



WELCOMING
FAITHFUL
JUST

ANNUAL
REPORT 2023

MINISTRY AREA COUNCIL



From April 2023, the following served as members of the Ministry Area Council.

EX OFFICIO

Incumbent: Reverend Dean Atkins

Vicar: Reverend Edward Owen

CHURCHWARDENS

Liz Norman and Rachel Williams

LAY CHAIR

Glyn Perryman

ELECTED MEMBERS

Julian Jordan (Treasurer), Dr Iris Musa (Secretary), Georgina Partridge, David Gibbins, Rebecca Goodfield, Cheryl Dominquez, Julia Watkins, Jean Phillips, Lorraine Harry, Mary Williams, Yvonne Heynes, Janet Fotheringham

MEETINGS

The MAC has met 6 times during the year. It also operates through the following committees that meet between full meetings of the Parochial Church Council:

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee consists of the MAC Treasurers and treasurers of each church. The Ministry Area Leader and Lay Chair may also attend.

MAC OFFICERS

This consists of Clergy, Lay Chair, Churchwardens, and Treasurer who meet between MAC meetings.

INTRODUCTION

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

We're helping to make a difference in a world of difference

South Cardiff Ministry Area is an alliance of four churches across the three communities of Butetown, Grangetown and Splott.

Each of our churches are distinct and unique with their own challenges and concerns but we're also called to work together.

This report highlights just some of the ways in which we have shared

together in the mission and ministry of the Church. We hope it will inspire more people to get involved.

We aim to be a creative and resourceful community which is welcoming, faithful and just.

We love to work alongside others in our community to so that we can make a difference in a world of difference.





BELONGING TO BELIEVE

As a Welcoming Community, we want all people to feel they belong

BELONGING

We want everyone to feel welcome and able to play a full part in the life of the church. Like many churches since the pandemic, we've spent time and energy rebuilding and strengthening our congregations, encouraging people of all ages to be involved in different activities and ministries, and we are now in a relatively strong position.

HOSPITALITY

Times of hospitality and fellowship are freely available after each Sunday Mass and are important for strengthening our community life. Whilst some of our social events are fundraisers and create fellowship, it's important that many events are free and accessible to all, such as the *Great Get Together* events, Assumptiontide Festival, and Coffee mornings. St Saviour's took part in the *Churches Together Unlocked* Festival with the Diocese.

SAFEGUARDING

The safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults is extremely important to us. Our Safeguarding Officer for the Ministry Area is Rebecca Goodfield and each church also has its own Safeguarding Officer.

In 2023, a number of participants from across our churches also took part in St John's Ambulance First Aid Training.

A WEBSITE WELCOME

Our website has been extensively developed, and we are active on social media. The website has been designed around our vision to be a creative and resourceful community which is welcoming, faithful and just, and offers a great insight into our life together. Full of resources, news and information, it's one way in which we extend an invitation and welcome to others.



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

We are creating accessible and welcoming community spaces

Our church buildings, halls and grounds require a great amount of money and effort to maintain and develop, and our work involves creating a welcoming and safe space for all. Our 5 year Vision indicates how we will move forward with each church site. In 2023, in addition to routine maintenance, there were a number of activities.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

The gardens have received work in recent years, but the task is too great for just a few people. We appointed contractors to clear a section of the gardens. The heating system received some work with plans for a new boiler house roof. We also completed essential electrical work.

ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH

Essential electrical work was completed. Problems with the heating system have extended into 2024.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

St Paul's Church has received some work by the Church in Wales to restore the floor and ensure it is safe but there still remains a huge amount of work for the church to be developed for the future. The building remains redundant, and our immediate focus is on St Paul's Community Hall, where our worship and activities takes place.

ST DYFRIG AND ST SAMSON

Work was completed to the ceiling in the lesser hall, as well as replastering and decoration, and a new boiler for the church.

COMMUNITY SPACES

Our church halls are used by various local community groups, as well as for our own mission and activities.

We are grateful to all who help to maintain our church spaces so that they can be welcoming places for all.



SCHOOLS & SANCTUARY

We're reaching out to people of every age to celebrate life

SCHOOLS

Our church schools of St Mary's Butetown and St Paul's Grangetown are at the heart of our work with schools. Regular and weekly worship is led by the clergy, and our churches are used by these and other schools for learning, special events and celebrations. Members of our congregations serve as members of the Governing Bodies. The *Faithful Butetown Discovery Days* extends our ministry to schools across the Diocese.

