

St. Catwg (Crickhowell) Ministry Area Profile

We would like to invite you to join us, in this great Work to which the Lord has called us; our works of worship and witness, as we honour God with things we do, and how we do them.



Ministry Areas

The Church in Wales is collecting parish churches together into clusters, called Ministry Areas.

Our Ministry Area, St. Catwg, was one of the first inaugurated in the Diocese, as we looked forward to discovering new patterns and structures of worship, witness and service, from which we could look ahead and respond to the changing world, and the environment in which we live.

St. Catwg (born c.497AD) was a famous figure in the church of Britain in the 5th century, and was known as *Catwg Ddoeth*, '*Cadoc the Wise*', and is the founder of one of our parish churches; and we inherit that tradition from then, until the present day.

In our present day, ministry and witness have changed much, even over the last couple of years.

The person who is appointed will have the support of our Ministry Area Administrator, our Ministry Area Council, which has representatives of all ten churches, and also a Ministry Team of ordained clergy, lay people, readers, worship leaders and a Lay Licensed Evangelist.

Online

During lockdown we produced live zoom services, and pre-recorded services on Sundays, and other weekdays. Attendance at these has been wide and numerous, with many people, even from other parts of Britain and world joining in.

Online services will continue in reduced form for the duration, including occasional live zoom services, Facebook evening prayer and recorded sermons going out weekly.

We also have had zoom home groups, bible study courses, social groups, seminars, and lectures. These have proved very fruitful in maintaining our friendships, and in stimulating our ideas, and our growth in faith, and the knowledge of God in Christ Jesus.

Youth

There is an ongoing weekly youth group, including a wide selection of teenagers, with various activities, indoor and out. Activities also include outings, hand-bell ringing, and film making.

We have also run Youth Alpha, and other courses designed for young people, such as our own *Gospel According To Harry Potter*.

Children

There is a monthly Messy Church, and Sunday schools in various of our churches.

Schools

We have three Church in Wales primary schools, and supply governors, and spiritual support to all of them. This also includes preparation for Confirmation for those requiring it, and RE classes.

Most of our six primary schools have regular visiting *Open the Book* teams, performing assemblies, telling the stories from Scripture.

We also have two high schools in our area, one of which is moving towards becoming a Church in Wales high school.

We have also run *Prayer Spaces* in both primary and high schools, to great effect. In this, we can help children to articulate and process feelings and thoughts, and if they desire, we can teach them to pray.

Music

The churches include a variety of musical styles, with some contemporary music, as well as traditional music.

There is a good, robed SATB choir in Llangattock for each Sunday service, and at times its members contribute to other churches for special events.

The *Unicorn Singers*, an excellent choir specialising in chamber and early music, gives concerts in the area, and provide music for special events and services in churches. Highlights include William Byrd and Thomas Tallis, combined with more recent works such as Pärt and Debussy.



Crickhowell Choral Society puts on performances in Crickhowell church and elsewhere, which tend to be larger in scale; most recently pieces such as *Henry Purcell's* Fairy Queen and *Bach's* B minor mass, both in local concerts and at their annual music festival, which attracts world-class soloists.

Online and in St. Edmunds, more recent styles of music are commonly included, with a music group of singers and instrumentalists.

The Friends of Cwmdru Music charity holds four concerts each year.

Bereavement

As parish churches, we conduct funerals on a regular basis, and enjoy good relations with various undertakers and funeral directors around the area.

We run *The Bereavement Journey* courses online, and in-person, a series of six facilitated film and discussion group sessions offering a safe space where those bereaved can share their experiences and be guided through the most common aspects of grief.



Pastoral ministry

One of our ministry team members is Lead Anna Chaplain for Wales, and trainer for this ministry as well as Bishop's Officer for Older People's Ministry.

We use the Anna Chaplaincy model of Older People's Ministry and have several active teams of lay pastoral visitors, who visit people who are in need of support.

We visit the elderly in residential homes, and at their own homes, and in hospital, bringing companionship, Holy Communion, and practical help.

This is done for those who are either permanently or temporarily unable to attend events, as well as those simply asking for a visit.

Community engagement

Crickhowell Walking Festival, Crickhowell Literary Festival, Crickhowell Music Festival, Crickhowell Open Studios, and the Rotary Club Duck Race, are all significant events in Crickhowell, and are events in the church calendar, with walks, literature and art connected to the church, as well as lively participation by church members.

