



VICAR AND MINISTRY AREA LEADER IN THE WEST RADNOR MINISTRY AREA



**Profile
Autumn 2024**

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 just north of Llandrindod and have special

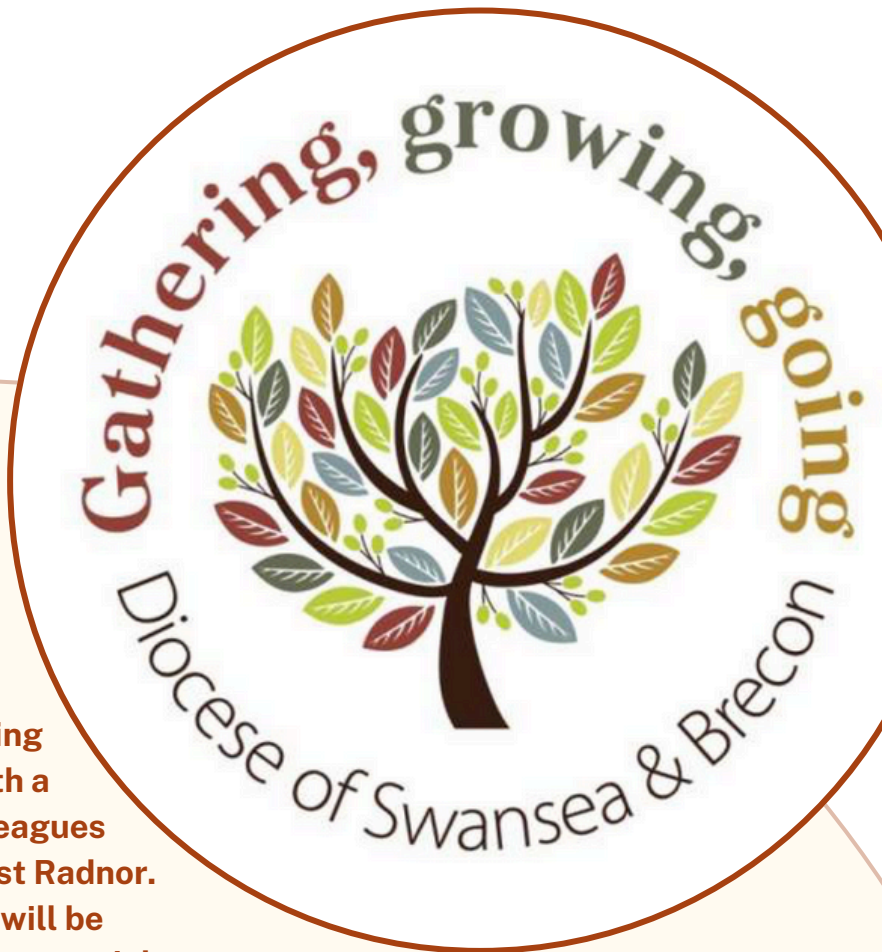
responsibility for the church of St. Llyre, Llanyre, along with the seven churches of the Ithon Valley Cluster; St. Tecla's Llandegley, St. Mary the Virgin Abbeycwmhir, St. Padarn's Crossgates, St. Michael's Llanfihangel Rhydithon, St. David's Llanddewi Ystradenni, St. Cynllo's Llanbister and St. Padarn's Llanbadarn Fynydd.

I hope you enjoy reading this Profile which is very much a prayerful and honest reflection of the needs and desires of a worshipping community who have discerned together, and who are seeking someone 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.

