



**Esgobaeth  
Bangor  
The Diocese  
of Bangor**

## Vicar and Ministry Area Leader of Bro Seiriol

We are looking for a priest to lead and serve in the Ministry Area of Bro Seiriol in the Diocese of Bangor. Bro Seiriol covers the south-eastern corner of Anglesey and serves the town of Beaumaris with surrounding local communities.

### Introducing Bro Seiriol

Bro Seiriol, in the south-eastern corner of Anglesey is rich in history, nature and culture. It includes Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, has a unique coastline of national importance, and the whole area is noted for its birdlife, nature reserves and archaeology.

The whole district is a very popular holiday destination with much provision of camping and self-catering accommodation. This attracts wildlife enthusiasts, walkers, artists and anglers. It is ideal for family seaside holidays. The Anglesey Coastal Path skirts the area and there are printed walking and cycling guides. Tourism brings much needed employment and income into the area.

The main town is Beaumaris with its famous World Heritage Site castle, the old church (some of the original building by Edward I's castle builders), the court house and gaol. This historic town has a lively main street, offering a good choice of restaurants and shops. Boat trips are available from the pier to enjoy fishing and exploring the Menai Straits. The town has its own library, medical centre and primary school. The leisure centre has an indoor sports hall and fitness room. There are two sailing clubs, a rowing club and an annual regatta. The Beaumaris Arts festival is held annually welcoming well-known artists to perform.

The villages in other parts of Bro Seiriol are lively communities, two of which have village halls hosting numerous societies covering a wide variety of interests. In Llangoed there is a primary school. For secondary education in this area, pupils travel to Menai Bridge.

Just beyond the immediate area, the nearby towns of Menai Bridge and Llangefni (the County town) offer a wider range of shopping and other facilities, and the cathedral city of Bangor with its supermarkets, university, railway station and general hospital is easily accessed by road via one of the two bridges crossing the Menai Strait - this is also a gateway to Snowdonia with all its attractions.

Alongside the rich history and natural beauty, Bro Seiriol is of national significance in terms of Christian heritage. It was the home of St Seiriol in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century and down through the centuries has been a focal point for Christian faith and witness.

Many people move here to retire and there are few large employers in the district. Therefore, there are many people in low-income employment or unemployed, in contrast to the holiday makers and second-home owners who are attracted to such a beautiful place. The 2021 Census shows the population of the area to be approximately 3500; the civil areas of Llangoed and Llanddona have held steady over a twenty-year period (currently 1244 and 641 respectively); the figures for Beaumaris reflect perhaps the sharp increase in second home ownership (said now to be at 60%), the current population of 1614 having declined from 1938 in 2021.

In common with most other Christian denominations, we face the challenge of declining Sunday attendance and aging congregations. There is also new potential being realized through the developing pilgrimage opportunities, ministry to the visitors in the area and a growing recognition that these new and developing ministries bring exciting opportunities.

## Diocesan Perspective

‘Worshipping God, Growing the Church, Loving the World’ is the Diocese of Bangor’s well-established vision statement for diocesan and ministry area life. It offers focus and coherence between the Ministry Areas in the three Archdeaconries and at diocesan level; it also offers a breadth of space for ministry areas to inhabit with their own distinctive life, embracing the diverse character of each church and each community within the ministry area. Ministry areas share a common structure, with the Ministry Area Leader working in close collaboration with the Ministry Area Council which operates as the trustee body, and which is encouraged to develop strategic plans around Mission, Buildings and Finance. This common structure is the supportive framework of much of the ministry area’s shared life, within which the particular character of each church is valued and expressed and gifts mature, towards worshipping God, growing the church and loving the world. We look for a Ministry Area Leader who shares this vision and will build on and grow the already vibrant and imaginative life of Bro Seiriol.

## The churches of Bro Seiriol

There are six churches and the churchyard of a redundant church (the former St Catherine’s, Llanfaes) in the Ministry Area. They are home to four distinct congregational communities of Beaumaris, Llanfihangel Din Silwy, Llanddona and Llaniestyn together, Llangoed and Penmon together.

The current clergy staff of the Ministry Area is the stipendiary Ministry Area Leader and one self-supporting associate priest. These are supported by worship teams in two congregations, a Reader Emeritus and a retired cleric. There are active volunteers in each church alongside the wardens, for enabling Sunday worship and weekday activities.

The Ministry Area is served and governed by the Ministry Area Council on which all the churches are represented. This has developed a coherent identity for the Ministry Area while maintaining the distinctiveness of each of the individual church communities. Shared ministry and mission together includes work in the two primary schools, in the residential homes, in the Toddler Group ‘Camau Bach’, and in the Open Church project which developed during the pandemic.

Open Church was a response to the impossibility of worship inside a building but has continued and thrives as it meets a need for a fresh way of worshipping. One strand of this is

'Garden Reflections'; this meets on Fridays for an hour, offering a time of mindful reflection and contemplative prayer. For much of the year this is held outdoors in different gardens, and on Zoom in the winter. The other strand is 'Walks', held on a monthly basis on a Sunday morning in different parts of the Ministry Area, offers reflective poetry and prose and prayer at stopping points along the walk, with conversation on the walk. Most of the churches are represented in these activities, along with some who otherwise do not come to church.

### St Mary and St Nicholas Church, Beaumaris

St Mary and St Nicholas Church is a 14<sup>th</sup> Century church, Grade I listed, in the heart of the town and plays a very important part in the community. It hosts Civic Services and more recently has been used as a venue for concerts, as well as hosting seasonal services for charities.

The church is open daily to welcome visitors and pilgrims and is staffed by volunteer guides in the holiday season. In the churchyard, the Serenity Garden has opened recently, offering a volunteer-maintained garden space of welcome and reflection.

