

Esgobaeth Mynwy



Diocese of Monmouth



This email has been sent to all Clergy, PTOs, Churchwardens, Secretaries, Treasurers and all those on our weekly email list.

News

Standing In Solidarity: Public Prayer and Witness for Gaza at the Senedd



On Wednesday 24th September, the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Revd Cherry Vann, together with members of the Church in Wales and other Christian denominations, took part in a public act of prayer and witness outside the Senedd to call for peace in the Middle East.

The gathering was told that following the devastating escalation of violence in Gaza and the West Bank, Israel's latest decision to mount a new offensive in Gaza City threatens hundreds of thousands of people with further forced displacement and that Palestinian church leaders had called on the Global Church for solidarity and an end to the conflict.

The plans for the act of witness were developed in close collaboration with a wide group of UK Christian agencies that includes Christian Aid, CAFOD,

Tearfund, Embrace the Middle East, Amos Trust, Sabeel-Kairos, Quakers in Britain, All We Can, Reconciling Leaders Network, Difference, Friends of the Holy Land, USPG, and the Centre for Missionaries from the Majority World.

The Most Revd Archbishop Cherry says “We are here to pray for peace. We are here to urge the Welsh Government along with the UK government and governments around the world, to press as hard as they can for a peaceful resolution...War doesn’t solve anything.”

Last Sunday, 21st September, churches across Britain were urged to pray for peace in their morning services, coinciding with UN World Peace Day and the global call to prayer from the World Council of Churches.

Last week the Governing Body of the Church in Wales, meeting in Newport, welcomed Jamie Eyre, CEO of Embrace the Middle East. He stressed the centrality of prayer and that we need to “Stand up and recognise the humanity of Gaza”.

This is not the first time the Church in Wales, alongside its partners, has engaged with the Government regarding the conflict. In July of this year, the Bench of Bishops wrote to [the then Foreign Secretary David Lammy](#). The letter said: “we wish to add our voices to those who are appealing to the Government to do everything in its power to bring justice to those who are suffering in this current crisis and to relieve the intolerable suffering of those, of all communities, who are affected by war, hunger, displacement, harassment and fear”.

The Bishops later received [a detailed reply](#) from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, which stressed, “The situation in the region continues to evolve rapidly. But please rest assured that the Foreign Secretary and his entire Ministerial team will continue to do all they can to push for peace”.

And at the weekend, Archbishop Cherry was a signatory to an [open letter](#) initiated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Archbishop Steven Cottrell, Archbishop of York and signed by many UK Christian leaders calling for an end to the violence and a release of hostages.

Good News Stories



How a foodbank helped transform a life

From Crisis to Hope: How Church and Community Transformed Al's Life

In every corner of our diocese, quiet acts of compassion are changing lives. This story, shared with us by volunteers and clergy in Islwyn Ministry Area, is a powerful example of how the Church — through worship, pastoral care, and practical support — can walk alongside those in crisis and help them find hope. Al's journey is one of heartbreak, resilience, and transformation, and it reminds us of the extraordinary impact that faith and fellowship can have when we come together as a community.

In early 2021, Al's world fell apart. Following the sudden death of his wife, he found himself homeless and unable to care for his then four-year-old daughter. She went to live with her aunt in Bristol, where she remains today, now aged eight.

Al was placed in emergency accommodation, but life there was harsh. Other residents stole his food and belongings, and he was left vulnerable and isolated. Yet through it all, Al's deep faith remained unshaken. He began attending Wednesday morning worship at St Margaret's Church, Blackwood — a decision that would change everything.

It was there that Janie and Ceri Hughes met Al and immediately took him under their wing. They offered him food, money, and kindness. Though Janie was later advised to stop giving cash directly, she continued to support Al in her own way — with small gifts like toiletries and socks, always with love and dignity.

Al was introduced to the local Foodbank, which became a lifeline. Over the next four years, the Foodbank didn't just feed him — it offered social support, advocacy, and friendship. When Al's benefits were wrongly removed in 2021, he was left with only a minimal Job Centre allowance. This not only devastated him financially, but also emotionally, affecting his ability to visit his daughter and worsening his health.

The Foodbank team stepped in. They helped Al secure independent accommodation, wrote to the Paymaster General on his behalf, and found him an advocate to represent him in the High Court. Al won his appeal against the DWP and recently received a significant back payment.

Al is now a cherished member of the friendship group that meets at St Peter's Church during Wednesday Foodbank sessions. When he received his back payment, he hired a car to visit his daughter for the weekend — a long-awaited moment of joy. On his return, he treated members of the friendship group to fish and chips in Porthcawl, a gesture that speaks volumes about his generous spirit.

