

News and Events

Fr Stuart Tanswell

And so last month we said goodbye to Fr Stuart Tanswell after three years of ministry among us. It has been a challenging time for him, without doubt. He came initially as 'simple' parish incumbent of St Gwladys and almost immediately found himself having to oversee the closure of the two sister churches (St David's Brithdir and St Peter's Deri) then, with the retirement of Fr Steven Kirk, being asked to lead the whole (still very new) 'Ministry Area' comprised of our five different districts! And all this at a time of life-changing upheavals in his personal life as his and Natalie's marriage came to an end. Other health problems added to an uncomfortable position from which to minister.

In all this, we have appreciated much about Fr Stuart's life amongst us. We recognize that he has worked hard. In leading, managing and overseeing the different Districts of the Ministry Area, his cheerful willingness to straddle different shades of churchmanship have stood him in good stead. In St Gwladys we have also appreciated his enthusiastic musicianship, adding keyboard skills to the otherwise pared-back 'band'! Each of our clergy has a distinctive style of delivery in exposition and sermonising - Stuart's preaching has often left us with valuable scripture-based reflections, and his celebration of Eucharistic services across the MA has been encouraging and unflagging. We shall miss his humour and his self-effacing humility.

We trust Fr Stuart's time in Bargoed has been significant for him, too, in many ways. As he and Caroline move forward into a new phase in their life together, we pray God's grace on them, and on Stuart's continued ministry. **Jeff Hankins**

Fr Stuart's Licencing as

Priest in Charge of Dafen, Llanelli takes place at 7.00pm on Monday 3rd February 2025.

Anyone who would like to attend is warmly invited and we send him every blessing as he begins a new stage in his ministry.

The next meeting of the
AREA DEANERY CONFERENCE
takes place at 7.00pm on Tuesday 18th February 2025 at S. Luke's Church, Rhydyfelin.

Taff Rhymney Ministry Area Key Contacts:

Ministry Area Leader - Vacancy

Email:

Tel:

Mrs. Sue Rivers. (Ministry Area Lay Chair) Tel: 07910 524816

Clergy

Fr Gary Powell 01443 832119

Fr Gareth Coombs 01443 813246

Fr Darren Lynch 01685 552502

Fr Keith Hemmings 01443 830662

Fr Ashley Hunt. 01495 228445

Reader

Mrs Carolyn Corbin - 07983 677360

Ministry Area Wardens

Vacancy (Leaders Warden)

Mrs Louise Lynch - 01685 552502 (Peoples Warden)



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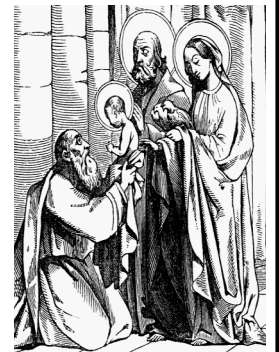
Our Ministry Area comprises of the following districts:

Ystrad Mynach — Holy Trinity
Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog, Nelson & Llanfabon — St. John, St. Matthias, St. Mabon
Gelligaer & Gilfach — St. Catwg, St. Margaret
Pontlottyn — St. Tyfaelog, St. Aidan, St. Mary & St. Andrew
Bargoed, Deri & Brithdir — St. Gwladys

Saints and Holy Days

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST (Candlemas)

A feast of our Lord celebrated on Feb. 2, also known as Candlemas and the Feast of the Purification. It commemorates the presentation of Jesus and the purification of Mary in the Jerusalem Temple forty days after Jesus' birth, in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law (Lv 12:2-8).



Jesus' presentation in the Temple reflects how he fulfils the Old Covenant. According to Old Testament law, a sacrifice had to be offered in the Temple when a child was consecrated to the Lord.

Reflection for February

The Presentation of the Christ, also known as Candlemas:

Looking at the Lord Jesus Christ, we see the Light that illuminates and breaks the darkness. On February 2nd we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Christ, popularly called Candlemas. It is at this Service that candles are blessed and the Lord's blessings are beseeched upon the candles used in Holy Mass and upon the eyes of our soul.

The light from the lit candle breaks the darkness of the space where it burns, so too, in a more powerful way, the light of Christ break the darkness of the world.