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UNLOCKING OUR
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DIOCESE OF ST ASAPH

Diocese of St Asaph

Mission Area Leader



Cedewain Mission Area

Mission Area Leader required

Cedewain Mission Area is looking for a full-time ordained colleague who will work with us to nurture growth and discipleship within our family of rural churches.

We are looking for someone:

- who will lead us in faith with a warm heart;
- who is a good communicator and team member;
- who is comfortable working with people of all ages;
- whose enthusiasm recognizes and encourages the gifts and skills in others;
- who will enjoy working in our rural communities;
- who will bring growth in numbers and spirituality to each of the churches;
- who can enhance our interdenominational links;
- who will develop strong community links joining in with our many events;
- who will keep clear our perspective of belonging to and contributing to the Cedewain Mission Area;
- who is committed to working with young people especially in our schools;
- who has a passion for rural ministry and can work enthusiastically with smaller congregations.



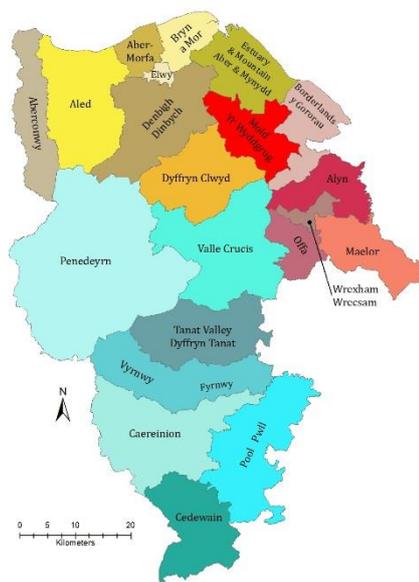
The Diocese of St Asaph

In the Diocese of St Asaph or Teulu Asaph, we're

- Growing and encouraging the whole people of God
- Enlivening and enriching worship
- Engaging the world

We're a family of more than 7,000 regular worshippers, with 80 full time clergy, over 500 lay leaders, 216 churches and 51 church schools.

We trace our history to the days of our namesake, St Asaph and his mentor, St Kentigern who it's believed built a monastery in St Asaph in AD 560. Many of the churches across the Diocese were founded by the earliest saints in Wales who witnessed to Christian faith in Wales and have flourished through centuries of war, upheaval, reformation and reorganisation.



Today, the Diocese of St Asaph carries forward that same Mission to share God's love to all in 21st Century north east and mid Wales. We're honoured to be a Christian presence in every community, to walk with people on the journey of life and to offer prayers to mark together the milestones of life.

Unlocking our Potential is the focus of our response to share God's love with people across north east and mid Wales. Unlocking our Potential is about bringing change, while remaining faithful to the life-giving message of Jesus. It's about challenging, inspiring and equipping the whole people of God to grow in their faith.

Geographically, the Diocese follows the English/Welsh border in the east, whilst the western edge is delineated by the Conwy Valley. The northern boundary runs along the North Wales coast as far as Llandudno, but only takes in part of that town. The southern boundary runs from the lower end of Llyn Tegid (Lake Bala) across to Dolfor, just south of Newtown in Powys. Ecclesiastically it is bordered by the dioceses of Chester, Lichfield and Hereford on the northern and eastern sides. To the south we border Swansea and Brecon diocese and to the west, Bangor.

Large parts of the diocese are rural, but there are important and continually developing industrial and commercial areas around Deeside (one of the largest industrial parks in Europe) and Wrexham and significant developments along the two main arterial roads (A55 and A483). The coastal strip is home to traditional holiday resorts and tourism is an important industry in many parts of the diocese.

St Asaph offers:

- A welcome to all
- Life enhancing opportunities for all
- A commitment to nurture God's gifts to everyone
- A Christian education through our 51 Church Schools
- A celebration and conservation of our very special places
- A commitment to walk alongside those in need
- A prayerful heart at the centre of every community

Cedewain Mission Area

Cedewain is the southernmost Mission Area in the Diocese of St Asaph. It is located in a very beautiful part of Mid Wales with many amenities available for families and people of all ages and interests.

