

# Esgobaeth Mynwy

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## Diocese of Monmouth

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

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**News**

## Posada News



More churches across the diocese — including the Cathedral — are embracing the Posada, a joyful Latin American Advent tradition where Mary and Joseph journey from home to home, reminding us to make room for Christ in our lives.

This year, four churches in the Monmouth Marches Ministry Area shared a travelling Posada, and it proved a wonderful way to draw the communities together.

After a launch service led by Revd Liz and Archdeacon Ian, Mary, Joseph and their much loved “wonky donkey” began their Advent travels. They stayed in homes across Llanishen, Trelleck Grange, Llanfihangel Tor y Mynydd and Llansoy, and even continued their adventures between Boxing Day and Epiphany.

Their itinerary was delightfully eclectic: school, Scouts, art groups, Bristol Airport, a dance in Bristol, and even a visit to a dentist who checked their teeth and gave them a spin in his chair. There were tender moments too, including offering comfort during the final night of a man who passed away the next day.

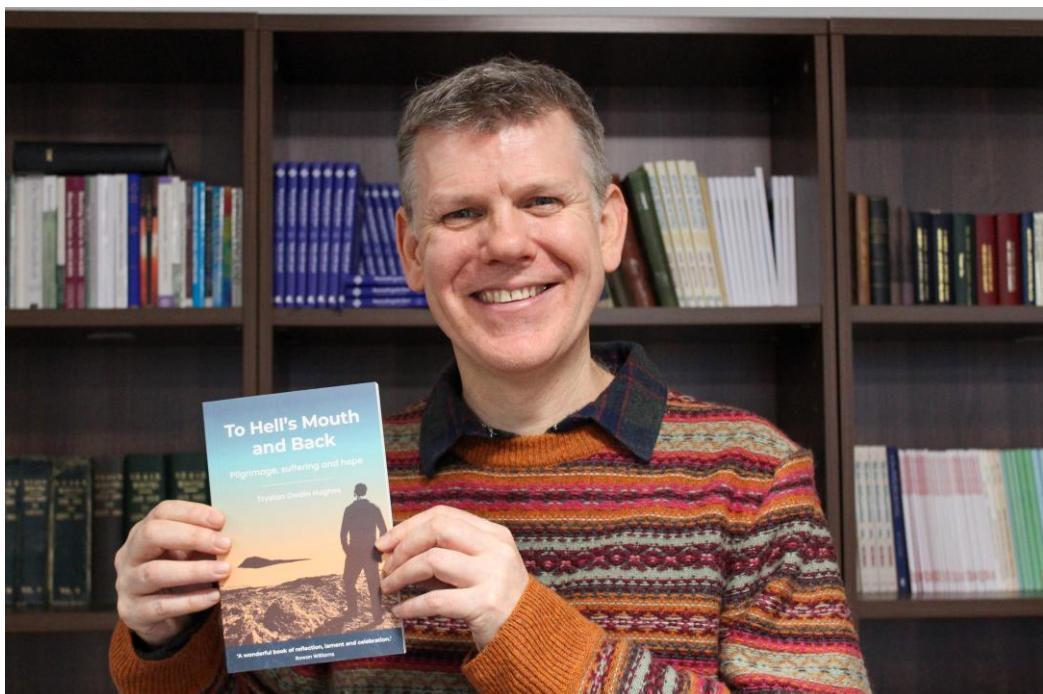
The Posada also made it to every Carol Service — in churches and pubs — the Family Crib Service, Midnight Mass, and both Christmas Day celebrations. On Boxing Day they joined a family gathering where Joseph attempted the saxophone and Mary played the glockenspiel with great grandchildren providing enthusiastic accompaniment.

Their post Christmas travels included birthday parties and a meeting with the Mari Lwyd before returning to Llanishen for Epiphany. The service opened with Daniel de Souza's recording of Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar, followed by We Three Kings, with each king carried to the crib in turn. Llansoy held a similar celebration shortly afterwards, bringing the Posada journey to a close.

There's already talk of doing it all again next year — and after such a joyful adventure, who could resist?

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### **Lent book focuses on finding hope in our lives**



Finding hope in our journeys is the theme of a compelling new volume that has been chosen by the Archbishop of Wales as her 2026 Lent Book.

In the book, Trystan Owain Hughes reflects on his own experience of suffering and how he clung to hope through both a gruelling 140-mile pilgrimage and a

second ‘pilgrimage’ through a long recovery from a serious back injury. For Trystan, pilgrimages are journeys that share certain core elements and when we recognise these elements in our own lives, whether we’re navigating grief, faith, work, education or illness, we come to understand ourselves more deeply and discover God’s light breaking through in the places we least expect.

The book, which is published in both English and Welsh, includes a concise study guide designed to stimulate deeper reflection and to lead people through Lent. The season of Lent, which this year begins on **February 18**, is the six-week period leading up to Easter and is traditionally a time of reflection.

