



Explore further an exciting
opportunity
to minister collaboratively as
Vicar in the Irfon, Wye and
Edw
Ministry Area

*Located at Llanwrtyd Wells and with
particular responsibility for the
parishes of Blaenau Irfon
and Irfon Valley*

DIOCESE OF SWANSEA AND BRECON
ESGOBAETH ABERTAWE AC ABERHONDDU

Introduction

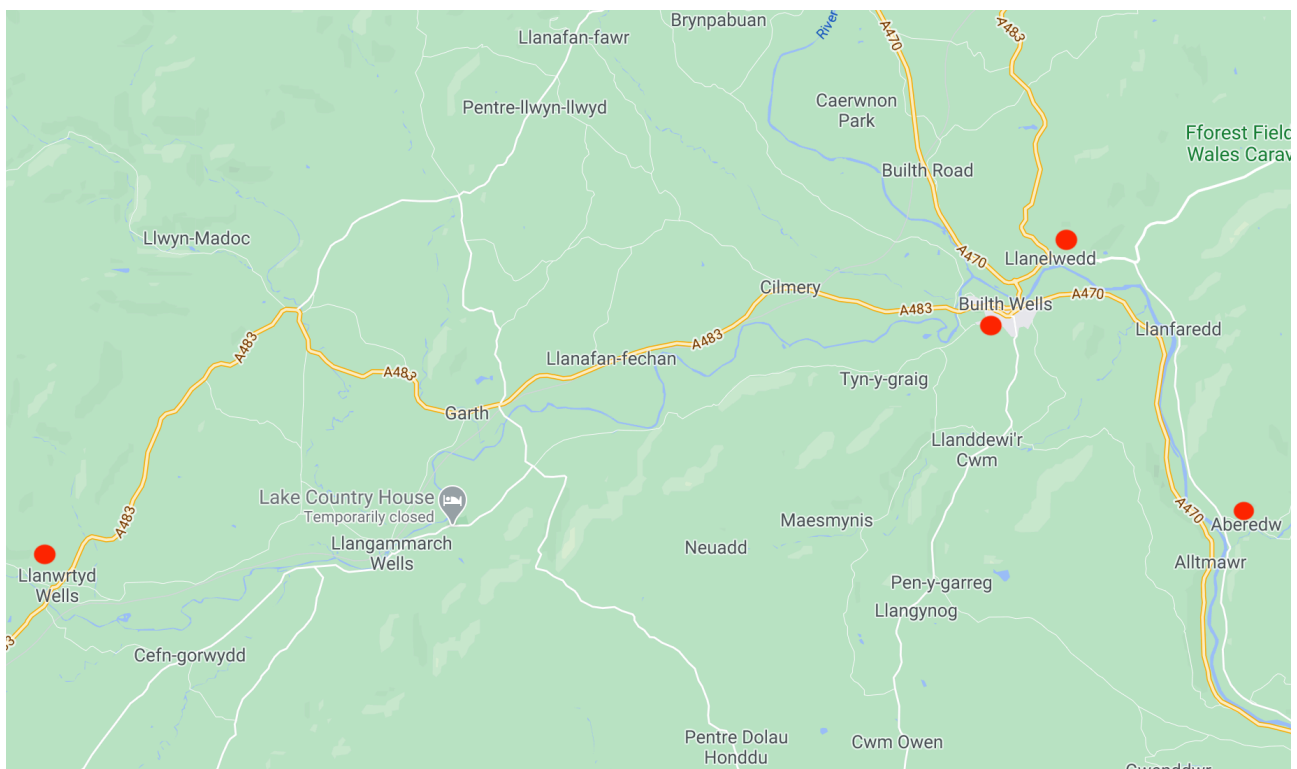
The Bishop of Swansea and Brecon wishes to make an appointment of Vicar within the newly formed Irfon, Wye and Edw Ministry Area and with particular responsibility for the parishes of Blaenau Irfon and Irfon Valley. These parishes contain a number of rural communities and focus on Llanwrtyd Wells, the smallest town in Wales.

We are delighted that you have requested a copy of this profile. We hope this will give you an insight into life within our parishes and ministry area and answer any questions you may have.

