



Margam Ministry Area Council

St. Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill

Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 7pm

The meeting will be preceded by the Eucharist at 6.30pm

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Declarations of Interest.
4. Co-option.
5. Minutes of the meeting of 4th May 2022.
6. Matters arising from the minutes of 4th May 2022.
7. Safeguarding Group (Appendix A)
8. Finance
9. Standing Committee
10. Ministry Area Development.
11. Ministry Area Leader & Clergy Team Report. (Appendix B)
12. Communications Group (Appendix C)
13. Mission, Outreach, Children & Young People Group (Appendix D)
14. Pastoral Care Group.
15. Vocations Group.
16. Buildings
17. Church Committee Reports:
 - a. Margam Abbey
 - b. St. Theodore, Kenfig Hill
 - c. St. James, Pyle
 - d. St. Mary Magdalene, Mawdlam
 - e. St. David, Nottage
 - f. St. John the Baptist, Newton
 - g. All Saints, Porthcawl
18. AOB notified to the Chair by 12.00 noon on the day of the meeting.
 - a. Consideration of Margam Ministry Area presentation to be delivered to the churches.
19. Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 6th July 2022 Venue TBC.
6.30 pm Eucharist, 7 pm Meeting.
20. Close and prayers.

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Meeting	Third meeting of Margam Ministry Area Council
Venue	St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill
Date	4 th May 2022 at 7pm
Present	Wendy Xerri (WX) [Lay Chair]; Canon Philip Masson (PM); Fr Geoff Lunn (GL); Rev Dr Duncan Walker (DW); Fr Mark Broadway (MB); David- Lloyd Jones (DLJ); Martyn Jones (MJ); Eileen Edwards (EE); Kevin Boscott (KB); Jeanette Keane (JK); Hilary Thomas (HT); John Roberts (JR); Lydia Harris (LH); Peter Henry (PH); Gareth Baker (GB); Clive Edwards (CE); Carolyn Perrin (CP); Paul Smart (PS); Margaret Griffiths (MGr); Anthony Radcliffe (AR); Mari Goldsworthy (MGo); David Parry (DP); James Thomas (JT)
Apologies	Fr Jon Durley (JD); Dave Xerri (DX); Margaret Phillips (MP)

Fr Mark Broadway (MB) opened the meeting in prayer.	Actions
1. Declarations of interest 1.1. DLJ declared his role as organist of St Theodore's church. 1.2. MJ declared his role as DAC secretary and Church Buildings Officer	
2. Co-options 2.1. No Co options appointed	
3. Previous Minutes 3.1. Minutes of previous meeting dated 23 rd March 2022 were agreed. Adoption proposed by DLJ and seconded by GB. It was agreed that a signed copy of the Minutes should be stored in the registered office.	
4. Matters Arising 4.1. Matters arising from previous Minutes – none stated.	
5. Safeguarding Group 5.1. This group has not yet had their first meeting.	
6. Finance 6.1. Reports previously distributed, no questions or comments.	
7. Standing Committee 7.1. The Charity Commission has not yet been advised of name change to 'The Rectorial Benefice of Margam'. PM will communicate with the Charity Commission to enable name change as soon as possible.	PM
8. Ministry Area Development 8.1. Paul Booth, Vision Programme Manager for Llandaff Diocese will support a planning day for Margam Ministry Area. Dates are being considered for October. 8.2. PM reported on the inauguration of the Ministry Area held on Sunday 27 th March 2022. It was noted that prior to the service the clergy were licensed	

