



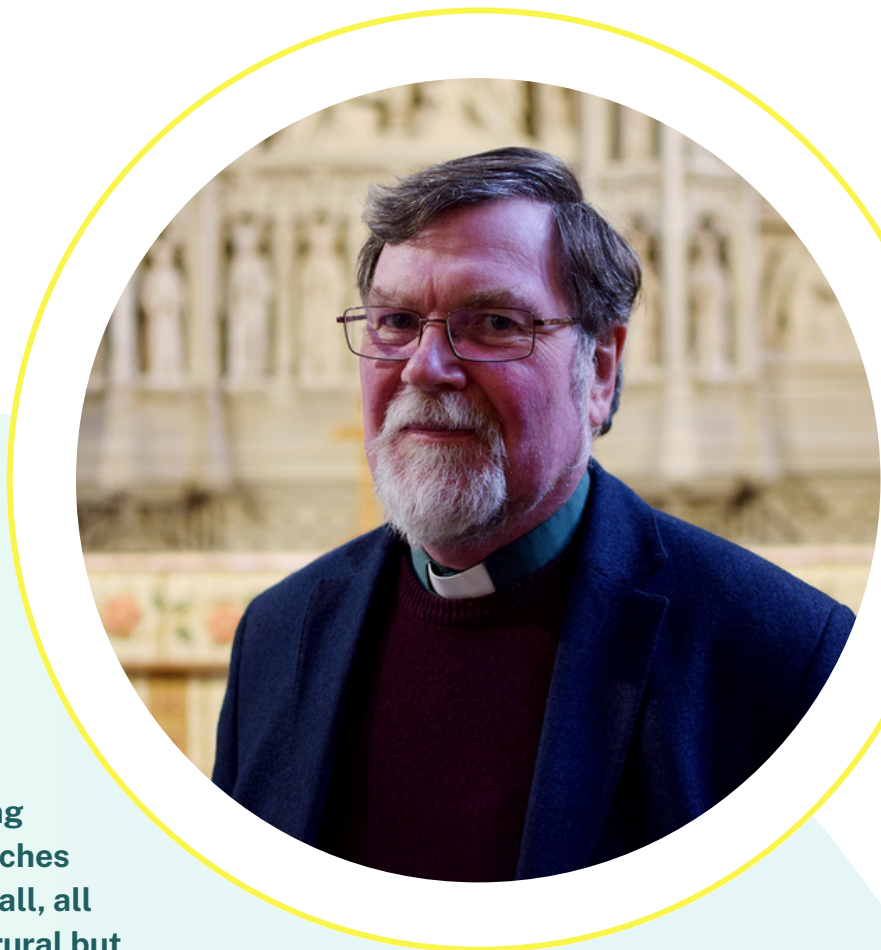
VICAR IN THE ST. CATWG MINISTRY AREA

***WITH PARTICULAR
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
CHURCHES OF THE VALE OF
GRWYNE***



**Profile
Summer 2023**

WELCOME FROM ARCHDEACON ALAN



Croeso! Welcome!

The St. Catwg Ministry Area is an exciting place to work with a great variety of churches and congregations, some large, some small, all set within communities that are largely rural but also containing areas that are post industrial.

We are looking for someone who will be a colleague to the existing team of lay and ordained ministers. The successful applicant needs to be warm, approachable, and relate well to others. We are looking for someone who is keen to promote the gifts of others, who is an enabler rather than someone who tries to do it all themselves, someone who does not have all the answers but whose day by day following of Jesus leads them to be curious and always willing to learn new things. We are looking for someone who is keen to grow and challenge congregations in their own exploration of the good news of the Gospel.

I hope you enjoy reading this Profile and if you would like an informal conversation about this post please contact me at archdeacon.brecon@churchinwales.org.uk.