The Diocesan Vision

At the Diocesan Conference in 2012, a new vision initiative was formally adopted as the basis for the future of Diocesan life. Along with the recent Harries Review of the Province, this envisaged a new style of ministry being developed which will require significant changes of practice and emphasis, in particular the development of mission areas and ministry teams. This model of mission and ministry is in the process of becoming entrenched throughout the diocese and means that at the moment we are living in an interim period in terms of structures.

The successful candidate will be appointed as a Vicar within the recently formed Irfon, Wye and Edw Ministry Area and will have the opportunity to help shape its future. The new Ministry Area represents 28 congregations, the majority of which are deeply rural, however there are two natural centres of population at Builth Wells and Llanwrtyd Wells. Currently there are three stipendiary ministers, based in Builth Wells, Llanellwedd and Aberedw. It is anticipated that the four ministers will work closely together as they seek to encourage and equip their congregations to embrace what a Ministry Area might develop into and be able to provide. There is an expectation that many activities across the Ministry Area can best be grown and enriched by a collaborative ministry of both clerical and lay leaders.



The Parish of Blaenau Irfon

The Area & Community



The Blaenau Irfon benefice consists of Llanwrtyd Wells, a spa town, and the villages of Beulah, Abergwesyn, Cefn Gorwydd and Tirabad. Llanwrtyd is the smallest town in England and Wales.

The area is beautiful, peaceful and tranquil. The people are friendly and welcoming. Although English is the main language, many people speak Welsh and until recently there was a Welsh stream in the local primary school.

The Red Kite was introduced back into the area several years ago and they are now visible throughout the area along with many other beautiful birds of prey, we are on the edge of a red squirrel re-introduction project.

The rivers Cammarch, Irfon, Gwesyn and Dulas all run through our town and villages and are tributaries of the River Wye. The Cambrian mountain range starts within our area and the Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains are nearby.

Llyn Brianne and the Elan Valley reservoirs are within easy reach, on the way to Llyn Brianne you will pass the Abergwesyn Common which is owned by the National Trust. There are several forests in the area including the National Resource Wales owned Crychan and Irfon plus several private forests.

The main industries of the area are farming, forestry and tourism although Powys County Council is probably the biggest employer.

We are twinned with Meriel in France and Czesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic, there are regular visits to and from both these towns and there is an active committee that always welcomes new members.



The area is renowned for outdoor activities and wacky events, here are a few ...

- Beulah Music Festival
- Green Events – Man v Horse, Bog Snorkelling, World Alternative Games, Saturnalia.
- Walking events and weekly walking groups – International 4 Day Walks, Drovers Walk, Real Ale Ramble, Lord Crawshaw Walk
- Running Events – Man v Horse, Ultra Marathon, Ron Skilton Half Marathon, Devil's Staircase Ultra Trail Run
- Cycling Events – Summer Cider Cycle, Real Ale Wobble.
- Agricultural Shows and Sheepdog Trials
- Annual Carnival and Festival activities
- Eisteddfod
- Clubs - Merched y Bont, Irfon Valley, Country Women, Thursday Club, Gardening club, Film club, Handicraft club, Young Farmers, Choirs.



There are several halls and meeting places in Beulah, Abergwesyn, Tirabad and Llanwrtyd that host some of the events above and sporting activities as well as fundraisers, film nights and quizzes. There is also a fairly new Heritage Centre and "The Chapel" is a music studio and venue that is currently being developed.

We have an assortment of sporting facilities including a small gym, table tennis, badminton, rugby, Tai Chi, keep fit and tap dancing. There are playing fields in Llanwrtyd which are currently being developed to level off the rugby pitch and to incorporate a new running track as well as the existing children's play area and pavilion.



The area has more than its fair share of pubs, café's and award-winning restaurants. There are a number of small shops and a post office. Our public transport is reasonable with a train station on the iconic Heart of Wales line as well as a bus service and a community transport scheme.

We are fortunate to have a fire station in Llanwrtyd Wells with on call firefighters and co-responders (emergency first aid).



Llanwrtyd has the primary school, Ysgol Dolafon and an outdoor pursuits centre, Manor Adventure. Children from Beulah usually attend Irfon Valley Primary School in Garth. Both these primary schools feed into Ysgol Calon Cymru in Builth Wells.

