

**AFON TAWE MINISTRY AREA
PROFILE FOR THE POST OF
VICAR OF ST DAVID'S CHURCH
MORRISTON, SWANSEA**



About Afon Tawe Ministry Area



The Ministry Area of Afon Tawe was commissioned in June of 2023 bringing together three former parishes. It has 5 churches in its grouping: Ss David and Cyfelach, Llangyfealch; St David's, Morryston; St Samlet's, Llansamlet; St John's, Birchgrove; and St Paul's, Glais.

The Ministry Area serves an approximate population of 60,000. The population is a very diverse population. The housing stock is a mix of industrial terraces, semi-detached and detached homes, new builds in housing estates (with many new developments planned), social housing in large estates. There are 14 primary Schools within the Ministry Area including 2 Welsh Medium primary schools. There are 2 very large comprehensive schools served by the Ministry Area. The geography of the Ministry Area also has large areas of farming communities and village communities. Acknowledging the diversity and size of the population gives us great hope in planning opportunities for mission and evangelism to help us grow our churches over the coming years.

Llangyfelach

Llangyfelach church is dedicated to two Celtic Saints; St David and St Cyfelach. Little is known about St Cyfelach but it is believed that he led a monastic community on the site of the current Llangyfelach Church in circa 6th Century before becoming a bishop. Later David came to Llangyfelach and had a church built on the site. The current church is situated in what was a tithe barn. The earlier church



was attached to the medieval bell tower but following a storm, part of the bell tower collapsed onto the church. Much of the stone from that collapsed church was reused in the current church which is a little further down the hill from the original site. The bell tower is still standing in the grounds following a number of renovations over the centuries and contains 4 bells.

The worshipping community of Llangyfelach are energetic and eager to grow the church both numerically and spiritually. They meet each Sunday for Holy Eucharist; both 2004 and 1984 rites are used. Thursday's worship is a mixture of morning prayer (led by worship leaders) or Holy Eucharist led by the vicar. The average weekly combined attendance is 60. Llangyfelach has a small pastoral visiting team, who with the vicar, ensure everyone that is unable to attend worship due to illness receive the Eucharist at home.

The church holds a variety of gatherings throughout the week to engage with the local community including:

A toddler group with an average of 15 toddlers.

A youth club with an average of 25 children.

A Sunday school with an average of 8 children.

A women's fellowship group with an average of 20 ladies.

A sewing group with an average of 10 people.

With our friends from the other ministry area churches, we arrange fellowship events, trips and days out as well as meet for prayer.

Llansamlet



Llansamlet group of churches is made up of St Samlet's in Llansamlet and two smaller churches of St Paul's in Glais and St John's in Birchgrove, both of these have been converted to a multipurpose hall and worship space.

Little is known of St Samlet and it is assumed he formed a community in the area, but the current building is about 140 years old and has

recently undergone considerable rejuvenation.

The regular worshipping community of St Samlet's number about 60 on a Sunday and about 20 in our midweek service, and around a dozen worship fortnightly at both St Paul's and St John's. We also have a monthly afternoon family worship service which is a relaxed and engaging time of worship.

We have a variety of gatherings through the week to engage with our communities including:

A regular Sunday School that meet during the Sunday service at St Samlet's.

A youth club with about 12 teenagers.

An active and healthy Mothers Union.

As well as an active pastoral visiting team that, working with the vicar, regularly visit those unable to attend worship.

We have regular church lunches and a monthly quiz, as well as hosting choir concerts and local school assemblies.

About St David's, Morriston

There are 130 on the electoral roll at St David's with a great number participating in regular worship on a Sunday or a Thursday. The average attendance is 50 on Sunday and 40 on Thursday.



The liturgy is a broad Anglican liturgy using the 1984 Book of Common Prayer once a month and the 2004 rite on the other Sundays. There is a small robed choir for Sunday services. There was a monthly Family Communion service which is now in need of revival. Once a month there is a sung evensong where about 20 regulars attend.

The church has an active membership of the Mothers' Union which meet weekly in the crypt for talks and fellowship. Also a monthly evening MU meeting.

The Church has a bronze Eco Church award and would like to develop an action plan with others churches in the ministry area to attain a Silver award.

