Esgobaeth Llandaf
Diocese of Llandaff
Lle Mae Ffydd Yn Cyfrif | Where Faith Matters

Recruitment Pack | Spring 2026

Penybont ar Ogwr Ministry Area

Croeso yn enw Iesu

Welcome in the name of Jesus

Croeso! Welcome!

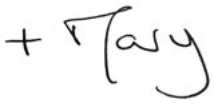
I am so glad you are exploring the opportunity to minister in Penybont ar Ogwr, a vibrant and exciting Ministry Area, where the churches are growing in confidence and active in mission. I am praying for you as you embark on this process of discernment.

In the Diocese of Llandaff, our vision is for our churches to be centres of prayer, learning, loving service and outreach to their communities. We want our clergy to flourish in ministry, which is why we prioritise pastoral care and careful oversight through the work of our archdeacons and area deans. We seek to encourage collaborative ministry at every level and to empower our congregations to live out their calling as Christian disciples and tell the joyful story of the good news of God's love.

This is a wonderful time to be thinking about joining in ministry with the churches of the Penybont ar Ogwr Ministry Area. The Ministry Team is committed to praying, meeting and working well together and is seeking a colleague who will lead worship in both traditional and more creative ways, help people to grow in their faith, welcome people of all ages and at every stage of their Christian journey, and help to build on the great work already being done in these churches. I am looking for a priest who enjoys working as part of a team, is prayerful, and will bring their own energy and creativity to help shape and develop the ministry of these faithful worshipping communities.

I hope you will find this profile helpful in discerning whether you feel called to apply.

Rt Rev'd M. K. R. Stallard
Bishop of Llandaff



Welcome to the Ministry Area of

Penybont ar Ogwr

Our vision as a Ministry Area (MA) is to build an intentional culture where we prioritise prayerfulness, evangelism, hospitality, and generosity. To this end we work across our eight locations as a team to provide a variety of opportunities for prayer, worship, teaching, and evangelism which have diverse appeal. Each of our congregations are developing a sense of their unique mission in their part of the Ministry Area. For example, mission to young people is being prioritised in conjunction with our church schools, and opportunities for pop-up cafés are taken up particularly in those parts of the MA which are popular with tourists, local walkers and cyclists. Moreover, we are seeing more joint and contemporary worship and prayer, such as the Central project.

Our MA comprises the town of Bridgend and the surrounding villages of Coity, Coychurch, Laleston, Merthyr Mawr, and Penyfai. Bridgend is the administrative centre of the County Borough of the same name. Its situation along the M4 and the presence of a mainline railway station give it excellent transport links to access all parts of the UK, including Swansea to the west, and Cardiff, Bristol, and London to the east. Coast and countryside are close by, with a small stretch of beach falling within the bounds of the MA. The town has three popular comprehensive schools, a College and a General Hospital amongst its facilities, and is served by branches of most major supermarkets, and excellent restaurants.

Our churches are centres for worship and biblical teaching – as well popular venues for weddings and baptisms, and we are developing an evangelistic pathway for occasional office preparation. Clergy and laity are involved with outreach to local schools through school governance and Open the Book. We have successfully introduced Alpha as a means of renewal and evangelism.

We support the work of different charities and organisations which promote welfare in the community, such as The Wallich (a homelessness charity), Christian Aid, Ty Cariad Africa (supporting orphans and vulnerable children), Dementia UK and the Alzheimer's Society as well as the local Foodbank.

Central@4

CAEFATRI

Sodean
C-Fold Green
Paper Hand Towels
Sodean
C-Fold Blue
Paper Hand Towels
COITY SUNDAY CLUB
Jesus - the Good Shepherd
Love

Our New Role: Vicar

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up”

Ephesians 4:11-12

The Role: Vicar

We are praying for someone who will bring their gifts to build up the church, by ‘equipping the saints for the work of ministry’. This will look like:

- leading beautiful and varied acts of worship in more formal and less formal settings;
- delivering thoughtful and intelligent preaching and teaching both in church and in small group settings;
- prioritising evangelism, through evangelistic pathways and ‘process evangelism’;
- committing to Christian hospitality and ‘doing life together’ with God’s people, especially the Ministry Area Council;
- working closely with the Ministry Area leader, and the Ministry Team.

