



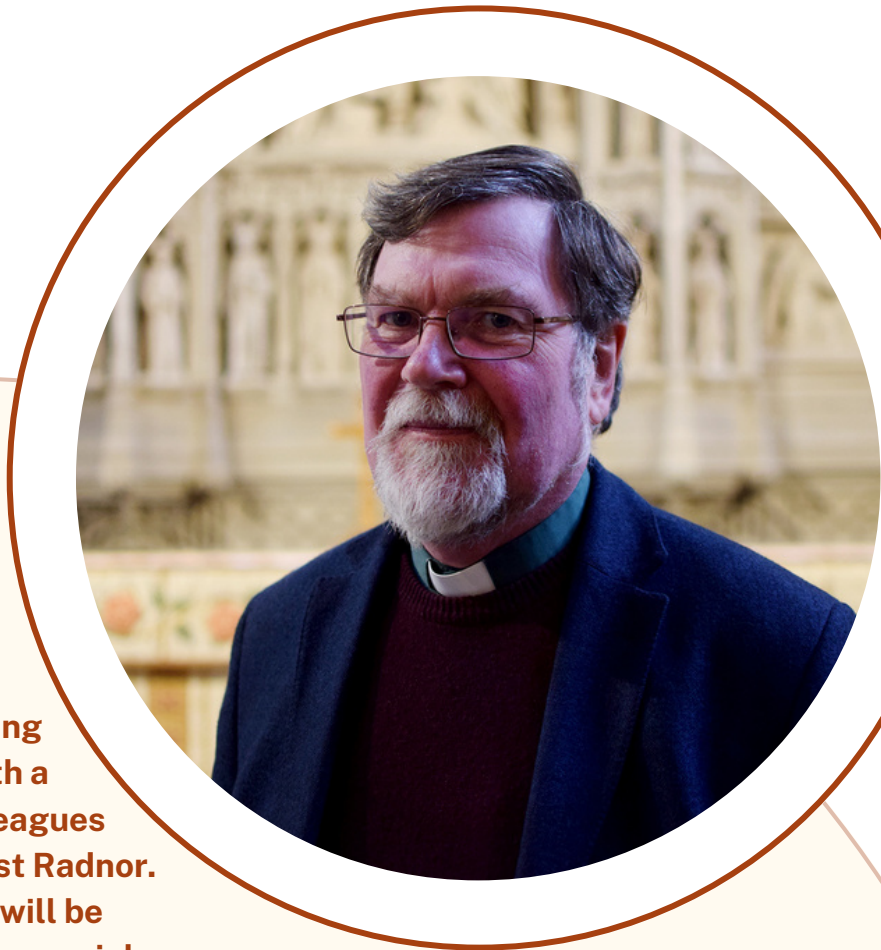
VICAR IN THE WEST RADNOR MINISTRY AREA

***WITH PARTICULAR
RESPONSIBILITY FOR
CHURCHES IN AND AROUND
RHAYADER***



**Profile
Summer 2023**

FOREWORD FROM ARCHDEACON ALAN



Thank you for taking the time to read this profile. I am delighted you are exploring the opportunity to minister in Mid-Wales. This post offers an exciting opportunity to work collaboratively with a Ministry Team of lay and ordained colleagues serving in the new Ministry Area of West Radnor. We are seeking to appoint a cleric who will be based in the town of Rhayader and have special

responsibility for the seven churches; St Clement's, Rhayader, St Bride's in the village of Cwmdauddwr, Nantgwyllt Chapel of Ease in the Elan Valley, St Garmon's in the village of St Harmon, St Cynllo's in the village Nantmel and St Mark's in the village of Nant-Glas.

The information included in this profile is very much a prayerful and honest reflection of the needs and desires of a worshipping community who have discerned together, who might come and lead them in their next chapter together. It also offers a significant opportunity for the right candidate to join the wider Ministry Team as they seek to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in our area.

I hope you enjoy reading this Profile.

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

This is a detailed topographic map of the Llanfyllter and Llanfihangel Bryn Pabuan area in Wales. The map shows the River Wye flowing through the region, with several bridges crossing it. Key roads include the A470, A44, A4081, B4358, and B4518. Towns and villages shown are Rhayader, Nantmel, Llanwrthwl, Llanfyllter, Llanfihangel Bryn Pabuan, Newbridge on Wye, Dissert, Howey, and Landrindoc. The map also depicts various geographical features like hills, forests, and smaller settlements like Llanfawr and Llanfyllter.

The Ministry Team

This position offers an exciting and challenging opportunity for an ordained priest to serve as a key member in the West Radnor 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.



LIVING IN OUR AREA

The Rhayader cluster of 7 churches and a church site, are in the west of the Ministry Area and centred around the historic and bustling Market Town of Rhayader (Welsh, Rhaeadr Gwy), meaning “waterfall on the Wye”, in Powys. Nestled in beautiful mid Wales countryside, it is a vital centre for the local farming community, has a thriving tourism industry, and is a perfect base for exploring the surrounding area.

