



Esgobaeth
Bangor
The Diocese
of Bangor



Ministry Area Profile
Bro Madryn

Introduction

Dear friend,

Bro Madryn is a Ministry Area with a clear commitment to mission and growth. The churches here are outward-looking, collaborative, and rooted in prayer, Bible study and discipleship. There is a culture of lay involvement, supported by committed clergy, which has helped to shape a confident and maturing Ministry Area.

Bro Madryn is financially stable and has worked hard to unify its giving. While general reserves are modest, there is a significant restricted building fund, and the Ministry Area has recently recorded a surplus, part of which is shared in support of mission beyond the local context.

There is a strong sense of partnership, particularly with the neighbouring Bro Enlli Ministry Area, and a shared commitment to sustaining ministry across the Llŷn Peninsula.

We are seeking a Ministry Area Leader who will sustain and develop the mission focus, encourage discipleship, and lead with clarity, presence and pastoral sensitivity. The communities served by Bro Madryn are naturally bilingual. We are looking for someone who is comfortable working in both Welsh and English, or who is committed to developing their language skills.

The Diocese of Bangor has faced a challenging period in recent years, but there are clear signs of stability and renewed direction. Faithful ministry has continued throughout, and the process of appointing a new Bishop is now underway.

If you sense that this might be the right context for your ministry, I would welcome an informal conversation. The people of Bro Madryn are prayerfully seeking the person God is calling to lead them, and I would be glad to hear from you.

Every blessing,
Archdeacon Robert Townsend

Diocese of Bangor

Geography • Language • Community

Where We Are



Rural and urban,
dispersed
communities across
wide distances

Language & Identity



Welsh language and
culture are integral to
our faith and identity.

50% of the population
of North West Wales
are Welsh speaking
(approx)



**162 active
church
buildings**

Deeply rooted,
local ministry



St Deiniol's
Cathedral Bangor

Mother Church of
the diocese



What defines this diocese

Rural, coastal, and dispersed communities
Welsh-speaking heartland
Diverse contexts: university, tourism, farming
Church embedded in community life



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Introducing Bro Madryn

Bro Madryn covers the north side of Pen Llŷn, from Llithfaen to Bryncroes. It is a rural, coastal area where communities are close-knit and the Welsh language is part of everyday life.

It is also a place that changes with the seasons. Visitor numbers rise in the summer, and our congregations often grow with them. Many who now live here first came as visitors.

Like many rural areas, there are challenges. Employment opportunities are limited, housing can be difficult for younger families, and most of our congregations are older. This affects both capacity and finances. And yet, there is commitment here. People care for their churches and for one another. They give their time, keep things going, and remain faithful.

Nefyn is the largest community in the area, with a population of around 1,200. It has a primary school, a library, and Y Ganolfan, a well-used community hub hosting a wide range of local groups and activities. These are important points of connection for the church.

Along the coast are Morfa Nefyn and Edern. Together with Nefyn, these communities have a combined population of around 2,600. In Morfa Nefyn, the reopening of St Mary's Church in 2024 was a significant moment and has brought real encouragement to the Ministry Area.



Beyond these are smaller villages and hamlets, including Bryncroes, Llangwnnadr, Llaniestyn, Llandudwen, and Pistyll. In Botwnnog, although the church building closed some years ago, it has been reopened as a church hall and is now used regularly, including for work with young people from the nearby secondary school.

This is not one single community, but a network of places. Ministry here is shaped by presence, by travel, and by the need to hold these communities together as one church across the area. Your ministry would be about getting to know them, and helping to hold them together as one church.

Accommodation is provided by a 4 bedroom modern vicarage in Morfa Nefyn. It is a few minutes walk' from a lovely beach, from where you can easily walk on to the Tŷ Coch Inn and RNLI station at Porthdinllaen. The Wales Coastal Path is beautiful in this area and if you play golf, Nefyn Golf Club is in Morfa Nefyn!

Worship & Mission

Across the nine churches of Bro Madryn, there is a range of worshipping traditions and styles. Some congregations are rooted in sacramental worship; others place more emphasis on preaching and informal styles. Services take place in Welsh, English, or both, depending on the community.

Not every church is able to sustain weekly worship. In some buildings, particularly those without heating or electricity, services are limited during the winter months. This requires flexibility across the Ministry Area.