The book has already received praise, from many senior figures in the Christian world, including Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury), Rob Parsons OBE, and Professor Dee Dyas (Director of the UK Centre for Pilgrimage Studies).

The author, Rev Dr Trystan Owain Hughes, is Director of Ministry Development in the Church in Wales, advising the Welsh bishops on matters of ministry and faith, and Canon Emeritus at Llandaff Cathedral. Trystan’s aim in the book, he says, is to inspire people to find hope in their lives in the run-up to Easter.

“In *To Hell’s Mouth and Back* I want to inspire readers to find hope and joy in every part of their lives – in moments of quiet, in walks in the countryside or in a local park, in time spent with family or friends, or in work or hobbies,” says Trystan.

“In the book, I explore both the suffering and the unexpected joys of my own transformative journeys. Through this, my hope is that something of my story might resonate with other people’s and will encourage them to keep walking their paths with faith, courage and, above all, hope.”

“It’s time we move Lent away from simply being a time to ‘give up’ things to being a time to ‘open up’ the journeys in our lives to God’s peace, hope, joy, and compassion.”

In endorsing the book as her official Lent Book, the Archbishop of Wales, Cherry Vann, said: “Weaving together his experience of walking an ancient pilgrim’s way in his beloved North Wales and his experience of serious injury, Trystan Owain Hughes describes in this compelling book how we can learn to see God at work in our lives, even in the darkest of times. Through vivid narrative and honest reflection, peppered with references to poetry and novels as well as scripture, he draws us to reflect on our own journeys and pilgrimages, both seen and unseen. With questions for reflection at the end of each chapter, this is a wonderful and enriching book for both individuals and study groups to engage with and I am delighted to recommend it as a Lenten read”.

It is Trystan’s seventh published book. In 2010 his book *Finding Hope and Meaning in Suffering* (SPCK) was chosen as the Archbishop of Wales’s Lent Book, and in 2020 his book, *Opening our Lives* was the official BRF Lent Book and was also chosen as the Archbishop of Wales’s Lent Book.

*To Hell’s Mouth and Back: Pilgrimage, Suffering and Hope* is published by the Bible Reading Fellowship, it costs £9.99 and it can be ordered online [here](#) or at any good booksellers.

The Welsh-language edition is entitled *Trwy’r Anialwch: Pererindod, Dioddefaint a Gobaith*, it costs £9.99 and it can be ordered online [here](#) or at any good Welsh-language booksellers.

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## Important Message from Chaplaincy Team at ABUHB



To all visiting Clergy and Pastoral Care Team Members

Please check and follow current ABUHB guidance when visiting hospitals. This may include mask wearing, checking door notices for side rooms, speaking with nursing staff, and adhering to PPE requirements.

Guidance may be different for different sites and wards at different times so it is worth checking for each visit.

Guidance can be found here: [\*\*Mask Wearing and Visiting Restrictions Reintroduced Across Our Hospitals - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board\*\*](#)

Visiting clergy are, of course welcome to bring Holy Communion to their own parishioners over the Christmas Season and beyond.

If you need a Chaplain in an Emergency please call Switchboard **01633 493100** and ask for the Duty Chaplain.

Many thanks for your support in keeping ourselves and others safe, and we wish you a very happy New Year.

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### Training

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## Safeguarding Training - New Dates for 2026



The Safeguarding dates for **2026** have now been published and are shown below:

Date	Day	Time	Location	Postcode	Course
<b>15/01/26</b>	Thursday	7.00pm-9.00pm	All Saints Church Cyncoed, Cardiff	CF23 6RU	B
<b>21/01/26</b>	Wednesday	1.30pm-2.30pm	St Michael's Church Hall, Llantarnam, Cwmbran	NP44 3BP	A
<b>04/02/26</b>	Wednesday	2.30pm-4.30pm	Geoffrey Room - Monmouth Priory, Monmouth	NP25 3NX	B
<b>04/02/26</b>	Wednesday	6.00pm-9.00pm	Geoffrey Room - Monmouth Priory, Monmouth	NP25 3NX	C
<b>25/02/26</b>	Wednesday	1.30pm-3.30pm	St Michael's Church Hall, Llantarnam, Cwmbran	NP44 3BP	B
<b>18/03/26</b>	Wednesday	1.00pm-4.00pm	St Michael's Church Hall, Llantarnam, Cwmbran	NP44 3BP	C

The **2026** Safeguarding sessions held online via **Zoom** are also shown below:

Date	Day	Time	Course
<b>12/02/2026</b>	Thursday	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B
<b>16/02/2026 - Bell Ringers Only</b>	Monday	1.00pm - 3.30pm	B
<b>17/02/2026 - Delivered in Welsh</b>	Tuesday	1.00pm - 3.30pm	B
<b>14/03/2026</b>	Saturday	10.00am - 12.30pm	B
<b>26/03/2026</b>	Thursday	10.00am - 12.30pm	B
<b>16/04/2026</b>	Thursday	6.00pm - 8.30pm	B

To find out when your Safeguarding training is due for renewal, please contact Vicki Stevens at [Monbishpa@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:colintaylor@cinw.org.uk) or by phone on **07956 790330**.