OLDER PEOPLE

Our congregations are diverse and include people of all ages. Among them, we are committed to caring for and supporting older people. A member of the clergy visits *Bella Vista Nursing Home* each month to lead worship, and we have a great ongoing relationship with *Moorland Day Centre*.

SANCTUARY

Our vision to be a *Just Community* further embeds our commitment to those who are homeless, refugee or seeking asylum. *Women Seeking Sanctuary Group* has its centre at St Mary's Church which they occupy free of charge. We have welcomed a number of refugees into our congregations, and are committed to doing more through *Refugee Week* and other initiatives. Both church schools are Schools of Sanctuary.

WEDDING AND FUNERALS

There were 2 weddings celebrated in the Ministry Area, one in St Mary's and the other in St Saviour's.

Our ministry to the bereaved is an important part of our pastoral care. In 2023, there were 90 funerals celebrated by clergy of our Ministry Area. Prayer for the recently departed is made on Sundays and through the week, and on the date of anniversary of death.



SUNDAY BY SUNDAY

We're growing in faith and number with worship at our heart

SUNDAY WORSHIP

At the heart of our life together is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, especially on Sundays. It is the highpoint of the Christian life, and sustains and strengthens us in all we do. We aim for our worship to be vibrant, engaging and joyful. Many churches are still slowly rebuilding following COVID-19. Tea and Coffee is celebrated after our Sunday celebrations. In 2023, our Sunday attendance was:

ST MARY'S

UNDER 18: **6** / OVER 18: **38**

ST PAUL'S

UNDER 18: **8** / OVER 18: **23**

ST DYFRIG AND ST SAMSON

UNDER 18: **2** / OVER 18: **16**

ST SAVIOUR'S

UNDER 18: **5** / OVER 18: **24**

ST SAVIOUR'S

In 2023, St Saviour's Church raised funds and received a grant for new

seating which will arrive in 2024, and will enhance the liturgical space and worship. Our life together has been enriched by a number of new families.

ST MARY'S

St Mary's continues to grow in number, and we have begun to extend participation in various ministries during Sunday Mass. Mass is celebrated each day.

ST PAUL'S

We welcome a good number of children to our Sunday school, and we have expanded our team of servers, lectors and intercessors.

ST DYFRIG AND ST SAMSON

Our worship continues with faithful commitment by our regular congregation. Sadly, one of our most faithful communicants has died. We enjoy marking birthdays and other celebrations!



PRAYER AND PILGRIMAGE

We're on a journey together, growing in faith and prayer

DAILY PRAYER

Mass is celebrated at least once a day across our churches. In 2023, we trialled occasions of sharing one Sung Mass for the whole Ministry Area on some of the Solemn Feasts, and we will continue to review what we do locally and across the churches. Our website now includes a large and growing number of prayer resources. The Rosary is prayed each Saturday, and there are opportunities to participate in Morning and Evening Prayer

PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimage is an important and established part of our life of faith, which we developed further in 2023.

27 people from the Ministry Area made pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. It's a wonderful time and stands out in the Diocesan Calendar as a significant event.

We also host the October Devotions each year at St Mary's.

The Assumptiontide celebrations in August are a highlight of the year, when we welcome people from across South Wales and beyond.

In 2023, we launched our pilgrimage programme to Flat Holm with three pilgrimages enriched by a bespoke Pilgrim Manual.

Pilgrimage to Glastonbury and the Shrine of Our Lady of Penrhys are now well established in our calendar. These pilgrimages and other events are also organised under the umbrella of *Enter the Mystery*

Our online *PILGRIM* project provides a unique resource, celebrating the Celtic saints of South Wales, and encouraging and equipping people for pilgrimage. We also trialled our first *Urban Pilgrimage*, a local walking pilgrimage, which we plan to develop further.



SEASONS AND SAINTS

We're providing opportunities for all ages through the year

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

OMG! is our new event for young people, combining a time of worship and food—pizza is always popular!

Three of our churches offer a celebration of the *Children's Liturgy of the Word* during the Sunday Mass for those of Primary School age.

FEASTS AND FESTIVALS

We move to the rhythm of the Church's Year, and our online calendar sets out the worship for the whole of the year, as well as other opportunities for growth in faith.

Our Advent and Christmas theme was *Home for Christmas*, as we stood alongside those who seek a place to call home.