Best wishes / Dymuniadau gorau

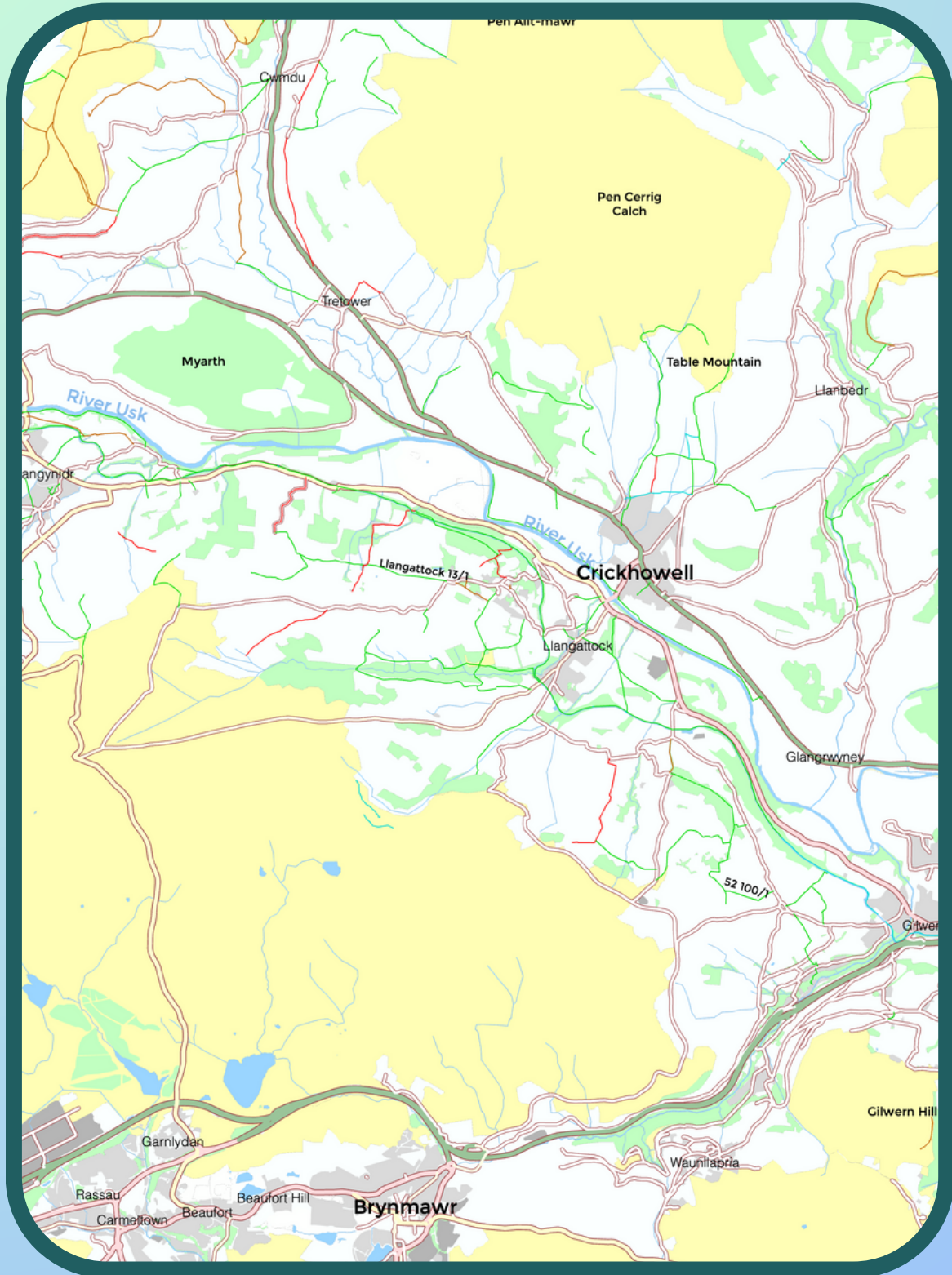
Alan Jevons
Archdeacon of Brecon



Esgobaeth Abertawe ac Aberhonddu
The Diocese of Swansea and Brecon

Cyd-gyfarfod, cyd-dyfu, cyd-genhadu / Gathering, growing, going

THE ST. CATWG MINISTRY AREA



The Ministry Team

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. Our Ministry Team includes both lay and ordained members. Please see <https://catwg.org.uk/team/> for more details



LIVING IN OUR AREA

This is an especially beautiful part of the Brecon Beacons National Park to live in between the Black Mountains to the north and north-east, and the industrial valleys of South Wales to the south. The towns and villages that form the parish centres lie either in the valley of the river Usk, apart from Brynmawr which is set in a more industrial landscape and with a larger population.