The Mission Area incorporates 10 churches in total with one town Church, in Newtown – closely affiliated with Llanllwchaearn Church. The other 8 Churches are all rural in nature and location: Aberhafesp, Bettws Cedewain, Dolfor, Kerry, Llanmerewig, Llanwyddelan, Mochdre and Tregynon.

In the past the Mission Area has been staffed by two full time clergy and one house for duty priest. We also have an NSM curate who has been priested but who is on sabbatical at present.

The smaller rural churches are holding their own as regards attendance, whilst the town church in affiliation with Llanllwchaearn is growing. During the period of vacancy – since April 2018 – services in the rural churches have been reduced to two per month - Holy Eucharist and Service of the Word, although there is an enthusiasm for this to change.

The Mission Area Leader is relinquishing the role in order to concentrate more of her energy on the town church as there is potential for further growth and on developing work with children and youth within the Mission Area.



The hope is that the cleric appointed will work closely with all rural Churches, encouraging new initiatives, releasing and realising potential and nurturing growth. Every church has a dedicated team who are passionate about the future of their church. If their energy and commitment can be forward focused, then the Mission Area can look forward to renewed life and growth.

The Mission Area Executive meets regularly and have worked exceptionally hard over the last couple of years to get everything in place to become an effective Mission Area. The Mission Area Conference has also worked hard in establishing itself, encouraging a keen and enthusiastic Mission Area Conference; Shared Ministry Team, including Readers, Worship Leaders and Pastoral Assistants; Finance Committee and Church Buildings Committee. We recognise that the next step in our journey together is to invest energy and resources into the rural parishes.

Members of the Mission Area have attended the Leading Your Church into Growth course in Swanwick and have been enthused. Our churches are being encouraged to embrace some of the ideas and initiatives introduced in these courses. Some of the rural churches do need help and support to transform from being a Sunday service only church to becoming a presence in their community.

There is a Mission Area prayer group that meets regularly to pray for the Mission Area, meeting in the various communities and encouraging people from different churches to join. Storytellers is a group of dedicated members who attend 10 schools once a term to share the good news with children and staff – involving over 1000 children in all. As expected, there is a strong link between Kerry church school and the Mission Area – with Readers and clergy visiting to take services etc.

Many in the Mission Area have become Dementia Friends.



Some of our churches have ecumenical links.

Clergy and Readers have a regular weekly staff meeting following an act of worship, the SMT meet every 5 weeks – offering support and encouragement and sharing ideas and initiatives.



Recently we have enjoyed a Mission Area pilgrimage to Bardsey, a visit to the Carmelite Convent in Dolgellau and members of the churches have had the opportunity to follow the Ignatian Exercises in Daily Life under the guidance of Sister Helen Bamber SHCJ. We have also recently updated our Mission Area newsletter / magazine – with a circulation of 500+.

We believe that there is potential for growth in some of our rural Churches – and we acknowledge that it will necessitate great commitment, lots of energy and hard work, a passion and God's guidance to bring us the right cleric for the mission ahead.

CEDEWAIN MISSION AREA POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS - 2011

Town/Village	Population as per 2011 Census	Demographic
Newtown	7247	Light industry, service industries and Market Town.
Llanllwchaean	4111	Primarily domestic dwellings, so no industry as such, but has close ties with Newtown.
Aberhafesp	416	A small rural village and community.
Llanwyddelan	70	Dwyriw is a community in the county of Powys comprising Adfa (the largest settlement), Llanllugan, Cefn Coch and Llanwyddelan. According to the 2011 Census the population of Dwyriw was 571.
Bettws Cedewain	445	Essentially a farming community.
Tregynon	892	A dormitory settlement for people working in Newtown; has a number of substantial farms; 19% self-employed.
Dolfor	463	Widely spread rural community; 35% self-employed.
Mochdre	494	Proportion of the population is dependent upon farming for its livelihood, mainly sheep and cattle; there is also a number of cottage crafts and country industries.
Kerry	1300	24% self-employed; largely agricultural. Had 6.6% population growth in the 10 years from 2001 - 2011.
Llanmerewig	1200	The rural settlement of Llanmerewig, along with Green Lane, is included in the community of Abermule with Llandyssil which had a population of 1,527 in total as of the 2011 Census (the largest settlement being Abermule).

