



Esgobaeth Llanelwy / Diocese of St Asaph

Newyddion Ymweliadau Visitation News

Introduction from the Archdeacon of Wrexham, the Venerable Dr Hayley Matthews



Imagine my surprise at my first ever football match to hear, 'Wrexham lager, Wrexham lager, feed me 'til I want no more!' My initial reaction was, "Oh well, at least they know the tune," but it raises all sorts of questions about how people are nourished spiritually and physically across the diocese. Inside you'll find information about three local examples:

In Llandyssil, St Tyssil Church opens every Friday for *Tea and Chat* offering a ministry of hospitality to its villagers, and to those visiting this ancient site. What better way to alleviate rural isolation than to invite people into fellowship, and then on into the family of faith?

The more urban setting of Flint means that St Mary's and St David's Church hosts a weekly food club, called *The Table*, which runs alongside the Coffee Morning. At their sister church up the hill in Flint Mountain, the Well-Fed mobile shop visits each week. Not only can people be fed through the Holy Eucharist, spiritually, but the building also creates an environment to purchase good, wholesome, low-cost meals. St Mark's, on Caia Park, in Wrexham, is located on the largest social-housing estate in Wales. It, too, provides a place for both spiritual and physical nourishment as the church opens its doors to *Caia Food Club*. For a donation, people can take home a bag of food. Once a month, the food club opens with an act of worship. In the coming weeks, St Mark's will have to close temporarily to undergo a major refurbishment to better serve the estate for generations to come.

Reimagining our ageing – and sometimes ancient – buildings so that they can become warm, welcoming, watertight places for worship and support, with the means to provide hospitality, is central to our faith. The diocesan Property Team is running Property Forums over the coming year so that your church can explore ways in which buildings can be improved so that they are more efficient, more environmentally friendly, and more accessible. This is not just so that they are future-proofed, but that we might live out our faith in the way that we serve our communities, nourishing them physically as well as spiritually. Perhaps then we might hear, 'Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me 'til I want no more!'

Cyflwyniad gan Archddiacon Wrecsam, yr Hybarch Ddr Hayley Matthews

Dychmygwch fy syndod, yn fy ngêm bêl-droed gyntaf erioed, pan glywais, 'Wrexham lager, Wrexham lager, feed me 'til I want no more!' Fy ymateb cyntaf oedd, "O leia maen nhw'n gwybod y dôn," ond mae'n codi pob math o gwestiynau am y maeth ysbrydol a chorfforol a gaiff pobl yn yr esgobaeth. Y tu mewn, fe gewch wybodaeth am dair enghraifft leol:

Yn Llandysul, mae cyfle am *Baned a Sgwrs* yn Eglwys Sant Tysul bob dydd Gwener gan weinidogaethu trwy gynnig croeso i'r pentrefwyr ac i ymwelwyr â'r safle hynafol hwn. Pa ffordd well o leihau'r teimlad o fod yn ynysig yng nghefn gwlad na gwahodd pobl i fwynhau cymdeithas, ac yna ymlaen i deulu'r ffydd?

Yn nhref y Fflint, mae Eglwys y Santes Fair a Dewi Sant yn cynnal clwb bwyd wythnosol, o'r enw *The Table*, ochr yn ochr â Bore Coffi. Mae siop deithiol Well-Fed yn ymweld â'i chwaer

Parhad ar dudalen 2...

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Parhad o'r clawr...



eglwys i fyny'r allt ym Mynydd y Fflint bob wythnos. Yn ogystal â chael maeth ysbrydol yn y Cymun Bendigaid, caiff pobl brynu pryddau iachus da, yn rhad. Mae Eglwys Sant Marc, Parc Caia, Wrecsam, ar stad tai cymdeithasol fwyaf Cymru. Dyma le arall sy'n cynnig maeth ysbrydol a

chorfforol wrth i'r eglwys agor ei drysau ar gyfer *Clwb Bwyd Caia*. Gall pobl fynd â bag o fwyd adref gyda nhw am rodd fechan. Unwaith y mis, cynhelir addoliad ar ddechrau'r clwb bwyd. Ymhen rhai wythnosau, bydd rhaid i Eglwys Sant Marc gau dros dro i wneud gwaith adnewyddu mawr fel y gall wasanaethu'r stad yn well am genedlaethau i ddod.

