



The Church in Wales
Holy Island Ministry Area – Bro Cybi

The Church of St Cybi's : St Gwenfaen's : St Fraid's : St David's

26th of February 2021

Letter to Bro Cybi

Dear friends

I hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of everyone in our churches and our Ministry Area; thank you for your faith and endurance during this pandemic and for the love and care which you have shown to each other. Although the situation within Wales is gradually improving and we can see that later in the Spring and into the summer we may have better times ahead of us; many people on Anglesey are still suffering greatly and the number of Coronavirus cases locally are still very worrying. Again, and on behalf of our Ministry Area churches, thank you so much for your generosity and your giving which has continued during this long pandemic, you have demonstrated your commitment and your generosity towards our mission here in Bro Cybi; thank you. Envelope giving can be difficult to get to the right people whilst our churches have been closed, but many of you have given money in other ways and by gift direct; thank you.

We continue to have funerals in our Churches at the graveside and at the crematorium, several of these have been due to Covid 19. Although it is always a privilege to be able to offer someone a church funeral, they are very restricted and we are unable to offer the pastoral support we would want to give to bereaved families. In particular I miss having church people present at funerals, where we can have caring conversations and give support to bereaved families in person; as I know you would want to do. This is a very hard time to lose someone and to go through bereavement and there have been some tragic deaths recently in our Ministry Area. Please keep bereaved families in your prayers and also myself and my colleagues as we try to give spiritual support in ways we are able to.

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Our Ministry Area Council met on Monday the 22nd of February. We discussed the situation of our Churches being closed and the possibilities of re-opening. The Ministry Area Council made a decision to defer reopening our Churches until the situation is safer and until at least after Easter. We will have our next MAC meeting before Easter and we will review the risks and possibilities of re-opening. I know many of you want to get back into church as soon as we are able to do so and I share your yearning to be together again and to worship in our sacred spaces.

We are now planning our services for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter based on us not being in our churches. Some of these services will now be on Zoom, some will be live-streamed and also available to watch later on Youtube. So far we have planned the following Services:

Palm Sunday services will be on Zoom at 9.30am and 6.30pm. There will also be a recorded reflection on Youtube. If you receive this letter delivered you will also have received a palm cross. If you receive this letter by e mail please let myself or Pat Hughes know if you want to receive a palm cross

Stations of the Cross reflections will be sent out during Holy Week and also posted on social media

Maundy Thursday from St Cybi's. Carol and I will be live-streaming a service and it will also be available to watch later on Youtube. There will foot-washing during the service and St Cybi's altar will be stripped at the end of the service

Good Friday there will be a service with reflections on Youtube from St Ffraid's church involving a group of us from the Ministry Team

Easter Sunday there will be a Holy Communion service and reflection on Youtube with Neil, Jane and myself from St Gwenfaen's church.

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There will be additional Services on Zoom for Easter and we will send out details of these in due course.

I hope those of you who were able to access the livestream and Youtube recording enjoyed the Holy Communion Service which Bishop Andy and I recently did from St Cybi's church. It was really good to be in St Cybi's and I hope you enjoyed the virtual experience as much as we enjoyed being there in person.

In addition to our regular services, groups and reflections; Neil and Jane are running Lent courses on Tuesday lunchtime and Tuesday evening, these are on Zoom and if you would like to join the group then I'm sure you will be very welcome. I continue to lead the Breathing Under Water group on Thursday evenings to the end of Lent. This is a stimulating group where we are learning about ourselves and our faith lives together.

There will be new challenges in our Church life when we eventually emerge from lockdown. I have been coordinating a discussion group with several vicars and pioneers in our Diocese, where we have been looking at 'Being Interrupted' and the implications for the ways we will do mission in the future. Again, it is a very stimulating group and we are learning together about new ways of 'being' in our community and in the Church.

During a recent 'Breathing Under Water' group we looked at the question of 'Why do we need to ask God'? The answer may seem obvious, but I do invite you to think on the question. Because we may all have experienced 'asking' but not receiving an answer [from God]. I have a fairly long prayer list and there is room for more. There is a risk that we approach God with a shopping list, like a hungry person with an empty belly, approaching the supermarket with a 'list' of things they need to fill them and so be satisfied. I say 'risk' because God may want us to approach him differently, more as a beggar who sits outside the supermarket with hands open – the one who is thankful for whatever is given. There was a popular wrist band worn by young people TROG; which meant - Totally Reliant On God. This is who we are, we are in a position of 'radical dependency'; as a beggar who lives expectantly on the Grace of God only. Everything that we have, life itself, comes from God.

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I want to tell you about other things which have been happening recently. Despite the restrictions of lockdown, there is significant progress being made in Diocesan initiatives which will benefit our Ministry Area. The 'Llan' pilgrimage project and the 'Stones Shout Out' project for Grade 1 listed churches will both benefit our mission here. We live in a very special place, with a rich and often-changing Christian history. Our Diocese recognise this and also recognise that we need a lot of help to further our mission. I expect that proposals for Bro Cybi and St Cybi's will be ready for me to make a presentation to our next Mac on the 22nd of March. I have also been in discussions with the St Cybi's Regeneration Group and we will be sharing ideas and proposals with St Cybi's committee and congregation within the next few weeks.

As you know, we send out regular e mail mailings and these postal mailings to you together with our excellent PCC, if you know of anyone who would like to receive a mailing or be in touch with us then please let myself, Jane, Neil or a member of the PCT know.

Take care, if you have not already received your vaccine then I do hope that you receive it before too long. I ask you to bear with the necessary patience and endurance which faith offers us; and I hope to see you before too long.

With love and blessings

Rev'd Rob Wardle