<p>by the Bishop to the Ministry Area. There was no prior notice of this intent given to either PM nor JD. GL had inadvertently been late for this and so was not included. PM felt this was less than gracious, especially given GL's contribution to Ministry in recent years and effectively left GL dismissed.</p> <p>8.3. PM requests WX and DLJ send a letter to Bishop June stating the disappointment and upset caused through this turn of events. GL felt the actions had left him feeling confused regarding his role and advised that a meeting was now arranged with the Bishop for further clarity in the coming week. When asked if he would prefer any letter being left until after this meeting GL stated he would leave this decision with the chair but that regardless of the outcome of the meeting the action had still occurred.</p> <p>8.4. DLJ also felt there was further clarity needed regarding the roles of individual clergy, who exactly is licensed to the Ministry Area and as what? DLJ noted there were several discrepancies on the Llandaff Diocesan / Church in Wales website regarding clergy roles. Clergy are to clarify the wording of their licenses to DLJ. .</p>	<p>WX/DLJ</p> <p>PM/DW</p>
<p>9. Ministry Area Leader and Clergy Team Report</p> <p>9.1 JD has provided a report, in view of his absence any questions are to be sent to JD directly.</p>	
<p>10. Communications Group</p> <p>10.1. The communications group has not met in the past month. However, the website is now live and the magazines published. Thanks were extended to all concerned for getting the MAC known both online and in print.</p> <p>10.2. JT provided some feedback from parishioners which included more contact numbers for hall bookings, organists etc. Also it was noted that although MAC information was needed, individual church contacts required more emphasis. GL suggested the centerfold page had more space but for ease of access it was decided everything could be fitted onto back page. PM will look at this to be ready for June issue.</p> <p>10.3. HT reported concern regarding scam emails related to JD's address. Reassurance was given that addresses cannot be harvested directly from the website and the emails were not coming directly from JD's email address. MG suggests blind copying when sending group emails but this was not considered best for communication when the group needed to follow an email thread. WX sends MAC emails only to the closed group.</p>	<p>PM</p>
<p>11. Mission, Outreach, Children & Young People Group</p> <p>11.1. JT reported that they had had their first formal meeting with 11 people in attendance. There had been much enthusiasm within the group and ideas had come thick and fast.</p> <p>11.2. Confirmation of a date for a meeting with a band from Bishop of Llandaff School is expected soon to explore alternative forms of worship.</p> <p>11.3. JT is meeting with members of Pyle church in the coming week to explore the idea of a Friendship group to meet on Fridays.</p> <p>11.4. The group had discussed a budget to enable planning of events over the coming year. A request of £7,000 had been suggested as a starter annual budget (£1000 contribution from each church within the MAC). Additional funding would also be sort from The Diocesan Evangelism Fund and Mission Fund. There was much discussion within the Council regarding this request with concerns raised about disparity of member numbers amongst the churches and the financial load this may cause to some churches. Others raised concerns that this amount may not be suffice and wondered if the figure was realistic. The discussion focused all on the mission calling of our churches. The Margam Calling initiative to explore new forms of worship was accepted as one way of connecting to younger people to encourage the good news of the gospel to be heard. JT also advised of Margam Calling Juniors which would be aimed at younger children.</p>	

<p>11.5. It was noted that some churches had no young people or children and wondered what benefit this initiative would be in that instance. MB spoke of the MAC as Trustees and highlighted the need to spend money in ways that were in keeping with our charitable aims. The propagation of the Christian gospel in a sustainable way looks to reaching out to younger generations. Currently statistics show we have a diminished number of young people in our churches which we need to address. If spending money is required to do this then that is what we must do.</p> <p>11.6. DW expressed concern at the long term commitment as financial deficits could be perilous. MB agreed but it was accepted that without younger generations coming to faith there would be no long term.</p> <p>11.7. Young faith matters draws on all available diocesan support. DLJ commented that older congregations have much to contribute to younger people in the way of Christian values, boundaries and parameters to assist young people with the challenges they face in society today. It was acknowledged that the generational structure found in a church family was extremely helpful to all ages. It was also acknowledged that we have healthy funds within this MAC.</p> <p>11.8. AR asked how we envisaged Margam Calling in 12month's time? JT referred to Citizen church in Cardiff which had increased from a congregation of 50 to 500 within a year. There was hope that within our MAC the presence of young people could increase at least 10 fold with St Theodore's being used as a main base for Margam Calling initiatives and St David's as a place for Margam Calling Juniors. The aim is to start to in one place first but not to be restricted to just this. Events would be aimed at unchurched or non churched people. There would be an awareness of our Christian identity through the presence of altar and font, moving towards the Eucharist but the aim would be to connect with people where they are initially and encourage them along the journey to faith.</p> <p>11.9. MGo advised that Bev Gully of Margam Abbey already had good contacts with the schools. Groups were taken around Margam Abbey to instruct on the history of the building. JT had already arranged a meeting with BG to explore how this can be developed further.</p> <p>11.10. Many members contributed ideas regarding a way forward eg. Follow up with families of those being baptized, witness stories, hospitality, etc.</p> <p>11.11. All agreed the Mission group would require funding to support a way forward. PS proposed the £7,000 be provided from the MAC central fund for one year. A review would be needed after one year to establish the ongoing requirement. JT was in agreement with this proposal. The suggestion was unanimously agreed by all present. The groups would also engage with DX for specific safeguarding guidance.</p> <p>11.12. PS has the authority to authorize spending to this amount for one year.</p>	<p>JT</p> <p>PS</p>
<p>12. Pastoral Care Group</p> <p>12.1. This group has not yet had their first meeting.</p>	
<p>13. Vocations Group</p> <p>13.1. This group has not yet had their first meeting.</p>	
<p>14. Buildings Group</p> <p>14.1. AR reported on the organ at Margam Abbey. The last refit was in 1991/93 and at this time the bellows which are made of lambskin were not changed. The Margam Music Foundation was founded after 1991. It is agreed the organ definitely needs attention and the congregation are fully in favour of this. AR queried why there was a delay in any works being carried out. DLJ advised the work was planned to start after the current series of weddings</p>	

