

Recruitment Pack | 2023

Ministry Area Leader

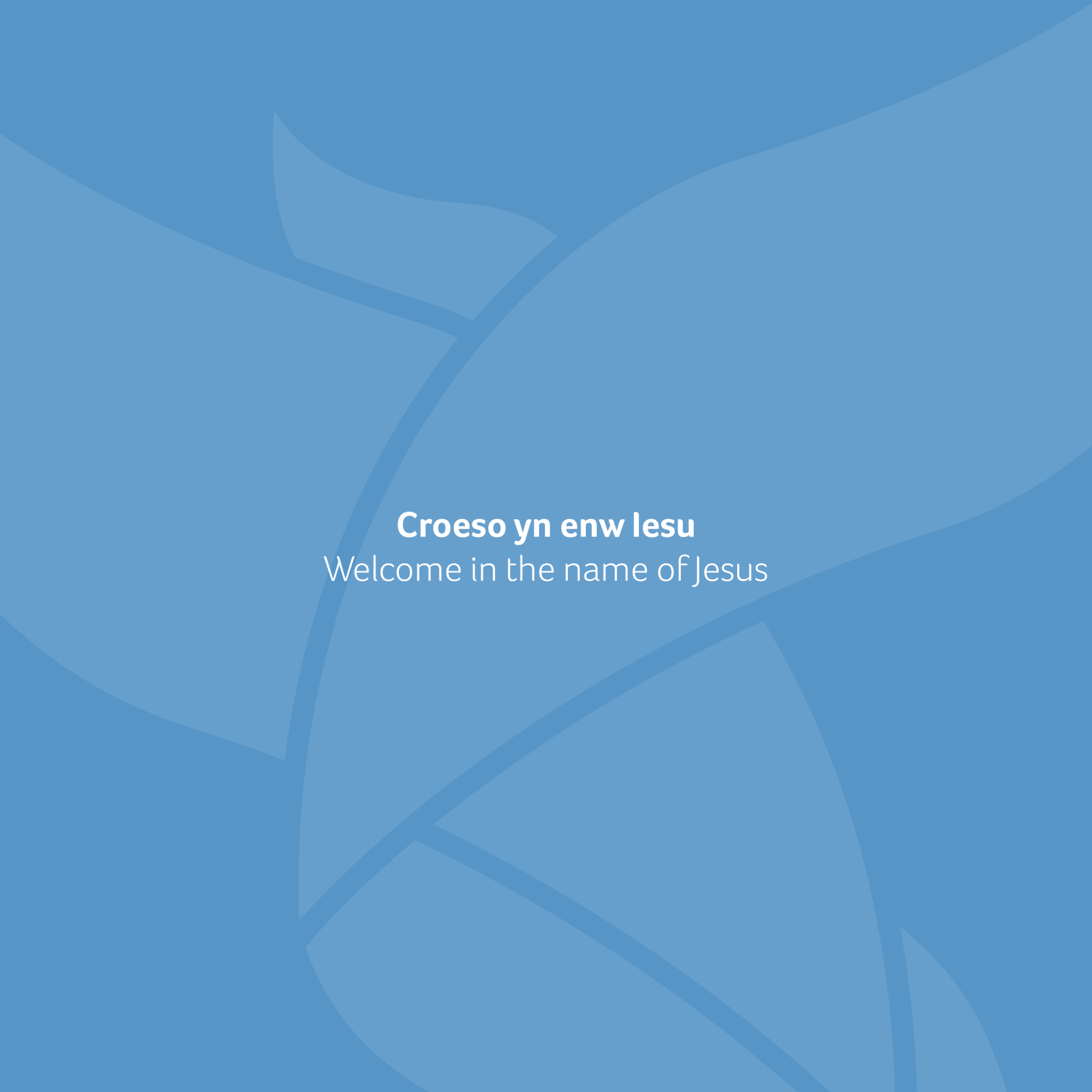
Penybont ar Ogwr Ministry Area



Esgobaeth Llandaf
Diocese of Llandaff

Mae Ffydd Yn Cyfrif | Faith Matters





Croeso yn enw Iesu
Welcome in the name of Jesus



Croeso! Welcome!

We are delighted that you are exploring this exciting opportunity to minister with us in the Penybont ar Ogwr Ministry Area, with a focus on ministry in Bridgend. As part of a flourishing Ministry Area (MA) we are seeking a Leader who can assist in the task of guiding it towards a sustainable future and embrace the many exciting opportunities for mission and evangelism.

These are exciting times in the Diocese of Llandaff. Our strategic vision 'Where Faith Matters' is a reality.

As a Diocese we are encouraging one another to tell the joyful story, grow the Kingdom and build our capacity for good. The Diocese has invested heavily in ministry amongst young people, recruiting outreach and other workers in mission alongside our churches. We have completed the transition to Ministry Areas, which will encourage collaborative ministry and empower our congregations.

