



Esgobaeth  
Bangor  
The Diocese  
of Bangor



*Ministry Area Profile*  
**Holyhead**

# *Croeso / Welcome*



As Bishops in the diocese of Bangor we hope you find the information in this profile helpful and engaging. For more than a decade we have focused all our ministerial energies through our Ministry Areas convinced that we can do more together and better than we can apart. Our hopes for all who serve with us is that this step of faith leads to flourishing church communities and disciples who delight to be belong to the Bangor family.

This profile is comprised of human elements – physical geography, the nature of the communities and the churches who serve them, language and cultural factors alongside the spiritual opportunities and dynamics within the Ministry Area. We believe it's an honest and hopeful reflection of the realities as they are experienced by those who live within them.

Should you choose to journey with us we can assure you of our strong support and our prayers for your future should you minister elsewhere.

May God's grace and peace be with you in your discernment,

+Andrew Cambrensis    +David Enlli

# *Vicar and Ministry Area Leader*

We are looking for a priest to lead and serve the mission and ministry of the Church in the Ministry Area of Bro Cybi in the Diocese of Bangor. Bro Cybi covers the entirety of Holy Island/Ynys Cybi, off the west coast of Anglesey, and serves the port town of Holyhead with the coastal communities of Trearddur Bay and Rhoscolyn.

We are looking for someone who is:

- A pioneering leader, with imagination and creativity to help us glimpse God's Kingdom in our churches and our communities, in worship and action.
- Committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in an accessible and contextually appropriate way in a way that invites a response of faith
- Compassionate, able to see Christ in the face of others and respond to a wide range of need
- Grounded in a prayerful life in God, so as to have a boldness to grasp the opportunities and the stamina to withstand being overwhelmed by the challenges
- Willing to build on the positive engagements with civic and voluntary bodies, with diocesan projects and local church initiatives, for missional action across generations and types of need
- Able to develop our engagement with children and young people to lead them into a positive and joyous relationship with God
- Able to foster and encourage lay and ordained people to pursue and develop their gifts and to further establish the Ministry Team.
- Sympathetic to and engaged with the expression of Welsh alongside the predominant use of English in worship (we've a proven track record as a diocese in equipping and supporting clergy in learning and developing their Welsh language skills)
- A person of broad and generous vision across liturgical styles and social engagement.

A new property will be purchased for the Ministry Area Leader to live in, matching diocesan parsonage standards.

# Diocese of Bangor

We are a vibrant Christian community with a rich history dating back to the fifth century, rooted in the traditions of early Celtic saints such as Deiniol, Cybi, Seiriol, Tudwen, Madryn, and others. These saints are immortalised in the names of our churches, villages, and towns.

While our mission remains steadfast over a millennium and a half, our contemporary context presents new and challenging opportunities. In response, we have embraced a vision of following Jesus with renewed vigor and innovative approaches.

We have established three key principles, three priorities, three plans, and three new platforms to guide our journey.

[Read more](#) about these on our website.

Our commitment revolves around three visionary principles that we believe should define our communal life:

- Worshipping God.
- Growing the Church.
- Loving the world.

We welcome you to join us in this transformative mission, as we navigate the challenges of our time with faith, dedication, and a commitment to worship, growth, and love.



Diocese of Bangor | BBC Pilgrimage 2024



# *Introducing Bro Cybi*

Holy Island/Ynys Cybi, with the main island of Anglesey and other smaller islands, make up together the County of the Isle of Anglesey/Ynys Môn. The County is the largest Welsh island and the fifth largest surrounding Great Britain. It is a stunning and beautiful part of Wales.

The County's entire rural coastline has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and features many sandy beaches, especially along its eastern coast between the towns of Beaumaris and Amlwch and along the western

coast from Ynys Llanddwyn through Rhosneigr to the little bays around Carmel Head.

The northern coastline is characterised by dramatic cliffs interspersed with small bays. The Anglesey Coastal Path is a 125-mile path which follows the entire coastline.

Transport links are excellent. The A55 provides a very fast route across North Wales towards the big cities of Manchester and Liverpool, and links with other motorways.

Holyhead railway station is busy with regular fast trains direct to Crewe, Cardiff and London. The port of Holyhead is the second largest ferry port in the UK.

Tourism is now the most significant economic activity on the island with over 2 million people visiting the Island each year. Agriculture provides the secondary source of income for the island's economy. Industrial production has almost disappeared from Anglesey, and several large employers have recently been lost. The recent announcement of Freeport status for Holyhead is seen as a major boost. The 2021 Census recorded the County population as 68,900, and 55.8% are Welsh speakers.