<p>had been completed. DLJ is meeting with the Margam Music Foundation this coming Sunday. DLJ reassured that works were moving ahead.</p> <p>14.2 DLJ explained that there may be further issues when the wind is back on as the choir division has not been operational for 7yrs and some mechanical issues may be encountered . DLJ provided a detailed explanation as to the why this may be the case, outlining the mechanical workings of the organ. A contingency of 10% to address any issues incurred whilst the organ builder is still on site was suggested as this would hopefully remove the need for a return visit if there were any problems which would incur more costs.</p> <p>14.3 DLJ identified a need for the MAC to establish a procedure for maintaining risk assessments of all church property. Historically, the clergy or church wardens would provide risk assessment on each individual church. However, as the MAC is now responsible there needs to be an accepted procedure to ensure this is covered in all churches. The diocese does offer a Risk Assessment Course. Initially insurances and risk assessment for the last year need to be collated. PM agreed to do this.</p> <p>14.4 MAC request each church submit copies of risk assessments and insurances to keep in the registered MAC office. The communications group will also provide an on line digital depository.</p> <p>14.5 PM requests list from the buildings committee and WX agreed to send. There are no buildings reports as yet.</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>PM</p> <p>WX</p>
<p>15. Church Committee Reports</p> <p>15.1. Pyle and Kenfig have provided their local church committee report.</p> <p>15.2. Margam Abbey report is planned for end of June</p>	<p></p>
<p>16. AOB</p> <p>16.1. WX advised she will not be available to chair the next meeting. GB agreed to chair.</p> <p>16.2. PM discussed a reduction in the number of Deaneries in the diocese. A map was issued showing boundaries between different area ministry groups and advice from diocese to possibly link with the Local Authority Boundaries to aid decisions. Margam Ministry Area crosses two Local Authority areas but the majority lies within BCBC. It is noted that Margam Abbey is not within this boundary. However, there appeared to be an easier link to BCBC through known contacts, use of registry office and generally a more local position. (HT gave apologies as had to leave early from the meeting)</p> <p>16.3. Further clarity around the Deaneries and the significance of them was requested. However, a proposal was made by DLJ to create a seventh Deanery within the county of Bridgend Borough Council, DP seconded this motion. This would include:</p> <p>Margam, Penybont ar Ogwr, Llynfi and Upper Afan Valleys, Pedair Afon Area Ministries. 20 people were in favour, there were 2 abstentions. WX will communicate this decision to the diocese.</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p>WX</p>
<p>17. Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>17.1. Wednesday 1st June 2022 at St. Theodore's, Kenfig Hill at 7pm. A celebration of the Eucharist will precede the meeting at 6.30pm for those able to attend.</p>	<p></p>
<p>There being no further business the meeting closed with The Grace at 9.00pm</p>	<p></p>



Margam Ministry Area

Safeguarding Report: 1st June 2022

Dave Xerri, Ministry Area Safeguarding Officer

There have been significant changes taking place recently to tie in with the emerging roll out of Ministry Areas. These include new safeguarding training taking place in June/July, which I have booked onto, and the introduction of a new in-house DBS & Safeguarding system called 'My Church People' which is being piloted in the Diocese of Llandaff. 'My Church People' is a dashboard containing DBS and safeguarding training information about staff and volunteers and will help ensure that all of our Ministry Areas and churches are compliant with the latest safeguarding and DBS requirements. Each Ministry Area will have access to My Church People dashboard which provides DBS information at a glance about staff and volunteers. Users will find information about people in our Ministry Area, such as:

- Who has a valid DBS.
- Whose DBS is due soon.
- Who has no DBS.
- Whose role does not require one.
- Attendance at safeguarding training.

The dashboard is fully automated, meaning that it will trigger a reminder when:

- When a DBS check is due
- Where one is needed
- Who needs to attend three yearly safeguarding refresher training

This will make it easier for us to monitor compliance and will ensure that DBS checks have not been missed or forgotten. My Church People will give us peace of mind knowing that vital DBS checks have not been missed or forgotten. 'My Church People' makes safeguarding and DBS checks simpler and easier to administer. Most importantly, the dashboard will ensure that all Ministry Areas and local churches are compliant with Church in Wales procedures.