Our Churches

Eglwys Oen Duw, Beulah

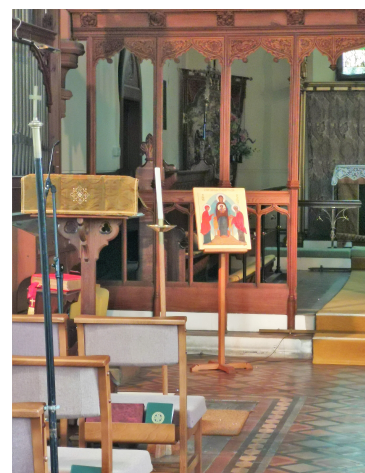
Not far up the road from Beulah to Abergwesyn lies the small but pretty “Eglwys Oen Duw”, built in 1866 by Clara Thomas of the Llwynmadoc estate. In 2016 we celebrated the 150th anniversary. Recent repairs were carried out to the roof, floors, windows, spire, stained glass and organ + annex with toilet /kitchen and keyboard for a parish choir. This is an excellent space which includes a very welcoming meeting room - something of a rare commodity in this part of the world. The graveyard is maintained to a plan by God’s Acre. Currently, we are fortunate to have two Eucharistic and two Morning services per month. Our average congregation is 12 with over 30 on festivals and a small number of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. We meet over coffee after services where congregational matters can be discussed and donate our coffee money to WaterAid and Builth Community Support.



St James, Llanwrtyd Wells



Llanwrtyd Wells became a Spa town in the late 18th century and St James church was built in 1896 in the centre of the town, as a mission church. It is a centre of community activity and a friendly place to worship. It is also open during the day where it provides a beautiful, quiet space, good facilities



and some attractive works of art. It has a small kitchen and toilet that were added in a sympathetic manner some years ago. We have a service every Sunday except for when there is a fifth Sunday in the month. The first and third are lay led Morning Worship, the second and fourth are Holy Eucharist. Our congregation averages around 15 people.

St David's, Llanwrtyd

The Old Parish Church is the oldest of the church buildings in the Ministry Area and beyond, it sits in idyllic isolation overlooking the river Irfon, exuding peace and tranquillity, nestled amongst the hills. St. David's, a grade 11* listed church, was once the centre of Llanwrtyd and would have been surrounded by cottages and farms some 200 years ago. It was the Parish Church until St. James' was built in 1896, as a Mission church to serve the needs of the growing community.





The present church has a recorded history spanning 1000 years or more. The site was reputed to have been chosen much earlier by St. David himself for the promulgation of the Christian faith following the hugely significant synod at Llanddewibrefi in 519 AD. - 'Hallowed ground indeed'

Following a 3-year period of fund raising, work began in September 2018 on the restoration of the church. It was completed in July 2019 and was formally rededicated by the Archbishop on the 7th

August this year. It looks amazing, but although bright and squeaky clean it has retained all of its embedded spirituality. Services at St David's are usually for special occasions or 5th Sundays, it is a popular choice for weddings and funerals. As there is no electricity at the church most of the services tend to be in the summer and are well attended.

The Parish of Irfon Valley

The Area & Community

The Irfon Valley Benefice is made up of the villages of Llangammarch Wells, Garth and Cilmerly.

Llangammarch Wells, lies on the Afon Irfon River, although the largest village of the Parish (in the historic county of Brecknockshire) it is the smallest of the four spa villages of mid-Wales, alongside Llandrindod Wells, Builth Wells and Llanwrtyd Wells. Nestled under the Epynt, there is a military area above the village but, apart from occasional low flying aircraft and firing on the range, soldiers are rarely seen. There is a mountain road from the village over the Epynt to Brecon about 16 miles away, and the viewpoint on this road provides an ideal venue for the Dawn Service held annually early on Easter Sunday above Llangammarch, followed by a hearty cooked breakfast in the village Hall. The Village Hall is a well used community resource holding sporting and community events including a weekly coffee morning. Llangammarch is on the Heart of Wales railway line and the post office has won awards as the best Post Office in Wales. It's well known for fishing with two excellent hotels: The Cammarch in the centre of the village opposite the Church entrance and the luxurious Manor House Country Lake Hotel and Spa, one of Wales finest hotels, is situated about a mile outside. There are also two excellent caravan sites in and near the village.

