together, shaped by the values of the Diocese of Monmouth.

Introducing the course, Archdeacon Ian Rees said: "Across our churches and communities, countless acts of kindness, service, welcome and compassion take place every week. We support people through foodbanks, warm spaces, community projects, pastoral care, volunteering and many other expressions of Christian love.
“The starting point for this course is a simple question: how do these acts of compassion connect with our calling to share the hope we have in Jesus?



“The course is rooted in the diocesan values of love, generosity, joy, humility, courage and integrity. As we journey through these sessions, the hope is not simply that we learn something new, but that we become more confident in living and sharing our faith through our everyday engagement with people and communities."

The course is available **HERE**

Advent Prayers for a Just Peace at The Senedd - 9th December



Annwyl gyfeillion / Dear friends,

Wrth i ni nesáu at y Nadolig a chlywed stori'r geni o Nasareth i Fethlehem, ymunwch gyda aelodau'r Glymblaid Heddwch Cyfiawn Cymru i weddïo dros heddwch.

Atodaf wahoddiad i noson **Gweddïau Adfent Dros Heddwch Cyfiawn ar nos Fercher 9 Rhagfyr, 18.00-19.30 yn Senedd Cymru, Bae Caerdydd.**

A wnewch chi plîs **rannu'r gwahoddiad yn eang** gyda'ch capel a rhwydwaith, ffrindiau a theulu? A wnewch chi hefyd rannu'r gwahoddiad gyda'ch Aelodau o'r Senedd, gan sôn eich bod am fod yn bresennol a gofyn iddyn nhw fynychu.

Plîs **cadarnhewch eich presenoldeb erbyn 7 Rhagfyr** yma: **Advent Prayers for a Just Peace | Cofrestru**

Os nad ydych yn barod wedi gwneud, plîs ychwanegwch eich enw i'r ymrwymiad i sefyll dros gyfiawnder, urddas a heddwch i bawb sy'n galw'r Tir Sanctaidd yn gartref: **Home - Just Peace Coalition**

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As we approach Christmas and are reminded of the Nativity stories from Nazareth to Bethlehem, we invite you to join with members of the Just Peace Coalition Cymru in prayer and witness for a just peace.

Please find attached an invitation to **Advent Prayers for Peace on Wednesday 9 December, 18.00-19.30 at Senedd Cymru, Cardiff Bay.**

Please will you **share the invitation widely** with your church, network, friends and family? Please do also share the invitation with your Members of the Senedd, letting them know you're attending.

Please **RSVP by the 7 December** here: **Gweddïau Adfent Dros Heddwch Cyfiawn | Register**

If you haven't already done so, please add your name to the commitment to stand for justice, dignity and peace for all who call the Holy Land home: **Home - Just Peace Coalition**

Ar ran y Glymblaid Heddwch Cyfiawn Cymru / On behalf of the Just Peace Coalition Cymru

Gwahoddiad / Invitation

St Mary’s Priory, Chepstow receives Grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund

St Mary’s Priory, Chepstow awarded £44,716
from The National Lottery Heritage Fund



Photo by Annabel Bowker-Dance

St Mary’s Priory, Chepstow is pushing forward with a major feasibility study project after being awarded £44,716 from The National Heritage Lottery Fund.

Through this project, the Severn Wye Ministry Area aims to secure a sustainable future for St Mary's Priory, Chepstow, conserving its exceptional heritage while enabling it to serve a wider and more diverse community. The vision of the project is to re-establish the Priory at the heart of community life and as a source of pride for local people, while preserving its role as a place of worship and one of Wales' most significant historic buildings.

The feasibility study will develop a clear, evidence-based strategy for the conservation, repair, adaptation and long-term use of the building. It will explore how St Mary's can better support heritage engagement, education, volunteering, cultural activity and community wellbeing, while addressing

challenges such as accessibility, facilities, environmental sustainability and building condition.

The project will create a practical roadmap for future investment, ensuring that St Mary's remains a valued heritage asset and vibrant community resource for generations to come.

The grant will fund 69 percent of the approved feasibility study project costs of £64,716 and has been made possible thanks to National Lottery Players.