Apart from local employment, predominantly in farming and small businesses, the area is within just over an hour's commuting time of Cardiff, Swansea and Bristol. Because of its scenic attraction, many people choose to retire to the area, but high house prices make it difficult for young families to afford property. The area has become very popular for outdoor activities, among them: walking, fishing, cycling, riding, boating (on the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal) and caving. There is a well-developed tourist infrastructure of hotels, B&B's, bunkhouses, pubs and restaurants. The area is well-connected for transport. The area's principal hospital, Nevill Hall, is situated in Abergavenny as is the nearest supermarket – the next nearest is in Ebbw Vale. There is a good bus service linking Crickhowell to Abergavenny and Brecon which at various times of the day visits Llangattock and Llangynidr also.

Most of the villages within our parishes, apart from Brynmawr, look to the small town of Crickhowell for medical and dental facilities as well as for secondary education and local shopping. For a relatively small population we punch well above our weight in cultural and social terms - including the Crickhowell Choral Society, a chamber choir, the Unicorn Singers. Crickhowell Open Studios, the Green Man Festival, the Crickhowell Walking Festival, amongst others. In addition to these highpoints there is an active set of clubs and societies meeting throughout the year. The Crickhowell Resource and Information Centre, located in a purpose-built building on the main road provides tourist information and information about our numerous activities, organizes various courses and provides copying and internet facilities, meeting rooms and offices for the Volunteer Bureau and an Archive Centre.



THE ST. CATWG MINISTRY AREA CHURCHES

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.

St. Edmund's, Crickhowell

St Edmund's is 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. We enjoy a strong and supportive fellowship. Morning services are often followed by prayer ministry and always by refreshments. We love food-related events and enjoy some spectacular 'bring and share' suppers.

There is a strong tradition of lay participation and leadership at St Edmund's with ample scope for new members 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.

We have a Messy Church and two youth groups, and have strong links with the local high school. Our youth groups were originally centred on bell-ringing but have since expanded to encompass a range of activities including a Youth Alpha.

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

Cwmdu is a friendly and supportive village of around 200 people, with a strong community spirit, including community allotments, an annual Eisteddfod, village show and a community-owned pub.

The church's regular fundraising activities, such as the annual Curry Quiz for Hospice Africa, are always well-supported.

The Friends of Cwmdu Music charity was established in 2014, to take advantage of the church's excellent acoustic, to present outstanding music, encourage young professional players and support the Church fabric fund. We normally have four concerts each year.

Weekly Sunday services are traditional, using the Green Prayer Book and Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New. We host a combined service for Cwmdu, Crickhowell and Tretower on Rogation Sunday each year with short acts of worship taking place in the churchyard, fields, and the village.





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. Tretower Court and Castle attract many visitors to the area, and sometimes TV and film companies, which is a great bonus. There is an excellent village hall with an active committee which puts on a Christmas party and other events. The Church Council use it for church events such as quiz nights, beetle drives etc. Other events include summer teas, a monthly coffee and chat, an annual 'Songs of Praise' in the Court gardens. Thanks to a previous kneeler group, we now have over 50 kneelers. 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

St Catwg's has a strong tradition of music. We have a robed choir of children and adults and hold a regular Choral Evensong for the whole Ministry Area. We have two trained lay worship leaders, an active Sunday School, and the primary school holds termly and "special occasion" services in the church. Our choirmaster visits the school regularly to assist with their music. 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 build up 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. Visitors come for the canal and river and the excellent opportunities for walking. 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 annual village Agricultural Show. 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. Finances can be a struggle, but we have a good group of Friends of the Church who support the maintenance of the building. 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.

St. Peter's, Llanbedr

St Peter's is the largest of the churches in the Vale of Grwyney, and serves both the village and 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. Bell-ringing is active and Llanbedr's bells have marked national events including clapping for the NHS during the pandemic. The church has a strong tradition of lay-led worship, which has spilled out across the Ministry Area and served to continue worship during the covid lockdowns. The church had strong links with the village primary school until its recent closure. A primary concern now is how to maintain those links, 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, a total of approximately 400 people. 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. Average attendance is about 15 people, with larger numbers at festivals. Worship is traditional, but 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 engaging with our community, and is actively seeking to grow the congregation. We will continue to identify innovative ways to connect with the local community, especially the newer estates in Glangrwyney, where much of the population is concentrated. 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 and an extraordinarily intricate oak-carved rood screen inside the 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 phone lines, narrow lanes, farming practices in transition, and fashionable 'dark skies'. The church has an important role in these remote rural communities, as a solace, a place to worship, to stop and sit and to support others. Its small congregation - resilient and resourceful - come together twice a month for an 'old school' eucharist service. Our primary aim is to keep Patricio church alive as a place of pastoral care and worship. Dogs and children are welcome in muddy boots, and church wardens stepping in to take Morning Prayer if snowfall blocks the steep lanes. A place both close and far from the madding crowd.