Mae ailwampio adeiladau sy'n heneiddio – ac weithiau'n hynafol – er mwyn eu gwneud yn fannau cynnes, croesawus, diddos lle caiff pobl addoli a chael eu cefnogi, a lle gellir cynnig lletygarwch, yn rhan ganolog o'n ffydd. Mae Tîm Eiddo'r esgobaeth yn cynnal Fforymau Eiddo dros y flwyddyn sydd i ddod er mwyn i'ch eglwys ystyried ffyrdd o wella adeiladau i'w gwneud yn fwy effeithlon, yn fwy ecogyfeillgar, ac yn fwy hygyrch. Nid dim ond i'w gwneud yn addas at y dyfodol mae hyn, ond er mwyn ein galluogi i roi ein ffydd ar waith wrth wasanaethu ein cymunedau, gan gynnig maeth corfforol yn ogystal â maeth ysbrydol. Efallai wedyn y cawn glywed, 'Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me 'til I want no more!'



Food for all in Caia

Up to 60 people go along every Thursday morning to St Mark's Church in Wrexham to queue for *Caia Food club*. For a suggested donation of £3, people can select ten items from the shop, as well as stopping for a hot drink, toast and homemade soup. *Caia Food Club* opened in October 2022 and the numbers coming along have been steadily increasing.

Grants from funders are helping to ensure there is always a good selection of food for people to choose. As a food club, it's much more about offering a selection of items, so people can make their own choices and buy what they like and need, rather than being offered a one-size-fits-all bag of tinned and dried items. In addition, the club has access to a local butcher who provides frozen meat for customers. The opening of an M&S Foodhall in Wrexham means they often have a 'free to take' table of close-to-sell-by-date-food.



Jonathan Smith with the plans for Caia

Once a month, the team open *Caia Food Club* with a simple act of worship. It's fairly low-key, says the vicar of St Mark's, Canon Jonathan Smith: "People are always queuing outside for the club to open, so we invite them in to have a drink and join us in worship. It's been well-received so far. We've never hidden our faith, neither is it in your face!

"Even on the weeks that there isn't worship, people often light candles or want to say a prayer. We always have people on-hand to listen if people want to talk."

All this will have to be temporarily relocated in the coming months, as St Mark's closes its doors to undergo a major re-ordering. Approximately £750,000 has been raised through grants, legacies, donations and fundraising. Those attending the Food Club are also helping the church to meet its fundraising target. They meet socially on a monthly basis for a bingo session and the money it generates is supporting the church.

Jonathan said: "The changes we're planning will make the space more user-friendly and welcoming both for the congregation and partner organisations who are keen to hire the building. We'll be able to let out the building to groups, which will help us generate income, making us more economically viable.

"We'll be upgrading the building's heating and electrics, improving the roof and windows, and relocating the entrance of the church, making it more welcoming. Inside, we'll be repositioning the kitchen, improving the toilets, and moving the dividing screen which separates the church from the hall. This will create a much larger multi-use space.

"The church building itself may be closed for a few months, but the church, as a body of people, will be continuing to meet not far away in Caia."



Enhance your church's fundraising efforts

Whether you're raising funds for new facilities, building repairs, youth worker recruitment, or daily running costs, the Ecclesiastical Fundraising Hub provides resources to aid your church's growth in fundraising. This practical hub is organised into user-friendly steps, each offering information, guidance and tools, regardless of your fundraising experience.

Explore a wealth of articles, blogs and supporting documents on various topics such as digital fundraising, capital projects, understanding the grants process and forming fundraising teams. Access a free searchable list of church funders providing grants, along with tailored fundraising support for small rural churches.

Also, to support time-constrained churches and volunteers, looking for quick information on the diverse fundraising landscape, the hub offers concise, insightful bitesize videos addressing key fundraising issues. Additionally, sign up for live, free webinars conducted in collaboration with Philanthropy Company across 2024. For additional help, call the fundraising helpline below.

