



## Vision Update

### The year ahead

2024 will be a pivotal year for the Pontypridd Ministry Area. Covid has accelerated decline across the Anglican Church in the UK, and everyone is feeling as though a lot is asked of few. Our Ministry Area is no exception. However, our M.A. is one of the few in the Llandaff Diocese who have created a vision for the future and is changing its posture from managing decline to enabling growth.

2023 was a big year for us. The Ministry Area was able to assist the Foodbank become an Independent Charity. Citizen Church at St Mary's finally opened their doors to the public; and we welcomed our first ever full-time Curate. We launched Bubble Church and Luke's Soup has evolved and began to step into the spiritual care of its users. Together, we created a vision for our Ministry Area based on the hopes and dreams of our congregations, and we adopted a logo that represents both who we are now and aspire who we to be in the future.

Amongst all of this good news, anxiety has been high within the M.A. As we continued to be understaffed with only two full time priests who far too often had to prioritize what they *have to do* over what they *would like to do*. Releasing Foodbank to become a CIO became an overly complex issue which slowed our progress, and finances remain very tight. Churches have not felt as though there is little growth and even less hope for the future, but we have a plan. The post for a third priest has been advertised and we have received some very strong applications. This priest will be overseeing Spiritual formation in the Ministry Area and revitalizing our Anglo Catholic worship. Interviews will be held in January, and we hope to have the priest in post by the start of the second quarter of this year.

We have challenges ahead. Our main challenge is in relation to our finances. The system we have is set up to ensure that we priorities paying the Fairer Share above all else. This has left many feeling the financial strain, which has contributed quite significantly to our anxiety. The M.A.L. and Treasurer have met to discuss an alternative way of ordering our finances which we will discuss at our M.A.C. meeting. One thing has become clear is that the M.A. needs an independent income stream. Having spoken to the Diocese and local partners at length, we believe that creating a commercial Soft Pay area in Pontypridd will be the answer. This will be a significant project for 2024. In addition, a new congregation will be planted at Ynysybwl which will be aimed at encouraging new younger families into church; and we are currently working closely with the Diocese Senior Outreach Officer to establish a Christians Against Poverty Life Skills hub at the Graig.

The biggest challenge ahead will be to change our mental posture from managing decline to enabling growth, and this change in posture will be led by you, the M.A.C. We can no longer view ourselves as a cluster of independent churches, instead we must fully embrace our legal position of one church over multiple sites. This will mean restructuring how we manage our finances, it may mean restructuring the M.A.C. and creating a stronger sense of mutuality. This change of posture will be made clear through our use of language, use of money, and use of human resources. As a M.A.C. we will make more collective decisions on our use of precious resources and build a new structure for the next generation of P.M.A. Christians to inherit. I am confident that through the grace of God and his continued blessing, and the work of our hands, this time next year we will see a healthier, stronger and expanding M.A.

## **M.A.C.**

In 2024, the M.A.C. will continue to meet every 6 weeks, and we will take a break during the school summer holidays. In order for us to make best use of our time, we will try and limit our meetings to one or two topics, to maintain momentum. Updates that you need to know, which may not necessarily need to be voiced at the M.A.C. will be included in this Supporting Information document. Our 6 week cycle will look like this:

Draft M.A.C. agenda to be sent to M.A.C. 3-4 weeks before M.A.C. meeting

Agenda to be included with committee meetings. Minutes of meetings are to be sent to the Operations Manager for central filing.

Any item that committees feel necessary to be discussed at M.A.C. must be submitted to the M.A.L./Lay Chair one week prior to the M.A.C. meeting.

One week after M.A.C. meeting, draft minutes will be available to M.A.C. members and on the website. M.A.C. members need to ensure that hard copies are available for congregants to access.

Process restarts...

## **Annual Report/ A.V.M.**

As agreed by the M.A.C. this year our Annual Report will contain the statutory requirements alone. There will be no need to write a report this year.

This year, our A.V.M. will be held in the context of a Eucharist.

## **Evolution of the Newsletter**

The electronic weekly magazine has been a great way to bring the MA together by sharing notices, inviting each other to events and sharing our good news stories. We are seeing that the readership of

the newsletter is reaching beyond our pews. Now feels like the right time to create and implement a new communications strategy. Phase one will be reviewing how we share our good news stories and notices. In 2024, the weekly newsletter will become a Bulletin Sheet aimed at those who attend Church regularly. It will include all that people in the pews need to know about what is going on in the Ministry Area that week. We will also create a monthly magazine aimed at those who are yet to become members of our church as well as those who are already part of our church family. The magazine will reflect our vision and mission as we share stories and testimonies of people coming home to Jesus, tackling loneliness, challenging pre-conceived stereotypes of church, and growing the Kingdom of God. As now, the bulletin sheet and magazine will be available electronically and in hard copy.

### **Church Suite**

Our subscription has now ended, and the account is dormant. Should we wish to restart our subscription, we can do so at any time.

### **Safeguarding**

My Church People is getting populated. Some Churches are yet to provide their list of team members. All those who require a DBS check will be contacted in the coming weeks.

