



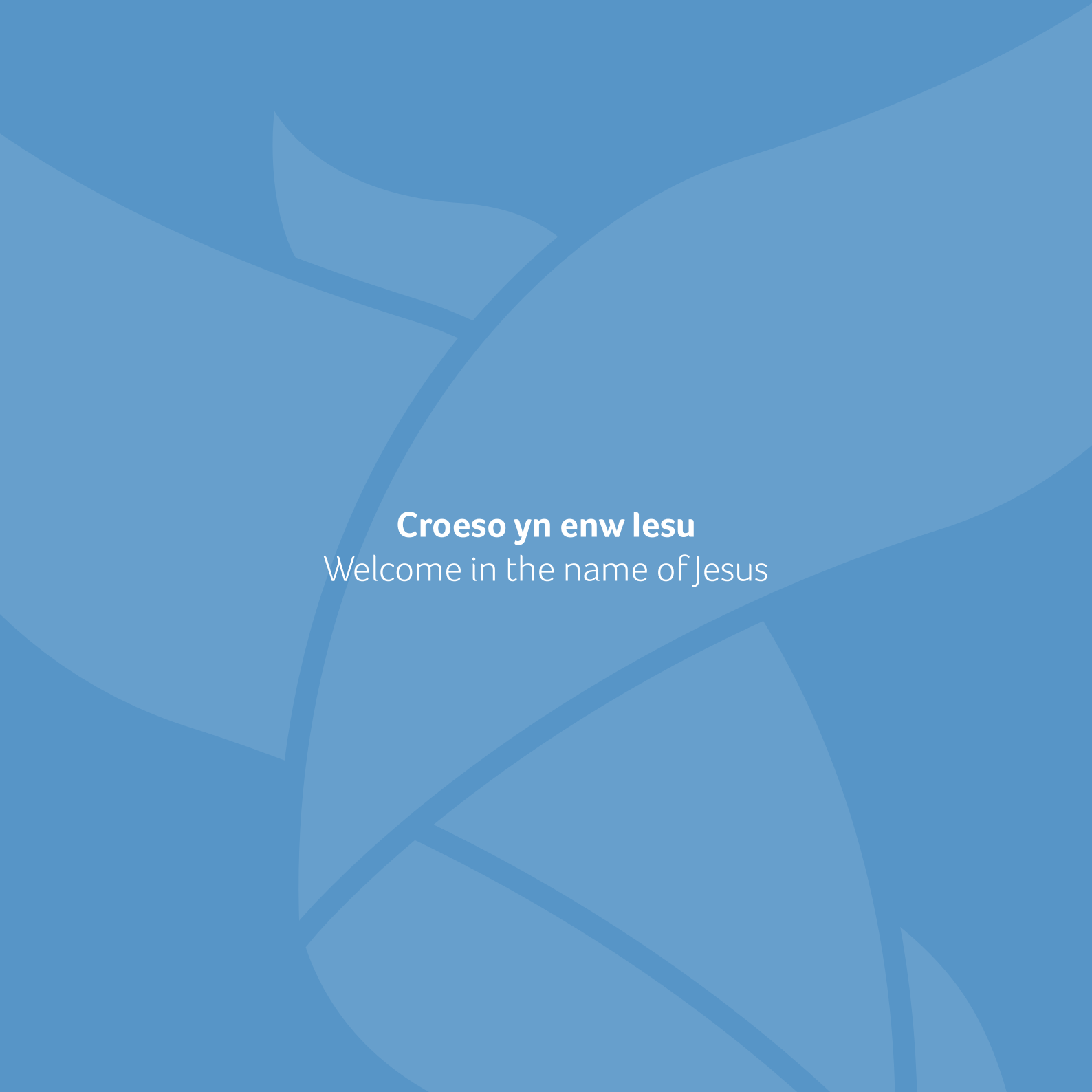
Esgobaeth Llandaf
Diocese of Llandaff

Lle Mae Ffydd Yn Cyfrif | Where Faith Matters

Recruitment Pack | Spring 2024

The Garth Ministry Area





Croeso yn enw Iesu
Welcome in the name of Jesus



Croeso! Welcome!

I am delighted you are exploring this exciting opportunity to minister in and around some of the suburbs and villages to the North West of Cardiff, the capital of Wales. I am praying for you as you embark on this process of discernment.

