

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Esgob  
Llanelwy  
The Bishop of  
St Asaph



To the clergy, Shared Ministry Team, MAC Conference, Church Council members, wardens and treasurers of the Penedeyrn Mission Area.

Dear friends

On 7 January I wrote to advise you that I had asked the Reverend Sandra Roberts to take on a new post. This will happen sometime in the summer. I am now writing to clarify some of the other recommendations made as part of your Mission Area review process.

I can confirm, for example, that since Penedeyrn can only afford one part time stipendiary cleric we will need to look at other models to ensure that all areas of the Mission Area have the ministry they need. I have therefore asked the Archdeacon of Montgomery to work with you and the Valle Crucis Mission Area Conference to explore the possibility of a combination.

My recommendation is that a working party consisting of at least one member of each Shared Ministry Team, two members of each Mission Area Conference, and one treasurer from each Mission Area is brought together to guide the process. The exact makeup of the group can be agreed with Archdeacon Barry. The purpose of the group will be to advise the diocese and both Mission Area Conferences about the viability and effectiveness of any proposals regarding such a merger.

I have also consulted with the Diocesan Property Board about other recommendations made as part of the Review process and can now confirm that St Catherine's Church, Maerdy will be closed and returned to the Representative Body for sale. The cottages at Maerdy will also be sold. I recognise that these are painful decisions for all concerned.

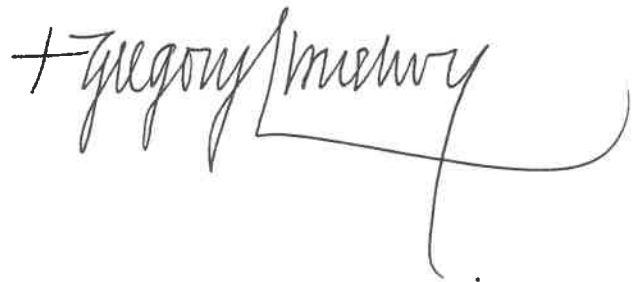
The Diocesan Property Board also supported the following recommendations, which I hope you will be able to take forward:



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- That if there is enthusiasm, the community and Church congregations at Cerrigydrudion should explore the potential for reordering the building as part of a community project.
- That there should be a process of consultation with the local community about the future of St John Evangelist, Cynwyd.
- That St Derfel, Llandderfel, should explore the possibility of Pilgrim Church status.
- That St Trillo, Llandrillo-yn-Edeyrn, should continue to explore the possibility of installing a WC in the grounds to facilitate additional activities and outreach.
- That St Michael's Church, Llanfihangel, should remain a Pilgrim Church.
- That the funds currently held by the Representative Body from the sale of Pentrefoelas Church should be used at the discretion of the Mission Area Conference to fulfil any existing obligations and to further mission and growth.

As you know the Coronavirus has profoundly impacted almost every aspect of our lives, including our churches, and as we emerge from this deadly and devastating pandemic our society and our worshipping communities will need to find a new way of being. My hope is that together we will find a sustainable, creative and effective way of doing this, that will both honour the past and provide new opportunities for future.



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