

Diocesan bulletin

The Diocese of Swansea and Brecon/Yr Esgobaeth Aberlawe ac Aberhonddu

Owing to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic we are producing a regular bulletin of guidance and resources. Please be sure to visit the [Church in Wales' regularly-updated advice section](#) for the latest guidelines. The diocese's information page, including contact details for diocesan staff, is [available here](#).

If you have any problems using any of the links in this newsletter, contact the Diocesan Centre who will email them to you directly. If you have an item you would like included in the bulletin email eryljones@churchinwales.org.uk

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'Whatever the restrictions, this remains an exciting and important day'

The diocese will be welcoming seven new priests and six deacons this weekend when ordination services postponed because of the pandemic take place at Brecon Cathedral.

The numbers who will be able to attend have been limited because of Covid-19 rules, but Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations Canon Ian Rees said it remains "an exciting and important day for people who have responded to God's call".

"For the second year running we have a bumper crop of ordinations. However, as with most things this year, things are in no way normal. Ordinations would ordinarily have been held at the end of June but that wasn't possible.," Ian said.

In early July, two stipendiary Deacons, Lisa Morgan and Jim Page, were ordained in a private ceremony in St Padarn's College, attended by only the two candidates, Archbishop John, Revd Dr Jordan Hillebert from St Padarn's and Canon Ian.. Jim has recently moved to Llansamlet where he will serve and Lisa awaits her move to Cross Gates.

"With many complications along the way we have now reached the time when the rest of the ordinations can take place in Brecon Cathedral. Priests will be ordained on Saturday, 26th September and Deacons will be ordained on Sunday, September 27th. Unfortunately attendance still has to be limited to six guests for each of those to be ordained as well as those taking part in the service," Ian said.

"Fortunately, with a great deal of work and support from Llangasty, we have been able to arrange retreats as well, although we've had to arrange separate ones for the Deacons and Priests this year."

To be ordained Priest are: Sam Aldred (Central Swansea), Janet Day (Buallt), Peter Letson (Glan Ithon), Gill Todd (Llanddew/ Brecon Cathedral), Meirion Ronicle (Buallt), Sister Marian (Sketty), Sally Rees (St Catwg Min Area), Samuel Patterson (Monmouth Diocese).

To be ordained Deacon are: Sue Northcott (Pontaradwe), Annabelle Elletson (St Catwg Min Area), Sue Waite (Gower Min Area), Jon Howard (Bro Tawe Uchaf), Lucy McKeown (Ithon Valley), Biddy Wigley (Llwynderw).

Ordained as Deacon in July were Lisa Morgan (Glan Ithon/Ithon Valley) and Jim Page (Llansamlet)

"Whatever the restrictions that are in place this year, this remains both an exciting and important day for people who have responded to God's call and who have already completed a long journey to this point. They will undertake their ordained ministry in a church facing many challenges but also many opportunities and they do so with great excitement at what God has in store for them.," Ian said.

"They will be relying on God for the strength and wisdom to exercise their ministries but they also rely on all of us to continue to pray for them and encourage them whenever we get chance. Please pray, especially this weekend, for all those to be ordained, their families and the parishes and ministry areas where they will serve."



New initiative to help attract more visitors to your church

The National Churches Trust has developed an initiative to help churches create new ways to encourage visitors to their buildings.

It is inviting churches in the diocese to get creative and develop some exciting days out, which it will promote on its website. It is also offering training to help churches get involved.

The trust's Linda Patrick said: "Whether they are having a day out, on holiday or coming from further afield, today's tourists and visitors want something really special. They want to feel part of the place they are visiting. They are seeking an experience.

"Covid-19 is re-shaping tourism. Although many things have changed, church tourism continues to have great potential. VisitEngland says that 55% of day trips include a visit to church or cathedral and 83% of people in the UK believe churches are an important part of the UK's history and heritage. And we want churches to be ready in 2021 when hopefully the tourism industry will be able to open up fully once again, able to welcome more and more visitors."

The National Churches Trust will deliver its 'Experiences by ExploreChurches' project through its tourism website [Explorechurches.org](https://www.explorechurches.org). It will promote the experiences and help to bring new visitors and extra income for your church.