Since Covid, regular attendance fell by around a third. That loss is still felt. At the same time, there are signs of encouragement. A weekly time of prayer for growth has become an important part of our life together, and in some churches we are beginning to see growth again, both in numbers and in depth of faith.

Alongside Sunday worship, there are four regular Bible study groups: two meeting in homes in Nefyn, one in Llaniestyn, and one for those exploring faith. There is also a weekly online prayer meeting in Welsh. These are led by lay people and are an important part of our shared life.

In Nefyn, there is regular contact with children and families. Teulu Twt meets weekly during term time and connects with around 10–15 families. Messy Church takes place during school holidays and typically welcomes 30–40 children with their parents or carers. A monthly beach gathering is also being developed during the summer.

There are primary schools across the Ministry Area, including Ysgol Pont y Gof, a Church in Wales VC primary school in Botwnnog, where there is also a good relationship with the secondary school. A weekly lunchtime drop-in there is run by a small team of volunteers and provides regular contact with young people. Since Covid, regular attendance fell by around a third. That loss is still felt.

Caffi Colled meets fortnightly in Nefyn and offers a place of support for those who are bereaved, many of whom are not regular churchgoers. A monthly men's breakfast and a women's breakfast also draw people from across Llŷn and beyond, providing opportunities for conversation and faith to be shared.



As a Ministry Area, we take part in local events such as Parti yn yr Ardd and Sioe Nefyn. The show is one of the main agricultural events in the area and draws large numbers of people each year. Having a presence there allows us to be visible, to reconnect with those who have had contact with the church, and to meet others in a natural way.

Some initiatives have borne more fruit than others. Inviting people to church remains a challenge for many. At the same time, there is willingness to try, and a recognition that growth will come through relationships, consistency, and prayer.

Church life

Saint David, Nefyn



Nefyn is the main town in Bro Madryn, with a population of around 1,200. It has a primary school, a number of shops, and a strong sense of local identity, as well as a steady flow of visitors, particularly in the summer months.

St David's Church stands in the centre of the town. Built in 1903–4, it is a flexible space, with room for worship as well as activities during the week. Basic facilities, including a small kitchen and toilet, make it possible to host groups and events, particularly those involving children and families.

Bilingual worship takes place every Sunday morning, with an all-age service on the first Sunday of the month. Congregations are typically between 15 and 30, rising during holiday periods. There has been noticeable growth in the past year, and there is a sense that this can continue.

The church is well used for occasional offices and community events. The local primary school holds services here at times, and there are established links with organisations such as the Royal British Legion and the sailing club.

During the winter of 2024–25, Sunday services were temporarily held at Y Ganolfan due to heating issues in the church building. This was supported by the congregation and funded through donations. Work to improve the heating is ongoing.

Much of the life of the church is sustained by volunteers, who welcome, read, clean, and support activities throughout the week.

- St David's is the base for several regular activities. Two weekly 'Know Your Bible' groups meet in homes and are open to new members.
- Teulu Twt meets every Friday morning during term time and connects with around 10–15 families. It is run by members of the congregation and provides regular contact with parents and carers in the community.
- Messy Church takes place during school holidays and typically welcomes around 30 children with their parents or carers. It provides a consistent opportunity to engage with families and share the Christian story in accessible ways.
- Llŷn Praise is held monthly and offers a different style of worship, drawing people from across the area.

The church has experience of mission activity, including visits from the Fellowship for Parish Evangelism. Events such as an art exhibition, which brought around 300 people into the church, have shown that there is scope to engage more widely with the community.

There are also established links with the Scripture Union beach mission and with Nefyn Camps, which have been part of the area for many years.

This is a church with a visible presence in the town, regular contact with families, and signs of growth. There is a clear opportunity to build on what is already happening, particularly in work with children and in drawing others into the life of the church.

Saint Mary, Morfa Nefyn



Santes Fair, Morfa Nefyn, was built in 1870, with a vestry added in 1933. After closing in 2013, the church was reopened in June 2024 following a sustained effort by local people to keep the building in use and restore it for worship.

During the years of closure, a group of local volunteers continued to hold seasonal services and raised funds to improve the building, including redecoration, new heating, and updated flooring. The church is now once again in regular use and in a good condition for both worship and community activity.