Likewise, *Cwmdu Show* and *Llangynidr Show* are more traditional country shows at which the Church is an expected presence.

Sunday Services

All ten of our churches are visited regularly, and prior to lock-down, on a weekly or fortnightly basis. Typically, services might be either Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, or a similar liturgy of the word, or Holy Communion. Our clergy will visit various churches on a regular basis, and any one of them ad hoc. Services vary from modern liturgies to 1662, and we are beginning to create informal, more contemporary service provision alongside these. Some services have no music; some have traditional hymns, some more contemporary songs.

Occasional offices

All our churches play a role in the community as place for weddings, funerals, and baptisms, some over generations of resident families, and others for newcomers. This represents community engagement, as well as a pastoral presence, and an opportunity for reaching out into the wider community, building relationships.

This position offers an exciting and challenging opportunity for an ordained priest to serve as a key member in the St.Catwg (Crickhowell) Ministry Area, who would enjoy the potential offered by the chance to work as a part of a vibrant team ministry.

The qualities we need are: -

- A heart for the Gospel, and a passion for people, committed to prayer and open to the working of the Holy Spirit
- A willingness to share in the leadership task with the Ministry Area Leader and with experience of working in a team ministry
- Excellent pastoral, people management and communication skills with the ability to work collaboratively with colleagues.
- Skills in discipleship training to encourage spiritual growth and to develop the gifts and skills of lay people.
- An understanding of the role of the church in rural areas of Wales and an ability to engage with their communities and other church denominations to enable the wider mission of the church.
- Experience in shaping and leading worship and preaching in a variety of styles, traditional and contemporary in various locations and by the use of virtual technology and social media.
- Knowledge/understanding of changing patterns of mission and ministry in the church.
- An ability to communicate the gospel effectively with a wide range of age groups and a diverse local community, many of which do not yet belong to any church.

Accommodation

The person recruited to the role will be living in Llangenny Rectory (see photo below), just outside Crickhowell, NP8 1HD.

For further information, please contact Rev'd Rana Khan, Ministry Area Leader 01873 810944
rector@crickhowellparish.org.uk



St. Edmund's, Crickhowell

People coming to Crickhowell for the first time, whether as visitors or new residents, find St Edmund's an open and welcoming community. We embrace a range of different worship styles, with a mixture of traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs, and there is a strong commitment to the Word of God and to prayer.

There is a strong and supportive fellowship with prayer ministry a regular feature after our morning services. After-service refreshments are well-attended; we love food-related events and enjoy some spectacular 'bring and share' suppers.

There has always been a strong tradition of lay participation and leadership at St Edmund's. New members are given time to find their feet but there is ample scope for them to become involved. Spiritual gifts are recognized and encouraged which is evidenced by the number of people who have gone on into ordained, licensed and other ministries.

There are a number of initiatives to share the Gospel with younger children and their parents: Messy Church; Open the Book in the primary school; Messy Monday – a parent & toddler group; services four times a year for the under 5s; and a hugely popular Crib Service.

We also have two youth groups, for the 10-14 and 14-18 age ranges. These were originally centred on bellringing but have since expanded to encompass a range of activities including a Youth Alpha for the older group.



St. Michael's and All Saint's, Cwmdru

Cwmdru is a friendly and supportive village (population 200 approx.) with a strong community spirit. It has a private water supply managed by the Cwmdru Water Undertaking Committee, using volunteers to replace pipes etc., community allotments, an Annual Eisteddfod (established in 1916), Annual Village Show, and a community owned pub, The Farmers Arms.

Regular fund-raising activities organised by the church such as the Annual Curry Quiz that raises money for Hospice Africa in Uganda, are always well supported by the village.

The Friends of Cwmdru Music charity was established in 2014, to take advantage of its excellent acoustic and present outstanding music, to encourage young professional players and support the Church fabric fund; four concerts are normally held each year.

Weekly Sunday services are traditional, using the Green Prayer Book and Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New; these services are either priest or lay led with members of the congregation reading the lessons. A combined service for the three churches in the benefice of Crickhowell is held on

Rogation Sunday at St Michael's each year with short acts of worship taking place in the churchyard, fields, and the village; the churchwardens and PCC members of the respective churches affirm their duties of office at this service.

The opportunity to co-operate with other parishes in the Ministry Area and share worship with them has been particularly appreciated during the Covid pandemic.



St John's, Tretower

The parish of Tretower is at the junction of two valleys in the Black Mountains in the Brecon Beacons National Park with beautiful views all round.