📞 **0345 601 9959**
🌐 www.ecclesiastical.com/churchfundraising



An update from grant-making charity, Benefact Trust



BENEFACT TRUST

Every day, Benefact Trust, the charitable owner of Benefact Group, witnesses the crucial role churches and charities play in our communities. Since the Trust was established in 1972, it has awarded over £256m in funding to support these organisations to thrive and make a positive

impact in society. Benefact Trust's grants support a range of causes and there are many heart-warming stories to be found on the website.

🌐 www.benefacttrust.co.uk/news



Nominate your church for a chance to win



The Movement for Good Awards programme is back again with grants of £1,000 and more to give to churches and charities. Ecclesiastical is proudly part of the Benefact Group, who are giving away over £1 million to churches and charities in the 2024 Movement for Good Awards.

£1,000 draws are now open for nominations

- You can nominate your church or favourite charity for the £1,000 draw.
- You can nominate as many charities as you like; it's one nomination per charity per person.

There are six £1,000 draws this year giving away between £50,000 and £120,000 in each. Once you've nominated, share your nomination, and get your friends and family to support too.

Did you know?

The Movement for Good Awards has gifted over £5.75 million to more than 2,500 charities since the initiative started in 2019.

Last year, A Rocha UK was awarded £5,000 in the Environment and Climate special draw. A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and is committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment.

Also, in 2023, £11,000 was awarded to 10 church-related charities through the £1,000 Movement for Good Awards; Kilkenny Christian Centre in ROI actually won twice! So please get nominating; next time it could be your church! You can find out more at:

🌐 www.movementforgood.com/ecclesiastical

Contains promotional material

Would you like to sign up for e-news?

The monthly e-news is full of useful information to support you in areas such as fundraising, church security and environmental impact. Signing up is easy and you can unsubscribe whenever you choose. Many of Ecclesiastical's customers have chosen to receive this and we hope you would like to join them.

 www.ecclesiastical.com/signup



Financial support for your 2025 sabbatical

Established in 1987, the Ecclesiastical Ministry Bursary Awards (MBAs) have assisted over 1,400 clergy members in funding a variety of extended leave projects.

The experience of a sabbatical can be life-changing and have a positive and long-lasting impact on your church and community. One of the 2023 recipients, the Rev'd. Heston Groenewald, vicar of All Hallows Church in Leeds, received a bursary to support his local interfaith ministry.

He visited India and Pakistan to experience and learn more about the diverse cultures and customs that make up the fabric of the local community. On his trip, Heston experienced the Holi festival in India and celebrated Easter with Christians and Muslims in Lahore.

“ The MBA grant enabled an amazing adventure around India and Pakistan and so has been a valuable, wonderful investment in my wellbeing and in my local interfaith ministry. ” **Rev'd. Heston Groenewald**

The application window for the 2025 MBA programme is now open and closes in September 2024. In 2025, we are particularly keen to see more sabbaticals which aim to support the drive for net zero carbon.

If you would like to find out more about the Awards, including eligibility criteria and application details, please visit:

 www.ecclesiastical.com/mba



Invest in making a difference

Worries about social matters, our planet and the environment are factors most of us think about daily. To do more to help address these concerns, there is increasing interest from people looking to invest ethically in accordance with their principles.

What is ethical investing?

Richard Wood, Director of Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services (pictured below), explains, “Put simply, ethical investments allow people to invest without sacrificing their environmental, social, moral or religious principles while at the same time aiming to make a profitable return.”



Ethical investment funds can be screened using negative or positive criteria. For negatively screened funds, the fund manager will, for example, be screening investments to avoid a range of activities considered harmful – such as companies involved in manufacturing tobacco.

When using positive screening, fund managers actively identify companies that make a positive

social impact or who invest sustainably and/or responsibly. They will have, for example, good corporate governance and employment practices as well as being active in making a positive impact on the environment.

To find out more about ethical investing, contact Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services today.



0800 107 0190



getadvice@ecclesiastical.com



www.ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice

Please note: The value of investments can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invested. Your capital is at risk.

Looking for help to go green?

Give your parishioners a warm welcome!

We all want our church buildings to be welcoming spaces for both prayer and for wider community activities, but particularly in the chilly months, keeping buildings warm is a challenge and can be costly and harmful to the environment.

Wherever you are in your journey to reduce your church's carbon emissions, Ecclesiastical would like to help. For example, they would like to spread the word about some interesting innovations that they've come across recently.

