



PROFILE AND ROLE DESCRIPTION

VICAR IN THE GOWER MINISTRY AREA (HOUSE FOR DUTY PRIEST)

2021

www.swanseaandbrecon.churchinwales.org.uk

The Position

The Diocese of Swansea and Brecon is looking to appoint a Vicar in the Gower Ministry Area (House for Duty Priest) to be based in the Benefice of Llangennith with Llanmadoc and Cheriton. The appointment will be a pan Gower post living in Llangennith, helping and assisting in services across the Ministry Area on Sundays and two other weekdays as well as offering pastoral care where necessary. It is envisaged that the priest will be able to cover holidays, the major festivals and assist through the busy tourism season.

The priest who joins us is expected to have had experience of working collaboratively in a rural and semi urban setting. He or she should have an interest in ministering within the context of both rural life and tourism. Experience of online ministry and youth work is desirable.

Expenses of office will be met by the Ministry Area.



Broad Pool Cefn Bryn

The Gower Ministry Area

Gower is a special place being an area of outstanding natural beauty and our ministry is not only to the residents of all ages but to a tourist population as well. The Ministry Area is the former Deanery of Gower, which comprises today of 17 churches within 4 Benefices.

- 1 Benefice of South West Gower
 (Reynoldston, Llandewi, Port Eynon, Oxwich, Rhossili and Penrice)
 Cleric: Revd Justin Davies who is also the Ministry Area Leader

- 2 Benefice of Three Cliffs
 (Bishopston, Pennard, Ilston, Penmaen and Nicholaston)
 Cleric: Canon Peter Brooks who is also Area Dean of Greater Gower

- 3 Benefice of Llangennith with Llanmadoc and Cheriton
 Parish of Llangennith
 Parish of Llanmadoc and Cheriton
 Currently under the pastoral care of Revd Tim Ardouin

- 4 Benefice of Llanrhidian with Llanyrnewydd
 Parish of Llanrhidian
 Parish of Llanyrnewydd
 Cleric: Revd Tim Ardouin

Llangennith (3) and Llanrhidian (4) are currently working towards becoming the new benefice of North Gower.

Other colleagues we work with are the Revd Nigel Doyle, Revd Nigel King and Revd Sue Waite who are non-stipendiary and we also have a number of active retired clergy.

We fully encourage lay ministry with Lay Worship Leaders, Lay Eucharistic Assistants, Lay Pastoral Visitors as well as Lay Readers.

The ministry area has a number of Bible Studies and Prayer Groups. Churches Together hold regular Lent and Advent studies and services. Ecumenical links are with the Methodist Circuit on Gower and the Gower New Life Church as well as the Filling Station plant Messy Church works well as a coordinated team across South Gower and we are looking to widen it to North Gower.



St Cenydd's Church, Llangennith

Currently we are still 4 separate units that hold to their existing benefice boundaries and whilst Revd Justin Davies has responsibility for South West Gower, Revd Tim Ardouin for Llanrhidian / Llangennith and Canon Peter Brooks for Three Cliffs, we very much act as a team with retired clergy.

The formation of Ministry Areas follows the 2012 Review of the Church in Wales. While to date, clergy have been very much associated with individual benefices, there is a need to broaden the outlook and encourage more working across Gower using the individual skills and talents to the benefit of all.

2021 / 2022 will see the development of a clear plan for the spiritual development of the Gower Ministry Area to secure the future worshipping community.



Three Cliffs near Pennard

We are a very broad church across the Ministry Area and are inclusive in our outlook and have a variety of churchmanship and styles of worship. We are however, open minded enough to know that plans we make now may not be the ones we need next year or the year after to lead us forward in renewing the faith of God's people here on Gower as we reach out to bring others to faith as well. Therefore our plans and goals will be under review and we will act with boldness in establishing a prayerful vision guided by God's Holy Spirit to establish His Kingdom here in the place where we are blessed to serve.

This has been more than evident in the this year 2020 when we have adapted our services, Bible studies, prayer groups and meetings to online formats as well as supporting parishioners who are not online. This had been broadly successful.

Although we have been in existence for 5 years, this has been a time of experiment and evolving and we are now looking to evolve further following the guidelines laid down in this document to which our Diocese is working.



Inside the Cathedral at Brecon the Mother Church of the Diocese

Our vision of a vibrant ministry area for mission

01 Community.... there is a commitment to mission within the ministry area which understands the character and needs of the local communities and there is a willingness to change and adapt

02 Gathering... there is a pattern of authentic and welcoming worship and we are taking every opportunity that 'life events' and 'seasonal services' offer. There is worship that is accessible to people of all ages.