We all have a moral and ethical responsibility as Christians to look out and care for the children and vulnerable adults in our churches and surrounding communities, so it remains incumbent on everyone to be vigilant to make sure that we are doing all we can to ensure that they are safe and to report any concerns, if they should arise, as laid down in the Church in Wales Safeguarding Policy.



Margam Ministry Area

MAL & Clergy Team Report: 1st June 2022

Fr. Jon Durley, Ministry Area Leader

Sunday 29th May will be Fr. Steve's final Sunday in the Ministry Area, before he moves to Cardiff, We thank him for all of his ministry with us during the last year.

On Monday 25th July Fr. Mark will be licensed to the MA, with particular responsibility for Margam Abbey. Ruth who is married to Mark will be Ordained Deacon on the Saturday 25th June in the Cathedral and we look forward to welcoming them.

With these moves occurring, a rota is being prepared to cover the interregnum.

It was good to worship together again as a Ministry Area at St James for Ascension Day. Our thanks to Revd. Duncan who presided at the Eucharist and to Mr. Alan Brookes who gave the address.

The first meeting of the Pastoral Care Group for the Ministry Area has been arranged for Monday 6th June, 2pm @ St Theodore's.

As a MA we have been invited to the Cathedral for Evensong on Sunday 3rd July as on that day our MA features in their cycle of prayer. Should we wish to have a tour of the Cathedral, then this could be arranged, followed by a cup of tea before Evensong. Please let Fr. Jon know should we wish to accept this invitation. The Cathedral have also asked for us to send in any prayer requests which can be included in the intercessions. Once again, please let Fr. Jon know, so that he can send these through prior to the 3rd of July.

Fr. J. Durley CA



Communications Group

Group Leader: James Thomas – thomasthomas1@me.com

Meeting held Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 6:30pm
in St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill

Present: Fr Phillip, James Thomas, Wendy Xerri, and Helen Murdoch.

Apologies: Fr Mark, Bev Gulley.

Marketing Plan and Brand Identity Strategy: The group looked in detail at both plans which were generally accepted with the following points highlighted/agreed:

- That Lucida Sans be the font for printed material and not Ariel.
- The Magazine print is size 10 unless a heading which is 12.
- That all email address should be by title other than the clergy who should be by name.

Email addresses: it was felt the costs seemed high, it was agreed to ask a company called Krystal that the churches in Porthcawl use for a compare costing. The goal is to have '@margam.org.uk' email addresses.

Online storage: The discussion concluded that a less costly solution is needed It was noted this is now a matter of urgency as it is inhibiting progression in other areas.

Telephones: It was agreed there is a great advantage in having one phone number for the entire MA and both an online 'cloud based' system and a 'stand alone' physical system should be investigated. Although early indications are that a cloud system would constantly be up to date and in the long run be less costly.

Communications Strategy – The group discussed the communication strategy which was generally accepted:

- That the Ministry Area Weekly News (weekly sheet, bulletin sheet, pews sheet), would need to take into account that different readings are used in each church. This is something that can be overcome by printing a separate reading sheet where required.

James reported that during discussions at other MAC groups, and in general conversation one thing that everyone is asking is to know what's going on across the MA. People are almost becoming annoyed that this has not yet happened and feel it is holding the MA back.

It was accepted that this needs to happen and a mock up that was shown to the group as a starting point.

It was agreed that he and Fr Philip would look at it and come up with a proposal.

These strategies would now go to the Standing Committee for discussion.

Magazine – It was agreed by all how well the magazine had been received and how much people were engaging with it, both with articles and with purchasing and talking about its contents. It was felt this was a positive step forward and is an important tool in the development of the MA.

Margam Abbey did not receive their copy to print until after the rest of the MA this will be rectified for the next issue.



Margam Ministry Area

Mission, Outreach, Children & Young People Group

Group Leader: James Thomas thomasthomas1@me.com

**Meeting held Tuesday 19th May 2022 at 6:30pm
in Pyle Church Hall**

Present:

Fr Jon Durley, James Thomas, Catherine Powell, Amanda Davies, Grace Wilde, Tony Harris, Vanessa Evans, Jan Battrick, Lydia Harris, Jeanette Kearn.

Apologies:

Fr Mark Broadway, Keith Hopkins, Margaret Hopkins, Claire Stowell.

Notes:

Fr Jon opened the meeting with a prayer.