With his restored benefits, Al has now secured accommodation in Bristol, allowing him to be closer to his daughter. At his leaving party, the sense of togetherness and community was palpable. And in a final act of grace,

Reverend Lisa quietly contacted her brother, who owns a scaffolding business in Bristol, and arranged a job for Al. She shared the news at the party, where Al gave a short, tearful speech — a moment none will forget.

This is more than a story of hardship. It is a testament to the power of faith, friendship, and the Church's mission in action. Through worship, pastoral care, and the practical support of the Foodbank, Al's life has been transformed.

“What a lovely story of how Church and Foodbank together transform lives.”

Prayer and Pizza at St Mary's Priory, Abergavenny



A joyful celebration of hospitality, creativity, and connection came to St Mary's Priory Church, Abergavenny, last weekend (September 20th/21st)

when the first annual Welsh Pizza Festival took place in the grounds of one of Wales's most welcoming sacred spaces.

As well as different sorts of tasty pizza, from award-winning makers, the MA turned part of the church into a pop-up café, serving cream teas, coffee and lots of cake.

There was also food for the soul throughout the weekend. On Saturday, the younger members of St Mary's Priory Choir sang

Morning Prayer, visitors took part in Midday

Prayer, which was followed by an organ recital by Director of Music Tim Pratt, before the day ended with Compline sung by some of the adult members of the choir. Sunday saw the regular Eucharists and Evening Prayer.

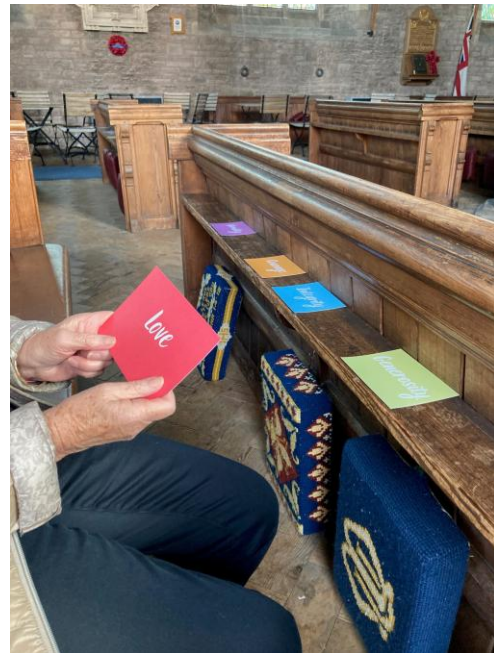




There were lots of visitors, exploring one of the largest collections of monuments in any parish church in the UK as well as the unique Jesse figure. But perhaps the most prayerful parts of the weekend came in the quietness of individual moments.

The Diocesan office had kindly supplied the MA with bunting, and copies of the Faith in Our Future Vision and Culture guides, together with postcards explaining our values of love, generosity, joy, humility, courage and integrity.

Visitors took copies away with them, talked to the church stewards and, in one case, a woman who was in some distress said that sitting and reading them had helped her immeasurably.



The Welsh Pizza Festival is the first in a community partnership between the MA and local businessmen Lee Hammand and Dan Thomas. Together they are reimagining how church spaces can serve the wider community—not just as places of worship, but as places of belonging, joy, and shared experiences.

Parish Energy - Keen to be Green



Parish Buying's new energy procurement product, 'Parish Energy' – to be launched October 2025 - is welcoming new church customers

'Parish Energy' uses the power of bulk buying for churches to secure competitive and green energy.

You could:

- Save money – get a price based on wholesale energy purchasing.
- Save time - no need to renegotiate at contract renewal.
- Support renewable energy – Ecotricity offers 100% pure green from UK-based renewable sources, and green gas is also available from Corona (at a premium).
- Feel supported – the broker, Mitie, has a dedicated account manager, account contact email and supportive customer service team to help your church every step of the way.

Want to join Parish Energy?

You can complete an expression of interest and information form here: [Parish Buying](#). You will also need details of your electric meter (MPAN), gas meter (MPRN), if applicable, and your church.

Want to learn more about Parish Energy?

Parish Buying has created an informative animation available to view on the following link: [Parish Energy from Parish Buying - on Vimeo](#)

Wanted! Stand for a banner



Does any church in the Diocese have a redundant banner stand (or in other words, a stand to hold a banner) in serviceable condition that they would be willing to loan or donate to the Cathedral?

Please contact Canon John Connell at johnconnell@cinw.org.uk or [07798 586811](tel:07798586811) if you can help.