A small village surrounded by farmland in between Crickhowell and Cwmdru, it has a population of around 100 with 36 on St John's electoral role. Many of the residents come from Tretower and many have moved here. There are also some holiday homes.

In the village are Tretower Court and Castle, 13th and 11th century respectively. These beautiful buildings attract many tourists to the village which is a great bonus, and the ancient barn is being converted to include a café.

There is an excellent village hall with an active committee which puts on a Christmas party and other events. The PCC use it for church events such as Quiz nights, beetle drives etc. During the summer the church puts on teas. The monthly coffee and chat is very popular. Songs of Praise is an annual event sometimes held in the Court gardens. In the past we have put on Flower Festivals and there was a kneeler group which met regularly, and we now have over 50 kneelers.

Many films are made in Tretower which is good for the village as they use the hall, sometimes offering kind donations to the Church.

Worship is traditional, with Communion and Evensong held once each a month. Our Harvest Festival brings more people, and we share a carol service with Cwmdru.



St. Catwg's, Llangattock

Worship at St. Catwg's is conducted along traditional Anglican liturgy which is augmented according to the needs of the outreach services we hold from time to time. We have a robed choir of children and adults, and a trained lay worship leader. We have an active Sunday School.

A retired priest and members of the congregation present Open the Book weekly at the village C in W primary school, who hold termly and "special occasion" services in the church. The organist and choirmaster visits regularly to assist with their music.

We are working towards the Bronze Eco Church award, and on conservation projects in the churchyard. We raise funds to support three different nominated charities each year, and TearFund at Harvest.

We hold regular outreach activities such as a Harvest Supper, Easter Lilies (purchased by members of the community in memory of loved ones), Flower Festivals, Christingle and Crib Services, as well as being a venue for the annual Music Festival, and concerts by the Unicorn Singers, all of which are well-supported.

Our priorities are, to re-establish the links with the school community, encouraging members to come to Sunday school and to join the choir, and Community Outreach with other local organisations such as the Community Council and Village Association on projects such as Eco Church.



St. Mary & St. Cynidr, Llangynidr

Visitors to the small Parish Church in Llangynidr always remark upon how peaceful and welcoming it feels. We keep it unlocked during the day as a place for rest and spiritual refreshment.

Llangynidr itself is constantly growing and the housing stock ranges from stone cottages to new, social-housing terraces. The canal and river draw visitors, not to mention the excellent opportunities for walking. The village Primary School is close to the church in 'upper' village, as is the Red Lion pub. The Village Hall, playing fields and car park lead on down to 'lower' village where is found the garage, canal, shop and river.

The church congregation of 15-20 per Sunday is an ageing one but happy and friendly, with a core of hard-working people. We hold Coffee Mornings, concerts and take a stall at the village Agricultural Show annually. An ecumenical group takes 'Open the Book' into the school and over the years we have established a pattern of united services with the URC and Baptist chapels, which we value.

It has to be said we struggle financially, but have a good group of Friends of the Church who support the maintenance of the building. Volunteers keep the graveyard under some control, augmented by an expert cut when funds allow.

The formation of the Ministry Area has brought a very welcome sharing of our collective resources and a rewarding widening of our circle of friends in Christ. Our greatest wish now would be help towards a strengthening of our congregation with some younger members. We also have a more basic urgent need — the repair of the west gable end of the church, which leaks dreadfully when the rain is driven towards it. We are making strides with the business side, but the finances are going to be an enormous struggle.



St. Peter's, Llanbedr

St Peter's is the largest of the churches in the Vale of Grwyney, and serves not only the village but also the farming and rural community of the valley up the Grwyne Fechan. The village has a village hall, usually busy with community events, and a small pub. Bellringing is active and Llanbedr's bells have marked national events including clapping for the NHS last year. Llanbedr has a strong tradition of lay-led worship, which has spilled out across the Ministry Area, and has continued worship through the pandemic.

The congregation has developed a strong relationship with the church primary school in the village, taking in Open the Book before the lock-down, and pleased to see the school in the church either quietly doing the flowers, or more noisily for their wonderful regular seasonal services such as

Nativity which fill the church. A Llanbedr-based charity supports the cost of regular work in the school by a puppeteer, who brings the message of the gospels to life for the children through an after-school puppet club and Messy Church.