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## Events

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### **Quiet Revival Day Conference - 31st January**



The Church Times has advertised a day conference centered around the quiet revival in Christianity.

**Date:** Saturday 31 January

**Time:** 10:00am - 5:00pm

**Venue:** St John's Church, Waterloo

For anyone interested in attending please visit the Church Times website [here](#) for more details.

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## Grants

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### Diocesan Grant Deadlines



As we embark on the New Year, many of us will be starting to plan new projects for our churches. Whether it's improving the environmental performance of our church buildings, installing a new toilet or re-ordering a space to make it more user friendly – the Diocese of Monmouth offers a range of grants to support your ministry area in caring for church buildings and churchyards.

There's lots of information on our website [Grants - Monmouth Diocese](#) about the different grants available, but here are some key dates to put in your diary:

#### **Grant Deadlines 2026**

February 11th

May 27th

August 26th

October 28th

Putting a grant strategy in place should take place early on in project development. A strategy table for you to download and fill in is available [here](#). This resource is a great way to report your grant strategy and stay on top of applications.

If you have any questions or require further support, please contact  
[Calumgланville-ellis@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:Calumgланville-ellis@churchinwales.org.uk)

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### **Choral Evensong Trust 2026 Patronal Festival Grants**

The [Choral Evensong Trust](#) is pleased to announce that applications for its **2026 Patronal Festival Grants** is **open now** and will remain open **until Monday 2 February 2026**, Candlemas.



These grants – made possible through the generosity of many patrons, including HM The King – support parish churches in celebrating their patronal festival (the feast day of the church's patron saint, or the nearest Sunday) through a service of choral evensong as a central feature of the festival, followed by a reception.

This year, 2025, the Choral Evensong Trust funded 80 patronal festivals in Britain. We have witnessed swelling congregations and a joyous sense of local community. [An article about this project in the Church Times can be found on our website here.](#)

[Reports from the churches themselves are online here](#), with descriptions of “a huge amount of local support”, “a rousing success” and a “glorious evening”.

For more information on how to apply for the grants please click [here](#)

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### **Welsh Government Community Faculties Grant Programme**



Community Facilities Programme

**Does your Church have a capital project that would benefit from grant funding?**

The Welsh Government Community Facilities Programme gives grants of between £5,000 and £300,000 and is open to community and voluntary sector organisations, including social enterprises. Dozens of Church in Wales congregations have already benefited.

## **When can applications be submitted?**

The Community Facilities Programme (CFP) Grant is a rolling programme therefore applications can be submitted at any time and there is **no closing date**.

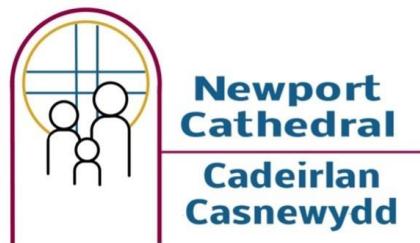
Find out more [here](#)

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## **Services**

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### **Services at Newport Cathedral**



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Join us for the service from the Cathedral, on **Sunday 18th January at 10:30am**

[You can watch the service here](#)