St. Elli's, Gilwern

Perched high on a hill just outside Gilwern is the Church of St. Elli. 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'. The parish centre in the village is open for coffee and cake every Saturday morning. We have a regular Sunday School in Gilwern and Llangattock, and a youth group on alternate Sundays in Gilwern. There's a regular Thursday toddler group in term time. We also visit the local primary schools for assemblies and prayer spaces. We have informal Bible studies for adults, and most recently have been running studies based on 'The Chosen' series. 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.

Brynmawr has a population of approx. 5,000, and is served by a Wellbeing Clinic, 2 Dental Practices, a Comprehensive school, three primary schools, a bus station and small shops. A five-minute walk takes you to Asda supermarket and other stores.

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.

The church has strong ties with St Mary's Church Primary 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.

There is a strong Remembrance Day tradition in all churches, especially Brynmawr and Crickhowell, with clergy taking civic roles involving hundreds of people.





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.

Areas of Mission



Caring

Pastoral Care
Anna Chaplaincy
Serving

Coaching

Children
Young People
Families

Connecting

Community
Local and World Vision
Ecumenical Relations

Co-ordinating

Strategic Vision
Prayer and Planning
Support for Ministry

Communicating

Preaching
Discipleship Training
Home / Lent Groups

Creating

Worship Leading
Liturgy, Drama, Poetry
Instrumentalists
and Choirs

OUR NEW VICAR

WHAT PEOPLE ARE PRAYING FOR

- A heart for the Gospel, and a passion for people, committed to prayer and open to the working of the Holy Spirit.
- Someone who is keen to seek and develop growth within our church congregations.
- 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.

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.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"St Elli's is a lovely community. The church is very friendly and welcoming and there's lots going on. We'd really love to see more people joining us."

"Llangattock is an active church with a large choir including some children, We sing services every week, including Choral evensong a few times per year. We are an Ecochurch with a bronze award. We also have a tower of 8 bells which are rung regularly. We have good lay involvement, including two worship leaders"

"I feel so happy to be part of the family at St Edmund's"

"My wife and I came as visitors this morning. The welcome we received was amazing and we shared lively chat and fellowship with the rest of the congregation over coffee after the service. We'll be back"

"The welcome I received at St Edmund's was amazing and I feel like I have come home"

"I have been coming to St Edmund's for a long time. I wouldn't go anywhere else, I feel so loved"

"Since our church became a part of the St. Catwg Ministry Area family we have been both enriched and challenged. We have also learnt that we have so much more in common than that which divides us"

I have been embraced by the people of St Edmund's as a newcomer, and I have had so much support regarding my sight problem that I can take an active part in services and other activities"

The Rectory

The rectory is located at the centre of the picturesque village of Llangenny, which consists of about 30 houses. In addition to the medieval church, the community has a pub, playground, church hall and an outdoor education centre.

The current rectory was built in the 1970s and is now undergoing a major renovation, which aims to modernise it throughout, while making it a much more sustainable property. On the ground floor it has a kitchen/dining room, sitting room, study and shower room. On the first floor are four bedrooms and a bathroom. At the back of the property is a private and manageable garden and paved terrace with views of the wooded hills of the Grwyney valley.



Ministry Area Magazine

The magazine's first issue was in February 2014. We have found it to be a very useful resource to circulate news around the churches. It has been quoted that the Magazine is worth it just for the jokes within its pages. But there is a serious side whereby important news as to what is happening in each church, especially during festival times, is circulated. The magazine is also an important community outreach with advertising space offered to local businesses.

TelUsk

Led by lay evangelist, Julian Steadman, TellUsk is a small but growing group, committed to reaching out to our communities and growing the kingdom of God in our Ministry Area. We have regular meetings for prayer, worship and study. We are centred in Crickhowell and Gilwern but we'd love to support all the churches in the MA with their outreach efforts.



GET IN TOUCH

For more information or an informal chat, please contact:
The Venerable Alan Jevons, Archdeacon of Brecon

Email: archdeacon.brecon@churchinwales.org.uk

or The Revd. Rana Khan, Ministry Area Leader

Email: rector@crickhowellparish.org.uk

ST CATWG ONLINE



St Edmund's Church, Crickhowell



<https://catwg.org.uk>