These are exciting times in the Diocese of Llandaff. Our strategic vision 'Faith Matters' is becoming reality. As a Diocese we are encouraging one another to tell a joyful story, grow the Kingdom and build our capacity for good. We have invested heavily in our ministry amongst young people, recruiting outreach and schools workers to work alongside our churches. We are supporting front line ministry through the work of our Growth Enablers.

We have reorganised ourselves into Ministry Areas and regional Deaneries, which is encouraging collaborative ministry and empowering our congregations as we reach our communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Archbishop Andrew has announced a £100 million Church Growth Fund for the next ten years, so we are working together to develop new ways of introducing others to the Christian faith.

This post in the Garth Ministry Area forms part of a new team of lay and clerical colleagues, working with the new Ministry Area Leader, sharing resources, playing to your strengths and reimagining what it means to be church in the twenty first century. The Garth Ministry Area has fully embraced collaborative ministry so the team is strong and increasingly used to working together. You will have the chance to build on that legacy whilst pioneering ministry in the new urban village of Plas Dwr.

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 Garth Ministry Area. We are a group of eight churches - plus a worship centre - in North West Cardiff in the Diocese of Llandaff serving a mix of suburban communities, rural villages and the most significant new housing development in South Wales.

After two years as a Ministry Area we have a clear 10-year vision and strategy with action teams already working hard to turn this vision into reality.

We are looking to recruit a vicar able to nurture and work pastorally alongside existing members of the congregations. Our key issues are to stabilise and grow our churches by developing new and current disciples and to engage with the different communities across the Ministry Area.

You will be a part of a team of three stipendiary clerics, working alongside a non-stipendiary cleric, lay readers and retired clergy. We will encourage you to play to your strengths as a key part of the team that will deliver our strategy across the whole Ministry Area while maintaining close pastoral care of a small number of specific churches.

More information about the Ministry Area as whole is given on our website:
<https://garthma.wales> and on page 11 of this document



The prominent Garth Mountain north-west of Cardiff after which the Ministry Area was named. © Tongwynlais.com

Our Mission Vision and Strategy

Our Mission

We are clear that our mission is the mission of Christ and we have based our Vision and Strategy on the Anglican Five Marks of Mission.

Our Overall Vision is:

“That we are flourishing, active in all our communities, and confident about using our words and actions to share the love of God to all”

This Vision has Five Elements. That our churches are:


1. Welcoming, culturally relevant and actively and joyfully sharing our faith
2. Confidently & effectively growing our own and others' faith on life's spiritual journey
3. Engaging with and caring lovingly for, all those in need in the communities we serve
4. Campaigning and taking action, collectively and individually, against injustice, globally and locally
5. Striving, continually & pro-actively, in caring for Creation

Our Key Challenges/Gaps

We recognise that we are not growing in our existing communities and that we are not present in our new communities. Our Strategy is designed to overcome these gaps and thus achieve our Vision.

The Root Causes of our Gaps are that we are:

- A. Not replacing ageing (increasingly less active) congregation members.
- B. Not effective in attracting all generations / life-stages.
- C. Experience of church (in all its aspects) not sufficiently meaningful/relevant.
- D. Not good at articulating/defending our faith effectively to others.
- E. Insufficiently active/visible in our communities – especially Plasdwr and the new developments
- F. Those responding to a calling are decreasing, so expectations of clergy are becoming greater.



Our Key Strategic Actions (KSAs) to close our Gaps are to:

1. Establish a welcoming Christian presence, worship & activity in the new communities in the MA.
2. Establish friendly, accessible worship and activities that appeal to all generations, young families, and children – with meaningful follow-up.
3. Communicate what we do and why we do it and our own faith stories, meaningfully – online, in our buildings and via activities and services.
4. Grow each of our abilities to articulate our faith effectively to others (Telling the Joyful Story).
5. Grow and develop new leaders to collaborate with the clergy and engage all our people in having a role in the life of the church and its Vision - with succession plans for all key roles.
6. Be always active in campaigning and acting against injustice. Take action to continually reduce the impact of our buildings and activities on creation.

The Teams to deliver these Actions are already partly formed and you would be leading one of the teams and supporting another one. The specific job role is described below:

Our Ministry Team

New role

Vicar for New Worshipping Communities

Establish a welcoming Anglican presence, worship & activity in the new communities in the MA. Establish friendly, accessible worship and activities that appeal to all generations – with meaningful follow-up.