Our Lenten theme was *JUST LENT* which included a rich pattern of prayer and devotion, a bespoke Lent Course, and other prayer resources to help us explore issues of injustice, and how we can put our faith into

action. For the first time, we celebrated the Triduum together as a whole Ministry Area. We will build on this and review it in 2024.

FAITH CONFIRMED

There were 11 Baptisms at St Saviour's and St Mary's during the year, and we celebrated the Confirmation of 37 people by Bishop Rowan Williams in April, which included candidates from three other Ministry Areas (27 of which were from the Ministry Area)

In September, we launched the *Bread of Life Course* which explores the Christian Faith through the lens of the Holy Eucharist. This will be delivered each year, and form part of our Christian nurture programme.

ECUMENISM

Cardiff City Centre and Bay Churches Together (CYTUN) re-convened in 2023, and we are planning events for 2024.



A Just Community

COMMUNITY ORGANISING

We're working with others to strengthen our communities

CITIZENS CYMRU

In 2023, we became subscribed members of Citizens Cymru, a Community Organising group. We've worked with them for many years and are now the first (and, so far, only Ministry Area in the Diocese to do so). Working with others, we are involved in a number of transformative programmes and initiatives.

YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND

Working with others across Butetown and Grangetown, we were successful in our bid to the Youth Endowment Fund. This was launched at St Mary's Primary School with the Leader of Cardiff Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and many other guests. The project will help young people flourish, keep them safe and away from violence. We now have specific areas and issues of concern, which are gradually being actioned over five years.

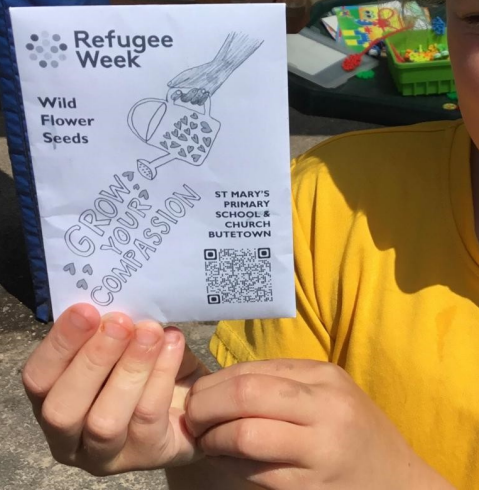
CROESO BUTETOWN

This is the local *Community Sponsorship* Group for Refugee Families working with *Citizens UK*. Although we've met with several obstacles along many years, the group is still working together. In 2023, our application to the Home Office to become a Sponsoring Group was successful. Since then, we've spent the time since looking for suitable housing in Butetown which is proving very difficult. We have begun fundraising again because of the rising costs of rent. Croeso Butetown was one of our Christmas Charities.

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

We also began work in preparation for the forthcoming General Elections in 2024. Both clergy have completed the six day training, and training for the Laity will begin in 2024.

Refugee Week 2023



MORE IN COMMON

We live and work as part of a diverse community

THE GREAT GET TOGETHER

The More in Common Community Cohesion Network is an amalgamation of the *More in Common Network* and *South Wales Police Community Cohesion Group*. We have been part of both these groups, and are at the forefront of shaping the new network which brings together a large number of diverse organisations from across Cardiff who are concerned and work for community cohesion.

In January, hundreds of people gathered for three different events across South Cardiff for *The Great Winter Get Together* with the *Jo Cox Foundation*. Its aim is to combat loneliness and strengthen community life. Soups were made and shared by various organisations including Oasis, WSSAG, Moorland Day Centre, and some of our local primary schools.

In the Summer, *The Great Get Together* occurs at the end of *Refugee Week*.

We took part in St Mary's School's *Global Banquet*, delivered a *Faithful Butetown Walk* (which led us to the *Grangtown Festival*), rounded up with our *Great Get Together Barbecue*.

REFUGEE WEEK

After an amazing *Refugee Week* in 2022, our plans for 2023 were even more ambitious and colourful! (You can see some of the *Week's* images on the opposite page).

In the same week as *Refugee Week* is *Windrush Day*. We welcomed schools from *Butetown* and *Grangetown* to the *Wales Millenium Centre* and *St Mary's Church* for an interactive performance of the *Betty Campbell Play—A Journey through Butetown*. Children from *St Mary's School* began a food growing project with *Butetown Community Centre* designing a *Windrush Garden*.