The candidate will value our cultural pillars (prayer, evangelism, hospitality, and generosity) and will model them confidently and proclaim them courageously.

We are therefore looking for a vicar who:

- is able to lead public worship thoughtfully within a sacramental tradition
- has a flexible and creative approach to worship and public prayer
- is able to collaborate with the Ministry Team, working with others
- is passionate about drawing in others, empowering and releasing them to their own ministry.
- is realistic about the blessings and challenges of ministering among eight different congregations
- is able to develop the existing links with the community, such as schools, other denominations, community organisations and charities
- is enthusiastic about all aspects of children’s ministry
- has a pastoral heart, and is an approachable, good-humoured ‘people-person’
- is a good communicator through all media
- is willing to use Google Workspace, Canva, and Microsoft Outlook.
- is sympathetic to the Welsh language and willing to embrace Welsh culture.

Eight Locations – One Church

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

Ephesians 4:3

The population of the whole Ministry Area numbers about 55,000, but is growing substantially as upwards of 2,000 additional houses are built within its boundaries. Although affected by the economic downturn, levels of employment remain high.

The Ministry Area is an amalgamation of previous parishes, each church building and congregation now seeks to respond to its unique call within our group. The area can be understood by thinking about three historic parts, and new central joint events and services:

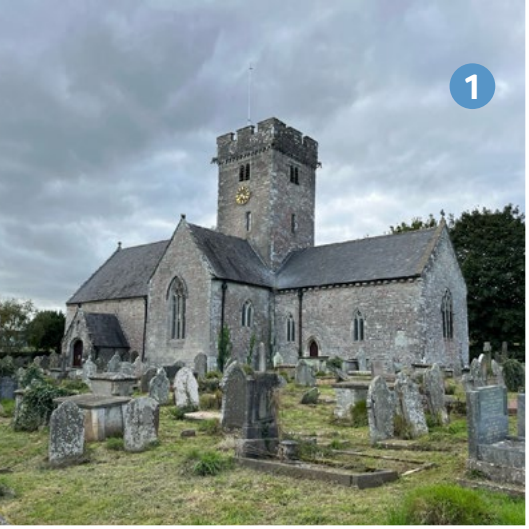
- East, (with Coity, Nolton, Brackla, and Coychurch)
- West, (with Penyfai, Laleston, and Merthyr Mawr) and
- Newcastle, historically a single church.
- Central Joint Events and Services

1 **St. Mary’s, *Coity*** is a Grade 1 Listed Church dating mainly to the C14th. Until the formation of the MA it was the ‘parish church’ of Bridgend. The congregation would like to see the regrowth of the Church built on the foundations of traditional worship, church choir, children’s Sunday Club, a team of bell ringers, and a focus on pastoral care.

2 **St Mary’s, *Nolton***, is a late Victorian building by John Pritchard. Originally a chapel of ease to Coity, with the expansion of the town during the 1800s it took on a major civic character which still holds today. As with many congregations, Nolton has suffered a significant reduction in numbers of worshippers as a result of Covid. The recovery has been slow, but steady, gathering pace in recent times. The congregation is working to build on this recovery so that they may look to reinvigorate the commitment to promoting the work of the Lord in the community.

3 **St Mary’s, *Brackla*** has met in Archdeacon John Lewis VA Church in Wales School since 2002. There are developing links between the church and school. Sunday Club runs every week for children and young people of all ages. The congregation is very open to various forms of worship.