03 Growing at the heart of the ministry area.... there is a culture of growing disciples as 'every member ministers' living out their faith in their daily lives. There is work with youth and children that grows the faith of those linked to the church as well as those in the wider community

04 Going.... the impact of the churches on the community is increasing, evangelism and mission is flourishing. There are special events which help build relationships across the ministry area. Links with youth and children in the community are being developed. New ideas are being considered.

05 Communications.... the ministry area is using a wide range of regular communications to inform and inspire those who are part of the church and the wider community

06 Leadership.... there is a well-led ministry area team which is implementing a challenging and innovative plan, there is also an effective ministry area forum (or council)

07 Congregation.... the wide range of skills, talents and gifts in the congregation are being appropriately released in ministry and mission, and vocations are being encouraged and developed. Lay led initiatives are being started and developed.

08 Ministry area structure,..... the structures in the ministry area are being modified to reflect the way the ministry area operates

09 Buildings..... the buildings are being maintained and developed where needed and closed where no longer required

10 Finances..... the finances are stabilised in the ministry area so that not only is the 'ministry share' being paid, but also new initiatives can be funded – we are heading towards sustainability

11 Administration..... the administration is being run efficiently and effectively, providing support for the ministry and mission

12 Governance..... the governance of the ministry area is up to date and providing strong foundations for the Ministry Area.

We have recently established a Ministry Area Forum under the leadership of Revd Justin Davies, the Ministry Area Leader, to guide the necessary further changes on Gower in implementing this vision.

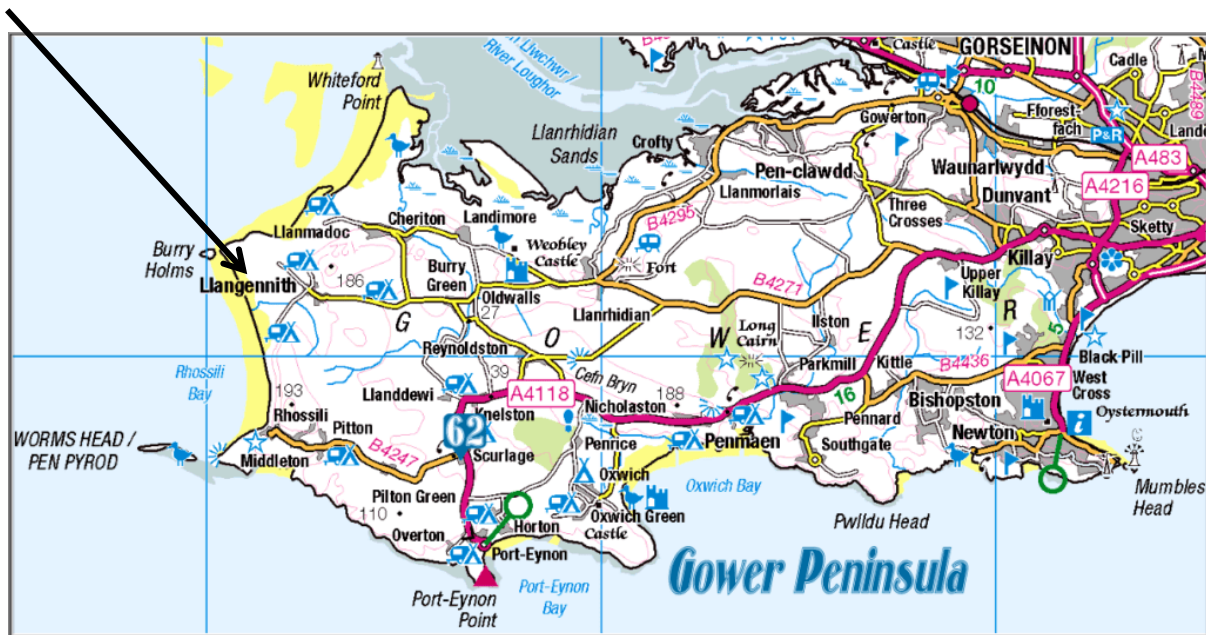
In this we are assisted by the resources of the Diocese and the Ministry Area Development Officer, Tim Hollingdale, who has been working steadily over the past few years in the Diocese to establish, train and assist clergy and lay people as they move forward together.



The Lamplighter Christian Bookshop, gift shop and Coffee Shop
in the heart of Bishopston Village

The Vicar in the Gower Ministry Area (House for Duty Priest) will be based in the village and community of Llangennith

On the northwest corner of the Gower peninsula looking west along the coasts of Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire and out into the Atlantic, the parishes of Llangennith and of Llanmadoc and Cheriton were founded by namesake Welsh saints Cenydd and Madog in the sixth century. This is a region of ancient monuments, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and of magnificent shores and sunsets; yet also a place of modern communities with speedy cyber communication, good minor roads and easy access to the M4 motorway and the cities of Swansea and Cardiff.



