



ESGOBAETH LLANELWY

TYFU FFYDD • DOD Â GOBAITH • DANGOS CARIAD

GROW FAITH • BRING HOPE • DEMONSTRATE LOVE

DIOCESE OF ST ASAPH

Recruitment pack Ruabon Group of Churches in the Offa Mission Area



July 2026

Croeso! Welcome!

Dear Friend in Christ

I am so pleased to write this welcome to you, as you explore with us the process of discernment for priest for the Ruabon group of churches in the Offa Mission Area.

In response to God's call, the Diocese of St Asaph has been investing in a strategy of renewal and growth for some years, based on collaborative team ministry across a family of churches held together within a Mission Area. God has blessed us with fruitfulness and we have seen growth, and the release of potential in our family for discipleship and ministry.

We are able to celebrate what is good already, whilst still holding the vision to reach out in mission in new and exciting ways to contemporary society as we respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. I hope that you will seriously consider joining us, and that you will find this profile helpful in your personal discernment for the next steps in your ministry.

Our diocesan vision is currently focussed on the Biblical imperatives of 'Growing Faith', 'Bringing Hope' and 'Demonstrating Love'. We are looking for dynamic and faithful priests to join us in an exciting journey of faith as we build up our common life and mission. I look forward to continuing this discernment if you decide to apply and wish you every blessing as you explore your calling as a priest.

The Rt Revd Gregory K Cameron

Bishop of St Asaph

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gregory K Cameron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Introduction

Offa Mission Area is made up of seven churches in and around Ruabon, Chirk and Johnstown. These communities are in the county of Wrexham and are broadly post-industrial in nature. They are just a few miles from the city centre of Wrexham and on the doorstep of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site, which attracts thousands of visitors every year. The Llangollen canal flows through the Mission Area and on to Llangollen which is home to the world famous International Musical Eisteddfod. The Mission Area includes both the beautiful Dee Valley and the stunning Ceiriog Valley, which stretches out into rural mid-Wales. Chirk Castle, now a National Trust property, stands proudly overlooking the Mission Area and is a popular destination for visitors. The ancient Offa's Dyke runs through the grounds of the Castle, and this path is just one of several walking routes for both local people and visitors.

The Vacancy

We are looking for a priest who will be rooted in the communities of St Mary's, Ruabon, St John's, Rhosymedre, St Mary's, Johnstown, and St Thomas', Penycae.

We are looking for a priest who:

- has the vision to try new things, while valuing traditional worship
- can bring fresh leadership to faithful congregations
- will enjoy being part of a supportive ministry team
- can engage well with people inside and outside church
- has experience of making links between schools and church communities.

The Mission Area and Churches

As well as developing worship across the Mission Area, there is growing work with church schools in the Chirk and Ruabon areas, including the development of a School Eucharist in St Mary's, Ruabon. Each church also has a social diary of coffee mornings, lunch groups etc. as well as fundraising activities which are generally well supported within their communities.



St Mary's Church Ruabon

St Mary's, Ruabon, is a Grade 1-listed building, featuring a 14th-century tower, a rare 15th-century wall painting depicting the 'Acts of Mercy', and 16th-century effigies. Although the current building is more recent, including much restoration in the 19th century, there has been a church on the site since the seventh century.

Currently the building is home to two worshipping congregations, from the Church in Wales and the Roman Catholic Church. Although the two denominations usually worship separately, there are times when the congregations join, for example, for Remembrance, the annual Carol Service and for community events, as well as reaching out to the community outside of church.

Within the church community, there is an enthusiastic team, who are passionate about the church. The church wardens and treasurer are actively involved in fund raising. They have found innovative ways to include the wider community, e.g. organising murder mystery evenings and family fun days out, and have raised the profile with local people.

While the incumbent would be expected to join the governors of the local church school, St Mary's, and build on the existing links between the church and school communities, there is also a close working relationship with Ysgol Maes y Llan and Ruabon High School. T

The nearest secondary Church School is St Joseph's Roman Catholic and Anglican School, in Wrexham. The nearest Welsh Medium secondary school is Ysgol Morgan Llwyd, also in Wrexham.

St John's, Rhosymedre

St. John's Church, which dates from 1837, is located in the village of Rhosymedre, approximately seven miles from the city of Wrexham and six miles from the picturesque town of Llangollen, famous for the International Musical Eisteddfod.