4 **St Crallo’s, *Coychurch*** been connected to Coity, Nolton, and Brackla since 2014. It is joined to the town by an industrial estate and recent housing developments, but retains a distinct village feel. St. Crallo’s is a Grade 1 listed, large and beautiful medieval church often called the Cathedral of the Vale of Glamorgan. The congregation hopes to work collaboratively for a robust and sustainable future. They recognise the importance of the inclusion of the Welsh language in elements of their services, and keep pastoral care and family culture at the centre of everything they do. They would love to see the link with the local primary school rejuvenated, and are committed to growing in number, particularly younger members.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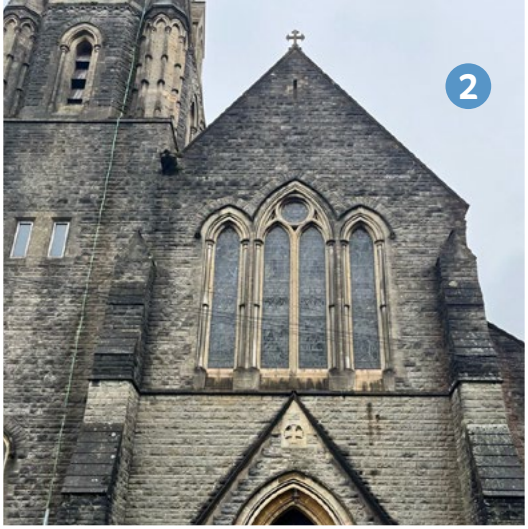
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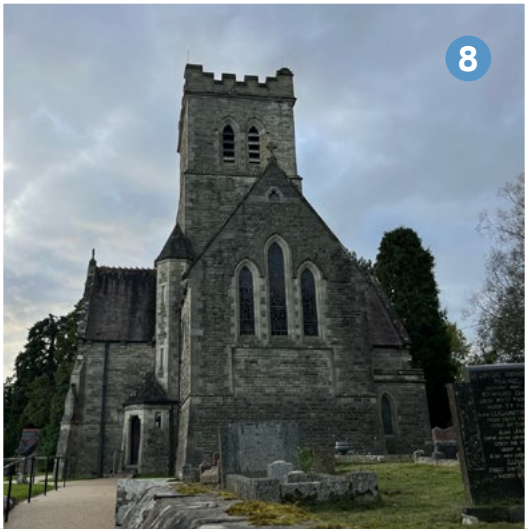
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5 **St Illtyd's, *Newcastle*** serves the mainly residential district of Cefn Glas, with parts of the church dating from the C14th. The church overlooks the town of Bridgend below, and is visible for miles, especially in the evenings when it is lit up to dramatic effect. The congregation has an Anglo-Catholic tradition, which is built upon celebration of Holy Communion, and other sacramental services. They aim to revive the choir, promote children's worship, follow up baptisms and encourage both old and young to join them in spreading the Good News and joining in friendship and love as the family in Christ.

6 **St David's in *Laleston*** is Grade 1 Medieval, dating from the C12th, and lies in a Conservation Area. The village has a newly-refurbished Church Hall, a primary school, shops, post office, hotel, pub and two restaurants. There are also shops and restaurants on the Broadlands estate half a mile away. The congregation ensures that everyone has a warm welcome, especially through encounters provided by the Occasional Offices. They hope to continue to develop the fellowship within the Ministry Area and for all to grow in faith together.

7 **St Teilo's, *Merthyr Mawr*** is in a small, picturesque estate village at the southernmost tip of the Ministry Area. Well-known local sand dunes form part of a National Nature Reserve and the village lies on both the All-Wales Footpath and the Laleston Stones Trail, which traces a former pilgrim route. A preaching cross and a lapidarium in the grounds of the church testify to its ancient origins. The current church, St Teilo's, a Grade 2* building, dates from the mid C19th and a recent donation enabled it to be refurbished. The small but enthusiastic eclectic congregation raises funds for various charities and seeks to maximise the church's potential as a pilgrim or festival church. They seek to reach out to those locally and further afield through a variety of activities, encouraging people to visit St Teilo's in order to share its blessing of peace and tranquillity.

8 **All Saints, *Pen-y-Fai*** A strong and growing 'village church', with a small choir and occasional Sunday School, as well as connections to community organisations. Although the majority of people in the congregations are 'mature', there is a desire to see all the churches flourish and a willingness to see that they do. They pray that the community will see them more and more as an integral part of everyday life and that faith and love are what motivates them.

The village has a church school (VC) and the links between church and school are very strong, with regular worship in the school, and school events in the church building. The church itself, All Saints', dates from the Edwardian era and is in good order. A small community room has been created from the south transept.

9 **Central Events and Services:** We come together as a joint congregation at least four times a year for a joint service held at St Mary's Nolton; as well as monthly Central Prayer meetings, and annual evangelistic events.

Our Ministry Team

Clergy:

Our stipendiary clergy work closely together, meeting at least once per week to pray and plan. The Ministry Area Leader is the 'lead vicar' who will usually guide discussion within the Ministry Team.