This post will integrate into the team of lay and clerical colleagues, sharing resources, playing to strengths and reimagining what it means to be Church in the twenty-first century. I hope you will find this profile helpful in discerning whether you feel called to apply.

Rt Rev'd Mary Stallard
Bishop of Llandaff



Merthyr Mawr_Mike_Boyland, istock

The Ministry Area (MA) comprises the town of Bridgend and the surrounding villages of Coity, Coychurch, Laleston, Merthyr Mawr and Pen-y-Fai. 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. Coast and countryside are close by. 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.

The Ministry Area comprises eight churches in total. Our vision is that of the Diocese: together we will Tell a joyful story, Increase our capacity for good and Build the Kingdom of God. To this end we seek to work as a team and provide a variety of church services which have broad appeal to different congregations, such as Forest Church, Café Church, and on-line church.

We are committed to children's ministry and special liturgical events, as well as our more usual services. Each of our churches are developing a sense of their unique mission in their part of the Ministry Area, 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. Nearly all our churches are popular venues for weddings and baptisms, and both clergy and laity are involved with a number of local schools through school governance and Open the Book.

The Ministry Area has its own Administrator/Hall Manager who is based at the very busy Nolton Hall. We support the work of different charities and organisations which promote the welfare in the community, such as Citizens Cymru, The Wallich (a homelessness charity), Christian Aid, Ty Cariad (dementia care) and the local Foodbank.





Our Ministry Team New role: Ministry Area Leader

We are praying for someone who will bring their gifts and skills to lead us in developing the potential of the Ministry Area by demonstrating collaboration, flexibility, creativity and sensitivity. Since the formation of the MA two years ago we have overcome initial difficulties and concerns and have worked well together to form a cohesive Council with remarkable good humour and respect for one another. Post-pandemic, we are ready to embrace the future with optimism. We recognise that we are entering a new season which will inevitably come with challenges as we continue to evolve.

We are therefore looking for a Leader who:

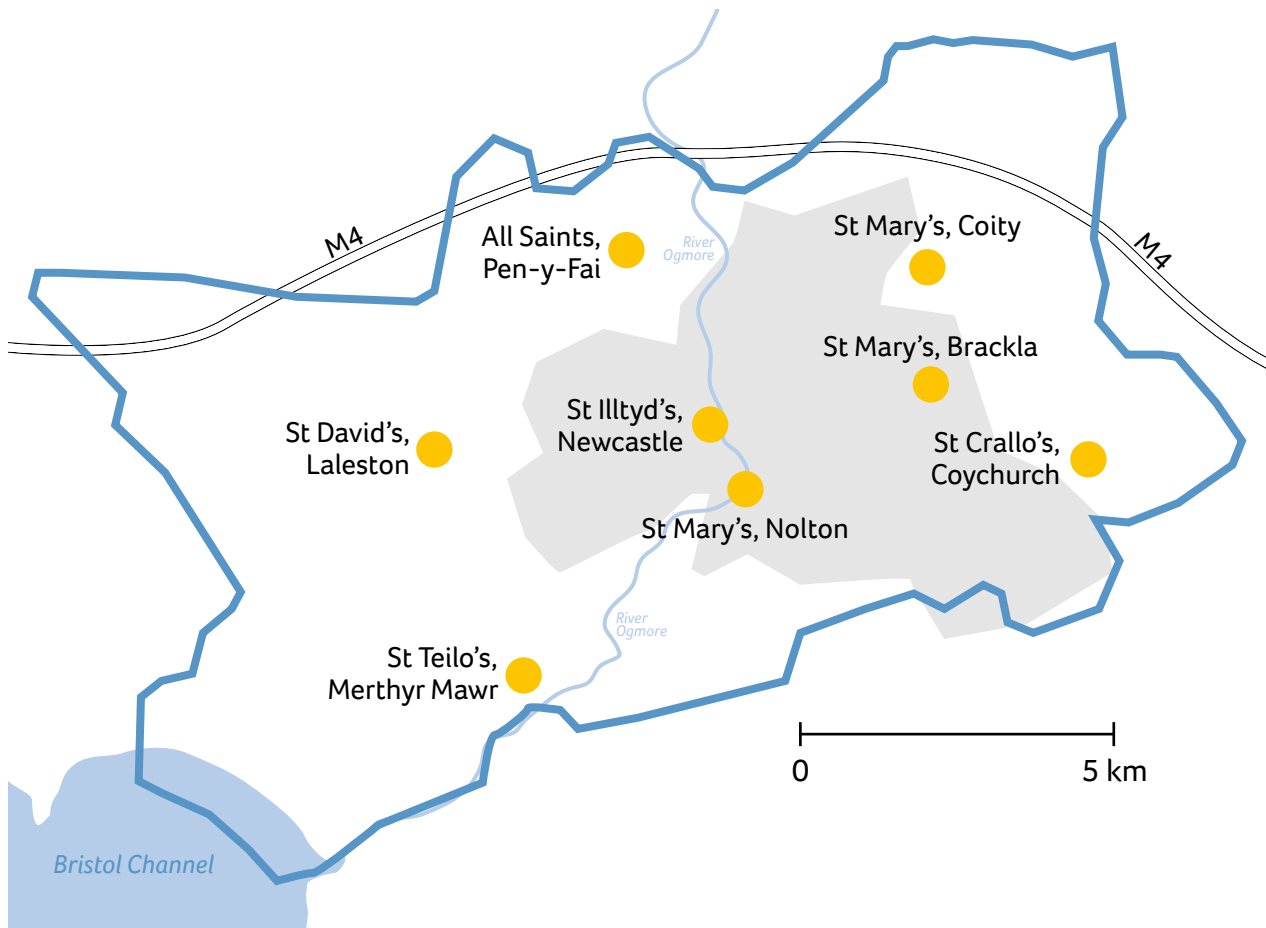
- is able to make tough decisions whilst keeping everyone 'on side'
- is able to collaborate within the Ministry Area and the congregations, and demonstrate the ability to delegate and to listen
- is realistic about the blessings and challenges of ministering among eight different congregations
- is able to develop the existing links with the community, such as schools, other denominations, community organisations and charities
- has a flexible and creative approach to worship within a sacramental tradition
- is enthusiastic for all aspects of children's ministry
- is committed to embracing Eco Church, Forest Church and 'green' issues
- has a pastoral heart, and is an approachable, good-humoured 'people-person'
- is a good communicator through all media
- is highly organised, but unafraid to try new things
- is sympathetic to the Welsh language and willing to embrace Welsh culture