Monthly services are now held, mostly through the medium of Welsh, reflecting the local community, with some bilingual provision when needed. The church stands in the centre of the village, close to the primary school, and there is scope to build further links. It is also in an area that sees many visitors, particularly during the summer months.

This is a church that has been given a new beginning, with strong local support and real potential for growth.

Eglwys y Bont, Abersoch



Eglwys y Bont meets in Abersoch and began after the closure of the church in Botwnnog in 2016, when a small group on the south side of the peninsula felt called to establish a new congregation. Initially meeting in a holiday property, the group later moved into a small Baptist chapel, which they now rent. The church takes its name from its location and purpose: to be a bridge within the community. Worship is bilingual, with both Welsh and English used naturally. Services are generally informal, with flexibility in style, though more structured liturgy is used at times, particularly for Holy Communion.

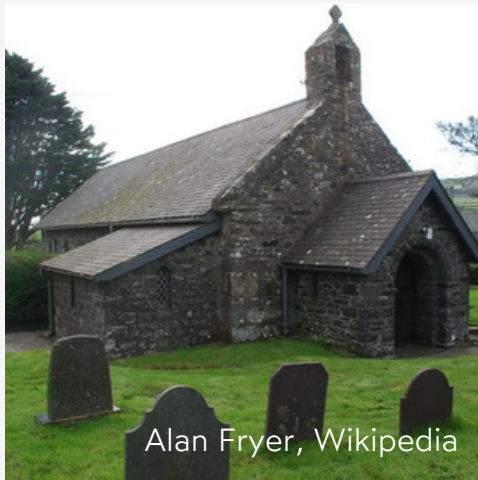
The congregation is small but active, with a strong outward focus. There are good relationships with the local chapel, including regular 'Panad a Sgwrs' gatherings, which have developed into a Welsh-language Bible study.

Much of the church's life is shaped by its setting in a busy tourist village. An early morning Communion service is held on the beach at Easter. At Christmas, the church takes part in village celebrations, offering hospitality, children's activities, and opportunities for conversation. At New Year, 'Candles in the Sand' provides space for prayer and remembrance, often drawing people who would not usually attend church.

The church also engages with the local community through informal initiatives such as visiting local businesses during the summer season, building relationships with those who live and work in the village.

Members are involved across the wider Ministry Area, including supporting children's work in Botwnnog and taking part in shared activities and events. This is a small, outward-looking congregation with a clear sense of purpose and a willingness to try new ways of connecting with the community.

Santes Mair, Bryncroes



Santes Mair, Bryncroes, is a Grade II* listed church in an agricultural parish on the south side of Bro Madryn. The present building dates from the 16th century, with restoration in the early 20th century, and has served as a place of worship for the local community over many generations.

The church stands close to Ffynnon y Santes Fair (St Mary's Well), and water from the well is still used for baptisms, reflecting a long continuity of Christian practice in this place.

A service of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer is held every Sunday at 11.00, through the medium of Welsh. Around 12 people attend regularly, with others joining at different times of year.

The congregation is committed and consistent, and plays a full part in the life of Bro Madryn, supporting services and activities across the Ministry Area. This is a steady rural congregation, rooted in Welsh-language worship and in the life of the parish.

Saint Edern, Edern



St Edern's Church stands in the village of Edern and is dedicated to a 6th-century Welsh saint. It is a Grade II listed building, with much of the present structure dating from the 15th century. The circular churchyard and early font reflect its Celtic origins and long history of worship on this site.

The church has a small but faithful congregation, and services follow a traditional pattern. Worship is held in English on the first Sunday of the month and in Welsh on the third.

There is a close relationship with Llandudwen. During the months when services are not held there regularly, members of that congregation often join worship at Edern, particularly for English services.

This is a steady and committed congregation, rooted in tradition, where ministry is shaped by consistency, care, and an understanding of the place that worship holds in people's lives.

Saint Gwynhoedl, Llangwinnadl



St Gwynhoedl's, Llangwinnadl, is a Grade I listed church on the edge of the village, dedicated to a 6th-century Welsh saint. The present building dates from the 14th or 15th century, with later additions, and stands on an earlier Christian site associated with St Gwynhoedl himself. It was an important stop on the pilgrimage route to Ynys Enlli, and that connection continues. The church is open daily and is visited regularly, particularly by pilgrims.

