



Esgobaeth  
Bangor  
The Diocese  
of Bangor



*Ministry Area Profile*  
**Bro Ogwen**

# Diocese of Bangor

*Geography • Language • Community*

## Where We Are



Rural and urban,  
dispersed  
communities across  
wide distances

## Language & Identity



Welsh language and  
culture are integral to  
our faith and identity.

50% of the population  
of North West Wales  
are Welsh speaking  
(approx)



**162 active  
church  
buildings**

Deeply rooted,  
local ministry



St Deiniol's  
Cathedral Bangor

Mother Church of  
the diocese



## What defines this diocese

Rural, coastal, and dispersed communities  
Welsh-speaking heartland  
Diverse contexts: university, tourism, farming  
Church embedded in community life



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# *Introducing Bro Ogwen*

Bro Ogwen Ministry Area brings together six church congregations serving Bethesda, the Ogwen Valley and the villages between Bangor and the foothills of Eryri.

Bro Ogwen is a proud Welsh-speaking area, with a strong connection to Welsh history, culture and place. The legacy of quarrying, community life and Welsh Nonconformity remains part of the story of Bro Ogwen today.

An important part of that story is the relationship between Bethesda and Penrhyn. The memory of the Streic Fawr, the Great Strike of 1900 to 1903, is still strongly felt locally. The creation of Bro Ogwen in 2014 brought together communities associated with both sides of that history to form a single Ministry Area (parish).

In recent years, Bro Ogwen has developed a stronger sense of shared identity and purpose. We believe that this demonstrates how the Gospel can bring reconciliation and mutual understanding, especially in places where the history has been painful. New community and pioneer ministries have now grown, including Eglwys Wylt outdoor worship and Caffi Colled bereavement support, creating new relationships and mission opportunities beyond our traditional church settings.

Partnerships are also being developed with organisations connected to the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales UNESCO World Heritage Site, with potential to support the future mission and sustainability of Christ Church, Glanogwen.



Bro Ogwen faces challenges to sustain its life and work. However the congregations are working more closely together and are addressing significant issues, such as stewardship and consolidation of finances. There is good humour, kindness and a shared commitment to local ministry rooted in the unique character of this area. We also have a stunning mountain landscape.

The next Ministry Area Leader will find churches that value collaboration, creativity and local identity. This is an opportunity to lead a Ministry Area that is growing in confidence, deepening its partnerships and seeking to serve its communities faithfully.

# *Church life*

## **Christ Church, Glanogwen, Bethesda**



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Christ Church, Glanogwen was consecrated in 1856, during a period of rapid growth in Bethesda as the slate industry reshaped the Ogwen Valley. For 170 years, the church has been part of the life of the town.

The church marks its 170th anniversary in 2026. Events planned for the year include music, storytelling, poetry and local history, reflecting the place of Christ Church in the story of Bethesda and the wider valley.

The anniversary is also a chance to look ahead. Christ Church has secured funding to explore repairs, improved access and new facilities. This work could help the building support a wider range of worship, cultural and community activities in the years ahead.

The aim is to care for the church's heritage while making the building more useful and welcoming for the people of Bethesda and the Ogwen Valley today.

## St Cross Church, Tal-y-Bont



St Cross Church was built by the Penrhyn family in the late nineteenth century and consecrated in 1892. It replaced the earlier nearby church of St Daniel's, known locally as Ysgoldy and used for occasional meetings and social events. A well-maintained graveyard surrounds St Cross.

St Cross has a steady and committed congregation, many of whom have long-standing links with the church and the area. There is an opportunity to build on those family and community connections, and to encourage younger people and families to feel more involved in the church's life.

St Cross seeks to maintain good relationships in the local community and supports events held by other churches in the Ministry Area, including Bethlehem Chapel. The church has its own committee, with responsibility for St Cross, Ysgoldy and their finances.

## **St Mary's Church, Gelli, Tregarth**

St Mary's is a welcoming church with a congregation of different ages. Several newcomers have joined in recent years, and the church is keen to build on this.