Please note - the population figures available are as the last Census in 2011 and will have altered during the intervening years up to the present day (next Census is in 2021). However, they give a 'feel' for the relative sizes of each town/village.

Our Churches

Our Mission Area Leader will have particular responsibility for four churches: St Beuno, Bettws Cedewain; St Michael and All Angels, Kerry; St Llwchaiarn, Llanmerewig; and St Cynon, Tregynon. He or she will closely work with the Reverend Canon Nia Morris, who has responsibility for Newtown with Llanllwchaiarn and Aberhafesp, and the Reverend Norman Morris, a house for duty priest, who will have responsibility for Dolfor, Mochdre and Llanwyddelan.

The Church and community of Bettws Cedewain

This is a country church and many in the community are farmers, rural related or retired. The Bettws Hall estate is a very large rural business. Many people from the village commute to work.

The village has a pub with restaurant and a shop and an active Community Centre where groups for children and adults meet regularly and community events are held.

St Beuno's Church was possibly founded by Beuno c.600 AD. The building has a capacity of around 100 and some renovation was completed in 2004. There are about 10 dedicated worshippers, all of whom are fifty plus in age, but willing to work at encouraging younger families to engage with us. At a well-attended Harvest Festival this Autumn, the local Brownies sang songs and there is an annual Nativity Play undertaken by young people of all ages. Some housebound older parishioners like to receive the Sacrament in their homes.

Currently there are two Sunday services each month, a Eucharist taken by Rev Norman and a Service of the Word taken by him or a Reader. Services are in English. There have been occasional mid-week themed or seasonal services. On the 5th Sunday, there is a joint Eucharist which rotates around the churches in the group. There is a small but active Mothers Union.

In July, St Beuno's celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Church in 1868. There was a well-attended Choral Concert, History Day, Exhibitions, Teas, and a Festival Evensong, Victorian dress encouraged. During the summer, links were renewed with the local community of Bettws as the Village made great efforts for the 2018 Powys Village Awards Competition. Bettws shared in a number of awards including one secured by the local "Lighthouse", a special school, for their large wall map of the Village hung at the church. There is an active village team maintaining the churchyard which includes a wild life area. This year saw 50 local families growing sunflowers for planting so creating a wonderful display. St Beuno's supports Fair Trade and has open church afternoons. It collects for a local food bank. Every other year there is a large, well-supported Garden Party for the church.

The Church and community of Kerry



St Michael's is a rural parish three miles south east of Newtown centred on the village of Kerry. The church dates from the 11th century but is mainly Victorian having undergone an extensive renovation. There are many original features along with a Harrison organ and a peal of three bells. We have a positive outlook and look forward to new ideas to grow our church.

The church serves predominantly a farming community, although many families who live in the newer houses in the village work in a range of jobs. The village has a lively community with a wide range of activities on offer most evenings in the village hall.

Our church has close links to both schools in the village. St Michael's (Voluntary Aided Church in Wales) Primary School's involvement in church activities has developed in recent years. They regularly hold services

and concerts in the church and take part in festivals such as Christmas and Harvest. Pupils from Brynllwarch School have helped with maintaining the churchyard and other odd jobs. There are close ties to the Baptist Chapel.

Although predominantly an English-speaking area there are strong Welsh traditions. Every year there is an Eisteddfod in the village and we also hold a traditional Montgomeryshire Plygain service after Christmas.