The building is distinctive, with a rare three-nave design and the grave of St Gwynhoedl located close to the altar, reflecting its long history as a place of worship and pilgrimage.

The congregation is small, typically between 2 and 6 people, but faithful and committed. Worship is rooted in the Eucharist, with a traditional pattern and the use of vestments. Services are mainly in English, with some use of Welsh in hymns.

The congregation are active in trying to draw others in. Events have included celebrations for Santes Dwynwen and Burns Night, a harvest supper, and a Passover meal. Ascension Day is marked with a walk and outdoor act of worship, which has brought others into contact with the church. This is a place where ministry is shaped by a small core congregation, a strong sense of tradition, and regular contact with those who visit.

Saint Tudwen, Llandudwen



Llandudwen is one of the most ancient church sites in Wales, founded in the 5th century and associated with St Tudwen, a relative of St David who is said to have settled here to teach the Christian faith. The present building reflects later rebuilding, but its long history remains evident in its setting and character.

The church now stands in open agricultural land, the former village having largely dispersed. It is a quiet and remote place, shaped by its rural surroundings.

Services are held here in English on the second and fourth Sundays of the month between Easter and October. Outside these months, members of the congregation worship mainly at Ederne, and there is a close relationship between the two churches.

St Beuno Church Hall, Botwnnog,



The former church at Botwnnog closed in 2016, but has since reopened as a church hall, recognising its location next to the area's only secondary school.

The building is now a flexible and well-used space, with kitchen and toilet facilities, and is the only church hall within the Ministry Area.

It is used weekly for a lunchtime drop-in for pupils and for the Good Book Club, providing regular contact with young people. It is also used for occasional meetings and Ministry Area events.

This is an important base for work with young people and offers clear scope to develop that ministry further.

Saint Iestyn, Llaniestyn



Llaniestyn is a Grade I listed church in a small hamlet about five miles from Nefyn. The congregation reflects the rural area it serves, including farming families, retirees, and a small number of younger households.

The core congregation is around 6–8 people, who are committed and active in their faith. Several have sustained the life of the church over many years, providing continuity and stability.

The church has a flexible space, with chairs rather than pews, and a kitchen and WC. Opposite is a well-kept community garden, which is used during the summer months for hospitality and outdoor gatherings. The building can be cold in winter, which limits use at certain times of year.

Worship takes a range of forms, from more traditional services with hymns and preaching (often bilingual) to simpler gatherings with prayer, reflection, and discussion. A weekly Bible study group meets regularly.

There is an active programme of events through the year, including garden teas, a summer barbecue, outdoor worship, a guided walk, and seasonal services such as Plygain and Candlemas. Some of these attract over 30 people and provide opportunities to connect with others in the area.

The church works closely with others across Bro Madryn and values that sense of shared life and support. This is a small but active congregation, with a willingness to try new things and grow the congregation.

St Beuno, Pistyll



St Beuno's, Pistyll, is a Grade I listed church on the edge of the village, lit only by natural light or candles. It has a quiet, prayerful atmosphere and is an important stop on the North Wales Pilgrim's Way. The church is also a popular place for weddings.

The church has strong Celtic roots. Its circular churchyard and early foundation link it to St Beuno, the 7th-century Welsh saint and missionary. The present building dates from the 12th century, with much of what remains from the 15th century.

Worship is held here once a month between Easter and September, usually in the afternoon. The regular congregation is small, often one or two local people, with attendance increasing significantly when visitors are present.

Some services draw much larger congregations. The candlelit Christmas Eve communion fills the church, and the Lammis service in early August remains an important moment in the year, marking the beginning of the harvest and reflecting the agricultural life of the area. At Christmas, Easter, and Lammis, the church floor is traditionally strewn with rushes and herbs, a simple practice that connects worship with the seasons and the land.

This is a place where ministry is shaped by welcome, presence, and the opportunity to engage with those who pass through as well as those who live locally.

Interested?

This is a Ministry Area rich with potential. There is a strong foundation to build on: prayer, committed lay people, established patterns of worship, and a willingness to try new things.

If you are looking for a place where you can work with others, build on what is already there, and take the next steps in mission and growth, we would be glad to hear from you.

Application process

Please send your CV together with a letter of application by email to Archdeacon Robert Townsend roberttownsend@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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