

ESGOBAETH LLANDAF
LLE MAE FFYDD
YN CYFRIF



DIOCESE OF LLANDAFF
WHERE FAITH
MATTERS

Discovering the Diocese of Llandaff



Telling a joyful story
Building the kingdom of God
Growing our capacity for good

The Bishop of Llandaff

Welcome to this short introduction to the Diocese of Llandaff which seeks to give you a flavour of this ancient and yet very modern diocese within the Church in Wales. South Wales is changing rapidly, and the arrival of Welsh devolution only added to the sense that a new future is being created here. The same is true for the Church in Wales which must respond boldly to a changing landscape and declining experience of faith, whilst also remaining faithful to congregations which include some who have worshipped in our parish churches for a lifetime.

In 2012 the Church in Wales commissioned and then committed itself to a strategy for change to sustain the best of parish ministry. Three dioceses – Bangor, St Asaph, and St David's - forged ahead with restructuring parishes into larger groupings and Llandaff is now following with the development of 29 distinctive Ministry Areas by 1st January 2022.

Our purpose in creating this future is entirely focused on outreach and evangelism. How can we grow a living faith in Jesus Christ in communities which were once shaped by churchgoing but have now lost any habit or affiliation with Christian worship? How do we convince them that *faith matters* if they are to live abundantly? How do we make new disciples and diversify what we then offer them, thereby attracting a younger generation? Research tells us that the majority of those who do practise a Christian faith as a way of life began that journey before they were adults, so we take very seriously our desire to nurture faith in the young, with particular care for those in our church schools.

This nurturing of our identity and creating a new future for the diocese is expressed in our strategic Vision 'Where Faith Matters' which you can see described on our Diocese of Llandaff website: <https://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/where-faith-matters/>

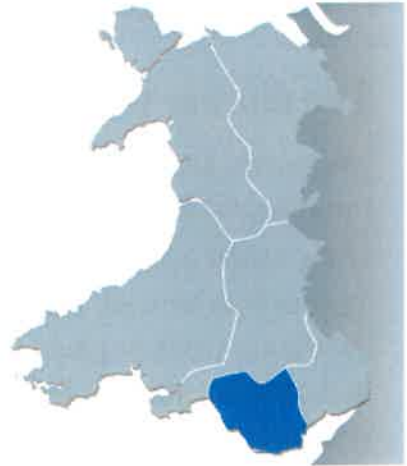
You will see there that we have set ourselves an exciting agenda which the current Covid-19 crisis has both helped and hindered. It provides a new context and has certainly made us even more determined to seek the welfare of our communities. All this requires leaders, clergy and lay, who can take forward our diocesan Vision with courage, compassion, and conviction. We hope you might consider joining us in that pilgrim adventure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized cross symbol followed by a cursive name.

Introduction

Nearly half the population of Wales lives in the diocese of Llandaff – over a million people in the most densely populated and industrial of the Welsh dioceses. Cardiff, Port Talbot, Merthyr Tydfil, the Rhondda Valleys – these are places once famous the world over for coal, iron and steel. The heavy industry has now in the most part been replaced by new technology, and along the M4 corridor new factories have sprung up to provide components for micro-chip-based goods.

The diocese covers an area of around 520,000 acres which includes some of the most beautiful countryside and seascapes in Wales, from the Heritage Coast of the Vale of Glamorgan in the south to the Valleys in the North. Cardiff, home of the National Assembly of Wales, is the fastest-growing capital city in Europe, with a vibrant life and distinctive identity.



History

The Christian faith was established in the area known as Morgannwg by Irish monks during the 5th century, and by 500AD monastic schools had been founded at Llantwit Major and Llancarfan. Dyfrig (c450-540) is remembered as the first Bishop for the area, to be succeeded by Teilo, but it was the third Bishop, Euddogwy, who settled at Llandaff, creating the Celtic “kingdom-Bishopric”.

The Middle Ages saw the building of the Cathedral, the Cistercian Abbeys of Margam and Neath, and many of the present churches in the diocese. The Church responded to the great industrial advance of the 19th century by providing the growing population of the Valleys with churches and schools. The great depression of the 1930s brought the same problems that were experienced by many areas of the country.



In the post-war years, the diocese saw the significant restoration of Llandaff Cathedral including Jacob Epstein’s ‘Majestas’, but also responded to the tragedy of Aberfan in 1966 and some of the harshest effects of the miners’ strike and closures in the 1980s.

