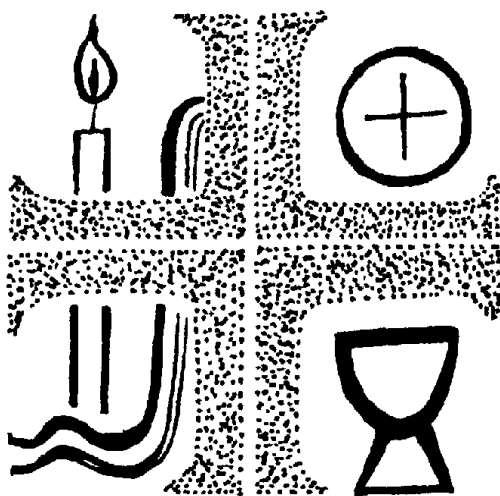


The Church in Wales  
Yr Eglwys Yng Nghymru

**Team Vicar in  
the Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon  
St Theodore's, Port Talbot**



**Profile – 2020**



**LLE MAE FFYDD  
YN CYFRIF**

**WHERE FAITH  
MATTERS**

## The Diocesan Context

In 2019 the diocese launched its new vision strategy which has arisen out of a consultation process which took place the previous year.

### The Diocesan Vision

We believe faith matters.

Our vision is that all may encounter and know the love of God through truth, beauty and service, living full and rich lives through faith.

Transforming lives through living and bearing witness to Jesus Christ is our calling. We seek to do this in a Diocese that is strong, confident, alive and living in faith, engaged with the realities of life and serving others in His name.

Our profound belief in the sovereignty of God means that we will look to continue Christ's church and mission by telling the joyful story of Jesus, growing the Kingdom of God by empowering all to participate and building the future in hope and love.

### The Aims of the Diocesan Vision

**Telling the joyful story**  
**Growing the Kingdom of God**  
**Building our capacity for good**

### Our Parish Vision

By applying these aims to our local context we wish to:

**Tell the joyful story** of Jesus Christ through the Gospel - spreading it through the wider community by sharing our faith with others

**Grow the Kingdom of God** by building our own spiritual strength - providing opportunities for nurturing and exploring faith

**Build our capacity for good**  
through our outreach into the wider community

The parish of St Theodore, Port Talbot, has a distinguished history and is looking to create a new future. It will be incorporated into the neighbouring Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon by mid-2020.

Most of this Profile refers to St Theodore's. Information about the Benefice of Aberavon can be found on its [website](#).

We are prayerfully looking for a priest who will:

- Be engaging and collaborative, with excellent people-skills, and who will lead us into the next stage of our mission and ministry in the local area
- by their leadership, help us to grow both in depth and number
- show resilience and possibly has experience of healing division
- show ambition and excitement about the opportunities provided by the forthcoming pastoral reorganisation, enabling us to reach the whole town
- inspire us with their preaching and sound teaching, so that we may prayerfully meet the needs of the local area in the 21st century
- enable us to build new relationships and assist us in rekindling the relationships and mission to schools, care homes and the housebound
- bring new life and energy to the church's links with uniformed youth organisations and other providers of youth activities in the community, helping us to draw them into the worshipping life of the parish



**The existing clergy in Aberavon are the Revd Canon Nigel Cahill and the Revd Rhun ap Roberts.**

**Pastoral reorganisation will bring St Theodore's into the wider Benefice in the course of 2020.**

## Location



The Benefice of Aberavon serves the communities that make up the area of Port Talbot, in green above. The area principally served by this post is in pale green on the map, with the churches of the Benefice highlighted in red.

(Note: St Peter's, Port Talbot, has now been closed.)

Cardiff is thirty miles east, Swansea ten miles to the west.



### Within St Theodore's Area We Offer You:

- a committed and knowledgeable congregation
- well-sited buildings – the church, and two Halls – which offer potential for community outreach and mission
- the opportunity to help shape the future of this part of Port Talbot, working closely with the wider team to reach more people within the town

### Port Talbot – The Area

Port Talbot is a coastal town with a strong industrial heritage (including steel-making) and a population of c.40,000. Whilst benefiting from a well-known and popular beach (Aberavon), it is surrounded by hill country, making it a wonderful location for anyone interested in nature. Port Talbot is also just a short drive from areas of outstanding natural beauty such as Gower and the Brecon Beacons.



The area has excellent transport links, being on the M4 corridor and the main train-line from Swansea to London Paddington. The bus and railway stations and M4 access are all around ½ mile from the church.

As well as inspirational walking and mountain-biking trails in the nearby Afan Forest Park, Port Talbot is well-known for its contribution to arts and culture (particularly as the birthplace of Sir Anthony Hopkins, Richard Burton and Michael Sheen), and has again recently come to the attention of the arts world, with the first 'Banksy' in Wales being painted on a garage just a few hundred yards away from the church.

Port Talbot has several protected sites, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation and a wetland region designated as being of international importance (a [Ramsar](#) site).