### **Holy Island**

Holy Island/Ynys Cybi (15.22 square miles) with which the Ministry Area of Bro Cybi is co-terminus, is one of great contrasts. It contains 30 miles of coastal path, which provides some of the most outstanding scenery in Wales. Dramatic coastline, two

country parks, glorious beaches and amazing wildlife draw a large number of tourists each year. It is a hotspot for outdoor pursuits offering a wide range of activities including walking, sailing, climbing, kayaking and diving. At its centre is the town of Holyhead.

### **Holyhead**

With a population of 12,084, this is by far the largest town in the County. This busy town and port is of strategic importance for Anglesey and beyond, but faces serious challenges, with high levels of social, economic and environmental issues.

It scores highly against multiple measures of deprivation. This has been recognised by central government, so that Holyhead has been awarded very recently Levelling-Up Funding of £17.5 million for several projects in the town, of which £1.7 million is aimed at the transformation of St Cybi's Church and its surroundings towards social engagement and a social enterprise. There is strong Diocesan commitment to this work.



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### **Trearddur Bay & Rhoscolyn**

Trearddur Bay is a gathered settlement around a beautiful bay on the west side of the island, very popular with holiday makers.

St. Ffraid's Church is situated in the heart of the village. Rhoscolyn has the character of a scattered rural settlement towards the south of the island, where St. Gwenfaen's Church and hall are located, near another beautiful beach.

Both places are popular holiday destinations, have many holiday properties and second homes; they are popular areas too for retirement from many parts of the country, with consequently high property prices.

They are busy in summer, much quieter in winter, though with sufficient local resident numbers to sustain community and church life, and local schools.

Four churches – St Cybi's, St David's, St Ffraid's and St Gwenfaen's – serve



the communities of Holy Island/Ynys Cybi, in and around Holyhead, Trearddur Bay and Rhoscolyn.

There are many profound opportunities for mission here, and many serious challenges to that mission; all these they face together, sharing a common identity across several congregations as Bro Cybi.

The Ministry Area is served and governed by a single Ministry Area Council on which all the churches are represented and in which the distinctive lives of each of the churches are co-ordinated in mutual collaboration.

The clergy staff of the Ministry Area will be the Ministry Area Leader, one long-established full-time stipendiary associate priest, and a newly-appointed stipendiary pioneer priest. These are supported by a Reader and retired clergy. There are active volunteers in each church alongside the wardens, for enabling Sunday worship and weekday activities.

The development of sustainable finances in Bro Cybi has been a real achievement in recent years. Finances are still tight, but the culture and mindset of the Ministry Area has changed to significantly improve giving by the various congregations, as well as looking for ways to raise the necessary finance for building and other projects from other sources.

Bro Cybi pays its Bishop's Ministry Fund (the new name for parish/Ministry Area share) in full.

### **Worship and Mission**

Most public worship at present focuses around the Holy Eucharist (two services at 9.15 a.m. and two at 11.00 a.m.). There's an average of 15 baptisms, 20 weddings and 40-50 funerals per year. With the flexibility of space in St. David's, and the complete reordering of St. Cybi's, there is the hope of exploring other expressions of worship in all the churches, of creative and imaginative

engagement with these sacred spaces and connection with the spiritual



needs of a diverse population.

In this bilingual area, worship often includes both languages, English and Welsh, in hymns, prayers and readings, with members of the congregations taking part in these.

The Ministry Area Leader sets the tone of a positive attitude to both languages and cultures; they are not expected to be a Welsh speaker though we are looking for an engagement with and encouragement of Welsh language and culture alongside the predominant use of English. The Ministry Area is active in Cytn (Churches Together).

In the Ministry Area there is a secondary school and a number of primary schools. There is a good working relationship with some of the primary schools and especially with the local Church in Wales Primary School in Holyhead, Ysgol Cybi, where the stipendiary clergy serve as governors and visit weekly to take assemblies, and there is involvement





too of other church members in school life.

There is also a Church/School Council that is very active and has produced some excellent joint ventures - supporting the local food bank, raising money or collecting items for local charities and work overseas. Different classes visit St. Cybi's for educational visits and for services.

Involvement with Ysgol Gwenfaen, Rhoscolyn, also takes place, and further engagement with young people is looked for, already trialled with one-off encounter events outside St Cybi's with the many young people passing through.

