



Diocese of Monmouth • Esgobaeth Mynwy

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Friday Round Up

This email has been sent to all Clergy, PTOs, Churchwardens, Secretaries, and all those on our Friday email list.

From Bishop Cherry

Services suspended – guidance from the Bench of Bishops

The latest guidance from **Church in Wales** states all services should be suspended. Download the full guidance [here](#).

Live-streamed Eucharists

I am immensely heartened by the resilience and creativity of our clergy who are using

all means possible to support people in their prayer and worship. Many, I know, have been live-streaming acts of worship, including the Eucharist. Following the latest guidance, most, if not all, will now be doing that alone from within their own homes. I too will be celebrating the Eucharist from the chapel at Bishopstow on Sunday at 10.30am and invite you to join me either live on Facebook or via the recorded service that you can access on the website. Click [here](#) to watch, and click [here for the order of service](#). **Remember that the clocks change this weekend!**

Those without internet access

In all the flurry of digital activity that is taking place (and which is wonderful to see), we must not forget those who are not connected to the internet. This will be the majority of the congregation in some of our churches. I hope that we can take as much time and effort in keeping people connected with a regular supply of hard copy resources as we are doing digitally.

EIG Advice on church buildings

Click [here](#) to see guidance from Ecclesiastical Insurance for managing temporarily closed churches and other church properties during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Easter Vestries

Easter Vestries are to be suspended until they can take place safely. Those currently in post as churchwardens, PCC members and parish representatives will continue in post until that time. If, for any reason, someone is unable or unwilling to continue in post, then it will fall to each Bishop to appoint to the vacant post.

Easter Offerings and regular giving

This is not an easy time to talk about money, and some may think it inappropriate to do so, but I would be failing in my duty as your bishop if I didn't make you aware of the significant drop in income our churches are likely to get over the coming weeks and months. Without the regular giving that comes through Sunday collections, many are worried about their churches going bankrupt. If you are able to maintain your regular giving, and give by direct debit if you don't already do so, that will help enormously and ensure that when this crisis is over our churches will be well placed to continue with their vital work in all the communities of our diocese.

Please also consider making a special offering at Easter in thanksgiving for all that God has done for us in raising Christ from the dead and raising us to new life in him.

Gift Direct Goes Online



Gift Direct is the way that the Church in Wales manages Gift Aid donations. Setting up a Gift Direct payment is a way that you can directly help the work of the Church at a local or national level.

As part of our response to the Covid-19 situation, we have now developed online tools to help you create a new Gift Direct donation or manage your existing one. Please see the links in this section to find out more.

For more details on how the Gift Direct system operates, please download the [Gift Direct Leaflet](#) (PDF), see our [FAQs](#) or contact giftdirect@churchinwales.org.uk

[To start giving to your Parish](#)

[To amend an existing commitment](#)

[To add a new commitment for an existing \(and active\) donor](#)

[To cease an existing commitment](#)

Ministry

While this has been a troubling week for many, with the closure of our churches and a general sense of uncertainty; it has also been a week of innovation, unity, and courage.



On Sunday, we celebrated the National Day of Prayer and Action. Churches Together in England called on Christians throughout the United Kingdom to light a candle in their windows at 7pm as a visible symbol of Jesus Christ - the light of life who shines in the darkness. Archbishop John took up this call and encouraged us to pray together. Click [here](#) for further details.

Then on Wednesday we marked the Feast of Annunciation, otherwise known as Lady Day, with a global prayer initiated by Pope Francis. Christians across the globe were invited to join him in reciting the Lord's Prayer at noon (11am UK time). Once again, our clergy answered this call with many sharing the invitation and posting videos on social media.

Although this may seem like a time of darkness, it has proved that God is not contained within the walls of a building. He is shining in each of us, spurring new and creative ways of being His church.

Children & Families

For toddlers:



Mainly Music are creating footage that families can use in their home. Each session will be available for two weeks. Check out their first session [here](#) available from 27 March for two weeks. This is a really lovely resource for parents to use with toddlers.

For older children:

[The 30-Day Lego Challenge](#)

Enjoy a reading from the Bible with an accompanying building challenge. A great opportunity for children to imagine, build, reflect, and have fun!



#goodnewsworthsharing

In the past few weeks as well as sharing services online we've seen churches coming together to support their communities. Here are a few of the things we've seen. Please send anything you've been doing to debragoddard@churchinwales.org.uk or share on social media with #goodnewsworthsharing

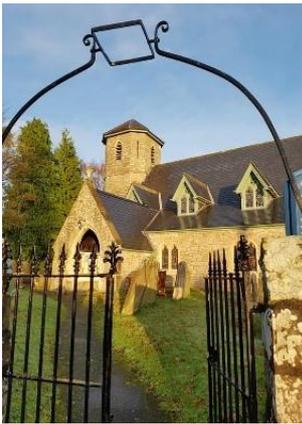


The Bedwas, Machen, Michaelston- Y-Fedw & Rudry group of parishes are working with organisations and individuals in the area to “be Good News at this concerning time to all people without exception. Our mission is to help.” They’re signing up volunteers and taking requests for help on their website [here](#).



 THE CAERLEON
MINISTRY AREA

It has been the custom over many years in Caerleon Ministry Area to give a potted primula or posy of flowers to mothers attending services on Mothering Sunday. The plants were delivered around the parishes, this brief 'contact' was warmly appreciated at a time of uncertainty and concern, and a reminder that the church family is there to offer support in these difficult times.



The combined parishes of St Arvans, Penterry, Itton, Devauden and Kilgwrrwg have compiled an email and phone list to ensure no one in the parish is left feeling isolated. And they've developed an on-line electronic bulletin comprising of information, prayers and readings and links to other resources. Paper copies of all the material will be delivered to those without access to the internet.



Upper Islwyn have many of their congregation who don't really do IT so went put together packs of prayers, a homily, reading sheets and a pastoral letter. They delivered the packs with a colourful flower in honour of Mothering Sunday and received some lovely feedback.

"I feel so grateful and privileged to be part of such a caring community"