The Vicar for New Worshipping Communities would be expected to:

- Stabilise and grow the churches for which they have pastoral responsibility and work with our communities to help attract more people of all ages (particularly the younger generations) to experience the love of God and join us in worship
- Support the team establishing friendly, accessible worship and activities that appeal to all generations – with meaningful follow-up
- Provide pastoral care for the communities and take responsibility for most of the Sunday services at one of the groups of churches in the MA
- Lead the team establishing a welcoming Anglican presence, worship & activity in the new communities in the MA

We are therefore looking for a priest who:

- Is approachable, easy to be with, and able to come alongside people from different backgrounds, eventually drawing them into the life of the church
- Is pioneering and a self-starter who takes the initiative and makes things happen
- Is willing to work pro-actively with schools and young people
- Loves to see others come to faith. A confident evangelist with a passion for making new disciples
- Is experienced with establishing and leading a variety of worship and activities that appeal to all generations
- Is someone who is willing to play their part in the team and give themselves to the Ministry Area as a whole



Christ Church, Radyr



St Mary and St James Church, Taff's Well



St Catwg's Church, Pentyrch

Existing Ministry Team

Ministry Area Leader:

Rev. Sandra Birdsall

Sandra was appointed as a vicar to the Ministry Area in Spring 2022 and was appointed as Ministry Area Leader in October 2023. Sandra is passionate about collaborative leadership, developing personal spirituality and has a strong pastoral heart. She is also the Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain. Sandra will be the Vicar with responsibility for Leadership Development and supporting Environmental and Social Justice. She will lead the 5th Action Team for growing and developing new leaders at all levels and also support the 6th Action Team campaigning against injustice and for the environment. Sandra provides pastoral care for the communities of St Fagans and Michaelston as well as for Tongwynlais and Taffs Well with the support of a retired cleric.

Vicar for Spirituality and Invitation

To be appointed

Non-Stipendiary Minister:

Rev. Ruth Coombs

Ruth was appointed to the Ministry Area as a Self Supporting Vicar in Summer 2022. Ruth is passionate about social justice, equality and diversity. Both eucharistic and other forms of welcome ministry are important to her. She will be the vicar with responsibility for the 6th Action team campaigning against injustice and for the environment

Lay Readers

Amanda and Iwan Russell-Jones

Amanda & Iwan have been involved in Christian ministry & education for many years.

Amanda is passionate about Christian education for all so that each of us can apply the Christian faith to the whole of life. She enjoys both teaching theology and history in a theological college setting and helping to facilitate Messy Church and other outreach ventures. Iwan is a theologian and broadcaster who worked for the BBC for many years. His interest is in helping Christians explore their faith and understand its meaning for our lives today.



Our worshipping communities

Our churches are all very different with particular charisms and characteristics. Our new Vicars would be given pastoral care of a number of these churches and they would be expected to nurture and encourage each one to flourish in their vocations and connect with their local communities.

St Mary, St Fagans

St Mary's, a Grade II listed building, was founded in the 12th century with three significant redevelopments taking place over the centuries, including a new tower in the 18th century and a substantial restoration in the 19th century. There is an average congregation of 35. There is an active Mothers Union and a Church in Wales Primary School in nearby Michaelston.

St Catwg, Pentyrch

This nineteenth century, Grade II Listed church is one of the largest in the Ministry Area. It was refurbished in 2018 with a new kitchen, chairs instead of pews and new lighting and has seen increased use by the community as a result. The organ is currently being refurbished. There is an average Sunday congregation of 45. St Catwg's is a family church with a strong Sunday Club for children.

St David, Groesfaen

St David's is the daughter church of St Catwg's. It was originally built on the outskirts of the village, but a modern residential development in Y Parc means the church is now right at the heart of village life. The church has heating, a new refreshment facility, disabled toilet and baby changing facilities. The new facility has resulted in the church being regularly used by the local community for social events. There is an average Sunday congregation of 24.

St Elteyrn, Capel Llanilltern **St Michael Tongwynlais**

St Elteyrn's is a Grade II listed building, designed by George, Edmund Street, one of the great Victorian architects. It is famous for being one of the smallest places of worship in the Diocese of Llandaff. There is an average Sunday congregation of 7. The congregation have a vision to turn the hall alongside the church into a hub for the community of Capel Llanilltern and the large neighbouring development of Llanilltern Village. Plans are in place to install toilet and kitchen facilities so alternative worship and community coffee mornings could be held and small groups could meet.