A regular key act of mission for Bro Cybi is Gwledd Fawr, the name for the weekly distribution of surplus food on Sunday afternoon in Holyhead at Eglwys-y-Bedd, which stands next to St. Cybi's. This is a free giveaway, publicised through social media, and is for anyone who needs food or knows someone who needs food.

This has been an important ministry to people outside the church and Gwledd Fawr has gained many positive

from people in the town and outside the church.

Gwledd Fawr has led to St Cybi's being seen as a church which tries to benefit all people and is a community church. This has been essential missionally to break down the perception of the Church being 'aloof', and allowed us to develop very good relationships with many outside the church community, some of whom help collect the surplus food regularly from the supermarkets and others who are regular customers.

As a result good connections have been built, resulting in a wedding blessing in church and other interactions with church people. Excellent links have been forged between the Ministry Area and Holyhead Town Council and Anglesey County Council as well as with other institutions such as the Royal British Legion, Ucheldre Centre and Maritime Museum, Môn CF and Townscape Heritage Initiative.

These positive engagements have resulted in funding opportunities being shared with the Ministry Area which led first to advancing the development of the re-ordering proposals for the

church and then to the successful submission of the full joint bid to the UK Government under its 'Heritage-led regeneration' strategy for the Levelling Up Fund.

Youth work with young people who were hanging around in the churchyard in the evenings has been undertaken by the clergy. This has involved outdoor cooking on camping stoves and with a Gillie kettle, cooking burgers and making hot chocolate, and cooking in the church porch during bad weather. The young people have valued this when we have engaged with them and they often make contact with us when they see us around town.

This has greatly improved relationships with young people in the town and has changed their perception of what the church is for and what we are about. We believe this to be the path for the future sustainability of the church, by continuing our good relationships in town through positive mission activities church and then to the successful submission of the full joint bid to the



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To further develop mission in Bro Cybi, Bangor Diocese has committed funding (via one strand of its Llan Project) for a long-term social enterprise food outlet in a re-ordered Eglwys-y-Bedd, which will develop and continue the mission begun with Gwledd Fawr. Via another strand of the Llan Project, pilgrimage-orientated installations will form part of the re-ordered St Cybi's Church. Faith tourism is an exciting development in the Diocese, and Bro Cybi is well-placed to participate in this.

# Church Life

## *Saint Cybi's Church and Eglwys-y-Bedd, Holyhead*



These two historic buildings, the main church and the separate Eglwys-y-Bedd (the remains of a medieval nave which has also served as the first established school in Holyhead and a meeting room), stand in the centre of the ancient Roman fort on this site. Since the pandemic the main Sunday service in Saint Cybi's is at 11.00am, with a Wednesday morning service at 10.30am. Baptisms are conducted on a regular basis, and Saint Cybi's is a very popular venue for funerals being used regularly for large funerals that can hold approximately 200 mourners. Everything from civic events to an annual Christmas Tree festival take place here. The Church is Grade I listed and a major tourist attraction for the thousands who visit the town in the summer months on the cruise ships which dock at the port.

The ministry to visitors is an important one, and volunteer stewards and guides ensure that the church is staffed to welcome those who come as visitors and as pilgrims. In July for two weeks we have a Charity shop in the town centre, as another means of fundraising. We also have a strong Walsingham Cell group that meets regularly at church.

An ambitious development project is currently being undertaken for these two buildings, financed by the Government's Levelling Up Funding, bringing a reordered church and Eglwys-y-Bedd, the latter giving a base for a social enterprise café/food distribution hub which will be diocesan funded and run, with close integration with Ministry Area life. This will mean that these buildings will be closed for the building work to take place, throughout 2024. The vision and drive for the future flourishing of these will feature the Ministry Area Leader as a key player.

## *Saint David's Church and Hall, Morawelon*



St David's is a pre-fabricated multi-functional building that was erected in 1963 on the Morawelon housing estate north of the town centre. It has a good size hall (with a sanctuary that can be closed when appropriate - the only part of the building which is consecrated); a kitchen, vestry and toilets.

Following the closure of Holyhead Methodist Church in 2013, the Methodist Community established their new home in St David's by renting the church for its weekly Sunday worship and a fortnightly Friday community event. A covenant was signed between both, though this expired in 2020.

Our Ministry area Mothers' Union branch has a thirty-strong membership that meets monthly in the Hall which is also rented by the local community for line dancing, ballroom dancing, tai chi, Big Feast and as a polling station.