With thanks in anticipation!

Training

Safeguarding Training 2025



The current Safeguarding dates for 2025 are shown below:

| Date | Day | Time | Location | Postcode | Course |
|------------|-----------|-----------------|--|----------|--------|
| 22/10/25 | Wednesday | 1.00pm - 3.00pm | St Michael's Church, Llanfihangel Crucorney | NP7 8DH | B |
| 11/11/25 | Tuesday | 6.30pm - 8.30pm | St David's Church, Fleur-de-Lis, Blackwood | NP12 3UE | B |
| 19/11/2025 | Wednesday | 1.00pm - 4.00pm | Monmouth Diocesan Office | NP20 4HJ | C |
| 20/11/2025 | Thursday | 7.00pm 9.00pm | Saint Christopher's Church, Chepstow | NP16 5AF | B |

Please click [here](#) to check for new dates on the CiW website

The current Safeguarding sessions held online via Zoom are also shown below:

| Date | Day | Time | Course |
|------|-----|------|--------|
|------|-----|------|--------|

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| FULLY BOOKED 15/10/2025 | Wednesday | 6.00pm - 8.30pm | B |
| 06/11/2025 - Bell Ringers only | Thursday | 2.00pm - 4.30pm | B - Bell Ringers only |
| 08/11/2025 | Saturday | 10.00am - 12.30pm | B |
| 18 /11/2025 | Tuesday | 1.00pm - 3.30pm | B |

To find out when your Safeguarding training is due for renewal, please contact Vicki Stevens at Monbishpa@churchinwales.org.uk or by phone on **01633 263510**.

To access the booking form and book your place please click on the button



[Safeguarding Training Booking Form - The Church in Wales](#)

Contact details for all of the safeguarding team can be found here: [Meet the team - The Church in Wales](#)

The Provincial Safeguarding Officer for the Diocese of Monmouth is **Colin Taylor** who can be contacted via email at colintaylor@cinw.org.uk or by phone on **07956 790330**.

Events

Quiet Day at Tymawr Convent - Saturday 4th October



Tymawr Convent
Lleian dy Tymawr



Listening to Wisdom in the life, spirit and teaching of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Who is loving us?

with Rev'd. Dr. Tim Boniface

Reflections on Christ and love in Dietrich Bonhoeffer

October 4th - 10:00am to 4:00pm at Tymawr Convent, Monmouth, NP25 4RN

Revd. Dr Tim Boniface has been Chaplain at Girton College, University of Cambridge since 2020, and also works as a professional jazz musician and composer. He has for many years found both challenge and inspiration in studying the works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, especially his writings on the person of Jesus. He has written and taught on a number of aspects of Bonhoeffer's work.

There is no charge for this day.

Please book your place with the Chaplain on SSCchaplain@gmail.com

Diocesan Day of Prayer - Saturday 4th October

**OCT
4**

10am-4pm



DIOCESAN DAY OF PRAYER

**ST MARY'S, ABERGAVENNY
10am-4pm**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN BISHOP CHERRY AND THE DIOCESAN
PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY TEAM AT THIS DAY OF BEING DRAWN INTO
PRAYER, AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH
GOD'S PRESENCE IN ALL OF CREATION**

HOT DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED - please bring your own food for lunch

Plainsong Study Day - Saturday 11th October

Plainsong Study Day

Saturday 11 Oct 2025

10 am - 5 pm

St Teilo's Church
Llantilio Pertholey NP7 6PT

Come and immerse yourself in the world of plainsong

No need to be able to read music - we'll teach you

During the day, we will

- Sing a varied repertoire of plainsong pieces;
- Deepen our knowledge of square notation;
- Receive a repertoire booklet to take away.

Singing Language: English

festival-choir.cymru/plainsong

Raise Up Conference - Saturday 18th October



Join us for **RAISE UP**, an unmissable one-day gathering designed specifically for **children's and family ministry leaders, parent and toddler group teams**, and **church workers** with a heart for the next generation. A day to **refresh your vision, connect with others**, and **leave equipped** to make a lasting impact in your church and community.

Whether you are just starting out or you have been in ministry for years, **RAISE UP** is your space to learn, grow, and be encouraged by others walking the same path.




What to Expect:

- **Inspiring Keynote Speakers** who will breathe fresh life into your calling
- **Practical Breakout Sessions** tailored to real challenges and opportunities in family ministry
- A dynamic **Q&A Panel** where your questions are heard and answered
- **Live Worship that draws us together in unity and purpose**
- An **Exhibition Hub** full of tools, ideas, and materials to strengthen your ministry
- **Networking Moments** to build friendships, partnerships, and shared wisdom
- **Refreshments** to keep you going throughout the day

Delegates will need to bring their own lunch but there is a Tesco Express (6 min walk) from the church. There is parking available. Refreshments will be available on the day.