Contact with the school has been maintained during the pandemic by assemblies on Teams, zoom puppetry workshops, and short zoom prayer meetings with parents, staff and governors. These last have been particularly needed since Christmas as the school is facing the challenge of a proposal from Powys County Council to close it down next year, which is being vigorously opposed. Currently this is the primary concern of the community, together with, as everywhere, falling congregations and financial pressures.



St. Cenau's, Llangenny

St Cenau's serves the lower part of the Vale of Grwyne Parish and includes the villages of Llangenny and Glangrwyney. This community, of approx 400, has its largest concentration in the Glangrwyney housing developments of Dan-y Gollen and Martell Way. Llangenny has an exceptionally well maintained and equipped village hall, which is owned by the church and regularly used for both church and community activities.

The church is proactive in encouraging community engagement, with such activities as Messy Church, harvest lunch, concerts and the Christmas Eve Nativity being well attended.

Average attendance is about 15 people, with larger numbers at festivals. Although worship is traditional, there is a willingness to try new approaches, particularly when this can be seen to reach out to the wider community.

The current church membership is committed and enthusiastic about re-engaging with our community, as we emerge from the pandemic, and will be actively seeking to grow our congregation.

We will continue to identify innovate ways to connect with the local community, especially the newer estates in Glangrwyney. We aim to build on our successes in breaking down barriers and finding inclusive ways to bring people to the Gospel message.



St. Issui's, Patricio

The disparate rural parish of Patricio, with its remote listed Grade 1 'tourist-popular' church tucked on the side of a mountain, has weathered much change over the centuries. Its 11th Century preaching pole in the churchyard, an extraordinarily intricate oak-carved rood screen inside the simple church, draw walkers and visitors from near and afar. For those living and working within a heavily designated National Park, life isn't always easy on the end of thin copper phonelines, narrow lanes, farming practices in transition, and fashionable 'dark skies'. Local farmers with sheep trailers pass visitors in smart cars afraid of overhanging branches, mountains bikers whizz down trails, as ramblers battle barbed wire fences. The church has an important role in these remote rural communities. As solace, a place to worship, stop and sit, support others, as its small congregation - resilient and resourceful – come together once or twice a month for an 'old school' service one hour max at 11.15am. Church formality comes secondary, when keeping Patricio church alive as a place of pastoral care and worship is primary. Dogs and children are welcome in muddy boots with church wardens stepping, literally walking, in to take Morning Prayer at last minute or if snowfall blocks the steep lanes. A place both close and far from the madding crowd.



St. Elli's, Gilwern

A mile or so out of the village of Gilwern, up Church Road, is the Church of St. Elli, high at the top of the hill, overlooking the valley.

The church was founded in the early medieval period, by a wandering preacher called Elli, who later became abbot at Llancarfan. He was a kind of adopted son of the famous St. Catwg (St. Cadoc).

We have a lovely 'Church family'. We have a coffee drop-in with homemade cake in every Saturday morning, a weekly tots group, an occasional Sunday school and weekly assemblies with local primary school. There is an annual lily festival held in July, and a community act of remembrance in

November. The Church is open on weekends from 10am – 4pm from May to September for any passers by who wish to visit.



St. Mary the Virgin, Brynmawr

The Parish of Brynmawr lies at the highest point of The Heads of the Valley. It is the gateway to the valleys of Merthyr, Abertillery, Blaenavon the old industrial regions. You can also access Crickhowell and Brecon by crossing Llangynidr Moors.

The town itself has a Comprehensive School and three Primary Schools. The Primary schools being St. Mary's (C in W) school, St. Mary's (R C) school and Blaen-y Cwm Primary School.

Brynmawr has a population of approx. 5,000, and is served by a new Wellbeing Clinic, 2 Dental Practices, bus station and small shops. There are a number of small factories. A five-minute walk takes you to Asda supermarket and other stores and there are other new stores being built.

The church of St. Mary the Virgin was built in 1895. The Church has served the Parish well over the years with many Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. It has a Parish Churchyard behind the Church which has been closed to new burials for a number of years, burials still take place if there is room in the family grave.