The current heavy industry is focused on steel, which has been under threat. Future industry is likely to be in high tech areas such as media, aeronautics, genomics and IT, requiring a very different skill set.

In 1955, Cardiff was declared the capital city of Wales, and in 1998 it became home to the National Assembly for Wales, followed by the new Millennium Stadium and the development of Cardiff Bay. The population of Cardiff is currently 350,000 and expected to rise to 450,000 by 2036.

These changes present both challenges and opportunities to the diocese, to develop models of ministry suitable for a new century.

The diocese today

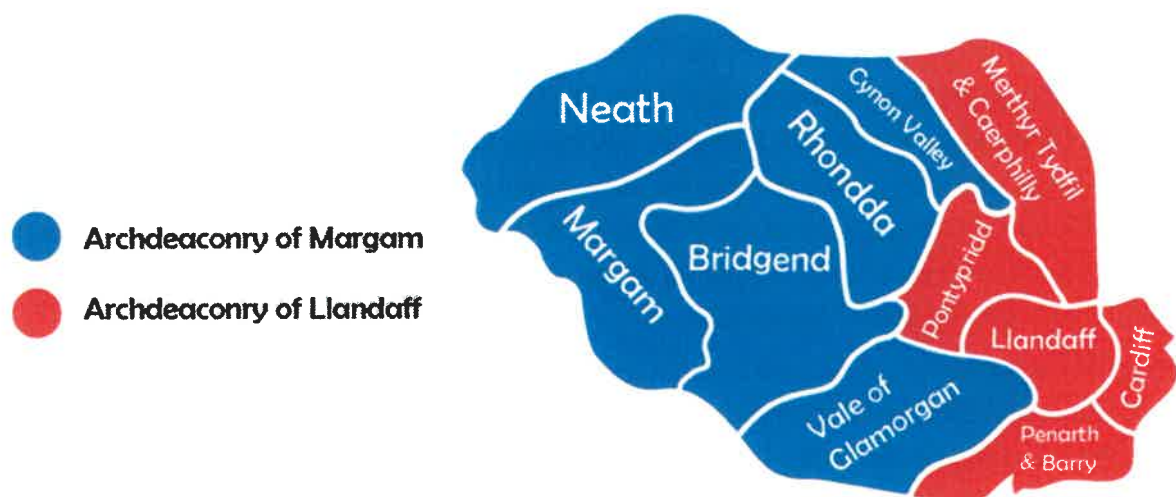
The diocese covers at least four diverse areas, the City of Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan, the industrial west and the Valleys, divided into two archdeaconries, Llandaff and Margam.

While Cardiff is clearly an expanding and vibrant city which draws many people from across the diocese both for work and leisure, every community is active and has a distinct character. The Valleys are still strong local communities, although facing the challenges of unemployment and depopulation. The Vale too has a real sense of local identity and community, while in the west and north of the diocese are the industrial towns such as Merthyr, Neath and Port Talbot which are in themselves strong, independent communities but affected by the post-industrial changes following the closure of the coal industry. It is also important to remember that some people in the west of the diocese relate to Swansea as the nearest major city and not Cardiff, and the new campus of Swansea University is in the Diocese of Llandaff.

All areas of the diocese have undergone great change and development in recent years, with new housing and shopping developments, new industry and business but at the time some areas have faced enormous challenges. Of the ten most deprived communities listed in the 2014 Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation, seven were located in Llandaff diocese.

Recent years have seen fundamental changes in the West of the diocese and in the Valleys, with the loss of traditional industries and uncertainty about new forms of employment. In the Vale and, to a great extent, Cardiff the challenges are very real in terms of new development, inward migration and urban deprivation and how to integrate these changes into existing communities.

Whilst the diocese is predominantly English speaking with many people who moved into Wales from England and are long settled here, there is a growing bilingualism and recognition that familiarity with the Welsh language is a crucial part of our cultural identity.