Read more on our website

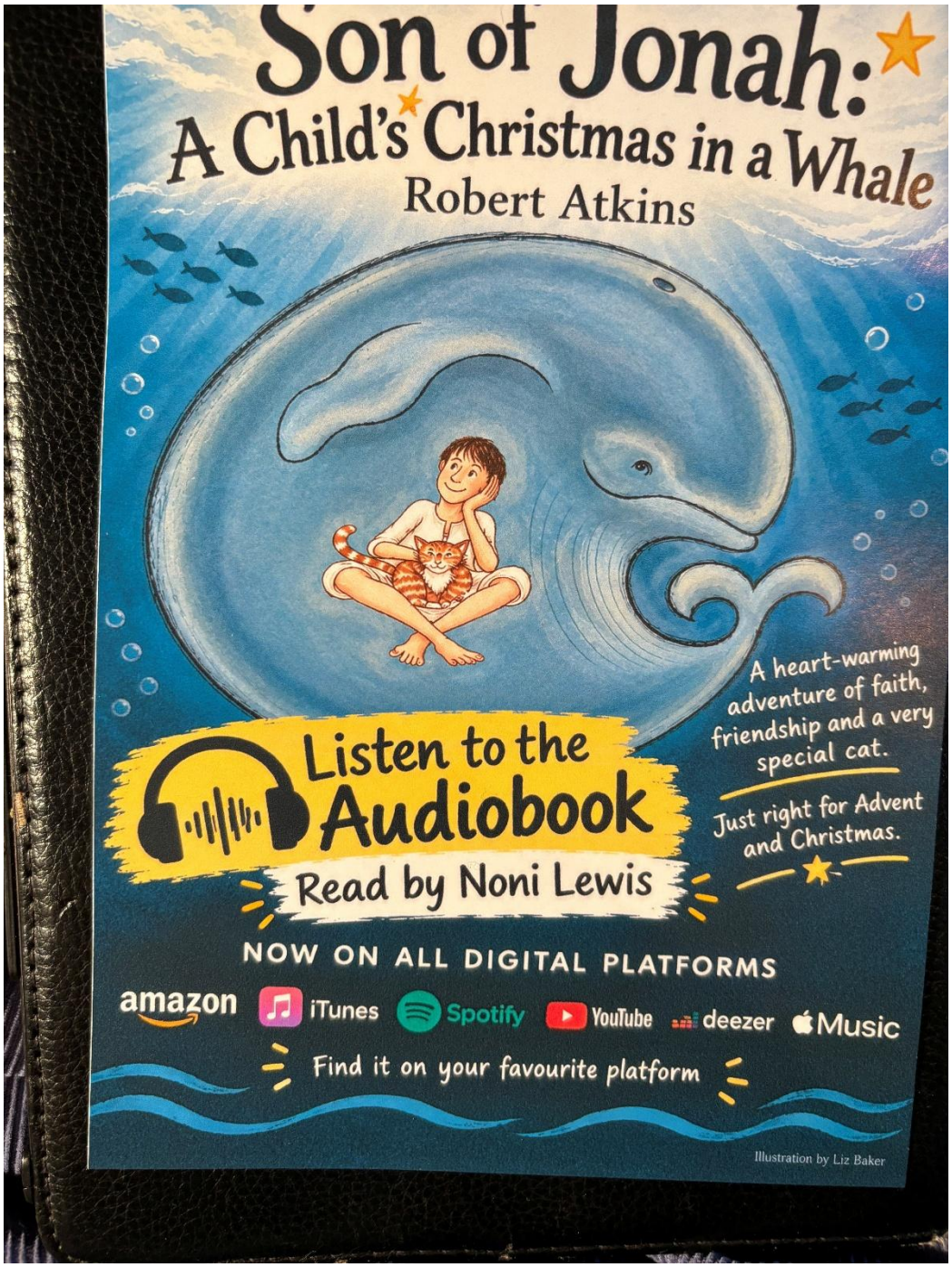
Easyfundraising - December Draw



Back by popular demand, easyfundraising's Advent Calendar returns. From 1 – 24 December, when you and your church communities visit easyfundraising and open the daily advent door, your ministry area or church could win a daily £250 donation. Plus, every window opened is an automatic entry to win the big Christmas Day funding pot of £2,000.

Get your MA involved here: **https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/diocese-of-monmouth/**

Son of Jonah: A Child's Christmas in a Whale



Recently, at St Michael's Church in Mitchel Troy, over 40 people gathered to hear the world premiere reading of the poem *Son of Jonah, a Child's Christmas in a Whale*, written by local parishioner Robert Atkins who is a musician, poet, teacher and retired Baptist minister. A man of many talents!

It is beautifully read by Noni Lewis and, is available on many digital platforms such as **Amazon**, **Spotify** and **YouTube**.

Son of Jonah: A Child's Christmas in a Whale is a visionary narrative poem that weaves together the biblical story of Jonah, the Nativity, and a daring theology of hope.

Orphaned and restless, young Jonah sets out with his cat, Jaspera, in search of a great whale that once swallowed his father. Along the way he encounters shepherds fresh from angel-song, wise men following a star, kings both holy and corrupt, and finally a vast tide of humanity drawn toward the sea. What awaits them inside the whale is not darkness but revelation: a living cathedral where mercy is preached, grief is answered, and all that was lost is restored.