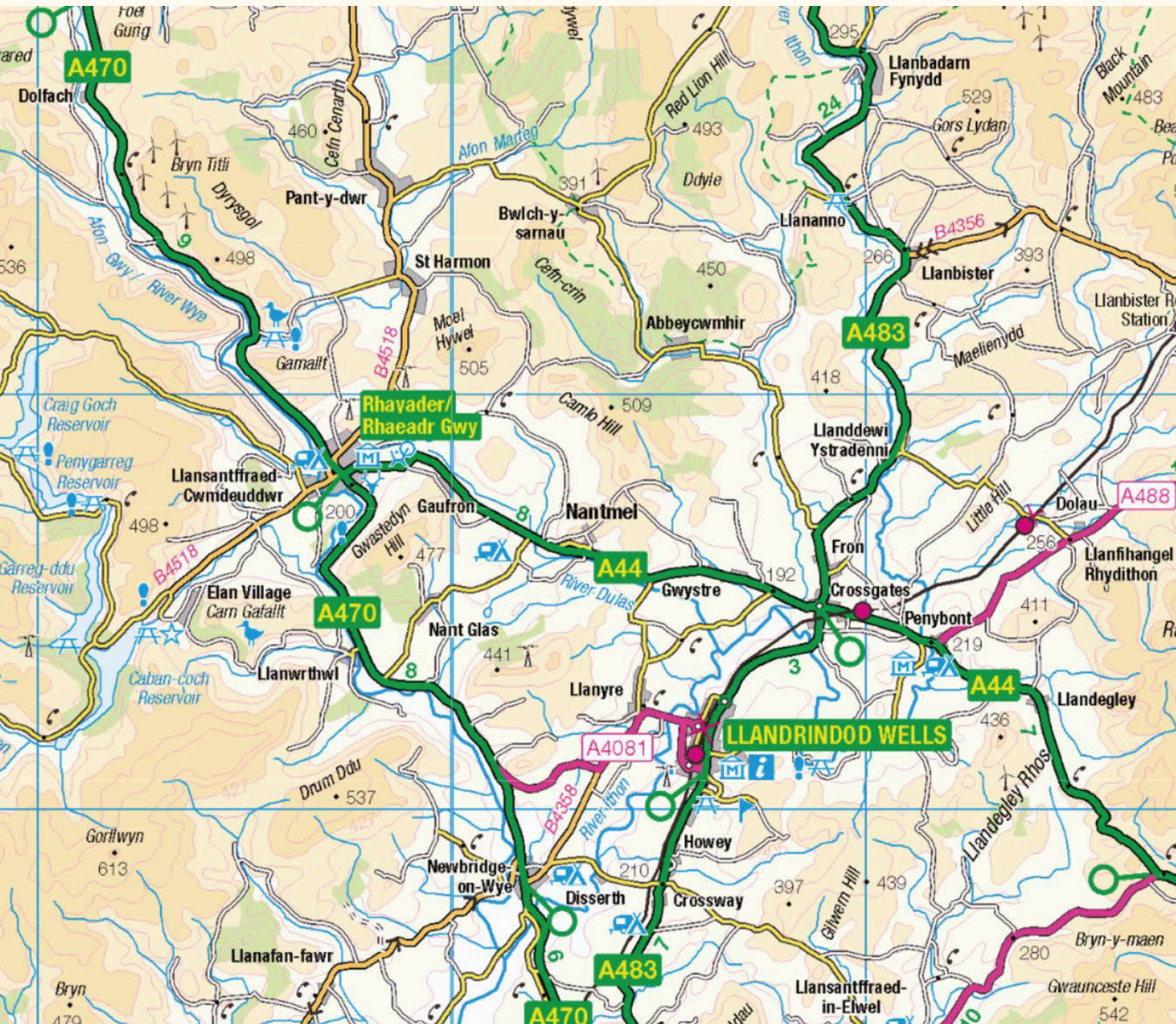
I hope you enjoy reading this profile

Best wishes / Dymuniadau gorau

Alan Jevons, Archdeacon of Brecon



THE WEST RADNOR 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 West Radnor Ministry Area, who would enjoy the potential offered by the chance to work as a part of a team ministry at a time of change. Our Ministry Team includes both lay and ordained members.

LIVING IN OUR AREA

A historic spa town, Llandrindod Wells has all the amenities one would expect of a town of its size, including a railway station on the Heart of Wales line, a leisure centre, a bowling club plus a variety of shops including a large TESCO. The town has a small hospital with a Minor Injuries Unit, a couple of pharmacies and a GP medical centre. There are some restaurants and the usual suite of take-away outlets.

It is noted for its friendliness and sense of community. A Rightmove survey in 2017 reckoned it was the happiest place to live in Wales. It is in close proximity to the gorgeous Elan Valley reservoirs (15 miles). The area is a veritable paradise for walkers and cyclists. Although situated in mid-Wales, Llandrindod Wells is just a 1 ¼ hour drive from the seaside town of Aberystwyth.



Broadband 80mbps



Llandrindod Wells 2 miles



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



A good selection of cafés, pubs, and restaurants



A Leisure Centre





THE WEST RADNOR MINISTRY AREA

The Ministry Area is a recent amalgamation of four parishes in a single Benefice called a Ministry Area (MA). Situated in the western side of the historical county of Radnorshire, but also a sliver of Brecknockshire over the River Wye, it is in the least populated area of England and Wales. It is geographically the largest MA in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon and one of the largest in Wales covering approximately 280 square miles.