The village of Garth is located on the main trunk road between Builth and Llanwrtyd Wells, also on the Heart of Wales railway line. There is an English stream primary school, Irfon Valley cp school which is attended from the surrounding farms and villages, and a busy renovated village hall providing a range of social and church activities. Garth House is a grade 2* listed country house in a picturesque setting opposite Llanlleonfel Church where



Sarah Gwynne married Charles Wesley on 8 April 1749. Built on an ancient sacred site (with late Roman burial stone, 6th–7th century), it was rebuilt in 1876 due to its Wesley associations. A lively Wesley Festival weekend was held at the church in May 2013 which included a re-enactment of the wedding and a wide range of food and musical entertainment. St Afan's Church, Llanfechan have bi-monthly services, including a Lambing Service and a Reflective All Souls Service.



Cilmery is a small ribbon village situated on the A483, 2 miles from Builth Wells comprising of a modernised former church village hall and the Prince Llewellyn Inn where a well attended carol service is hosted on Christmas Eve. The village is famous for the death of the last Prince Llewelyn in December 1282 and there is a memorial site. St Cannen's Church also has an ancient history but was rebuilt in the 1800's, after a fete in Builth Wells raised over £1000. Morning Prayer is taken on first Sunday of each month by two lay service leaders who live in the village and Holy Communion Service held on third Sundays.

Our Churches

<http://www.irfonvalleyparish.co.uk>

St Cadmarch's Church, Llangammarch Wells



St Cadmarch's is a Grade II* Listed Arts and Crafts church situated in a stunning location in the centre of Llangammarch Wells, on a mound at the meeting of the Cammarch and Irfon Rivers opposite the railway station, with a view across the valley to the Epynt mountain range.

There is evidence that the location has been a place of worship going back to Pagan times. It has a small but loyal congregation and on special occasions, such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival time it is always very well attended.

The church has recently received a grant for the East window to be cleaned and for repairs to the organ, celebrating its 100th birthday this year. This is being undertaken very shortly.

The acoustics in the church are excellent so recitals and concerts with visiting choirs are always a popular addition to our regular events. There are also plenty of volunteers to maintain the church and cut the grass in the churchyard.

Services 2019: 1 Holy Communion and 1 Morning Prayer per month



Llanlleonfel Church, Garth

Llanlleonfel Parish Church is situated on the outskirts of the village of Garth which is on the A483 trunk road 6 miles south of Builth Wells.

Garth House was the home of the Gwynne family whose memorials are in Llanlleonfel church, where John Wesley officiated in 1749 at the marriage of his brother Charles Wesley to Sarah Gwynne, the daughter of Marmaduke Gwynne. The house is now the home of the Wilson family.

The church lies in a farming community and at present has one Eucharist on the first Sunday each month, although numbers are averaging at 8 per service it has a dedicated congregation.



Llanfechan (St Afan's) Church, Garth

Llanfechan Church dates back to the 13th/14th Century but was rebuilt in 1866. The full name is Llanafan Fechan (the lesser) to distinguish it from Llanafan Fawr (the greater) a few miles to the North. Both churches have always served sparsely populated parishes. They are dedicated to St. Afan, a Celtic Bishop, who was usually known as Afan Buallt, indicating a connection with the Builth Wells area.

St. Afan's Llanfechan Church is situated on the A483 trunk road between Builth Wells and the village of Garth in the centre of a working farm. Services are held bi-monthly on second Sunday of the month with a varied schedule such as Holy Communion, morning prayer and other services i.e. lambing service, family and Christmas services. The congregation is small but dedicated.

Services 2019: 1 Holy Communion or Morning Prayer bi-monthly



St Cannen's Church, Llanganten (Cilmery)



Llanganten (St Cannen's), wins the award for the church most difficult to find, hidden away as it is down a steep hill below Cilmery Village Hall (LD2 3FL) located 2 miles to the west of Builth Wells on the A483.

It has a lovely setting beside the Chwefru stream, tranquil and with a spirit of simple holiness. It has historical associations, from a fiercer time, famous for Prince Llewelyn the last native Prince of Wales slain nearby in 1282.



There is a small loyal congregation which has sadly decreased over the last 5 years, however the community joins together for Festival services, and Carols in the Prince Llewellyn Inn on Christmas Eve.

Services 2019: 1 Holy Communion and 1 Morning Prayer per month (1st and 3rd Sundays).