Creigiau Church Hall

Creigiau Church Hall

At the centre of this vibrant community, the Hall hosts a monthly family service and a recently established and successful Messy Church as well as numerous social events including a monthly community market.

St Michael's is a nineteenth century church with an adjoining church hall which is let out to a variety of community organisations including the Castell Coch Choir, the Beavers and a yoga group. During the year two major fund raising events are held as well as various social activities. There is an active Mothers Union, Ladies Circle and gardening club. There is an average congregation of 35.

St Mary & St James Taff's Well

St Mary's and St James is based in a former school building. It boasts a large, tranquil and well-tended garden and has a new heating system. The leadership team organise a range of social activities and special worship services. The congregation has strong links with the Taffs Well Community Singers and supports a local Foodbank. The average congregation is now 21.

Christ Church Radyr

Christ Church is a Grade II listed church built at the beginning of the 20th century. Next door to the church are the New School Rooms, with a hall, meeting room, kitchen facilities and toilets used by the whole community. There is a weekly

Sunday Club and the church has a long musical tradition with an active choir which is now seeking a new choirmaster and an organist. There is an average congregation of 63 at the two Sunday services and the 11:00 am is live-streamed on YouTube. Christ Church and St John's have a joint Evening Prayer service which is largely lay-led with an average congregation of 18

Danescourt

At almost 800 years old, St John's is the ancient church of the parish. Set in a quiet, secluded churchyard, the church preserves the atmosphere of a quiet country church. It stands on the site of an ancient prayer place, aradur in Welsh, which gives Radyr its name. The new suburb of Danescourt grew up around the church in the 1970s, which is now the main focus of the church's ministry. There is an average congregation of 30. St John's has an active Sunday Club which meets in the separate church hall, a building that is well used by community organisations. St John's runs a baby and toddler group has good links with its local primary school.

In line with the policy of the Church in Wales, the Welsh language is used from time to time in our services. A willingness to promote the occasional use of Welsh and an ability to read in Welsh will be welcomed.

Plas Dwr

Plas Dwr is Cardiff's garden city for the 21st century around five miles from Cardiff city centre. As the development emerges it will include 7000 homes, one secondary and four primary schools, shops, bars and restaurants, parks, playing fields and allotments.

Housing

This post will have pastoral responsibility for Pentryrch, Capel Llanilltern, Creigiau and Groesfaen, the vicar will live in the Vicarage in Pentryrch. This four-bedroomed house with a ground-floor study is located opposite the church.

Pentryrch


Pentryrch and the neighbouring villages of Groesfaen, Creigiau and Capel Llanilltern all have strong local identities and a vibrant community life. Pentryrch, the largest and most historic of the villages has a population of just under 4000. It has a primary school and boasts a renowned performance venue and its own rugby and cricket clubs. English and Welsh medium primary schooling is available in nearby Creigiau along with an active Scout group.


Over the next ten years, the new Llanilltern Village will grow considerably as 1500 new homes are built.