Venue:

St Marks Church, Cardiff, CF14 3BL

 **Tickets** are available via the following link:

[**RAISE UP: A One-Day Conference for Children & Family Ministry Leaders
Tickets, Sat 18 Oct 2025 at 10:30 | Eventbrite**](#)

Getting the Most out of Contactless Giving - Tuesday 10th October, 10-11am.

Explore the ways to get the most out of your contactless device: top tips from successful churches, advice on reporting and Gift Aid, and more.

Register here -

https://churchofengland-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CmLyGfErT62jh-jkojqaeA#/registration

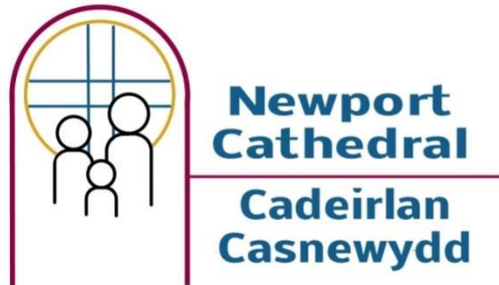
Digital Giving at Christmas - Tuesday 11th November, 12noon-1pm.

Join us in this webinar to learn about how to maximise your digital giving during the advent period, the Church of England's Christmas theme for 2025 and be inspired as we share some Christmassy campaign ideas.

Register here -

https://churchofengland-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0mUGOPPtdCe3WCkylOKnw#/registration

Services



Join us for the Harvest Festival service from the Cathedral, on **Sunday** at **10:30am**

[You can watch the service here](#)

ESGOBAETH MYNWY - GWASANAETHAU CYMRAEG 2025

Gwasanaethau Cymraeg 2025 / Welsh Services 2025

| Dyddiad Date | Amser Time | Lleoliad Venue | Gwasanaeth a Thema Service & Theme |
|---|-------------------------|---|--|
| Hydref 4 ^{dd} October 4 th Dydd Sadwrn / Saturday | 9.30 y.b. 9.30 am | Eglwys Sant Thomas / St Thomas Church, St Thomas' Square, Overmonnow, Trefynwy / Monmouth, NP25 5ES | Ewcharist Eucharist |
| Hydref 8 ^{fed} October 8 th Dydd Mercher / Wednesday | 6.30 y.h 6.30 pm | Cadeirlan Casnewydd / Newport Cathedral, Stow Hill, Casnewydd / Newport, NP20 4EA | Gosber Corawl Choral Evensong |
| Hydref 11 ^{eg} October 11 th Dydd Sadwrn / Saturday | 9.30 y.b. 9.30 am | Eglwys Santes Fair / Priory Church of St Mary's, Church Road, Cas-Gwent / Chepstow, NP16 5HA | Ewcharist Eucharist |
| Tachwedd 1 ^{af} November 1 st Dydd Sadwrn / Saturday | 9.30 y.b. 9.30 am | Eglwys Sant Thomas / St Thomas Church, St Thomas' Square, Overmonnow, Trefynwy / Monmouth, NP25 5ES | Ewcharist Eucharist |
| Tachwedd 8 ^{fed} November 8 th Dydd Sadwrn / Saturday | 9.30 y.b. 9.30 am | Eglwys Santes Fair / Priory Church of St Mary's, Church Road, Cas-Gwent / Chepstow, NP16 5HA | Ewcharist: Sul y Cofio Eucharist: Remembrance |
| Rhagfyr 6 ^{ed} December 6 th Dydd Sadwrn / Saturday | 9.30 y.b. 9.30 am | Eglwys Sant Thomas / St Thomas Church, St Thomas' Square, Overmonnow, Trefynwy / Monmouth, NP25 5ES | Ewcharist Eucharist |
| Rhagfyr 8 ^{fed} December 8 th Dydd Llun / Monday | 6.30 y.h 6.30 pm | Eglwys Santes Fair / St Mary's Church, Brynbuga / Usk, NP15 1BN | Ewcharist Eucharist |
| Rhagfyr 13 ^{eg} December 13 th Dydd Sadwrn / Saturday | 9.30 y.b. 9.30 am | Eglwys Santes Fair / Priory Church of St Mary's, Church Road, Cas-Gwent / Chepstow, NP16 5HA | Ewcharist Eucharist |