Church Activities in the Blaenau Irfon and Irfon Valley Benefices

We have Messy Church approximately four times a year in the Ministry Area and a small group of volunteers run Open the Book in Ysgol Dolafon and Irfon Valley primary schools.

In Blaenau Irfon we have an annual church walk, an annual lunch and hold fundraising at various events such as a barbecue at the Man v Horse event and a cake sale at the Bog Snorkelling. Other activities that we organise include an organ recital, a pancake lunch and a Christmas Tree Festival.



A small group of volunteers run a monthly lunch club in St James' church where a two-course lunch with coffee is served, profits are donated to charity.

We hold some special services throughout the year including a Songs of Praise to open the Festival week, Beulah Music Festival service, Harvest, Christingle and Carol Services. We also hold a lay led outdoor service at sunrise on Easter Sunday on the Epynt which overlooks all the benefices in the Ministry Area.

We have recently started a Bible Study group.

We have a very strong Worship Team in the benefice many of whom travel to other churches within the Ministry Area to take Morning Worship, school assemblies and other special services. We also have people trained to give home communion and pastoral care.



In April 2018, a group from the Blaenau Irfon and Irfon Valley benefices travelled to Spain to take a pilgrimage and walk the last 100km of the Camino De Santiago, this was a beautiful time of spirituality and bonding that will stay with us for many years.

Our vision for the future

To summarise what we offer:

- Welcoming and inclusive communities
- A place to be creative with worship and styles of ministry
- Collaborative team working
- A developing team of worship leaders
- To be a part of the evolution of a newly formed Ministry area
- Beautiful countryside in which to worship, live and work

This means that our new clergy can focus on the really interesting bits: our hopes for the future and where we think we as a Parish could go:

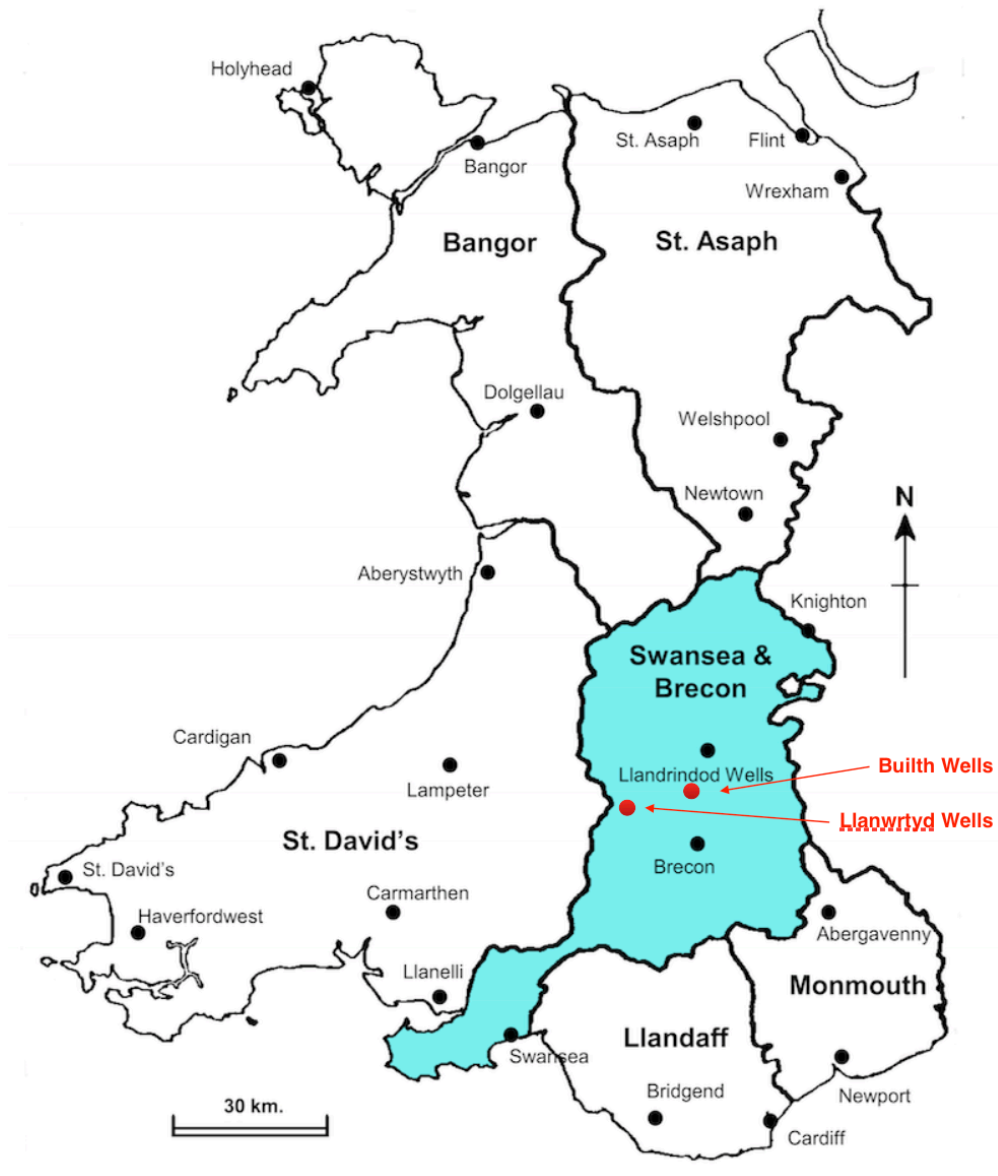
Skills

Who we think could help us:

The people who we think could help us would be:

- sociable and outgoing with good communication skills
- someone with the ability to encompass an ageing community where pastoral care is important
- appreciative of rural life
- someone with energy, vision and able to help us accomplish new goals within our Team, and
- able to continue and advance the work with our younger members of the Ministry Area

The Diocese of Swansea and Brecon



Geography

The geographical extent of the Diocese, about 130 miles from end to end, can be seen on the map of the Province of Wales.

The Diocese borders all the other 5 Welsh Dioceses, as well as the English Diocese of Hereford. It covers much of the old counties of Brecon and Radnor, the Swansea Valley, the City and County of Swansea and Gower, together with small areas along the Heads of the Valleys. Swansea, the second city of Wales, accounts for the bulk of the civil population of the Diocese and is the business, social, cultural, economic and commercial centre of the West Wales region. Brecon, in contrast, is an historic market and garrison town at the heart of Powys, and has a significantly different pace of life. Apart from our own Diocesan structures, tourism and outdoor pursuit activities, there are few natural links between Swansea and Brecon, and great efforts have therefore been made over the years to ensure that the Diocese continues to work as a single unit.

There are 2 Archdeaconries: Brecon and Gower with, at present, 2 Area Deaneries in Gower, and 2 in Brecon. There are currently 185 churches. There is a core number of stipendiary clerics and a growing number of non-stipendiaries. There is a wide range of lay ministries, the steady rise in which has allowed the Diocese to make better use of a wide range of strengths, skills and talents. The geographically larger Archdeaconry of Brecon is totally rural, with a few small towns - Knighton, Llandrindod Wells, Builth Wells, Hay on Wye and Crickhowell, as well as Brecon. These towns act as centres for the widely scattered villages and isolated farms.

The Vicarage

A new vicarage is in the process of being built at Llanwrtyd Wells on a small secluded residential estate. The photograph shows the house under construction, it is anticipated to be completed during March 2021.



Language

The Church in Wales pursues a bilingual language policy. Welsh is still commonly spoken in a number of communities in the Diocese but the ability to speak Welsh is not a requirement for this post.

Further information may be obtained from:

*The Archdeacon of Brecon,
The Ven Alan Jevons,
The Vicarage,
Llangors,
Brecon.
LD3 7UG*

Tel: 01874 658298, Email: archdeacon.brecon@churchinwales.org.uk

*The Area Dean and Ministry Area Leader,
The Revd. Canon Mark Beaton,
1 North Road,
Builth Wells,
LD2 3BT*

Tel: 01982 508232, Email: revmarkbeaton@gmail.com

*Informal visits to the parish are welcomed.
Please contact the Archdeacon for an informal discussion.*

Application forms to be returned by post to:

*The Archdeacon of Brecon,
The Diocesan Centre,
Cathedral Close,
Brecon,
Powys
LD3 9DP.*

Or by email to archdeacon.brecon@churchinwales.org.uk

Interviews will be held by arrangement