



Holy Island (Bro Cybi) Ministry Area

Newsletter – Information About the Ezra Process

The Bangor Diocese has launched an initiative called Ezra to safeguard the future of our Church in North West Wales. Ezra requires us look at all our Church activities and buildings and to gain a vision for what our Churches and our services and activities will be like in the future. Bangor Diocese's Ezra process is named after the Old Testament leader who returned with others to Jerusalem following their captivity in Babylon, Ezra guided the re-founding and rebuilding of the Jewish faith. We believe the Ezra Process is our opportunity to look forward and envision a thriving Church in the community of Bro Cybi which stays faithful to our traditions.

Our last Ministry Area Council (MAC) in November agreed to the setting-up of an Ezra Working Group. This group, which includes one representative from each of our four churches has been tasked with proposing a 'process' that will enable us to complete Ezra within six months. The aim is to finalise an Ezra Report by 30 June 2020. The Ezra group will propose a process to our next MAC meeting on the 7th of January.

Key to the Ezra process will be wide ranging consultation, firstly within and then outside the church, to reach an understanding of what people believe the Church should be doing in the future; what we want to retain and what we want to change. As we go through the Ezra process together we will look at our worship, how we engage with and support the community around us, how we become financially sustainable and how are buildings can be used better.

The following draft Vision Statement has been developed, to help us see what we might achieve:

Our Vision

As the Church in Wales on Ynys Cybi(Holy Island) we are on a journey to seek out and worship God who we believe is with us all in our community. In seeking God we recognise that we do not have all the answers and we want to go on this journey with others.

Our vision is for a Church for all people where everyone feels welcome; a Church which enables people to be freed from the things which hold us back like low self-esteem, loneliness, boredom, poor health, damaged relationships and unemployment. By using our buildings and our resources wisely we want to support each other and different organisations who share our values in order to support people in our community; we want to enable organisations and groups to do good things for people of all ages. We believe that our lives can be changed by building community and by treating each other with understanding, forgiveness and respect. We believe that everyone is equal in the eyes of God. We respect our duty of care for all God's Creation; we want to help keep this planet sustainable, healthy and safe. We recognise the essential value of the Welsh language within our own culture. We work locally to achieve profound spiritual change as part of the wider Church.

We believe Ezra is an exciting opportunity to re-found and rebuild our local churches but it clearly presents a number of challenges. The Ezra Group are looking forward to some interesting and no doubt lively debates over the coming months.