Playful, learned, and deeply compassionate, Robert Atkins' poem moves freely between scripture, myth, and imagination. It is a Christmas poem, an Easter poem, a meditation on whether love might yet have the final word.

A work for readers of Dylan Thomas, George Herbert, and anyone who dares to wonder whether "all shall be well".

Events

Diocesan Quiet Day - 3rd December



The Diocesan Prayer and Spirituality Group invite you to a Diocesan Quiet Day
The COLOURS of ADVENT

Thursday 3rd December
9:45am - 3:45pm
St Mary's Priory and Church, MONMOUTH

As the bustle and busyness of the pre-Christmas season builds up, this is an opportunity to step aside for some spiritual preparation. Using the colours of Advent and the Advent wreath as prompts, we'll reflect on some eternal Christian themes: penitence, faithfulness, desire, gratitude.

The day will be structured as short talks each hour followed by time to reflect and pray.

Hot drinks will be provided but please bring your own lunch. Parking available in nearby car parks.

Contact: Revd Janet Bone
revjanetbone@gmail.com ☎ 07748 344161

Training

Safeguarding Training Dates



New dates to follow shortly

Please check CiW website for updates



Date	Day	Time	Course
FULL 01/12/2026	Tuesday	10.00am - 12.30pm	B
07/01/2027	Thursday	13.00-15.30	B
27/01/2027	Wednesday	10.00-12.30	B
01/02/2027	Monday	18.00-20.30	B
20/02/2027	Saturday	10.00-12.30	B
23/02/2027	Tuesday	10.00-12.30	B
04/03/2027	Thursday	13.00-15.30	B
10/03/2027	Wednesday	10.00-12.30	B
18/03/2027	Thursday	18.00-20.30	B

Please check CiW website for updates

To find out when your **Safeguarding training is due for renewal**, please contact Vicki Stevens at Monbishpa@churchinwales.org.uk or by phone on **01633 263510**.

To access the **booking form** and book your place please click on the button

Safeguarding Training Booking Form

Contact details for all of the **safeguarding team** can be found here:

Meet the team - The Church in Wales

The Provincial Safeguarding Officer for Monmouth Diocese is **Colin Taylor**

Email: colintaylor@cinw.org.uk
Phone: **07956 790330**

Grants and Funding

Diocesan Growth Fund

Faith in our Future
Diocese of Monmouth
Esgobaeth Mynwy

One of the priorities of our diocesan vision, *Faith in our Future*, is to encourage, support and equip our Ministry Areas to grow.

To help resource that work, the Diocesan Board of Finance has established a new Diocesan Church Growth Fund.

The fund will provide grants of up to £10,000 per Ministry Area to support locally-led projects that encourage evangelism, deepen community engagement and contribute to church growth.

We are keen to support ideas that are rooted in your Ministry Area's planning and vision. We will hopefully be working with your ministry area soon on the MA Planning Tool and this will be an excellent opportunity to consider whether additional resources are required for new initiatives. Projects do not need to be large or complicated. We are looking for clear ideas, local commitment and a desire to help people encounter the Gospel and become part of flourishing Christian communities.

The application process has been designed to be simple and proportionate. We are interested in:

- What you want to do
- Why it matters
- What outcomes you hope to see

- How it fits within your Ministry Area plans
- How your Ministry Area will support the project

Applications will be considered by the Growth Fund Committee four times each year.

As part of our supportive and relational approach, the committee will arrange a conversation or visit to learn more about your proposal during the application process.

A year after receiving funding, successful projects will be invited to share their experience with the committee so that learning and good practice can benefit Ministry Areas across the diocese.

Full details and application requirements can be found **here**
To apply for the fund please complete this **application form**

We look forward to hearing your ideas and seeing how God continues to grow His Church across the Diocese of Monmouth.

Net Zero Newport Decarbonisation Programme

SERO NET CASNEWYDD
NET ZERO NEWPORT

Newport-based community groups, charities and organisations may be eligible for support through the **Net Zero Newport Decarbonisation Programme**.

The programme aims to help organisations reduce energy costs, cut carbon emissions, and contribute to Newport's goal of becoming net zero by 2050. It

offers free technical advice, decarbonisation support, and grant funding towards energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Applications are now open for 2026/27. For more information please click **here**

Other Grant Resources

The Macaulay Moat Foundation offers grants of up to £5,000 per year to organisations across England and Wales where funding can make a meaningful difference. The Foundation has a particular interest in supporting Church Outreach projects that address social needs within local communities, alongside organisations providing dedicated autism support.