Diocesan Statistics

- Archdeacons: 2 – Llandaff and Margam; Deaneries: 11
- Parishes: currently 106 organized into 91 Benefices moving to 29 Ministry Areas by 1st January 2022
- Clergy: 133 parochial clergy, of whom 39 (29%) are female and 94 (71%); 7 are chaplains, of whom 3 (43%) are female
- Lay Readers: 33, of whom 12 (36%) are female and 21 (64%) are male

All figures for 2018 unless otherwise stated

- Easter Communicants: 11,481
- Average Sunday Attendance: over 18 = 7,099; under 18 = 1,652
- Average attendance non-traditional acts of worship : 10,863
- Baptisms: 1,395; Confirmations: 398
- Church Schools: 22 Primary and 3 Secondary
- 2018 Parish Share: £4,023,508 (Collection rate 99.9%) Expenditure: £7,219,499
- 2018 Reserves: £27m of which £8.7m are unrestricted

The future for the diocese of Llandaff

The diocese is looking to meet the future needs of growing, changing, sometimes affluent, sometimes struggling areas. We seek to use effectively the resources of buildings, finance, clergy and active and committed congregations which are at our disposal. In order to develop a vision for the future of the diocese, a listening exercise was carried out which engaged with many different groups around the diocese. The culmination of this exercise is the vision document 'Where Faith Matters'. Our aim is to place church life in Llandaff firmly in a 21st

century context where it can build the kingdom of God, grow in its capacity for good, and tell a joyful Christian story. <https://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/where-faith-matters/>

There is a strong diocesan identity, enriched by its diversity, and diocesan events such as Diocesan Conference, the Chrism Eucharist, Spirituality Days, Training and other special events are well supported from across the diocese. Diocesan Conference and other events move around the diocese to ensure that not everything is based in Cardiff. The Diocesan Office itself is currently based in Coychurch, Bridgend, though conversations are actively exploring shared facilities with the Diocese of Monmouth.

The implementation of the Diocesan Vision and its emphasis on outreach is now our priority. Work focuses on Ministry & Vocations, Support & Communications, Education, Children & Young People and Outreach. The DBF has committed £3m of its unrestricted reserves to the implementation of the Diocesan Vision; and a further £2.9m has been obtained from the Provincial Evangelism Fund. The furthering of the Diocesan Vision, and all areas of diocesan and parish life are supported by the team of diocesan officers who work closely with the Bishop, archdeacons, area deans and parishes providing expertise, advice and practical support in a wide range of areas, making relationships across the diocese strong and productive.

The Diocese and Covid-19

At this time almost the entire Diocese is experiencing local lockdown. Like other parts of the UK the experience of Covid-19 has transformed our experience of church life and we expect the challenges and new opportunities to continue for some considerable time. Parish clergy have responded with energy and invention as they have maintained the offer of worship and pastoral care both on-line and with severe restrictions on the use of buildings. Thanks to the generosity of the Representative Body (trustees of the assets of the Church in Wales) and the careful management of the Diocesan Board of Finance all parishes are being financially supported through the crisis. In the summer of 2020 we ordained 16 candidates (9 deacons and 7 priests) who are beginning their diaconal or priestly ministry in these abnormal conditions.

More about the up to date news concerning the diocese can be found either on our website (<https://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/en/>) or through our weekly e-newsletter, Llandaff Matters which you can sign up for using this link:

<https://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/join-our-mailing-list/>

What makes Llandaff special?

What we inherited

- History of Christianity with roots back to the 5th Century
- Geographically compact so any part can be reached within an hour
- Cardiff, the capital of Wales and the second-oldest multi-ethnic community in the UK
- Diversity and flexibility of approach in different parishes
- Strong commitment from parishes to the life of the diocese
- Diverse areas and communities, each bring a rich culture and heritage

What we initiated

- The first Church Army Centre of Mission in Wales (established 2015)
- Pioneer Ministers in the Neath deanery and in the Rhondda Valley along with other covenanted churches
- 'Citizen Church', the first Resource Church in South Wales, launched in 2020
- First diocese in the Province to appoint a female Archdeacon
- First diocese to create a Gender Working Party
- First diocese to appoint a Community Mental Health Chaplain

What we developed

- Ministry in our twenty-five Church Schools, three of which are Secondary Schools
- Seven Sacred Spaces as a tool to understand ourselves, our churches and our communities
- Strong links with the Swedish diocese of Uppsala
- New bi-lingual policy

Our approach to ministry

- A determination to integrate lay and clerical leadership and to work more collaboratively at all levels of the Church
- Commitment to move forward in Ministry Area development in 2021 in order to sustain parish life for the long term
- Social responsibility delivered in Ministry Areas rather than through centralized provision
- A commitment to ecumenism, as seen in the Penrhys Ecumenical Partnership
- Use of local ministries such as NSMs and Readers to respond to particular hurting points in our communities
- Drawing on the expertise of a large number of specialist Diocesan Officers to support parishes in all areas of their life