The economy is a mix of traditional farming, hospitality and tourism, artists and potters, skilled and professional commuters and retired households. Llangennith and Llanmadoc each boasts a fine public house and a busy village/parish hall. A co-operative of village volunteers runs an award- winning post office, general store and café in Llanmadoc. For bigger shopping trips Swansea has all the usual town centre and out-of-town supermarkets, and a covered market featuring Gower produce that includes the famous Penclawdd cockles and laver bread (a seaweed delicacy and, it must be said, an acquired taste).



One of the big events on Gower is the Annual Gower Show
at which the churches have a major presence

Tourism is a big player. The resident adult population of the two parishes is something over six hundred and fifty; holidaymakers, day-visitors, the occupiers of holiday homes and static caravans, and visitors to St Madoc's Christian Youth Camp multiply this to many thousands in the summer months. Many families have been visiting for generations, and are welcomed back as old friends. The visitors come for surfing, walking, equestrianism, seaside and country pursuits, and the pleasure of being in beautiful surroundings away from the rush of urban life.

The Gower environment accommodates them without losing too much of its calm. The businesses that offer provision and entertain the visitors give employment to the young people of the villages. New and returning visitors swell the church community in the summer months.

The village children go to primary school in a neighbouring village, Llanrhidian. There are also primary schools in Knelston, Penclawdd, Bishopston and Pennard or a Welsh- medium primary twelve miles away on the outskirts of Gowerton. They move on to excellent English-language and Welsh-medium 11-18 secondary schools at Gowerton. There is also a secondary school in Bishopston. Swansea and Cardiff are university cities. Cardiff University is a member of the Russell Group.

The modern, well established Gower Medical Practice is just 12 minutes' drive away, providing good NHS primary care. NHS hospital care is at Singleton and Morriston hospitals, major teaching hospitals on the outskirts of Swansea with sound departments in all specialisms.

Swansea as a major shopping centre and is 16 miles away and the M4 motorway is 15 miles away

The Map below shows some of the landmarks of the Village. On the left hand side you have from top to bottom the Kings Head public house and below it St Cenydd's Church. On the right hand side from top to bottom you have the Community Hall and below that the local and very well know Surf shop. Below that and behind the church is the outline of the original monastic settlement.



The Church, Parish Hall, a Surf Shop and Kings Head public house form a nucleus of public buildings in the heart of the village, around the village green. The Hall was built by parishioners in the 1920s and remains an important community centre for this and surrounding villages, run and maintained independently of the church. The Hall has recently secured National Lottery funding to improve an adjoining field as a playing field and venue for fetes and festivities. The present Vicarage, too, was built by the parishioners in the 1950s, on land given for the purpose. A comfortable, detached dwelling with ample, lawned gardens, it stands a couple of hundred yards from the church on the way into the village. It enjoys beautiful rear views over the village field and southwest to Rhossili Down.



The Vicarage

The priest will live rent free in the comfortable and refurbished vicarage built in the 1920's. It has excellent views of the surrounding countryside and is not far from the centre of the village. It has a well ordered and manageable garden. A newly refurbished kitchen has been installed - as can be seen from the photographs - and there is a patio area with views across the Rhossili Downs at the rear of the property. Neutral colours are used throughout in the decoration.







Sunset at Rhossilli Beach

**Further Online Information Regarding Churches and Christian Groups in Gower.
Websites and Facebook pages.**

<http://swanseaandbrecon.churchinwales.org.uk/>

<http://threecliffsparish.co.uk/index.html>

<http://stteilos.weebly.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Gower-Ministry-Area-135008573729299/>

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfStTeilosBishopstonSwansea>

<http://www.churchinnorthgower.com/> Llanrhidian etc.

<http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/places/benefices/?id=681> Llanrhidian etc.

<http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/places/benefices/?id=684> South West Gower

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/260045708530/?fref=ts> Three Cliffs

<http://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/s468/> Three Cliffs Website

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/397232113710170/?fref=ts> Christians On Gower
<http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/places/benefices/?id=683> Llangennith with Llanmadoc and Cheriton.

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=llangennith%2C%20llanmadoc%20and%20cheriton%20churches>

<http://www.parishofsouthwestgower.com/>

<http://nicholastonhouse.org/new/> Nicholaston House Retreat Centre

<http://www.stmadoc.co.uk/> St. Madoc Christian Camp



Lifeboat Memorial at Port Eynon Church



The Church at Llanrhidian above the North Gower Marshes

**Please contact the Venerable Jonathan Davies, Archdeacon of Gower,
if you wish to explore the possibilities of living and ministering on Gower.
Contact: 01792 512747 or archdeacon.gower@churchinwales.org.uk**