All services in Chepstow and Monmouth will be bilingual and suitable for learners: Bydd pob gwasanaeth yn ddwyieithog ac yn addas i ddysgwyr

Amfwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Karen Dent:

Karendent@churchinwales.org.uk

For further information contact Karen Dent: Karendent@churchinwales.org.uk

Vacancies

Schools Engagement Pioneer x 2 locations



Schools Engagement Pioneer

Salary: £27,248 - £30,828 (dependent on experience)

Hours: Full time 37.5hrs (Part time would be considered)

We are recruiting a further two visionary and enthusiastic school pioneers to join our current team and work on an exciting new project, developing relationships with children and young families through engagement with selected schools. You would be working in Abergavenny or Cefn Forest near Blackwood with the aim of helping to build a new worshipping community.

We are looking for someone who is passionate about working with young people and families, and is confident in sharing faith sensitively as well as being able to be a consistent and trusted Christian presence in schools.

We would be happy to receive applications for either Abergavenny or Cefn Forest specifically, or general applications if you would be happy to work in either location.

If this role sounds exciting to you, we would love to hear from you!

For an informal conversation please contact Dave Edwards
on 07494 266748 or Davidedwards@cinw.org.uk

Application form and full profile available at
<https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/jobs/>

Completed application forms should be submitted by email to:
Davidedwards@cinw.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Thursday 23rd October 2025

Interviews to be held on: Thursday 30th October 2025

Children, Youth and Families Worker



Children, Youth and Families' Worker

Salary: £27,248 - £30,961

Full Time: 37.5 (part-time will be considered)

We have two positions available, one for St. Julians and one St. Stephens in Newport.

As part of a team you will develop and lead activities and events which are both engaging as well as fruitful in developing a discovery of a deep love of God in the lives of the children and their families. From toddler groups, holiday clubs, or parenting classes, the possibilities for activities, which are beneficial for Christian formation are endless!

If you are someone with energy and can make connections and build relationships, who enjoys working in a team, we have a wonderful and supportive ministry team waiting to work with you.

This post is suitable for someone who has previously worked with children, possibly in a setting such as a school, local authority or church.

Main Tasks:

- Support and develop the ongoing activities for children and families within the church.
- Develop the existing programme of children's work that is being delivered.
- Work with the ministry team to develop a clear strategy for the growth of children's and families' work within the church and local community.
- Develop and expand the existing team of volunteers to resource the work with children and families.
- Encourage and support children and family members as they explore the journey of faith.
- Offer a pastoral presence in the church and wider community. Through the development of closer relationships with those who attend events, you will become aware of the needs of families in the ministry area communities.

This role has a Genuine Occupational Requirement under the Equality Act 2010 for the postholder to be a communicant member of the Church in Wales or of a Church in communion with it or of a Member of CYTUN. If you are unsure, please do be in contact. Satisfactory enhanced DBS checks will be sought.

For an informal conversation please contact Dave Edwards
on 07494 266748 or Davidedwards@cinw.org.uk

Application form and full profile available at
<https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/jobs/>

Completed application forms should be submitted by email to:
Davidedwards@cinw.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Thursday 23rd October 2025

Interviews to be held on: Thursday 30th October 2025

Team Vicar - Abergavenny MA



ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

Team Vicar

Are you ready to help shape the future of ministry in one of Wales's most beautiful and spiritually rich regions?

The Abergavenny Ministry Area is seeking a prayerful, visionary priest to serve as Team Vicar. This is a key role within a growing Ministry Area that is embracing change, deepening discipleship, and reaching out in mission.

We are looking for someone who:

- **Inspires** through prayerful and caring leadership
- **Connects** with people of all ages and backgrounds
- **Collaborates** with clergy and lay teams to grow the Church
- **Nurtures** the gifts of others with humility and joy
- **Envisions** new possibilities for outreach and mission

You'll be joining a committed team of lay and ordained colleagues, including a Ministry Area Leader, retired clergy, lay worship leaders, and a soon to be appointed Schools Engagement Pioneer. Together, we are building a culture of shared ministry, mutual support, and gospel hope.

Abergavenny itself is a thriving market town on the edge of the Brecon Beacons National Park, recently named the best place to live in Wales. The post includes a spacious four-bedroom bungalow in the heart of town, and local amenities.

**We are striving to be an inclusive diocese and would welcome applications
from all suitably qualified clerics**

For an informal conversation please contact The Revd Lea Ryder on 07801 749120 or email: Learyder@cinw.org.uk

Application form and full profile available at
<https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/jobs>

Applications should be submitted by email to:
archdeacon.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 6th October 2025

Interviews to take place on 10th October 2025