Warming chandeliers

St Matthew's has been trialling innovative radiant heating chandeliers in their church in Bristol. These chandeliers use a very gentle wavelength of heat, like that of the winter sun, and they warm just the space needed, not the whole church. They have proved much cheaper to run than a central heating system and can help to lower your carbon footprint.



Through the Movement for Good awards, Ecclesiastical awarded a £35,000 grant to St Matthew's in 2023, which will allow them to make the trial installation permanent. If you would like to consider applying for a similar grant, further information can be found on page 3. Also, if you wish to install this type of heating, please let the Ecclesiastical Underwriters

know, so that they can advise on any potential insurance implications and ensure the system itself is covered.

Heated cushions

Another innovation, helping church communities take steps to reduce their carbon emissions by warming people not spaces, is a heated seat cushion! These are powered by lithium-ion batteries which are widely used as a power source in portable electrical products. However,



if you do choose this option, it is important to select seat cushions and fabrics that have an appropriate fire performance and to follow the guidance on charging the cushions. Cushions should comply with British Standards and have the CE mark. If you think that this is an option for you, you will find guidance about the cushions here:

🌐 www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/church-heated-cushions

Ecclesiastical has also developed a new Made Simple guide, which can support you on your journey to make your church buildings more environmentally friendly. It includes information about other alternative heating systems like heat pumps, information about LED lighting and much more.

🌐 www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple

If you have any tips that have helped your church in its environmental journey, why not drop Ecclesiastical an email and they can share your ideas in their monthly digital newsletter.

✉ weboffice@ecclesiastical.com



Insurance made simple!

As church insurance experts, Ecclesiastical is well placed to help you navigate many of the complicated insurance responsibilities of your church. They have created a series of 'Made Simple' guides which highlight potential risks and insurance implications of the day-to-day running of churches.



The guides also offer help with activities and projects that PCCs often become involved in, which include:

- Climate change and your church
- Administering insurance
- Building works
- Church events
- Church property
- Church valuation
- Community outreach
- Digital technology
- Legal expenses
- People on church premises
- Unoccupied buildings

You can find lots more information at:

🌐 www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple



Funeral planning

As you know, funerals can be costly, but Ecclesiastical can help you make provisions to reduce the financial worry for your family when the time comes and ensure your wishes are provided for.¹

¹ Terms and conditions apply – see website for details.

☎ 0800 055 6503
✉ info@epsfunerals.com
🌐 www.funeralplans.co.uk

Car insurance

Ecclesiastical's Clergy Motor Insurance has been tailored specifically for the clergy and includes benefits such as business use, unlimited windscreen cover and up to £500 cover for church goods in the car.¹ To find out more about the benefits of this policy, get in touch with Ecclesiastical.

☎ 0345 450 9396
🌐 www.ecclesiastical.com/church/car-insurance
¹ Subject to terms and conditions



Month by month support



So you can better look after your church and parishioners, Ecclesiastical has again produced their easy-to-view calendar to help you plan maintenance activities throughout the year.

🌐 www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-calendar

Insure your home with Ecclesiastical and they will donate £130 to a church of your choice

Trust130 is just one of the ways in which Ecclesiastical gives back to the community; for every new direct home insurance policy taken out, Ecclesiastical offers to donate £130 to an Anglican church or cathedral of the policyholder's choice.¹

Since 2017, Ecclesiastical has donated over £500,000 to more than 2,500 churches in the UK.

A £130 donation really helped **St Peter's Church in Parwich**. Church Treasurer **Stuart Chambers** told Ecclesiastical:

“ If you're short of numbers, it's a big job keeping everything ship-shape. I have a ride-on mower, but you can't get to the actual graves on that so inevitably they can look a bit unkempt, which is a real shame. ”

With the £130 donation, St Peter's was able to keep its graveyard looking neat and tidy by paying for a man with a strimmer.

Award-winning home insurance

As well as supporting your church, when you take out a home insurance policy with Ecclesiastical you are joining one of the most trusted home insurance providers with the happiest customers.²



Ecclesiastical continued to top the Fairer Finance league table in Spring 2024 for home insurance for a record 19th consecutive time, retaining the gold ribbon status. Their buildings and contents cover is also a Which? Best Buy and it was voted the best home insurance in the Times Money Mentor Awards in 2023.³



Get a home insurance quote

Ecclesiastical is a specialist insurer who understands the needs of those working in the church and for the church. Their policy helps to protect your home and takes into account the extra duties you carry out for the church.