Margam Country Park is a well-known and popular facility a short distance away, set in over 850 acres which includes [Margam Abbey](#) (a Cistercian monastery) and [Margam Castle](#).

There are a number of schools within the area of the Port Talbot and Aberavon parishes, including two large English secondary schools, one Welsh secondary school and a number of primary schools. There are also several Care Homes situated in the local area, and a hospital within the town.

## Demography

Tata Steel is a major employer within the local area, and is one of the largest steelworks of its kind in Europe – it is situated a short distance from the church. Whilst employment there has declined over recent decades, it still directly employs over 4,000 people, as well as indirectly supporting many smaller local businesses.

According to the Office of National Statistics in 2010 a quarter of children and young people (under the age of 20) in the town were living in poverty. Between April 2012 to March 2013 the employment rate was 64.9%.

## St Theodore's



*Image © Google*

St. Theodore's church was designed by John Pearson of London (also responsible for restoration work at Westminster Abbey, and the architect of Truro Cathedral).

The Grade II\* building was completed at the very end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century at the expense of the local landowner Emily Charlotte Talbot of Margam Park.

The church is situated within a residential setting with a well-occupied shopping centre situated a short distance away.

Twenty years ago over £½m pounds was spent on its restoration and the building of the new Youth Hall.



The church was set up in support of the Oxford movement and since then its liturgy has reflected the ethos of Anglo-Catholicism, being very much Eucharist-based.

A recent Quinquennial Inspection has identified a number of necessary remedial works, and also some development opportunities – a significant amount of money will need to be spent in the near future on the maintenance works in particular. The PCC is in the process of engaging with suppliers for this work.

## Services

Current weekly services are as follows:

<b>Sunday</b>	8:30am	Said Eucharist
<b>Sunday</b>	11:00am	Sung Eucharist
<b>Sunday</b>	6:00pm (4pm in winter)	Evensong
<b>Monday</b>	10:00am	Eucharist
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00am	Eucharist

There are currently 111 people on the parish Electoral Roll.

Average weekly adult attendance (2018)	68
2018 Christmas service attendance	110
2019 Easter communicants	77
2018 Baptisms	14 children and 1 adult
2018 Weddings	4
2018 Funerals	19, of which 5 in church)

## Church Organisations

The parish has an active Mothers' Union branch, which has developed strong links with other local organisations, including other Union branches in the Diocese.

There is no regular Sunday School or youth club provision at the moment, something the PCC is very keen to address in collaborative working with other local parishes.



## Church Halls and Parish Life



Charity is at the heart of much that we do in the parish, and the facilities that we have, including both Halls, enable much of this.

The two hall buildings are alongside but separate to the church – the Parish Hall and a newer Youth Hall. Both

have kitchen facilities as well as traditional hall space, and can be utilised in a number of different ways. The Youth Hall also has a dedicated meeting room space.

Both Halls are well appointed, modern and very well maintained. There is parking onsite and easy access from the main road. A Coffee Shop and parish charity shop are located within the Parish Hall (which also has a licenced bar), all staffed by volunteers.



In addition special events, fayres, lunches and other similar activities are arranged to raise funds for local charities, Christians Against Poverty, and also funds for the church itself.

Whilst already utilised by uniformed youth organisations (Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows), other community groups and for events, both spaces offer significant opportunities for establishing stronger links with the community.



## Ecumenical Links

St Theodore's has joined with neighbouring parishes (and some further afield) to arrange, host, or attend events within the Diocese. The church also has local ecumenical links with other denominations which have existed for more than 20 years.

The church is proud to regularly support and contribute to local events wherever possible, such as Remembrance Sunday in the neighbouring memorial park. In the past the incumbent has been Chaplain to the local Royal British Legion branch.

## Parish Finances

The parish return for 2018 and parish accounts are available on the Charity Commission website (Charity No.1137813).

In round figures, for 2018 the total parish income as shown in the accounts was just over £100k and expenditure was £125k (including a £16k+ adjustment for depreciation). Whilst the parish has significant reserves, the PCC is anxious to address the deficit between current income and expenditure.

The PCC is also keen to increase charitable giving and mission expenditure where possible and appropriate. The parish regularly donates to CAP and the Sunflower Children's Hospice in Bloemfontein, South Africa. It also regularly gives food to the local Foodbanks (and has a donation area within the church).

It is hoped that the incorporation into the Aberavon Benefice will lead to more opportunities to support local mission directly and collaboratively.

## The Vicarage

Accommodation is provided in the form of the well-maintained Vicarage, situated next to the two Halls.

The property has been recently refurbished, and benefits from a conservatory overlooking a privately enclosed rear garden.

The front garden includes a detached garage and a separate storage shed, with a driveway providing parking for up to 3 vehicles.

It conforms to the standard for diocesan housing for incumbents, and has four bedrooms, two reception rooms, study/office, in addition to the other rooms one would expect to find.