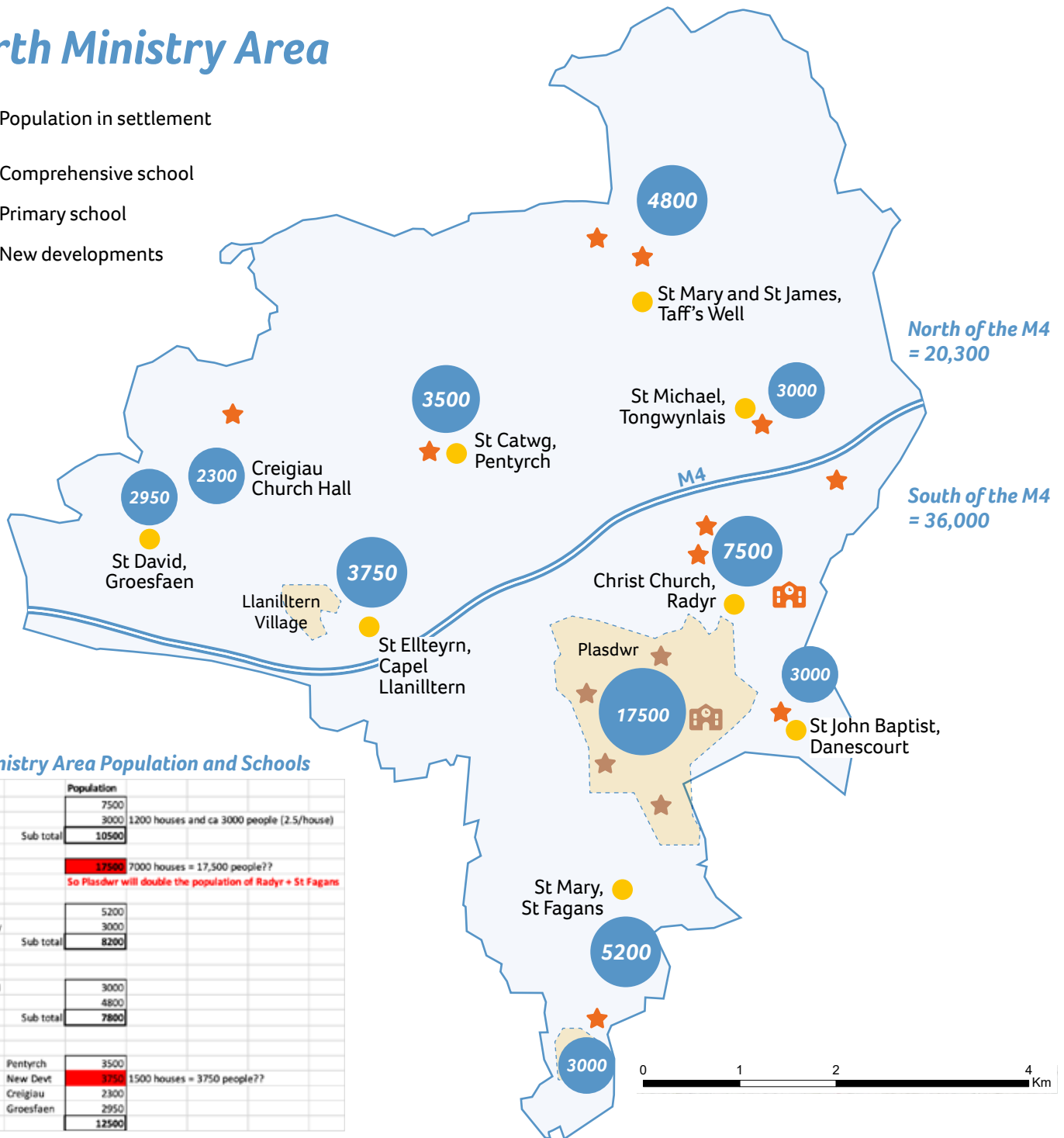
Garth Ministry Area

4800 = Population in settlement

 = Comprehensive school

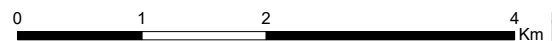
 = Primary school

 = New developments



Garth Ministry Area Population and Schools

'Parish'	Population	
Radyr	7500	
Danescourt	3000	1200 houses and ca 3000 people (2.5/house)
Sub total	10500	
Plasdwr	17500	7000 houses = 17,500 people?? So Plasdwr will double the population of Radyr + St Fagans
St Fagans	5200	
Michaelston S/Ely	3000	
Sub total	8200	
Tongwynlais St M	3000	
Taffs Well	4800	
Sub total	7800	
Pentyrch and Capel Llanilltern	3500	
Pentyrch	3500	
New Devt	3750	1500 houses = 3750 people??
Creigiau	2300	
Groesfaen	2950	
Sub total	12500	



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 Abbot-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 South East, 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 10,000 regular worshippers with over one hundred clerics and more than two hundred churches spread across 29 new Ministry Areas.



1 Theological Institute



29 Ministry Areas



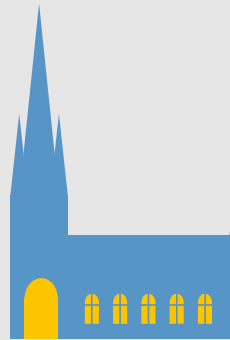
130 serving clergy



33 Licensed Lay Ministers



207 Churches



1 Cathedral



1 Eco-Diocese



6 Deaneries



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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The Court, Coychurch, Bridgend, CF35 5EH | T: 01656 868 868

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