☎ 0345 777 3322 and quote **CHOPS24**
🌐 www.ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance

¹ Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130-terms ² www.fairerfinance.com/ratings/customer-experience-ratings/home-insurance ³ www.ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance



The Table in Flint

Warm Hub and warm welcome in Flint

The churches in and around Flint in the Estuary and Mountain Mission Area are feeding their communities in a variety of ways. *The Table*, a food club to which you pay £2 and can select ten items, opened in St Mary's and St David's Church in Flint in 2022. The church built on the success of *The Table* in Holywell and franchised this model, adapting it to work in their context.

The timing coincides with the weekly Friday morning Coffee Morning and Warm Hub. Very quickly numbers increased from six to eight people when it first opened, to 30 people coming regularly. Since Christmas 2023, *The Table* has been welcoming at least 50 people every week, sometimes more.

The Vicar of Flint, the Revd Dr Richard Hainsworth, said: "It was a deliberate decision to open *The Table* at the same time as our existing coffee morning. If you're going into church, no-one knows if you're attending the Coffee Morning or *The Table*."

"We know we've made the right decision to open *The Table*. One older gentleman who uses *The Table* weekly said, 'I think this place is amazing, it gets me through the week'. A young mother told us,

'I'm struggling to make ends meet, but this lets me put food on the table and still be able to put the heating on at home'.

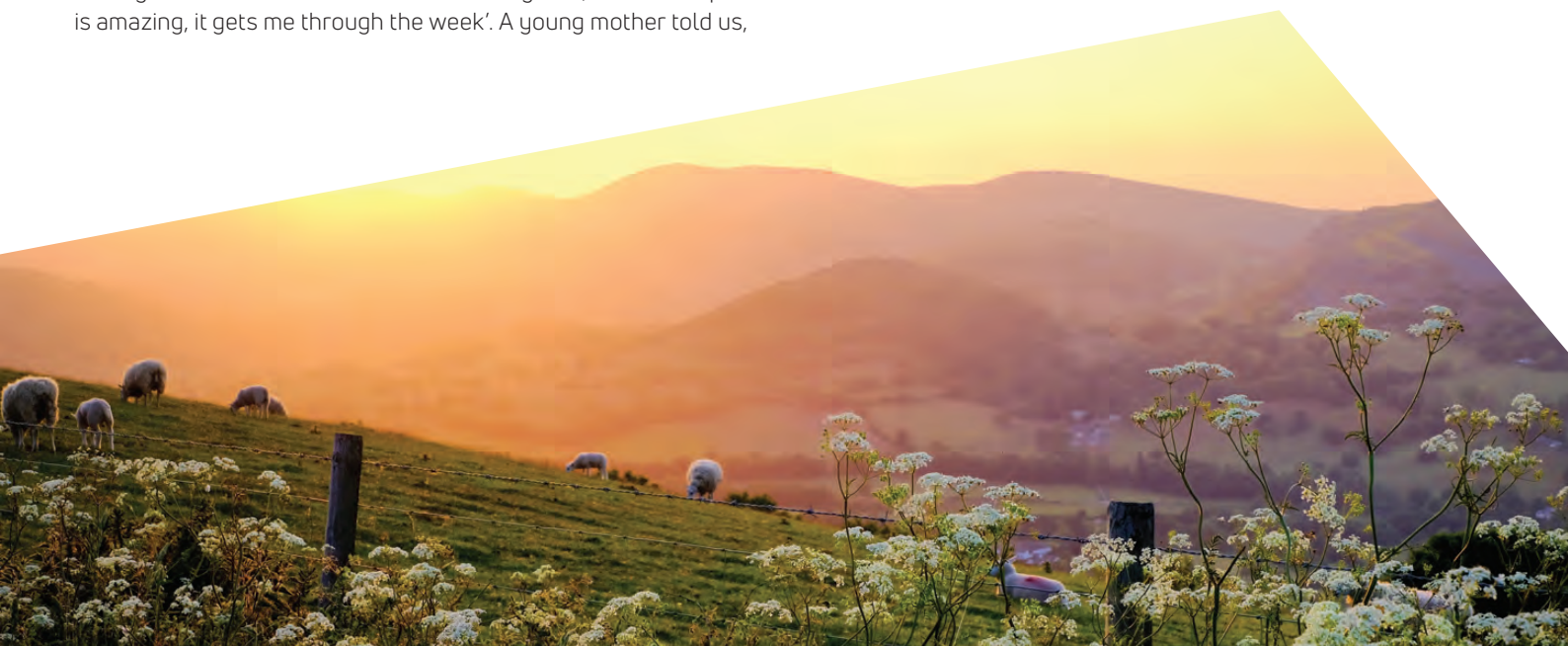
"Those coming along are a mix of employed people, those with disabilities, people who are homeless, those who are struggling with immigration issues and some living in a local bail hostel. Everyone is welcome and we don't take any personal details. We've got to know people's circumstances by offering a listening ear to those who want to talk."

