

## Bro Cybi Ministry Area



Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June

Dear friends,

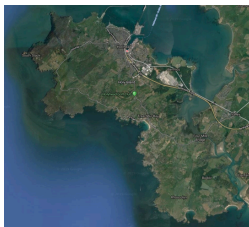
It's June already and it's only three weeks to mid-summer's day !

I hope you are keeping well, it has been so good to speak to those I've been able to and to see some of you during our now-regular virtual services on Zoom. I'm very conscious that many of you are unable to access these online services, some of you are also trying to access them and having to deal with challenging computers, smart phones and tablets. We are all having to deal with new ways of connecting with each other and it seems as though it will yet be with us for some weeks to come.

As Ministry Area leaders, we are now well into discussions about how and when we will be able to meet again in our Churches and we are beginning to plan for re-opening our buildings. This is not going to be easy and we will be constrained by concerns for everyone's health and welfare.

During the last few months we have been doing many things differently, including this mailing, it seems likely that in the future, even when we do re-open our Churches, we will continue some of these new things. From the feedback I and my colleagues have received from you; our future Church, in addition to having regular worship in the building, may include some of these things:

- a structured telephone ministry for those who are unable to attend Church
- virtual MAC meetings
- enabling people to pray and to study scripture at home
- additional non-eucharistic services
- Churches open for private prayer
- outdoor services



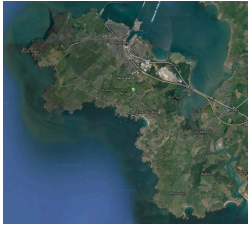
## **Bro Cybi Ministry Area**

The work of our Church continues during lockdown and we want to keep it well-resourced and funded. I am hugely grateful to everyone for their encouragements and care for each other and for the giving which we have been able to re-start. Audrey has been doing a wonderful job recording and banking the donations and regular giving. Many of you have also taken up the opportunity to give generously via the Church in Wales Give Direct scheme and even more of you have sent in additional cheques and donations, please continue ! It is all very much needed as we meet the current financial challenges. Please rest assured that your giving will be well-used. I have received many exciting ideas about how we can be a faithful, thriving Church together in the future and I'm sure we can put many of these ideas into concrete plans within the next few months. We worship a faithful God, who will provide us with what we need to worship Him and to praise Him in our actions, in our buildings and within the community in the future. Please do keep up your giving, if you have any questions please do get in touch with me, Neil, Jane or Andy.

When we do re-open we will need some additional things including:

- volunteers to help ensure that people keep a distance
- signage putting up – both to say that we are open and also to tell the community that we are continuing to pray for them and for our NHS
- cleaning and sanitising stations
- risk assessments for a Covid free Church
- stewards for when we are open for private prayer
- people to hand-deliver mailings
- IT skilled people to help continue and to grow the virtual and recorded services for people who are unable to attend Church – and for mission

If you are able to help with any of these things then please do get in touch, as always please keep each other firmly held in prayer, just as God never lets go of any of us, we will continue to love and care for each other.



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I have included the recent series of reflections we have written and read in our recorded and virtual services. I hope you enjoy them.

As a ministry team, we recognise that it might be helpful for many of you to receive resources and ideas about ways to pray, especially at home. We hope to send you something on this in the future.

We are having to learn a whole new set of skills as a ministry team! I am hugely grateful to my colleagues and to Richard and Glenys for their input and ideas, to Pat, Edna and Audrey and to many others who are helping to keep us connected during these times. I think we have all learned so much, about our faith and about what is important to us. Here are a few things that we have we learned about our parish community:

- we all need fun and laughter, with each other
- we can be creative in many different ways
- we all need sabbath rest
- we are a good community and we are good at looking after each other - often on the phone !
- we are adaptable
- we have learned how to depend on God when we need to
- we have learned how to re-appreciate each other
- we have discovered interdependency – how to depend on each other

And finally, it is apparent that over a quarter of the UK population have tried to find out how to pray. Everyone, including those currently outside the Church, have discovered that they want to know how to connect with God.

With love and best wishes

Rob