

AD CLERUM – EASTER 2022



*Father, we hold before you our family
in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon
and we open our hearts and minds to your Spirit.*

*Bless us as we gather in your name;
guide us as we grow into the likeness of your Son;
lead us by your Spirit to go out and make disciples of others.*

*God of our journeying,
be our way and our truth and our life;
our beginning and our end.*

We pray through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I have been reminded lately of the quote by The Rt Rev'd Nick Baines, the Bishop of Leeds: "But Christians are not driven by fear; we are drawn by hope".

Of course, not all fear is bad; fear can be a good thing in its right place. It can caution us from overly rash actions, it can make us 'look before we leap', and consider well lest we cause injury to ourselves or others.

But then there is the fear that overwhelms us, that comes upon us with such force that we have no time to even consider to 'look before we leap', to make any kind of sound judgement. There is only time to flee, and then not always time for that.

Like any journey we embark upon, when the path is already known to us, it is easy to bring to mind the best parts while the worst parts diminish in our memory. But I ask that this Holy Week we remind ourselves, that at this time some 2,000 or so years ago, the journey to the cross was being embarked upon in real time, and with it came real fear, paralysing some, propelling others. Fear in the days and hours leading up to the cross was real and palpable.

It is our desire, I know, to pray for and help in any way we can, those who live in such times today; for families who, in an instant, have been torn apart, displaced and put in fear for their lives, and who have lost their homes, livelihoods and all they have held dear and for those who have been overwhelmed by fear.

Can I thank all those who have responded to the appeal this Lenten tide for their generosity and support for people who are in such need at this time.

And so, while fear in our world is real and palpable, we can still show that we are a contrary people. Through our witness and ministry we can be drawn by hope, drawn by a strength far greater than our own, to a place beyond the dread of the cross, that leads to a stone rolled away,

an empty tomb and messengers speaking of life, not death. A place where our faith in a risen Christ overcomes our fear.

Easter means our hope has found its resting place in life, not death.

It is a risen Christ who tells us to “take heart! I have overcome the world”.

A very Blessed Easter

+John

CLERGY PLANNING DAY

On Thursday 19th May we will be gathering together St Thomas’s Church in Swansea to look at the future of Ministry Area’s and their place in the structure of the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon. An agenda and plan for the day will be sent out shortly. This an important meeting, please can you make sure it is prioritised and penciled into your diary.

Could you please confirm your attendance by Thursday 21st April by email to paswanbrec@churchinwales.org.uk and confirm any dietary requirements for catering arrangements.

For clergy travelling from the Archdeaconry of Brecon, overnight accommodation can be provided on the evening of 19th May. Please can you also note, when confirming attendance, if you would also like accommodation to be booked for you.

LICENCES AND COMMISSIONS

It has been agreed by Bishop John and Rev Anthony (Bishops Officer for Lay Ministry) that any chalice administer licenses that need to be renewed can be undertaken by the incumbent or MAL. Where a license for taking communion into the community is needed renewing, please make sure that safeguarding training has been completed and a DBS check is in place. Once this has been completed then the incumbent or MAL can renew the license.

Please can you update Rev Anthony when licenses/commissions are renewed by sending a brief email to AnthonyPorter@cinw.org.uk stating the name of the individual, the licence or commission type, and the next renewal date. This will help us keep an accurate database at diocesan level of all ministries undertaking across Swansea and Brecon.

OPPORTUNITIES

- VICAR IN THE ST. CATWYG MINISTRY AREA - A stipendiary post based in Llangenny will be advertised shortly after completion of a Profile. Inquiries to Archdeacon Alan.

APPOINTMENTS & NEWS OF THE FAMILY

- Justin Davies has been appointed as Ministry Area Leader for the Central Swansea Ministry Area and Rector of St Mary's, Swansea. He will remain Warden of Readers.
- Sam Aldred has been appointed as Vicar in the Central Swansea Ministry Area and Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands. Although based at St Mary's, Sam will minister across the wider Ministry Area.
- Mark Thomas has been appointed as Transition Missioner for the Archdeaconry of Gower and will help churches in interregnum to consider positive ways forward. Mark initially came to Swansea to work as a worship leader at St Thomas. He is married to Kylie who works for Tearfund. We warmly welcome them both.
- To James and Beth Davenport our warmest congratulations on the birth of baby Tomos Davenport on 8 March.
- John Davies, former Archbishop of Wales and Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, has been appointed as an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the diocese and can be contacted on jd Davies@outlook.com.
- We continue to remember in our prayers, Gill and John Gillibrand whose son Adam remains in hospital.

Apologies if any "family news" has been omitted. We are always grateful to be kept informed about such matters.

Gemma, the Bishop's PA, can be contacted by email at GemmaLornie@churchinwales.org.uk.

With best wishes,
Bishop John

 + John
Abatawe ac Abachudd

DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS – ERYL JONES

eryljones@churchinwales.org.uk, or 07979 852265

Eryl can also be contacted via the Diocesan Office in Brecon 01874 623716

PROVINCIAL SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS

Colin Taylor – 07956 790330 ColinTaylor@cinw.org.uk