A service is usually held in Tregarth every week. The church has good facilities, including disabled access, toilets and a kitchen area. There is some parking outside, and the church grounds and graveyard are well maintained.

St Mary's has a long-standing relationship with the village church school and occasionally holds services for the school. This is an important link, and the church is keen to strengthen its relationship with staff, pupils and families.

Fundraising and social events are held throughout the year. These are led by the church wardens and supported by the congregation. They help with the upkeep of the church, but also provide a way to welcome people from the wider community.

## **St Mair and St Ann's Church, Mynydd Llandegai**

After the large and prominent St Ann's Church building closed in 1996, a mission church in the village (St Mair) was refurbished with new facilities. It reopened in 2000 as St Mair & St Ann. It has a small and varied congregation, with a traditional heart and a willingness to adapt when needed.

The church has become used to being self-sufficient, which gives any new vicar a committed group of people who are ready to offer practical and prayerful support.

There is a good foundation for growth. St Mair and St Ann's is warm and welcoming, with established links in the local community. The congregation would like to build on these links, especially with younger families and children.

The church is bilingual, and the use of Welsh and English in worship and church life is important to the congregation. This gives the church an important role in a community where both language and local identity matter.

## St Cedol's Church, Pentir



Built in 1848, St Cedol's is a welcoming, bilingual church with a desire to serve the community and encourage people of all ages to take part in worship and church life. It has a reordered West end meeting rooms with plans to extend that space and introduce toilet facilities.

The congregation values biblical teaching, prayer and pastoral care, and wants to look beyond the church building in its ministry. It has a committed congregation, ready to be encouraged, challenged and led into the next stage of ministry.

In recent years St Cedol's has embarked on a successful series of community and mission events including Christmas Tree festivals, local history talks and seasonal school services. These greatly assisted with the raising of funds for completion of repairs to the West gable and bell cote.

## St Tegai Church, Llandegai/Llandygai



St Tegai is the oldest parish church in Bro Ogwen and has been a Christian presence in the Ogwen Valley since the twelfth century. It is a listed Grade II\* building. It serves the village of Llandygai and the surrounding area, with a congregation drawn from the village, Bangor, Bethesda and beyond. Worship is traditional and bilingual. St Tegai also hosts midweek worship and some shared services with neighbouring churches.

The church has close links with the village church school. School services are held at St Tegai at key points in the year, and the foundation governors have always been actively involved in the life of the school. This is an important relationship, with scope to develop further links with children, families and the wider community.

For over 20 years St Tegai has opened its doors daily to visitors from Easter to Harvest Thanksgiving and offers bilingual guided tours on request to the National Trust at Penrhyn Castle, local historical societies and associations. The church is the training base for the Llandegai and Bangor University Student Society Bellringers who ring the six bell peal before services and special local and national occasions. Since 2011, supporters have fundraised steadily to build up a substantial Restoration Fund which has financed two phases of repair so far.

# *Interested?*

We are looking for a Ministry Area Leader who will get to know our churches and communities, and work with us with patience, care and encouragement. We hope to welcome a priest who can help people of all ages grow in faith, with a particular focus on young people and families. Our congregations are ageing, so we want to think honestly and creatively about how our churches connect with new generations.

We seek a Ministry Area Leader who will encourage us to work more closely together. There is already a desire to develop shared worship, joint activities and a stronger sense of common life across the Ministry Area.

The next Ministry Area Leader will recognise the importance of mission and ministry online, including social media, to share news, promote events and help people stay connected. We are especially keen to support and develop lay ministry, including training and encouraging worship leaders across the six churches.

We look forward to welcoming a priest who will pray with us, challenge us, encourage us, and help us serve our communities with confidence and purpose.

## *Application process*

Please return a completed application form to the Archdeacon of Bangor, [davidparry@cinw.org.uk](mailto:davidparry@cinw.org.uk) 07403 635 510

More information and an informal chat please contact Archdeacon David.



[bangor.eglwysyngnghymru.org.uk](http://bangor.eglwysyngnghymru.org.uk)