Ministry Area Leader - The Rev'd Mark Broadway: Ordained in 2017, Mark grew up in Somerset, before moving to Wales in 2006 to study Law. Mark's ordained ministry has been around the wider Bridgend County, including Porthcawl where he served as an operational member of the RNLI Lifeboat Crew. Mark has spoken as keynote speaker at the Prayer Book Society Conference and has written for Crossway. His debut book, Journeying with God in the Wilderness was the 2024 Lenten Devotional for Inter Varsity Press.

Vicar - The Rev'd Roger Pitman: Ordained in 2000, Roger comes from a small valley community near Maesteg. Before Ordination his work saw him move from Wales to NW England and to London before returning to Wales. Roger ministered in Caerphilly and Bridgend as Curate, before moving to Llanharry where he was Vicar and Chaplain to the Royal Glamorgan Hospital. He then spent twelve years as Vicar of the parish of Llangeinor and the Garw Valley before taking up his current post.

Officers:

Lay Chair - Mrs Jenny Morgan: Jenny retired as an Assistant Headteacher at a Cardiff school which caters for pupils who experience a wide range of learning difficulties. She has been an active member of her home church, All Saints', Pen- y-fai, for 47

years, holding various posts of responsibility and has always been eager to promote the importance of working closely with all strands of the local community.

Ministry Area Warden

Mrs Amanda Buckley: Mandy became MA Church Warden in June 2024. She spent 37 years working as a secondary school teacher and latterly Deputy Head. Now retired, she enjoys being involved in church activities, reading, walking and knitting. Mandy worships primarily in St Teilo's, and has taken a lead on matters relating to compliance.

Licensed Lay Ministers:

All of our LLMs are extremely hard- working and take services of word and prayer frequently in all churches of the Ministry Area. We are building towards a broader team of Commissioned Lay Ministers, to increase our capacity. In addition, each church has a team of reliable, competent lay people who on occasion lead Morning Prayer.

Mr Peter Craven: Peter was born in Breconshire where he lived until his family moved to Bridgend. After his schooling he read physics at University, and this was followed by a PGCE. He taught in Devon for two years before returning to Bridgend to teach here. He attends St Crallo's church in Coychurch with his wife Alison.

Mrs Penny Williams: Penny used to be a teacher of children with behavioural and emotional difficulties. She has at different times been involved in children's ministry and mental health chaplaincy. Her 'home' church is All Saints', Pen-y-fai.

Mrs Val Turner: In 1997 Val became a Tertiary of the Third Order SSF and a Licensed Reader. She started her training in Llandaff Diocese in Bridgend as a Curate's wife and completed it in St. Davids Diocese. There she was involved in Anglican ministry but also Presbyterian, Baptist and non-denominational worship as required. Now Val's 'home' church is St David's, Laleston.

Our Diocese

Irish monks first established the Christian faith in Morgannwg during the 5th and 6th centuries. St Cadoc established the monastery at Llancarfan and ruled the area as Abbott-King. St Illtud established a school of world renown at Llantwit Major where he trained St David and St Patrick. St Dyfrig became the first bishop of the area, followed by the great St Teilo. However, it was St Euddogwy, the third bishop who finally settled at Llandaff in the sixth century.

Today we are the most populous of six dioceses in the Church of Wales, with over one million inhabitants, covering much of South Wales, including the urban centres of Cardiff and Barry in the Southeast, the Heritage Coast to the South, the South Wales Valleys in the North and the post-industrial regions of Neath and Port Talbot in the West. The diocese is a family of over 6,000 regular worshippers with over one hundred clerics and more than two hundred churches spread across 29 Ministry Areas.

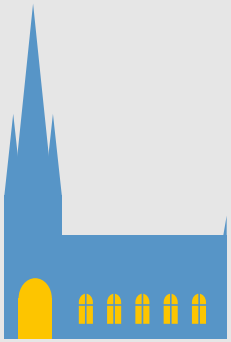
1 Theological Institute

29 Ministry Areas

130 serving clergy

33 Licensed Lay Ministers

207 Churches



1 Cathedral

6 Deaneries

1 Eco-Diocese

More than 6000 regular Church in Wales worshippers

3 Church in Wales High Schools

22 Church in Wales Primary Schools

1 Resource Church

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