The church has been fortunate to host musical events in recent years. Andrey Chulovskiy, Russian composer and organist, has performed organ recitals which have proved very popular. Our mid-week Eucharist was popular and much missed as currently we only have this once a month.

The Church and community of Llanmerewig

St Llwlchaiarn's Church lies on a ridge some four miles to the north-east of Newtown. The hamlet of Llanmerewig is situated south of the village of Abermule so is separated from its main source of congregation. It is a small single-chambered building with a diminutive west tower and a south porch which appear to date from the 1830's or 40's. Inside the original late medieval arch-braced roof survives, and there is an early font or stoup and a fragment of the medieval screen. The building is sited in a raised circular churchyard which has been claimed as a prehistoric enclosure.

The lack of facilities at the church has been a hindrance to attracting people into the building. However, we have funds to cover the costs of building an extension to include kitchen and disabled toilet facilities. Our plans are well advanced and likely to start in late 2019. These facilities will be of great benefit to the congregation and will bring the church into the heart of the community.

A number of years ago a ladies support group was established; the "Llanmerewig Ladies". This is a group of about twenty-five who meet monthly for organised meetings or social events and actively raise funds for the Church and other charities. Each autumn they fill shoe boxes as part of Operation Christmas Child to be sent to children overseas. We also started a Bible Study group which now includes members from other churches in the group who meet on a Tuesday.

Every year we hold our Festival of Light where the group come together for the beginning of Advent with a candle lit service.

We have close connections with Abermule Chapel and hold joint services twice a year.

The Church and community of Tregynon

The village of Tregynon has a Church, a Presbyterian Chapel, a garage and a shop with Post Office as well as a school and an active Community Centre where a number of groups meet regularly and where additional fund raising and community events are held. Tregynon is also home to Gregynog, a grade 2 listed hall set within 750 acres of parkland.

As well as the older housing stock and farms there are large areas of newer housing across the village. Many people work in the nearby towns and elsewhere. There is a bi-monthly newsletter with church pages and an active Facebook page shared with Bettws Cedewain.

The church has its origins in the thirteenth century and is dedicated to St Cynon. It was refurbished in the latter half of the nineteenth century and has a capacity of 90. The building is in good condition and is well-maintained by the congregation. There is also church land opposite St Cynon's which is administered by the Church Commissioners for Wales.



At Christmas there is a well-supported Christingle service in the Church. In 2018 the Church organised a Festival of Remembrance in the Community Centre and the congregation overflowed the Church at the Service of Remembrance. The Church collects for a local food bank. Tregynon has hosted Messy Church in the Community Centre and in future this may take place in the churches. An excellent Chamber Choir, Quindici, rehearses regularly in the Church and performs at concerts and occasional services there and elsewhere. A St Cynon's Music Series is planned for 2019.

Currently there are two Sunday services each month, a Eucharist taken by the house for duty priest and a Service of the Word taken by him or a Reader. There have been occasional mid-week themed or seasonal services. A monthly Tuesday evening service has become established. There is a United Service on 5th Sunday of month. The congregation is aged between mid-40s and mid-80s, although most regular worshippers are elderly. There is little Welsh spoken in the community and this is reflected in the services. A new popular circular Cycling event was launched in September 2017 involving a relay "cycling to St Asaph" through the village and the Gregynog Hall estate. An "Open Church Sunday" was begun in 2017 and proved very popular attracting up to 50 people for an afternoon service.

In 2017 the re-ordering of the back of the church was achieved to create a welcome circulatory space, and in the summer 2018 major work was undertaken in the Tower vestry and associated outside drainage, to provide a toilet and kitchen. All has been achieved with a few final touches to be done - the largest construction work at the church for a century. Work to replace the oil tank and ultimately the central-heating remains to be done. The aim of this project is to make the church better known to the community and more welcoming and usable for events.

The Vicarage



The Vicarage is a relatively new five-bedroom property on a small housing development in Kerry.