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 new Ministry Area is an amalgamation of previous parishes, which now form distinct regions within its boundaries.





The region of Coity, Nolton and Brackla covers Bridgend town centre, the semi-rural community of Coity, the large private housing estates of Brackla and Parc Derwen, and the housing association estate of Wildmill. Coychurch is a satellite village on the east of the MA.

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- *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, children's Sunday Club and pastoral care.

- The current *St Mary's, Nolton*, is a late Victorian building by John Pritchard, who was also chief architect for the rebuild of Llandaff Cathedral in the 19th century. 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.

- *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.

It's an inclusive and diverse church and Sunday Club runs every week for children and young people of all ages. On Sundays worship alternates between the Eucharist and Café Church, but the congregation is very open to other experimental forms of worship.

- Coychurch merged with the above region in 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.

Newcastle

- *St Illtyd's* 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 a clear Anglo-Catholic tradition, which is eucharistically-centred. They aim to regenerate 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.

The West End of the Ministry Area

This region of the Ministry Area consists of the former Benefice of Laleston and Merthyr Mawr with Pen-y-Fai which contains these three villages, the Bryntirion housing estate and the newer Broadlands residential development.



- *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.



Merthyr Mawr is 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.

- **Pen-y-Fai** lies about a mile outside Bridgend and has expanded to its current size since the C19th when the village housed an asylum.



The village has a church school (VC) and the links between church and school are becoming strong. The village has an active Community Association which disseminates information and arranges activities through its Facebook page. A pub lies opposite the church and has a function room for approximately 30 people which the church uses to host meetings and activities. 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.

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 Existing Ministry Team

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.

Vicar-Vacant

A second Vicar's post will be advertised once the position of MAL has been filled, with the post-holder living near Newcastle church.

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 Wardens

Mrs Hollie Evans

Hollie is a Welsh-speaker who started her Anglican journey at St Mary's, Brackla, back in 2009. She looks forward to working to bring us closer to our non-churched communities and deepen our present relationship with Jesus via prayer, study and discussion groups. Edrych ymlaen!

Mr Ian Hartley-Brown

Ian was born and brought up in Yorkshire. Through a series of 'divine coincidences,' Ian was encouraged to train as an auxiliary nurse and to attend church. He has attended his present place of worship, St Mary's, Nolton, for four years and his church family is very important to him.



Licensed Lay Ministers

All of our LLMs are extremely hard-working and take non-Eucharistic services most Sundays in all churches of the Ministry Area. 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.



Housing

The Ministry Area Leader lives in the Rectory which is situated in the town centre, next to St Mary's Church, Nolton and its church halls. It's a large, detached four-bedroomed property with a large, separate study. There is an ample driveway for off-road parking, a detached garage and a large garden to the rear.

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 6th 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.



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T: 01656 868 868

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