St John's looks after the villages of Rhosymedre, Plas Madoc, Cefn Mawr, Newbridge and Acrefair. There are approximately 3,500 people served by this Church. The population is quite diverse. Cefn Mawr and Plas Madoc comprise large social housing estates. Rhosymedre by contrast makes provision for more



elderly residents via sheltered accommodation and also warden-controlled flats at Llys y Graig, both on Rock Road. Newbridge is a well-established community and Acrefair is predominately made up of private housing.

There are four schools located within the community taking children from infancy through junior school. The schools are in Rhosymedre, Acrefair and Cefn Mawr and there is a Welsh-medium school, Ysgol Min y Ddol, also in Cefn Mawr.

The church itself is a basic cruciform design which was re-ordered in 2012, to create a kitchen, two toilets and an upper room (with chairlift access). The upper room is a flexible space and is used for worship, as well as community activities such as Raise the Roof Choir. Rhosymedre has a community fridge which is well used, particularly as it is close to an Urban Priority Area.

St Mary's Church, Johnstown

St Mary's is a large church serving the community of Johnstown, which has approximately 4,000 residents. It is situated in a prime location on Merlin Street, just off the main High Street. The busy High Street features a local post office, bakery, pharmacy, dental practice and tea rooms which are all close by. This offers an opportunity for the church to be a central hub for the community. The church hall is situated adjacent to the main building. St Mary's has an average attendance of around 28 to 30 regular worshippers and has good links with the local school.

Johnstown is part of the wider community of Rhosllanerchrugog and Ponciau. The population of Rhosllanerchrugog was over 9,000 at the last census. St Mary's is the only Anglican presence in the three villages. There are three schools in Rhos, two primary, and one secondary school.

Public transport is good with regular buses to Wrexham, Llangollen and beyond. The Fire Service has a station in Johnstown and there are three care homes (The Conifers, Meifod, and Hafod House) in the community.

St Thomas' Church, Penycae

The church of St Thomas, built in 1878, is located at the upper southwestern end of Penycae. The church is a grade II-listed building with a churchyard and is within a conservation area. There are regular Sunday services and an average



congregation of 18 people. The church is also used for special services which are well supported as well as for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

The church has a hall in the centre of the village which is run as an independent charity. It is used for Messy Church, meetings, social and fundraising events. The hall is also used by the local art club on Mondays and Thursdays and by a craft club on Tuesdays. The main hall is also available for hire for children's parties and other activities, and part of the building is also used as a hair salon.

The remaining churches in Offa MA are:

St Mary's Church, Chirk

This church is in the centre of the town of Chirk and is well supported by the community. The church dates back many hundreds of years and has a font dating from 1662. There are strong links with the nearby Church in Wales school at Pentre. There is an active eco church group and bellringing team. St Mary's Chirk has taken the lead with Eco Church and is helping other churches to get onboard with it.

St David's Church, Froncysyllte

This is a small church with a churchyard, situated on the A5. The congregation is very friendly and faithful and new members have joined recently. St David's has good community links with the local school, community centre, and volunteers who look after the churchyard.

All Saints Church Penylan

The church was provided for public worship by James Ormrod in 1889 and is in the southern part of the former parish of Ruabon. Penylan is a small hamlet with a population that generally supports the church. There are plans to adapt the church for more community and social events, as well as regular worship.

Mission Area Outreach

Churches support their local schools in various ways. The church buildings provide a great resource for learning, holding concerts and as a teaching resource. Currently there are good links with the schools which may be improved by offering *Open the Book* as more people are undertaking the training to participate in this scheme. There are residential homes in the area which are visited by pastoral teams and clergy to offer services to the residents.



The Team

The person appointed will be working collaboratively as part of a shared ministry team including one other full-time stipendiary priest, NSMs and PTOs, and led by our new lay Mission Area Leader. There is also a Licensed Pastoral Chaplain who works across the Mission Area, and a Mission Area Administrator who supports team members in their locality as well as the entire Mission Area as a unit.

If you would like an informal conversation about this role please contact the Revd Canon Martin Batchelor: martinbatchelor@cinw.org.uk or 07794 385647.

Closing date: Noon, 23 July 2026

Interviews: 30 July 2026