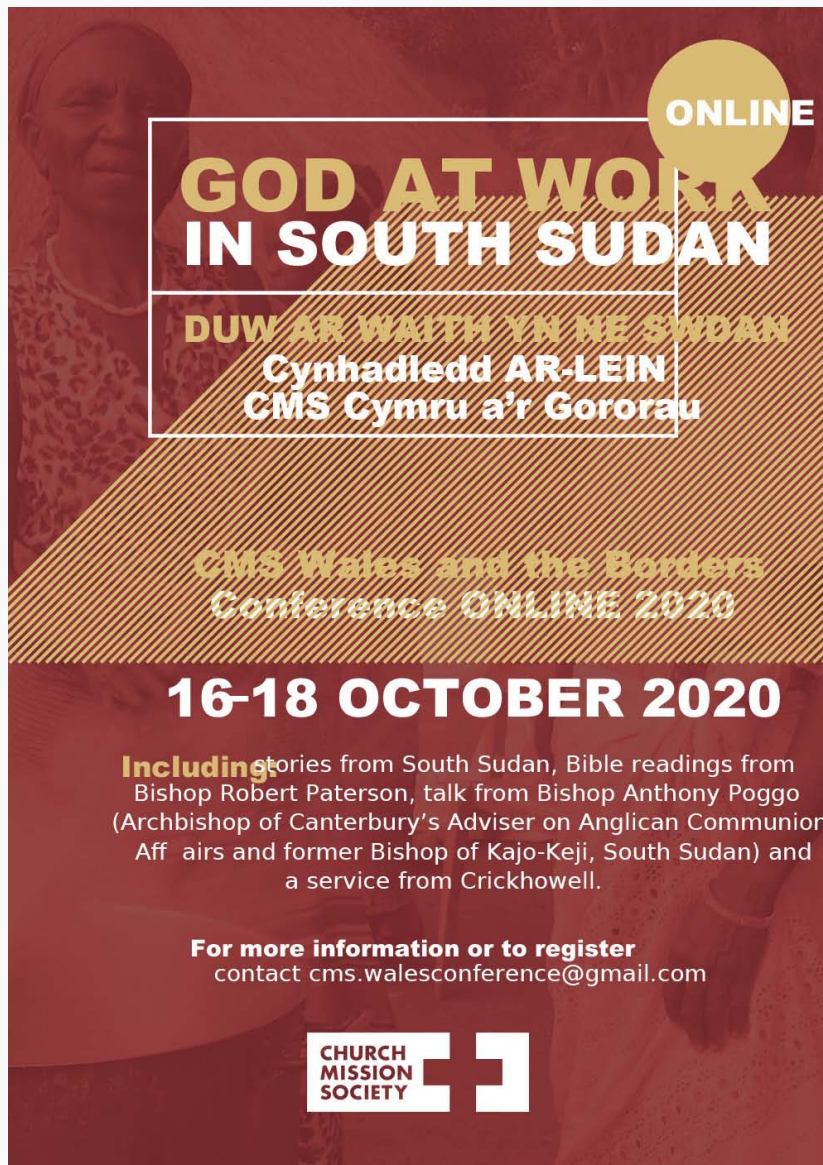
What is an experience?

Experiences can be as simple as a guided walk between two churches and could include:

- a guided cycle ride visiting three churches and sampling the best of local produce
- an afternoon tea party in a church with live music
- church tower visit and see the sights on guided town tour
- artistic workshops or classes, inside or outside a church

'Experiences by Explore Churches' training will take place on October 15, at 10.30am. The session will teach you all you need to know about creating your unique experience, including coming up with the idea, working with groups, identifying your audience, health and safety, costing the day and so much more.

To book your place, visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/raising-income-from-bookable-experiences-church-tourism-workshop-tickets->



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Conference ONLINE 2020**

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Including stories from South Sudan, Bible readings from Bishop Robert Paterson, talk from Bishop Anthony Poggo (Archbishop of Canterbury's Adviser on Anglican Communion Affairs and former Bishop of Kajo-Keji, South Sudan) and a service from Crickhowell.

For more information or to register
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