## Esgobaeth Mynwy - Gwasanaethau Cymraeg 2026



### Gwasanaethau Cymraeg 2026 / Welsh Services 2026

Dyddiad Date	Amser Time	Lleoliad Venue
<b>Ionawr / January</b>		
Dydd Sul 18 Ionawr Sunday 18 January	3y.h 3pm	Eglwys Sant Madog, Llanbadog ger Brynbuga St. Madoc Llanbadoc near Usk
<b>Chwefror / February</b>		
Dydd Sul 1 Chwefror Sunday 1 February	11y.b. 11am	Eglwys Crist, Ffordd y Gogledd, Y Fenni Christ Church, North Street, Abergavenny
Dydd Sadwrn 7 Chwefror Saturday 7 February	9.30 y.b 9.30 am	Eglwys Sant Thomas, Trefynwy St. Thomas Monmouth
Dydd Sadwrn 14 Chwefror Saturday 14 February	9.30 y.b 9.30 am	Eglwys Santes Fair, Cas-gwent St. Mary Chepstow
Dydd Sul 22 Chwefror Sunday 22 February	3 y.h. 3 pm	Eglwys Sant Madog, Llanbadog St. Madoc Llanbadoc
<b>Mawrth / March</b>		
Dydd Sul 1 Mawrth Sunday 1 March	11y.b. 11am	Eglwys Crist, Ffordd y Gogledd, Y Fenni Christ Church, North Street, Abergavenny
Dydd Sadwrn 7 Mawrth Saturday 7 March	9.30 y.b 9.30 am	Eglwys Sant Thomas, Trefynwy St. Thomas Monmouth
Dydd Sadwrn 14 Mawrth Saturday 14 March	9.30 y.b 9.30 am	Eglwys Santes Fair, Cas-gwent St. Mary Chepstow
Dydd Sul 22 Mawrth Sunday 22 March	3 y.h. 3 pm	Eglwys Sant Madog, Llanbadog St. Madoc Llanbadoc
<b>Ebrill / April</b>		
Dydd Sadwrn 4 Ebrill Saturday 4 April	9.30 y.b 9.30 am	Eglwys Sant Thomas, Trefynwy St. Thomas, Monmouth
Dydd Sul 5 Ebrill Sunday 5 April	11y.b. 11am	Eglwys Crist, Ffordd y Gogledd, Y Fenni Christ Church, North Street, Abergavenny
Dydd Sadwrn 11 Ebrill Saturday 11 April	9.30y.b 9.30am	Eglwys Santes Fair, Cas-gwent St. Mary Chepstow
Dydd Sul 19 Ebrill Sunday 19 April	3y.h. 3pm	Eglwys Sant. Madog, Llanbadog St. Madoc Llanbadoc
<b>Hydref / October</b>		
Dydd Sul 18 Hydref Sunday 18 October	4y.h 4pm	Cadeirlan Casnewydd Newport Cathedral

Amfwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Karen Dent:

[Karendent@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:Karendent@churchinwales.org.uk)

For further information contact Karen Dent: [Karendent@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:Karendent@churchinwales.org.uk)

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## Vacancies

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### Ministry Area Leader - Cwmbran MA



### CWMBRAN MINISTRY AREA

Ministry Area Leader  
(Team Rector)

**Is God calling you to join our team as our next Ministry Area Leader?**

**We are a group of seven churches led by three Vicars, two Curates, two Lay Ministers and a dedicated team of laity.**

Cwmbran Ministry Area is a blend of rural and urban, encircling the town. Each of our churches is a living breathing part of its neighbourhood. Together, we carry light into the communities we serve. Yet we recognise that to flourish more deeply as one body, we must strengthen the structures that hold us.

**We pray for a leader who is:**

- Collaborative and team-focused
- Inspirational and encouraging
- Strategic and forward-looking
- Warm and wise in communication
- Visible and community-minded

We believe now is the time to embrace the future. A time to step into growth—spiritual, missional, and numerical—with renewed unity and hope.

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

For an informal conversation please contact The Ven Stella Bailey  
on 07741 661154 or [stellabailey@cinw.org.uk](mailto:stellabailey@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:  
[monbishpa@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:monbishpa@churchinwales.org.uk)

**Closing date for applications:** 6th February 2026

*Interviews to take place on 26th February 2026*



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#### Children's and Families Pioneer - Tredegar



#### Children and Families' Pioneer

**Full time** (Part-time will be considered)

**£30,059** (plus 10% employers pension contribution)

We are seeking to recruit a Children and Families' Pioneer to work in Tredegar. As part of a team, you will lead regular activities and events that will impact the lives of children and families so that they can discover the deep love of God. From toddler groups to holiday clubs, school engagement to parenting classes, the opportunities are endless. If you are someone with energy and vision who can make connections and build relationships, we have a supportive team waiting to work with you in this well-resourced project. Together we will plant a new worshipping community based at St George's Church, Tredegar.

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:**

- Pioneer new initiatives to develop children and families' ministry and expand our outreach in the local area; including appropriate use of the liturgical calendar and community initiatives such as holiday clubs, and toddler groups.
- Recruit and coach voluntary teams, pastoring all members on the Children and Youth teams.
- Build relationships and partnerships with schools, colleges and community groups, and where applicable, be the first point of contact for them.
- To ensure the Church in Wales constitution, policies, and practises are followed and strong safeguarding practises are embedded into their ethos so that all pipeline activities are a safe space.
- Oversee all child protection, organising training and DBS checks.

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.

Interested?

For an informal chat, please contact **David Edwards** on

**07494 266748**

or email

[\*\*davidedwards@cinw.org.uk\*\*](mailto:davidedwards@cinw.org.uk)

Interview dates TBC

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### **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\*\*](mailto:Davidedwards@cinw.org.uk)

Application form and full profile available at  
[\*\*https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/jobs/\*\*](https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/jobs/)

Completed application forms should be submitted by email to:  
[\*\*Davidedwards@cinw.org.uk\*\*](mailto:Davidedwards@cinw.org.uk)