The MA Council (MAC) is the legal trustee body for running the MA and replaced the four old PCCs in May 2023. The MA is on the cusp of registering as a CIO Charity. The MA consists of 25 churches and manages 24 churchyards. The churches themselves are grouped into 'clusters' generally based on the old parishes. The clusters are as follows:

The Glan Ithon Cluster (5 churches, centred in and around Llandrindod Wells)

Current cleric with primary responsibility: Revd Pete Letson (Mission Hub Leader) Holy Trinity Church in the centre of Llandrindod Wells, is the largest church in the MA both the congregation and the physical building. Bishop John has designated it one of three 'Mission Hubs' in the Diocese and there is a commitment to appointing a Curate-in-Training here in 2025.

The Gwastedyn Cluster (7 churches, centred around the small market town of Rhayader)

Current cleric with primary responsibility: Revd Robert Simpson

The Upper Wye Cluster (five churches, centred around the large village of Newbridge-on-Wye)

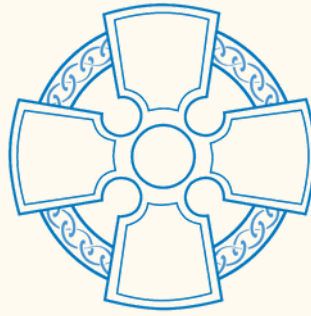
Current clerics with primary responsibility are the two non stipendiary clergy in the team - the Revd Meinir Ronicle and the Revd. Carol Jones.

The Ithon Valley Cluster, 7 churches, serving several villages north and east of Llandrindod. Two of these are summer churches with one becoming a festival church. At this stage it is envisaged that the Ministry Area Leader will, along as developing strategy and vision for the Ministry Area as a whole, primarily focus on the Ithon Valley cluster, as well as the Church at Llanyre.

Additionally, we have two NSM Priests in the MA and several active PTO clergy and Lay Worship Leaders and one Licensed Reader.

Financially things are tight, but the vast majority of churches have always paid their ministry share. The whole MA has financial assets of over £1M .

WE ARE PRAYING FOR GROWTH



We are looking to appoint someone who can focus on growth. Like many 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 cluster.

The vision also must include the wider Ministry Area. We are looking to appoint someone who 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 make the church more relevant to the farming community - through a ministry of presence and pastoral care.







SAINT LLYR, LLANYRE

St Llyr's church lies to the south of the village of Llanyre (Welsh: Llanyr-yn-Rhos) and is a well ordered and kept medium sized rural parish church within an ample churchyard which is open for burials. Llanyre is very close to the town of Llandrindod Wells the boundaries of which are less than a mile from the church itself over the River Ithon.

The congregation of approximately 25 are ageing (which is true of most churches in the area) and would love to attract younger adults and children into their number. The church is one of the few in the Ministry Area to have a church hall which is also well kept and supported through hiring to various groups. There are a small number of occasional offices every year. The church has a service on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays with a midweek eucharist on the 2nd Wednesday. However, services could be altered so that the Priest's duties to his/her other churches are balanced. The church has a full complement of officers (sub-wardens, treasurer, organist) who are active in running the church which is beautifully kept. The church has decent heating and lighting but no kitchen and toilet which are within the church hall which is about 50 yards from the church. The congregation are very supportive and faithful enjoying traditional Anglican worship but are flexible and get involved with the wider Ministry Area's activities. The church is used occasionally for 5th Sunday joint Ministry Area service as it has the size, parking and facilities (hall) to accommodate.



SAINT TECLA'S CHURCH, LLANDEGELY

Saint Tecla's Church probably named after Thecla, a female follower of St Paul or Tegla Forwyn, a Welsh Saint is situated in the small village of Llandegely which lies on the A44, 3.5 miles east of Crossgates on the Hereford road. The church has traditionally also served the slightly larger village of Penybont which is a mile and a half back towards Crossgates. The church is small to medium sized, typical of rural churches in the area.

Saint Tecla's has the biggest congregation of the group with around 16 attending regularly. In 2019, the church used its reserves and match funded grants to reorder the rear of the church providing a small kitchen, toilet and Sunday school room. Several local children attend Sunday School once a month while Evening Prayer is being said in the church.

