



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

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda 2023!

Happy New Year 2023!

Dear friends,

I very much hope that you've had a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year celebrations. I know there has been a considerable amount of illness around, I hope that those who have succumbed to the various bugs and infections are ok and recovering. I hope you are receiving the care and support which you need. I succumbed myself in the week before Christmas, I tried to do a few things over Christmas and probably overdid it, ending up with an emergency doctor's appointment on the 29th of December. Anyway, I now feel very much better.

This coming Sunday the 8th of January I am very much looking forward to catching up with folks at St Ffraid's Church at 11am, where Assistant Bishop Mary Stallard will be joining with us and celebrating the Baptism of Christ, together with Holy Communion. Please do come along to this Ministry Area gathering to praise and worship together, to renew our own baptism vows – and to share hot drinks and biscuits afterwards!

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard and helped to put on all our Christmas services and celebrations. Pat Hughes has also written thanks in the attached PCC. I am grateful to Archdeacon John who stepped in to do Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services at St Cybi's at short notice. On Christmas Eve I managed to do a number of food collections from supermarkets and organise the Food Giveaway deliveries from Eglwys y Bedd, but it did leave me exhausted and I was unable to take any services afterwards, unfortunately.

During November and December Neil and I have been doing surplus food giveaways on Sunday afternoons from Eglwys y Bedd. We have been working with Anglesey Food Bank and two surplus food collection organisations – Olio and Neighbourly. The idea is to divert surplus food from supermarkets, together with donated food, to people who want and need it. We have been doing this on Sundays because no other organisations that we know of – collect and distribute food like this at weekends. The project we have started has two aims – to prevent food from going to waste and also to help address food poverty.

Since we began the project it has been clear that food poverty (hungry people and families) is a real issue in our area at the moment. We did a big giveaway on Christmas Eve, delivering food to people who had responded to social media posts. We were helped by several volunteer drivers, including our Archdeacon John. It was a good event and everybody involved seemed to think it was worthwhile. The recipients of the food deliveries were all hugely grateful, we fed around 25 families. I had hoped that we could do more and I'm sure that in the future, with better relationships with supermarkets, we can divert more surplus food from becoming waste – and feed more people who need it.

This coming year will again be challenging for many people financially. And in our Ministry Area we face the challenges of raising enough money to keep our churches open and Mission and Ministry as a priority. I believe all our Churches have an important part to play in their communities; to sustain spiritual life, to provide welcome, support and hospitality, to provide space for people to reflect and discover a sense of God in their lives. And for people to understand the reality of the living Jesus, who will never ever leave them; in this life and throughout eternity. We have a life-changing message and we must share it.

I hope to see you soon.

With Blessings and Best Wishes for 2023

Rob