The Church hosts many events throughout the year; School concerts and shows, local choir performances, Carol Services and the well-attended festive services. As a church committee, we need support from our new priest to re-engage with the younger generations to encourage and nurture them in faith. We have recently had to stop our Sunday School programme and our small youth club due to lack of volunteers. Fellowship events are very much central to the life of St David's, with craft groups meeting weekly, hymn singing twice a month, coffee mornings, trips and socials.



The Vicar we seek:

St David's, has a great potential as a prominent focal point in its community, both to reach out into the community with the Good News of Jesus, and also to welcome in those of all faiths and none to use our facilities. Some of this potential has been realised, and the church crypt is fairly well used by the community as a place of meeting. The mission here is to be a place where people of all ages can come and feel fully accepted. An openness to the diverse community life is at the heart of our thinking, both now and for the future. We need a priest who is passionate about church growth and encouraging others to flourish in the life and mission of all 5 churches in our Ministry Area. We are seeking someone who is confident of the calling which has drawn them to apply to be a priest within our Ministry Area team with pastoral responsibility for St David's Church, Morriston; and who has the capacity and the capability to lead us and to learn with us as together we consolidate the Ministry Areas strengths and meet the challenges we face.

We believe that the person we are looking for will:



- Be an exceptional spiritual leader and team player. Work well with the Ministry Area Clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers, Commissioned Lay people and with the volunteers who support the work of our churches and partner with us in the local community.
- Be able to play their part with the Ministry Area Council, office holders and others in ensuring that activities and projects are well managed, and to accept help in these demanding but exciting challenges which we face as the church of today.
- Be committed to sustaining and growing our broad liturgical tradition, bringing new ways of worship which may attract new disciples and families to engage with us.
- Have the gift to connect with our communities providing spiritual guidance and pastoral care.
- Have experience in work and life which will enable them to face the challenges and take the opportunities we face outside. This will be particularly important in providing confident leadership in growing churches for the future.
- Nurture the strengthening relationships we have with our primary schools and promote the development of young people in their Christian faith and their engagement in the life of the church.
- Encourage vocation among the laity, to enrich their contributions and provide continuity and succession in the lay leadership of church activities.

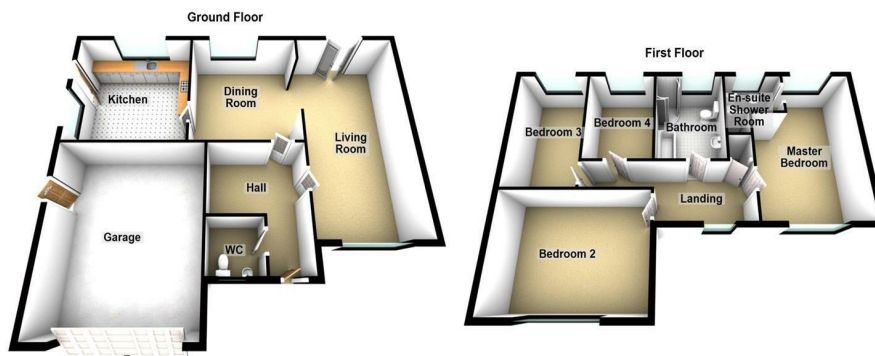
The Vicarage

The Parsonage Board is actively seeking to purchase a replacement property for the former vicarage at Morriston. Until a property is purchased in the Morriston area, a neighbouring vicarage has been allocated for this post. The address is:



The Vicarage,
Woodland Park, Ynystawe, Swansea. SA6 5AR

The detached property has four bedrooms and is a spacious family home with an enclosed rear garden.





Diocesan Prayer

Father, we hold before you our family in the
Diocese of Swansea & Brecon
and we open our hearts and minds to your Spirit:
Bless us as we gather in your name;
guide us as we grow into the likeness of your Son;
lead us by your Spirit to go out and make disciples of others.
God of our journeying, be our way and our truth and our life;
our beginning and our end.
We pray through Jesus our Lord.
Amen.



Get in touch

For more information or an informal chat, please contact:
The Venerable Jonathan Davies, Archdeacon of Gower
archdeacon.gower@churchinwales.org.uk