There are three services each month - Two Eucharists and one Evening Prayer
Average attendance - Sixteen



SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, ABBEYCWMHIR

Saint Mary's is an atmospheric, small to medium sized rural church built in the neo-Byzantine style in 1866. It remains a popular wedding venue with 6 weddings in 2023. Built in Abbeycwmhir which lies in a secluded valley contains boasts the remains of the Cistercian Abbey for which the village is named. The Abbey ruins are close to the church contain the body of Llewelyn ap Gruffudd the last native Prince of Wales.

The church has a stable congregation of about 14 and has great support from the community, both the village itself and the nearby farms.

There are two services each month - One Eucharist and one Morning Prayer
Average attendance - Fourteen



SAINT PADARN'S CHURCH, CROSSGATES

Saint Padarn's, named after the great 6th Century Abbot-Bishop active in Wales and Brittany, is a beautiful, medium sized rural church, situated on the A483 in the village of Crossgates just north of Llandrindod Wells. Sometimes called Saint Padarn's, Llanbadarn Fawr after the name of the old parish, it is not to be confused with Saint Padarn's, Llanbadarn Fawr near Aberystwyth in Ceredigion.

It has a small congregation now, but with tremendous goodwill from locals and nearby farms. It also has a sum of money from the sale of a property enough to allow for a significant re-ordering to make the space more modern and multifunctional space. The churchyard is about 80% full.

There are two services each month - One Eucharist and one Morning Prayer.
Average attendance - Eight



SAINT MICHAEL'S CHURCH LLANFIHANGEL RHYDITHON

Saint Michael's Church, Llanfihangel Rhydithon is a well-presented rural church with a committed congregation of about a dozen people.

Usually called 'Dolau Church', Dolau being the name of the village which makes up the majority of the Llanfihangel Rhydithon community, the church lies on the Knighton road three miles from the village Penybont on the edge of the Radnor Forest.

**There are two services each month - One Eucharist and one Morning Prayer.
Average attendance - Twelve**



SAINT DAVID'S CHURCH, LLANDDEWI YSTRADENNI

Saint David's Church, named after Wales' patron, is a small rural church situated in the small village of Llanddewi Ystradenni. Usually called just Llanddewi, the village is 6 miles north-east of Llandrindod, the village once being on the A483, but now bypassed making it very quiet and peaceful.

The church has a very small congregation now but the one's that remain are very faithful and make sure the church which is open at all times is kept well.

There is one service each month - One Eucharist (in the summer only)
Average attendance - Six



SAINT CYNLLO'S CHURCH, LLANBISTER

Saint Cynllo's church, Llanbister is named after Saint Cynllo, a Welsh saint active in the area in the late 5th and early 6th century. The church set on a hill is visible from the A483 as one approaches Llanbister. Saint Cynllo's is known as the mother church of north Radnorshire because of its importance in the past. The church is late Medieval with an impressive later tower. The interior is striking with a large effigy of Christ the King at the rear of the Altar.

The congregation is small comprising of half a dozen regular worshippers in the summer. Due to mobility issues, services in the community hall are far more practical due to the steep access. The new priest will have the challenge of building up the church and offering time to the County Primary school in the village may be a way of building relationships with young families.

There is one service each month - One Eucharist (in the summer only)
Average attendance - Six



SAINT PADARN'S CHURCH

LLANBADARN FYNYDD

Saint Padarn's Church, Llanbadarn Fynydd is the last church in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon on the north to south A483 trunk road from Llandrindod Wells to Newtown.

Services here are irregular at the moment and as such it is unofficially a 'festival church'. The new 'Vicar' could develop the church back into a regular pattern since there is a significant reservoir of support in the village and local farming community towards the church.

Average attendance - N/A



THE RECTORY

This is situated in Rock Road, LD1 6RU. It is a a four bedroomed, detached vicarage with access both sides to rear, with drive and detached double garage with a small front garden and large rear garden. The house is currently being refurbished.

Rock Road is situated off the A483 at Fron, a hamlet near to the village of Crossgates (1/4 mile). Crossgates is 3 miles north of Llandrindod Wells, the county town of Powys. The nearest primary school is Crossgates County Primary School in the centre of the village. The nearest secondary school is the Llandrindod Wells campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru which is a dual site school based both in Llandrindod and Builth Wells.





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

*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



Esgobaeth Abertawe ac Aberhonddu
The Diocese of Swansea and Brecon

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