

PARISH NEWS | FEBRUARY 21

The Parish of Treharris Trelewis Bedlinog & Llanfabon

WHERE FAITH MATTERS | LLE MAE FFYDD YN CYFRIF

Dear friends, I hope that you and your families are keeping both safe and well in these times; be assured of my continued thoughts and prayers as we continue to move forward with the hope of better times.

When restrictions allowed we have been able to meet in smaller numbers in church for services; at the present time, in order to minimise risk services in church have been suspended apart from funerals.

Services continue to be broadcast online and available for those not online by calling the local dial-in number. A booklet of short services for use at home is also available on request.

At the diocesan conference it was announced that we are to be formally grouped together with a number of neighbouring parishes to form what has been called a 'Ministry Area'. Father Steven Kirk, Area Dean and Vicar of Holy Trinity, Ystrad Mynach has been appointed as Ministry Area Leader; he has written to all parishoners explaining some of the details which is included in this newsletter which I encourage you to read.

I am so very grateful to all those who have stepped up in so many different ways, especially enabling our church buildings to be used when permitted. It is my hope that we can reopen churches for private prayer and services when the current restrictions allow.

Thank you also to those who have been able to continue to support the mission and ministry of the parish by maintaining their regular gift week by week. Although the church buildings may not be in use, the parish still has a number of expenses that must be paid. If possible, please consider using 'Gift-Direct' which is the most effective way of supporting the life of your local church.

Please pass on this newsletter to anyone who has a connection to the local church as we do not have everyone's personal details held on file.

Father Gareth Coombes | Parish Priest

28 January, 2021

TO ALL PARISHONERS

Dear Friends,

As you will know, parishes across the Diocese of Llandaff are this year preparing to form Ministry Areas (MA's). This was announced at the Diocesan Conference in September 2020 and I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with some information and an update on the progress that has been made to date.

The Diocesan website provides a number of resources and documents about MAs, and I would recommend that you familiarise yourself with these. However, I would like to outline a few key points at this stage, to ensure that everyone is aware of what is currently taking place.

Our Ministry Area

Our MA will consist of the following parishes:

- Pontlloftyn with Fochriw
- Bargoed and Deri with Brithdir
- Gelligaer
- Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog and Llanfabon
- Ystrad Mynach and Llanbradach

Following the creation of the MA, some new roles will be created, and new opportunities will arise. We are required to have a MA Leader, a MA Council (similar to a PCC but covering the whole MA), a MA Lay Chair, MA Wardens, a MA Treasurer and a MA secretary. Just like any PCC, the MA Council will need a number of additional committees to help oversee the running of the MA.

I have been asked to take on the role of MA leader and Edward Williams-Price has been appointed, by the Bishop, as the lay chair. To help progress some of this work, a transition group has been established, with representatives from each of the constituent parishes in the MA, who will work together to plan and deliver some of the actions that need to be delivered.

However, it is important at this stage to point out that whilst some decisions will now be taken on the MA level, other roles and responsibilities will, for the time being, remain within the parishes, to ensure that individual churches and congregations can effectively manage their affairs. I would urge anyone who is interested in playing a greater role in the life of their own parish, or a role in the new MA, to

Speak to their parish priest about the opportunities that will be arising in the coming months.

One of the decisions which will have to be made soon is what we are to be called. A number of suggestions have been made and the most popular at present appears to be the "Llancaiach Ministry Area". If you have strong views on this, or would simply like to suggest a name, then please contact me.

Road Show

To initiate the process and identify the main actions that we are required to fulfil, a roadshow was held in December with representatives from the Diocese and officers from the different parishes, to discuss any initial concerns and queries that we had about the formation of the MA. Some key points to emerge from the roadshow were:

- The Diocese has provided a framework in which there are four givens:
 1. The legal framework
 2. Leadership (the Lay Chair and MA Leader)
 3. The values of the Diocese: generous, open, transparent, compassionate, that the strong will help the weak, and faithfulness to the gospel
 4. The implementation of the Diocesan Vision to prioritize and strengthen Mission and Outreach
- Lay leadership and responsibility are the key to the success of the MA
- The Diocese can provide resources to help and sustain the life of the MA
- The MA Council will be the trustee body of the MA
- The remaining details of our life and witness will be our own responsibility.

Transition Group

The Transition Group began its work last week and will be meeting regularly over the next few months to plan and establish the way in which we will operate. Initially, we began by gathering information about current ministry around the MA and understanding our current capacity in lay and clerical ministry. We shall then have to consider how this might be put into practice in the new arrangements; for example: how many people should serve on the MA Council and how they are to be elected; what sub-committees should be formed and how they will relate to the MA Council; how our finances will be arranged. We also need to tackle the question of what we are to be called.

The membership of the Transition Group was agreed by the Clergy of the MA:

Edward Williams-Price (Lay Chair)

Gaynor Middleton (Pontlloftyn)

Sue Hankins (Bargoed)

Huw Thomas (Gelligaer)

Vicky Morgan (TTBL)

Sue Rivers (Ystrad Mynach)

Father Gary Powell

Father Gareth Coombes

Father Rob Lindsay

Father Steven Kirk

In addition to the Transition Group, there will be discussions between those responsible for specific areas of life in the MA, such as finance, social outreach, and pastoral ministry.

