

**ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH
BRO YSTUMANNER
MINISTRY AREA**

CATCHING THE VISION

**Thus says the Lord, 'Stand at the cross roads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies;
and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.'**

Jeremiah 6:16a

Over the last year, we have been consolidating the structure of our Ministry Area. We have now registered as a Ministry Area with the Charity Commission, and find much blessing in sharing and working together in and across our churches.

Last year we had two Fellowship and Planning Meetings celebrating and exploring who we are and what we do. In the coming year, we need to build on those discussions to draw up a Mission Development Plan. As part of this, we would like to devise a logo and think of a Vision Statement that together embody who we are, and what we think is at the heart of what we do as we love and serve God here in Bro Ystumanner Ministry Area.

The Vision Statement of the Diocese below guides us in our ministry and mission, but each place is different, so we need to work out how what that vision looks like in our own churches and communities, taking into account the resources we have in our people, buildings, and finances, and the needs that need to be met. Inside this leaflet you will find a summary of our discussions at last year's workshops. I would be grateful if everyone would take the time to read this, and think and pray about where God is leading us as a Ministry Area. At the end of the leaflet, there are three questions waiting for answers. We will have a meeting in the late autumn to draw together everyone's thoughts as we seek the way forward together.

Addoli Duw, tyfu'r Eglwys, caru'r byd

**Worshipping God,
growing the Church, loving the world**

Celebrating Bro Ystumanner

Our first workshop looked at all the good things that have been, are, and could be in the future. They are presented here in no particular order!

The Past – What has worked well previously?

One vicar per church visited more people, led worship from start to finish

Choirs – music with education

Mothers' Union

Evensong – may not have many, but some really like it

Family Service (St Cadfan's) – really well-attended (best service for many)

Sunday School – Good heritage, but what will work now?

Harvest festival

Harvest supper – each church had their own

Familiar liturgy gave comfort and sense of security to ill and elderly

Eucharist/Morning Prayer pattern on Sundays

Monday Coffee Morning at St Cadfan's

Coffee and tea after service at St Cadfan's and St Peter's

Ecumenical Lent groups

The Guild (St Cadfan's) meeting monthly to talk and organize fundraising and events

Ballroom dancing lessons (raised roof funds)

Tea dances

Godly play

Drop-in

United Churches HOPE services and events in 2018

The Present – What is working well now?

Ministry Area, meeting each other – less isolated

Lay involvement – people's confidence and commitment much greater

Regular treasurers' meetings

United Churches Together in Tywyn and Aberdyfi – services and events done together (e.g. Worship on the Wharf in Aberdyfi)

Open the Book

Schools work

More flexible attitude to variety in services ('suck it and see')

Varied service pattern

Open invitation to communion – to all denominations and all baptized

All Age Services

Monthly Prayer Walks
Messy Church at St Peter's
Community lunches & United Charities Fair (Aberdyfi)
Monday coffee mornings in the summer (St Cadfan's)
Visitors bringing different gifts, including Café Church
Positive attitude: Keeping on casting bread on the waters
We're still here, open, available, even though congregation is mostly older

The Future – What would we like to see?

More prayer
A move of the Spirit
Larger congregations
More flexibility in attitude – travelling to worship elsewhere
Taizé evening
Day retreats at St Michael's
Proper Mary Jones exhibition at St Michael's
Better publicity for the Ministry Area
Good website
Facebook page
Pew sheet with events plus thought for the day and readings for a week
All our churches to become sustainable
Find those willing to support church even though they are not churchgoers
More nurturing of vocations
Make services less rigid, involve young people
Educate all of us to try new things and 'church Mon-Sat as well'
Church events to engage with the communities without raising money
Skype link (or webcams) for those at home or in care homes
Variety of services – smells and bells to Café Church and all in between to attract others
Quiet days/retreats and quiet services
Bible studies and home groups
More Readers and other volunteers
Improve school connections
Youth Alpha
Musicians with guitars and percussion in services (All Age Worship)
More user friendly church – less jargon, use of everyday language
Baptisms within non-Eucharistic services
Laughter and joy, comfort and care

Exploring Who We Are

In our second workshop we explored who we are as God's people, and discussed what is special and unique about Bro Ystumanner.

Our Area: Environment & Activities

Snowdonia National Park, Dyfi Biosphere, part of proposed UNESCO Slate Heritage site

Natural beauty – mountains, hills, rivers, lakes, sea, beaches, birds

Attractive to visitors – walking, climbing, cycling, yachting, sailing, crabbing, fishing, golf, bird-watching, painting, peaceful, quiet, beautiful, caravan parks and second homes easy driving distance from the Midlands

Home to: Talyllyn Railway, Mary Jones, The Magic Lantern Cinema

History – Cadfan stone, St Cadfan's Well, slate industry, military camps

Importance of Welsh language in our communities

Our Church Buildings & Patron Saints

St Cadfan, Tywyn: nationally significant medieval architecture and heritage

St Mary & St Egryn, Llanegryn: rood screen, stunning stained glass windows (crucifixion and resurrection)

St Michael, Llanfihangel y Pennant: Mary Jones connection, close to Castell y Bere & Cadair Idris

St David's, Abergynolwyn: built for slate miners, embodies St David's call 'to do the little things'

St Peter ad Vincula, Pennal: Owain Glyndwr connection, Green man, heritage churchyard garden, prestigious church textiles

St Peter, Aberdyfi: good acoustics for concerts and recording, no pews (flexibility), Good Shepherd stained glass window (connected to William Morris), prestigious church textiles

This is a snapshot of the riches we shared (due to limited space) and you will think of many more. As you do, think also about the questions below.

Questions to Answer

- 1. Who are we?** - What logo would represent our Ministry Area?
- 2. What is our main purpose?** - What is at the heart of all we do?
How can we express God's calling to us in a short, simple statement?
- 3. What are our main priorities for ministry and mission?**