The tower has a peal of eight bells, which are rung every Sunday, at weddings and special occasions, as well as welcoming visiting ringers.

There is active lay involvement in Sunday worship, and refreshments and fellowship are enjoyed afterwards.

The church requires some remedial work on the roof and requires a dedicated. The MA Council have determined to develop the building to be an inspiring place of worship and at the same time become a beneficial facility for community use and an historic attraction for tourism. This is an exciting and realistic proposal and will develop the ministry of evangelism and welcome in new ways.

### St Michael's Church, Llanfihangel Din Silwy

This is an isolated, historic small church, Grade II\* listed, situated on a by-road (track) between Glanrafon and Llanddona. Access is through an adjoining field and there is neither electricity nor water in the church – but there are dramatic and magnificent views from the churchyard.

The chancel and nave are early fifteenth century, restored in 1855, and again recently. The bell, dating from first half of the fourteenth century, is inscribed with a cross and the words SANTA MARIA. There is a carved oak pulpit with date 1628 carved into one panel, and an octagonal stone font from the fifteenth century.

The church is greatly loved and kept in immaculate condition both inside and outside.

Services are held on the 1st Sunday of month in Welsh, or bilingually according to need.

### St Cawrdaf's Church, Llangoed

Situated in the old village of Llangoed about half a mile from the present village. With the exception of the North Transept, dating from 1612, the church is relatively modern having been rebuilt in 1881, and is Grade II listed. However, the church fittings include an imposing oak carved pulpit dating from 1622, a 14th century octagonal stone font, a brass candelabra inscribed 1818, but probably earlier, a burial stone inscribed with Celtic cross, memorial plaques, and a baptismal pool, now covered.

The church, the last remaining place of worship in the village, is important to the local community - for funerals, baptisms and the occasional wedding.

The present congregation shares itself between here and Penmon, so there is a monthly usual pattern of two Sunday services in Penmon and one in Llangoed.

### St Seiriol's Church, Penmon

St. Seiriol's Church is a Grade I listed building. The original Priory Church was founded in the 6th Century and the present building dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, with further developments in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Following the dissolution of the Monasteries the Priory became ruined but was repaired in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the chancel was rebuilt. Within the Church there are two Celtic crosses, both of which are older than the Church.

The whole site, including the Monastic remains, St. Seiriol's Well and the Dovecote (under the care of CADW) draws many visitors to the Priory.

The Church is open to visitors every day. It lies on the Wales Coastal Path, used by thousands of people each year and giving great opportunity to draw yet more visitors and pilgrims into the church. The Priory is fairly isolated from the nearest residential community, but shares a regular congregation with Llangoed, and an active worship team, which is greatly boosted at the major festivals when we have many visitors.

There is a tenanted house adjacent to the Priory owned by the Church in Wales.

Presenting huge opportunities for development as a place of pilgrimage, retreat, spirituality and prayer, Penmon currently is the focus of a large renovation project under the diocesan Stones Shout Out and Llan projects. This intends to bring major development of the infrastructure as well as physical structure of the Priory Church and surroundings and enhance its mission to the wider church and world.

### St. Iestyn's Church, Llaniestyn and St Dona's Church, Llanddona

The congregation at the Churches of St Dona and Llaniestyn are one and the same as both churches serve the village of Llanddona, a little distance away from each church. Both church buildings are open.

St Iestyn's Church is located on the fringe of an SSSI, the building is mainly 14<sup>th</sup> century (Grade II\* listed) with a 12<sup>th</sup> century font and a memorial stone to St Iestyn of note, the original site dates 7<sup>th</sup> century. As a direct result of the EZRA report (Quinquennial inspection+) funding has been obtained for extensive remedial/restoration work to be carried out, the first phase has already been completed through generous donations and fundraising.

St Dona's (Grade II listed), situated on the outskirts of Llanddona down by the beach, has become the first church in Wales to offer Champing. A trial season commenced in 2022 with the start-up costs recouped in the first year. 2023 season has gained significant media coverage and the church has been fully booked. A small, dedicated team run both churches. The churches are supported by the whole community of Llanddona and the church is actively involved in organising community events such as a Spring Dog Show, Annual Tractor Rally and a Sandcastle Competition.

## In a new Ministry Area Leader we are looking for someone who is:

- Able, with imagination and creativity, to explore further with us the new forms of worship we've begun to introduce and develop these alongside the cherished forms of traditional worship.
- Committed to working with the Ministry Area Council to plan strategically for the future in relation to mission, property and finance.
- Dedicated to collaborative working, and excited by the prospect of projects for mission (with the existing diocesan project at Penmon and the future project at Beaumaris).
- Willing to delegate and to share responsibility for the development of mission and ministry, encouraging individual and collective vocation.
- Open to developing relationships with other local Christian churches.
- Enthusiastic in developing our social and community involvement and engage us with the needs of the world and creation.
- Willing to engage with the Welsh language and culture. As a diocese we are able to provide support for clergy in learning and developing their Welsh language skills.
- Familiar with a wide range of IT and communication skills, to continue and develop our present engagement.

### **Conclusions**

The Ministry Area of Bro Seiriol offers new and exciting opportunities for the future. This is an outstanding area in which to live and work and minister. The Ministry Area is committed to developing its life in a way that is energizing and purposeful. Renewed focus on engaging with families and schools as well as formal civic ministry continues across the Ministry Area. Major project work in historic buildings gives the chance to participate in visionary strategic development of material resources. The dynamic changes brought with social and economic developments and the evolution of tourism across the area invites imaginative forms of worship and engagement.

There is a well-maintained parsonage in Beaumaris with easy walking access around town with stunning views of the Menai Straits and Carneddau mountains. Local amenities beyond the town include Menai Bridge and the historic city of Bangor.

For further information please contact:

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