



Esgobaeth Bangor The Diocese of Bangor

Bro Eryri Ministry Area Leader & Vicar

Serving rural communities in the majestic mountains and Llanberis Pass of Eryri (Snowdonia).

About the role

We are looking for a leader who is:

- Energetic and capable, with passion and vision to see God's Kingdom come in Bro Eryri.
- Eager to engage with our communities and people who don't come to church, to inspire, share Faith creatively and be relatable.
- Encouraging of our hospitality to visitors and pilgrims, able to enhance our facilities.
- A skilled enabler who releases the gifts of others and builds new ways of working together.
- Already able to minister through the medium of Welsh (but if not, we and the diocese are committed to supporting Welsh learners in the acquisition of new skills).
- Servant-hearted, prayerful, compassionate, wise, able to reconcile and foster unity.
- Creative and adaptable, experienced in a range of traditions, comfortable with worship in a variety of styles and settings, able to encourage school and youth work.
- A positive team-player with a sense of fun.

We welcome your leadership in the next stage of our life together with our support, friendship, love and commitment.

About the Area

The slate quarrying industry which so defined this area until the 1960s was recently recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today there is seasonal employment in tourism, some light industry and people commute to neighbouring towns. Agriculture is still important, with ancient upland sheep farms linked by narrow mountain tracks. Thousands of people come seeking adventure, challenge and meaning as they climb, walk, cycle, kayak, paddleboard or run in our awe-inspiring scenery.

Each village in Bro Eryri has its own history and identity. Creative Arts and community groups are strong. Some of us go back many generations, others have been drawn to Eryri much more recently. It gives hope for the preservation of this precious and vulnerable rural culture that so many new people are willing to learn Welsh and embrace life here in that medium.

We've been without an incumbent for more than 5 years, but we are supported by our non-stipendiary and retired clergy, the archdeacon and archbishop, a lay reader and, increasingly, other members of the laity who are taking active roles in Bro Eryri. There are now worship leaders (and more have just completed their training) and pastoral visitors. Members of the laity are also crucial in community networks and fund-raising.

We were asked in a recent leaders' meeting, what reasons did we in the Ministry Area have for being grateful? One member of the team quickly spoke up: "We're still here, sitting around this table, planning our services and events and enjoying each other's company".

The Congregations

There are weekly services in the ancient church of St Peris (at Nant Peris in the mountain pass), St Padarn's in the village High Street of Llanberis, Santes Helen in Penisa'rwaun (with its adjacent Church Hall) and Eglwys Crist in Deiniolen. In addition, fortnightly Café Church is held in the Llanrug Village Institute and monthly worship was recently restarted in Llandeiniolen Church, surrounded by its millennia-old yew trees. Each church has its own committed volunteers and life, but we also meet regularly for joint services and events.

We don't have big congregations, and some have not recovered from the Pandemic lockdown, but we have a full, regular and wide range of bilingual services across the ministry area. As well as Communion, and Morning and Evening Prayer that you would expect, we hold many other services (and have met online). The wider public still come to us for weddings, baptisms and funerals. We hold special services at the times of major festivals, especially at Christmas (including popular crib services), Easter and Harvest, and times of commemoration. We hold occasional services that are relevant to local activities, for example, celebrating the local mountain rescue service. We endeavour to be innovative in some of our services, such as family services, outdoor services, candle services and Café Church.

During Advent and Lent, groups of parishioners meet weekly to discuss our faith. One of these groups was so popular that it has carried on meeting, on a more or less monthly basis, ever since. Our buildings are important to local people and visitors and some leave prayer requests. Churches are collection points for the local Food Bank.

A lot of our outreach involves food. As well as Café Church, we provide meals such as Big Breakfast for Christian Aid, Harvest suppers, and Strawberry Teas. One of our churches holds a regular Monday morning breakfast of tea and toast. Another has a close working relationship with the pub next door, which is often the venue for church meals and Christmas fairs. Another arranges regular meals, and occasional trips, out. We serve tea and coffee (and biscuits and cakes if you're lucky) after our Sunday services, which is welcomed by regulars and visitors alike.

Tourism

This is a tourist area, and part of our ministry is to keep our churches open during the daytime. The names and addresses in the visitors' books suggest that this is a successful policy. We are trying to reach out to people beyond our small congregations, by holding regular concerts (which are often fund-raising events for local causes), involving local schools, the local Silver Band, choirs and

musicians. We hold flower festivals and exhibitions in our churches and fairs in the grounds, and the registration for Ras yr Wyddfa (the Snowdon Race) takes place in church.

The future

We are seeking a Vicar to help us grow and work well together. We face challenges with church buildings and finances but in our congregations there is a lot of laughter, friendship, kindness and hospitality. We wish to growth our congregations and we place our trust in God who loves this place.