The area is a centre for active outdoor pursuits, such as walking, biking, horse-riding and fishing. The spectacular Elan Valley reservoir complex, attracts many thousands of visitors each year. If you prefer, it also offers peace, tranquillity, and relaxation to those in need of a more reflective lifestyle. The Guardian Newspaper is quoted as describing it as “Spectacularly beautiful and incredibly overlooked, the valley is an oasis.”

Lying in the heart of Wales, the town is intersected by major routes to England in the East, the West Wales coast, and to North and South Wales



Broadband 80mbps



Llandrindod Wells 10miles, Caersws 20mile



The town has a variety of shops, also a large Tesco & Lidl in Llandrindod Wells



A good selection of cafés, pubs, and restaurants



A Leisure Centre





THE COMMUNITY

The area has a tangible sense of close community, but this is most evident in the welcome and support that is afforded to those who visit or come to live in the area, (perhaps why so many never leave)! Many have visited the area in the past and have chosen to retire to the area. Although there are deep family connections in Rhayader and its surrounding villages, newcomers are accepted and often asked to be involved in all manner of community groups with various choirs, sports teams, and clubs.

SCHOOLS

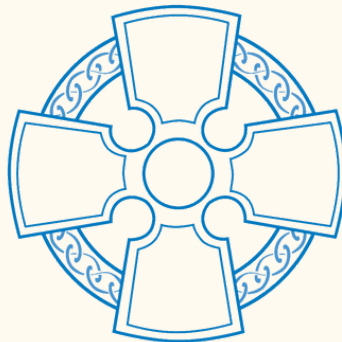
There is a Church in Wales Primary School in Rhayader, with which the St Clement's Church is proud to be associated with, offering primary education in the mediums of Welsh and English. There are several High Schools within short travelling distances, principally in Llanidloes and Llandrindod Wells. The Vicar is an active member of the School Governors. There are sixth form colleges in Brecon, Hereford and Newtown. English is the predominant language in the area, although use of the Welsh language is increasing.

CHURCH BUILDINGS

In general, our Churches are maintained in good order, although two of them are in the process of tower repair projects. The grouping has active parishioners in each Church to help to maintain them and their Churchyards. Each Church has its own Congregational Council group that manages the day-to-day matters, they are well organised and efficient. There are regular fundraisers each year for each Church and, in the summer months in particular, the weekends are filled with community activities of one sort or another.

WHAT WE OFFER

- *The buildings are generally firm (with some challenges we are addressing), as are the finances.*
- *We are welcoming and inclusive.*
- *We have a firmly established and very organised team of Lay Worship Leaders and a very active PTO priest living in the town. This means that facility exists to plan time off and holidays.*
- *We are part of the newly formed Ministry Area with a collegiate and supportive team of fellow clergy, and administrator who allows the administrative burden to be delegated.*
- *Spectacular countryside in which to worship, live and work.*



WE ARE LOOKING TO GROW

- *We are looking to appoint someone who can focus on growth, both as part of the Ministry Area as well as growing the cluster of churches centred around Rhayader.*
- *We have great ideas for developing St Clements into a multi-purpose building that puts the church into the heart of the community. The project is reasonably advanced with a grants advisor commissioned to make bids for funding.*
- *We've had a successful Messy Church for a few years which has remerged from the pandemic as strong as ever and is well supported by the community. Messy Church has benefited from several grants. We'd like to increase its frequency and see people come to faith through it.*



OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- *Like many parishes and groups of churches, the pandemic has left us weaker than before. However, with challenges lie opportunities to re-imagine and re-organise corporate Anglican worship in the area. What that looks like we do not always see clearly but it must include attracting new worshippers from every demographic, from children to youth, from young adults to family groups. Older people are important too and so our new priest will need to be skilled in connecting with all types of people. On fifth Sundays we are holding well supported Ministry Area joint services that are helping to build a sense of identity in our newly inaugurated Ministry Area. Within Rhayader and its surrounding villages, there is a tremendous amount of goodwill towards the churches with many of the local families having deep ties to them through parents, grandparents and beyond.*
- *The vision also must include the wider Ministry Area which totals 25 churches in 4 clusters. The new priest will help facilitate direction and vision for the whole Ministry Area, helping build teamwork both with fellow clergy, readers, and lay worship leaders.*
- *We want to do more in Rhayader town. Many of the social problems lie beneath the surface, which a local community charity provides tremendous help with.*
- *We want to make the church more relevant to the farming community - more than just weddings and baptisms. There is an active livestock market in the centre of the town which could offer avenues of pastoral care and chaplaincy.*
- *We want to bring the youth and younger members of the community into the Church, we are experimenting with an occasional service of contemporary worship at present.*





THE CHURCHES AROUND RHAYADER

ST CLEMENT'S, RHAYADER

St Clement's Church lies centrally in the town and acts as the Civic Church for remembrance and for events of national significance (Platinum Jubilee, the passing of H.M. The Queen and the King's Coronation). The church also has a link with the Church in Wales primary school which is a great privilege. The church has the largest congregation in the group. On the third Sunday, the congregation supports St Bride's at their church and host a joint service on the first Sunday.