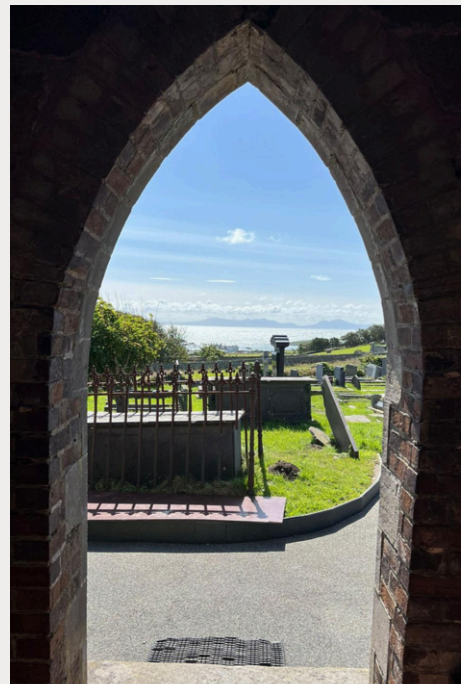
We hold services at 9.15 am every Sunday and use the church for Bible study. We are also active fundraisers.



## *Saint Ffraid's Church, Trearddur Bay*



There has been a place of worship in Trearddur Bay for approximately 800 years with the current church building dating from 1932. It is a bright, warm and welcoming building, well-located on the main road, and much in demand for weddings, baptisms and other family occasions. A service is held every Sunday at 11am.



Congregation numbers vary seasonally with holidaymakers supplementing the small but dedicated regular congregation during the summer months. There are a number of services held in connection with the local sailing community including the RNLI Carol Concert and annual Sailing Club service of dedication.

The church hall is a relatively new building with a modern kitchen and facilities. The congregation meet here for tea and coffee after Sunday services, and it is also used for other church events and meetings. Use of the hall is now increasing following the restrictions of the pandemic. It is rented out for community events, choir practice and for the local Brownies. A weekly Lectionary study group meets here too.

## *Saint Gwenfaen's Church & Church Hall, Rhoscolyn*



St Gwenfaen's Church is on a raised site with spectacular views over a wide area of Anglesey, as well as the mountains of Snowdonia and the Llyn peninsula. The church is Grade II listed. A service is held here every Sunday at 9.15 a.m.

We currently have a faculty in place for the restoration of three William Morris stained glass windows. The quotation for the work to be done on the windows and surrounding stonework is £30,000 and we have currently raised £15,000 towards this cost. Various fundraising plans are in place.

Holiday visitors – the number of holiday homes in the area increases the population at Christmas, Easter and the main holiday months. The church attracts many visitors to services, especially at Christmas and Easter.

Church members have close links to the local junior school as one of our Churchwardens is an ex-Head teacher at the school and who still teaches there part-time. The children love to visit the church and get involved with special projects.

We are fortunate to have a well-maintained Church Hall. This is not only a great additional space for meetings but it also means we have excellent facilities in which to hold fund raising events, for both the Church and the Hall. Rental income from various sources, including wedding receptions and regular exercise classes, providing a contribution towards our share of the Bishop's Ministry Fund. There is the potential to increase the use of the Hall which we are keen to do. All events are well-attended and our annual Art and Craft fair draws people from far and wide.

People in the local community, who do not necessarily attend church services do help and support us at community events.

We hope to hold regular gatherings at the hall next winter for lunch or afternoon tea to help with possibly lonely people.

We celebrate St Gwenfaen's Day every year with a walk from the church or hall to St Gwenfaen's Well on the headland for a service of blessing and back to the hall for tea and cake. This takes place in September. We have previously held services of hymns and short prayers on the beach in the summer and would look forward to starting this again.



# *Interested?*

The Ministry Area of Bro Cybi offers new and exciting opportunities for the future. This is an outstanding area in which to live and work and minister. The developing clergy team offers opportunities to develop its life in ways that are energizing and purposeful. 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 invites imaginative forms of worship and engagement.

# *Appointment Process*

Please send your CV together with a letter of application by email to Archdeacon John Harvey [johnharvey@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:johnharvey@churchinwales.org.uk)

Your CV should outline your educational and training qualifications and your employment history.

Your letter of application, taking up no more than two sides of A4, should describe what attracts you to the role and relate your skills and experience to the person specification.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview.

## **More information and an informal chat**

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