Timescales

It is a legal requirement that the new MA is registered with the Charity Commission during the course of 2021, and, therefore, the legal formation of the MA will need to be achieved by the end of the year. This will be in the form of a Decree which will set out the details of the administrative arrangements we have agreed and which will be presented, through the present PCCs, for their agreement. The Diocese has suggested that all MAs should be formed and the MA Council in place by 1 January 2022, which provides us with a date to keep in mind.

Your Role in the MA

Whilst some of the preparatory work is being carried out by the transition group, the support and encouragement of every parishioner in the MA will be vital for ensuring that the MA is a success. As the MA develops, new opportunities will emerge and we would like to hear from anyone who is interested in taking on a more active role, either in their own district or in the MA as a whole.

Whilst some work will now take place on a MA level, the day to day running of the parishes and the work that this involves will remain local and, as such, we will still need the help of sides people, servers, readers and the many other roles that are carried week by week. The care of your churches, church halls and

Whilst some work will now take place on a MA level, the day to day running of the parishes and the work that this involves will remain local and, as such, we will still need the help of sides people, servers, readers and the many other roles that are carried week by week. The care of your churches, church halls and churchyards, and the arrangements for local activities and organizations will be the responsibility of those who attend our local churches, and we will continue to need your help and rely on your stewardship of time and talents.

However, the MA is also a chance to explore new opportunities and for people to share their skills and expertise, so we do urge anyone with ideas or experience who would like to participate or support the MA to speak to their parish priest.

Next steps

We will continue to keep you appraised of the progress that is being made, however we welcome feedback or input you may wish to provide and issues you may wish to raise. Under normal circumstances, we would by now have been planning consultation events to talk to you all face to face and give you an opportunity to engage with this process more fully. However, the current pandemic has prevented us from holding such public gatherings, although we can host virtual meetings via Zoom. I appreciate that this situation is not ideal and does not suit everyone, but we are anxious to ensure that each and every one of you has had an opportunity to voice any queries. I am asking therefore, that if you would be interested in attending a zoom meeting please pass your details either to Karen Cribbes (who sets up our zoom meetings) on kaencribbes@yahoo.co.uk or speak to your parish priest and we can seek to facilitate as many meetings as are required. Alternatively, if you prefer more traditional means of communication, your parish priests can be contacted in the usual way. It is my hope that we shall be able to hold a real meeting sometime in the Autumn. In any event, I am determined that we seek to inform everyone in the MA of how progress is developing and to ensure that you have the opportunity to make your views known.

Finally, but most importantly, please pray for all who are involved in the process of discerning how the MA will develop and grow, for your priests and parishes and for each other.

With my prayers and every blessing,

Father Steven

The Reverend Canon Steven Kirk | 01443 813 246

Vicar of Ystrad Mynach and Llanbradach

Ministry Area Leader

Area Dean of Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil



Parish HOPE

01443 606 260

If you are not online, don't forget that you can listen to the most recent service from around the parish by calling 01443 606 260 from any telephone.

You can also request a booklet of short services to use in your home by calling Patreesa Humphreys on 07866 465 822

MOTHERS' UNION

Do you have a smart phone?

Members are keeping in touch with one another using WhatsApp Messenger. Speak to your branch leader if you are not part of the groups.

What has been
happening since
March 2020.....



Since July 2020 Taff Bargoed Foodbank has supported over **500** local people with a 7-day food parcel at a time of crisis:

As a Foodbank we have **received** over **9,714.5 Kg** of food:

And we have **distributed** over **7,556.9 Kg** of food locally:

We have linked with **Severn Energy** and issued over 12 Fuel-Vouchers for emergency heat and light:

We continue to work with the **British Red Cross** as part of their ongoing Hardship fund:

Through **generous donations** from the community we were able to support 8 families this Christmas:

We'd like to thank our key partners and our local communities for their continued support in these challenging times and the team of dedicated volunteers who continue to work so hard through the Covid-19 crisis.

Taffbargoed.foodbank.org.uk
01443 450 832 | High Street, Nelson, CF46 6HA

GRAVES AND GROUNDS APPEALS 2021

This year's programme of planned maintenance is estimated to cost around **£3,000**. The 2021 appeal for each of the churches as well as Llanfabon Cemetery, and St. Cynon's are now open:

The parish relies upon the generous donations of so many to help us keep these very special places in the community looking as best as we possibly can.

Thankyou to all those who have donated to the appeals.

KEEP WALES TIDY | LOCAL PLACES FOR NATURE WILDLIFE GARDEN @ ST JOHN'S CHURCH

St John's has been awarded a grant to enhance the grounds around the church. Work has begun to plant a section of wild-flowers, bulbs, shrubs, trees, raised beds, and two benches. Thank you to those helped at very short notice when restrictions allowed. We look forward to seeing the fruit of this work over the months and years ahead.

PARISH LIVE STREAMING & WEBCASTING LLANDAFF DIOCESAN MISSION FUND

The parish has been awarded a grant of £2,500 from the diocesan mission fund to enable us to live-stream services from church. Fr Gareth has been doing his best with his own equipment, but this will allow us to have a permanent high-quality set up in each church enabling anyone to tune in and join us.

PARISH CONTACTS

Foodbank Hub & Parish Support | 01443 450 832

Recorded Sunday Service | 01443 606 260

Fr. Gareth Coombes | Parish Priest | 01443 410 280

Patreesa Humphreys | PA to Fr Gareth | 07866 465 822

Dr. Fiona Parsons | Parish Reader | 01443 410 009

Alison Francis | Parish Warden | 07970 003 243

Vicky Morgan | Parish Warden | 07765 118 773

Fr Gareth Coombes | Parish Priest

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