Like St Mark's in Wrexham, the Flint church has also been successful at attracting grant funding to support *The Table* but it also costs the church around £100 a week to ensure there is a choice of good-quality food for people. Richard added: "We've started re-directing the offering given at baptism services to support *The Table*. When I explained what the donations would be used for, the giving increased substantially."



Flint Mountain church

Up the hill, in the village church of Flint Mountain, a mobile shop, run by Well-Fed, the Flintshire social food business, visits once a week. Its arrival is timed to coincide with a fitness class, for the 'not-so-young' and ensures that good-quality, affordable food is available in the village. The church and the pub are the only local community spaces left, after the school closed almost a decade ago and the chapel closed last year. Richard said: "The congregation work hard to keep the church at the centre of the community. The church has an active ministry, including the fitness class and various community events, such as Abba sing-alongs. We have a comedy night planned and will be gearing up for the church's 150th anniversary later in the year. It's all about helping to make the church the centre of the village once again."



A ministry of hospitality

The small church of St Tyssil's in Llandyssil in the Pool Mission Area is becoming known for its ministry of hospitality. Every Friday, the church opens its door for *Tea and Chat*. It's an opportunity for the community to come together, meet, chat and enjoy homemade cakes. Like so many small communities, Llandyssil no longer has a local shop, bakery or pub. The church and the community hall are the only public spaces left in the village.



Gwyneth Jones and Gwen Cooper

Tea and Chat is run by the two churchwardens, Gwyneth Jones and Gwen Cooper. Gwyneth said: "We get anywhere between 10 and 20 people coming along, plus a couple of dogs. The dogs are very important as they help break down barriers of communication. Stroking the dogs is a way of people starting to talk."

But it's not just the *Tea and Chat* club which is providing hospitality. Once a month, the church hosts a local walking club, providing refreshments after their amble. When the village flooded in 2023, the church was on hand to provide tea and cake for the firefighters clearing the flood water and damage.

The Vicar of Llandyssill, the Revd Paulette Gower, said: "The congregation may be small with Sunday attendance usually about four or five people, but for special occasions, up to 40 people come along. This is due in part to the ministry of hospitality provided by the congregation and the positive feeling which has built up in the village because of this."

You can find out more about St Tyssil's Church and its hospitality in this film at:

 https://youtu.be/jTndC7_IU1Y



Have you joined a Property Forum yet?

The Diocesan Property Team is running a series of forums throughout 2024 and 2025, inviting Mission Areas to discuss issues relevant to them. So far, two forums have taken place covering Valle Crucis Mission Area and Alyn, Borderlands and Wrexham. They are aimed at churchwardens, clergy and members of the Mission Area Property Sub-committee. The sort of topics covered are:

- **quinquennial inspections**
- **maintenance and repairs**
- **the Energy Footprint Tool**
- **Eco Church**
- **faculties**
- **inventories.**

There will be a chance to ask your questions too! Look out for your Mission Area Property Forum at:

 <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/property/>

For more information

Call: 0345 777 3322 **Email:** churches@ecclesiastical.com

Facebook: Ecclesiastical  [@churchmatters](https://twitter.com/churchmatters)

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