St Clement's does not have a church hall. However, one once stood where the town's Leisure Centre is and the church remains the freeholder of the land managed by the Diocesan Trust. St Clement's is able to use facilities in the Leisure Centre for free around 30 times a year due because of the benefits retained in the lease to the Powys County Council.

The church is actively progressing a re-ordering project at present with remedial tower repairs being enthusiastically fundraised for. A grants advisor has been commissioned so that the church can source grants from the bodies that support the aim to make St Clement's a multi-functional, community space that can welcome the community events.





ST GARMON'S, ST HARMON

The most north-westerly church in the diocese, St Garmon's Church is set in the beautiful village of St Harmon and is well kept with a small, but faithful and committed congregation. The famous diarist Francis Kilvert served as a clergyman here in the 19th Century. Together with the neighbouring village of Pant-y-dwr, the community supports the church in festivals such as Advent with Christingle and Harvest festival. The church is well financed due to sound investments of past legacies.

ST CYNLLO'S, NANTMEL

St Cynllo's sits in a high point in the village of Nantmel just off the A44 on the road to Leominster and Hereford. The church building is in the process of a tower repair project but was blessed with a legacy which will help greatly with the cost. Again, the congregation is small but does, like all of the churches, has a wealth of goodwill from the community. A recent Songs of Praise service saw around 100 people coming to sing favourite hymns and enjoy the incredible acoustics inside the building.

ST MARK'S, NANT-GLAS

St Mark's was originally an offshoot of its original parish church, St Cynllo's in Nantmel. It was opened in the late 19th century as a school and mission. The church itself is unusual inside due to its red brick interior. The congregation is again small but committed and faithful. The most traditional church in the group, using the 1984 Book of Common Prayer for their monthly Eucharist. The church is reaching out to its community with a monthly coffee afternoon with over a dozen neighbours regularly coming.

ST GWRTHWL'S CHURCH, LLANWRTHWL

St Gwrthwl's church is now extremely small. The church does however, have excellent relations with the local URC Chapel, Penueil. They have had joint services for around 10 years, and they have expressed a wish to move towards a Uniting Congregation with the aim of worshipping in the chapel. What this may mean for the church building is unknown at this point as things are at the earliest of stages at present. However, for those who enjoy working ecumenically, this may be a very interesting project to preserve a Christian church in the village.

NANTGWYLLT CHAPEL OF EASE, ELAN VALLEY

Nantgwyllt Chapel of Ease lies on a slope above the Caban Coch Reservoir. The church was built to replace one flooded in the construction of the reservoirs and remains a reminder of the legacy of reservoirs constructed to provide English cities with water. The church is a spiritually atmospheric place and is usually open throughout the year. Many walkers, take the time to visit and are struck by its simple beauty. Even though regular worshippers remain small, the church has a superb relationship with the Dwr Cymru and the Elan Valley Estate and Visitor Centre. With its incredible location, and with key relationships being in there and with a creative imagination, some future re-imagining of the church appealing to the leisure aspect yet keeping it as a Christian place of worship may be possible.



Statistics for the Gwastedyn Cluster (2022)

Church	Regular Sunday Congregation	Weddings	Baptisms	Funerals	Confirmations
St Clement's	20	1	1	3	0
St Bride's	8	0	2	3	0
St Garmon's	12	1	0	1	0
St Cynllo's	12	2	0	0	2
St Mark's	10	0	1	1	0
St Gwrthwl's *	6	1	0	1	0
Nantgwyllt *	6	1	0	0	0

* Open in 'Summer' only – Easter to Harvest.

Messy Church (frequency 5-6 times per annum) – Average attendance 30 (Highest 45)

Experimental Contemporary Service (once monthly) – Average attendance 15 (Highest 19)

THE VICARAGE

The Vicarage is a 4 bedroom house situated in Rhayader within easy access to the town and amenities. It was built in the 1960s and underwent a major refurbishment a few years ago.



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. Andrew Perrin, Current Ministry Area Leader
Email: AndrewPerrin@cinw.org.uk

or The Revd. Lance Sharpe, Ministry Area Leader Designate
Email: LanceSharpe@cinw.org.uk

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.

WEST RADNOR MINISTRY AREA INTERNET PRESENCE



www.facebook.com/WestRadnorMinistryArea/



www.youtube.com/@westradnorministryarea



Website under development