Grants can support a wide range of costs, including projects, staffing, equipment, and core organisational expenses, although building repair and renovation projects are not eligible. Applications are accepted throughout the year and assessed three times annually. Click **here** for more information and eligibility criteria.



Church Grants Database - click **here** for instructions on how to use this resource.

You can also use the **Grants Strategy Template**. This template is designed to help you plan and organise applications using the opportunities you find through Church Grants.

The Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme - The fund is currently closed for applications however if you would like to be notified of any future funding opportunities please sign up to WCVA's funding mailing list **here**



Welsh Church Acts Fund - For more information and to check eligibility criteria please click on the link below:

Welsh Church Fund - Caerphilly County Borough Council

Bernard Sunley Foundation - For more information including eligibility and to apply for funding please click on the link below:

https://bernardsunley.org/our-grant-giving/community/

If you need support with these or any grant-related work, please contact calumglanville-ellis@churchinwales.org.uk

Services

Services at Newport Cathedral

Join us for the **Advent Sunday Service** from the Cathedral, on **Sunday, 29th November** at **10:30am**

You can watch the service here

Newport Cathedral Christmas Services 2026



To find out details of other services and seasonal events that are taking place at the Cathedral between now and Christmas please click **here**

Esgobaeth Mynwy - Gwasanaethau Cymraeg 2026



Amserlen / Time table

Hydref / October	Amser / Time	Lleoliad / Location
Dydd Sadwrn 3 Hydref Saturday 3 October	9:30am	Eglwys Sant Thomas, Trefynwy St Thomas , Monmouth
Dydd Sul 4 Hydref Sunday 4 October	11am	Eglwys Crist, Ffordd y Gogledd, Y Fenni Christ Church, North Street, Abergavenny
Dydd Sadwrn 10 Hydref Saturday 10 October	9:30am	Eglwys Santes Fair, Cas-gwent St Mary, Chepstow
Dydd Sul 18 Hydref Saturday 18 October	9:30am	Cadeirlan Casnewydd Newport Cathedral
Tachwedd / November		
Dydd Sul 1 Tachwedd Sunday 1 November	11am	Eglwys Crist, Ffordd y Gogledd, Y Fenni Christ Church, North Street, Abergavenny
Dydd Sadwrn 7 Tachwedd Saturday 7 November	9:30am	Eglwys Sant Thomas, Trefynwy St Thomas , Monmouth
Dydd Sadwrn 14 Tachwedd Saturday 14 November	9:30am	Eglwys Santes Fair, Cas-gwent St Mary, Chepstow
Rhagfyr / December		
Dydd Sadwrn 5 Rhagfyr Saturday 5 December	9:30am	Eglwys Sant Thomas, Trefynwy St Thomas , Monmouth
Dydd Sul 6 Rhagfyr Sunday 6 December	11am	Eglwys Crist, Ffordd y Gogledd, Y Fenni Christ Church, North Street, Abergavenny
Dydd Sadwrn 12 Rhagfyr Saturday 12 December	9:30am	Eglwys Santes Fair, Cas-gwent St Mary, Chepstow
Dydd Llun 14 Rhagfyr Monday 14 December	Y Nadolig 11am	Eglwys Sant Cadog, Rhaglan St Cadoc Church, Raglan

YR EGLWYS YNG NGHYMRU
THE CHURCH IN WALES

Esgobaeth Mynwy - Gwasanaethau Cymraeg 2026

Amfwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Karen Dent/ For further information contact Karen Dent: **Karendent@churchinwales.org.uk**

Vacancies

Schools Engagement Pioneer - Cefn Forest, near Blackwood



Schools Engagement Pioneer
Salary: £28,610- £31,581 (dependent on experience)
Hours: Full time 37.5hrs (Part time would be considered)

We are recruiting a further visionary and enthusiastic school pioneer to join our current team and work on an exciting new project, developing relationships with children and young families through engagement with selected schools. You would be working in Cefn Forest near Blackwood with the aim of helping to build a new worshipping community.

We are looking for someone who is passionate about working with young people and families, and is confident in sharing faith sensitively as well as being able to be a consistent and trusted Christian presence in schools.

If this role sounds exciting to you, we would love to hear from you!

This role has a Genuine Occupational Requirement under the Equality Act 2010 for the postholder to be a communicant member of the Church in Wales or of a Church in communion with it or of a Member of CYTUN. If you are unsure, please do be in contact. Satisfactory enhanced DBS checks will be sought.

Application form and full profile available at
https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/jobs/

To Apply: Send a completed application form to

davidedwards@cinw.org.uk

Interview date: TBC

For an informal chat, please contact David Edwards on **07494 266748**