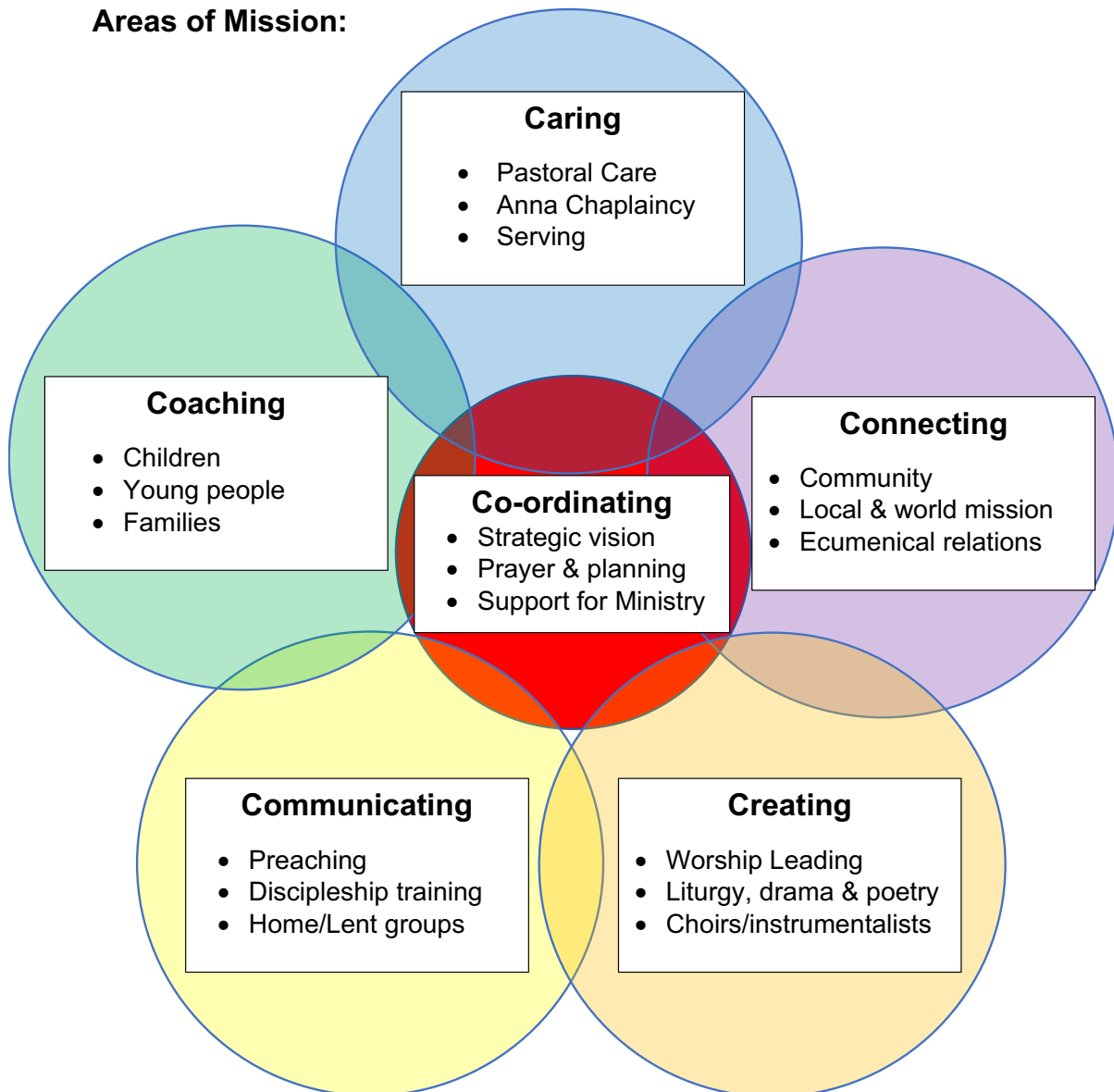
The Church has strong ties with the Church School, the pupils attend services at Easter, and Christmas, and the school also holds a yearly Confirmation and other services. There is a great potential for further involvement between Church and school.

The Parish is looking forward to working with an inspirational new priest.



St Catwg (Crickhowell) Ministry Area Diagram

Areas of Mission:



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 attached 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 are 75 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 Diocesan Vision

At the Diocesan Conference in 2012, a new vision initiative was formally adopted as the basis for the next five years of Diocesan life. Along with the recent Harries Review of the Province, this envisages 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 means that at the moment we are living in an interim period in terms of structures. The new priest, living in the Vale of Grwney will exercise a role across the whole of the St. Catwg Ministry Area which is served by a team of lay and ordained. Other stipendiary colleagues live at Crickhowell and Gillwern.

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

or

*The Area Dean and Ministry Area Leader,
Rev'd Rana Khan,
Telephone: 01873 810944, email: rector@crickhowellparish.org.uk*