AT HOME WITH JUSTICE

We support those who are homeless, refugee and in crisis

JUST LENT

Our *Justice Café* met on several occasions through the year to explore our concerns and look at ways in which we can be proactive. Our commitment to being a *Just Community* was explored during Lent when our theme was *JUST LENT*. Supported by a number of bespoke resources, we also raised money for *Christian Aid* and *Foundation for Sport*.

HOME AND SAFE

Our Advent and Christmas devotions focussed on a concern for all seeking a place to call home. Our Christmas Charities were *Croeso Butetown* and *The Wallich*. During Homelessness Week in November, we adopted a *Homeless Charter* setting out our commitment to those who are homeless, and we also welcomed John Stark, Chaplain at *Ty Gobaith*, as our guest preacher at St Mary's.

HUNGRY FOR JUSTICE

Each week we donate food items to *Cardiff Foodbank*. In 2023, we donated over 440kg of food (39 food parcels). We also run two Distribution Centres at St Saviour's Church on Wednesday and Thursday. There are many ways in which we support local and international charities, from regular Coffee Mornings and Appeals to Lent and Christmas offerings.

FAITHFUL COMMUNITIES

We welcomed several schools to participate in our *Faithful Butetown Discovery Days* and, during *Black History Month*, we dedicated an icon of St Martin de Porres at St Mary's Church. Building friendships with people of different faiths and cultures is natural and important to us, and we love to be involved in specific events such as those organised by the *Interfaith Council for Wales*.

South Cardiff Ministry is part of the Diocese of Llandaff within the Church in Wales.

The Church in Wales is a province within the **Anglican Communion** and, as such, exists to advance the Christian religion through worldwide mission.

The object of the Ministry Area Council (MAC) is to ensure that the life and work of the Church within the Ministry Area helps to fulfil that mission, both locally and more widely.

The MAC is not a body corporate. Its composition, procedure and powers are regulated by the Constitution of the Church in Wales, as amended from time to time by its Governing Body, set up under Section 13(1) of the Welsh Church Act 1914. Elections are held at an Annual Vestry Meeting, which must take place on or before 30th June.

All persons whose names are entered on the Electoral Roll are entitled to vote and stand for election. Before assuming office,

every member of the Council must sign a declaration that he or she will be bound by the Constitution. The Representative Body of the Church in Wales holds the land and property of the Church in Wales including our church buildings, its contents and churchyards

The Representative Body is an Exempt Charity and was set up under Section 13(2) of the Welsh Church Act 1914. It acts on behalf of the province in paying the stipends of full time clergy.

The MAC is responsible inter-alia for promoting the mission of the Church, the Ministry Area budget and all expenditure thereunder, the care and maintenance of the church fabric and of the churchyard, and for action on any other matter referred to it in accordance with the Constitution.

The Council is also the normal channel of communication between the parishioners and the Bishop of the diocese.

DIOCESE AND DEANERY

Reports from the Diocesan and Deanery Conferences

DIOCESAN CONFERENCE

The Diocesan Conference took place at the end of September in two sessions: a shorter online session followed by a whole day in-person on Saturday 30 September.

A Keynote Plenary was given by Rev'd Canon Dr Mark Oakley. Another presentation entitled 'Our Spirituality' was delivered by the Dean of Llandaff, and a session called 'Our Identity—Telling the joyful story as Welsh Anglicans' from the Director of Mission involved brief presentations from a few Ministry Areas. Finally 'Our Vocation—building our capacity for good' was presented by James Laing, Diocesan Secretary.

This final session briefly introduced a forthcoming consultation for a new calculation of the Fairer Share although there was little detail available and little time for questions and debate.

DEANERY CONFERENCE

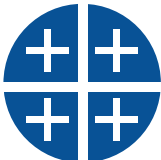
At the Deanery Conference on 8 November, 2023, two main items of business.

The first was a motion that Cardiff Deanery become a member of Citizens Cymru.

The second was a presentation entitled 'Behind Closed Doors' - raising awareness of Domestic Abuse. It was delivered by Sue Rivers, Diocesan President of the Mothers Union.

ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION

The last two years have seen a change in the way Visitations have been delivered. In September, members of the MAC gathered for a whole day with others MACS in the Deanery. This will be repeated in 2024.

SOUTH CARDIFF  MINISTRY AREA