All present introduced themselves to the group.

Those present who had been to the Margam Ministries Fair gave a brief overview, it was generally felt that it was a good thing. Lots of people from Margam Park had come through and hopefully it had given them some positive thoughts about the church.

Groups:

Open the Book: *This brings the bible to life in schools through plays.* Fr Jon & Grace reported this already operating in the primary schools in the Pyle, Kenfig and Cefn Cribwr and is ecumenical. Lydia suggested it would be nice if this could be expanded to the primary schools in Porthcawl. There was broad consensus that this should be explored including the school in Margam Village.

Care for the Family: *Who provide support for families, by helping new parents, couple support, bereavement support and practical help.* It was agreed this could be explored further in the future.

Story Telling with Puppets: *Self-explanatory.* It was felt that this may also work in schools and at local events: church fetes, etc. James reported that Fr Geoff had spoken to him about Godly Play (Godly Play teaches a process that aims to promote an inner working model for life-long Christian learning). We would need two accredited adults and some basic resources. Fr Geoff has offered to do a demo if we can provide some play sand. Fr Geoff is already accredited to the scheme. All present agreed they would love a demo.

Riding Lights Theatre Company: *Our aim is to create unforgettable, entertaining theatre in response to current issues and the hopes and fears of the world we share.* Again, it was felt this may be something we could use in the future.

Anna Chaplaincy, for Older People: *Offering spiritual care in later life:* Lydia said she felt strongly about this and would probably reach out and offer help. – Later in the meeting Grace said that she was the South Wales Trainer for visiting and would very happy to take part if we wished to have our own version in the MA. Lydia and Jeanette volunteered to be part of this work. It was agreed they would meet and feedback at the next meeting.

After discussion it was agreed that the Mission Group be the central hub and focus for all mission through the churches in the ministry area so a cohesive plan could be in place.

Budget: It was reported that after a good discussion the MAC had agreed a budget of £7,000 for the coming year, to be reviewed annually.

Margam Calling: James reported he had met with Fr Mark, Phil Burman (Diocesan Engagement Officer) and Meg Borges (Church Army) and that plans for a band were progressing well with a few options to explore. Tony offered to be part of the band group as he plays an instrument and sings. A meeting of the band planners including Tony would be held shortly.

James said he was now coming to the end of the planning document which would be discussed with the Standing Committee shortly.

Catherine and James are planning a meeting to move forward with Margam Calling Juniors. We do have two dates with the Message Bus (these are state of the art mobile youth centres) held so we can integrate play with using the church building. Dates to be confirmed.

Aims: To help the group plan it was suggested that we should have aims:

- one long term aim
- three medium term aims
- several quick wins

Long Term Aim

Margam Calling – A new form of worship for our Ministry Area.

Medium Term Aims

1 - The Abbot's Kitchen – As one of only two non-church premises that allow interaction with non-church people through trading, it was felt that this valuable asset should be open as soon as possible. It was acknowledged that a new priest with pastoral care of Margam Abbey would be joining us shortly, however it was felt this could not wait and that he would be here before any major decisions were probably made.

Fr Jon was asked to speak to Bev Gulley and Robert Cross as the Sub-Wardens and express our desire to take this forward as soon as possible and ask that they come to speak to us at our next meeting so plans could be made.

2 - Family Breakfast – A breakfast club for families based in Pyle church hall on Saturdays. This would provide a simple breakfast for families in an area where up to 50% of children receive free school meals. Funding would be sought from Pyle Community

Council, the Mission Fund, the Pyle churches Poor and Needy Fund, Cornelly Community Council, Cefn Community Council and Kenfig Trust. Contact has already been made with Fare Share Cymru and Neighbourly Community Fund who have agreed to supply food to the project. There will now be a meeting to move forward with housekeeping matters: Hygiene qualifications, Kitchen Management System before speaking to BCBC Environmental Health Dept. It was also proposed that all the churches of the Ministry Area should be invited to be part of this project and an appeal for volunteers be made.

3 - **St Mary's Trecco Bay** - It was proposed by Tony and seconded by James that St Mary's be looked at as a place for engagement with families of all ages in the summer months and also the winter particularly around Christmas and Easter. It is hoped to kick this off with a concert and / or BBQ. Tony and James are going to see the church and assess what can be done.

Quick Wins

Friendship Group - Jeanette Kearne proposed setting up a group for people who may be lonely or isolated. As we emerge from the Covid Pandemic it was felt this is needed now more than ever. It was suggested it could take place every Wednesday from 2pm-4pm. There was wide support for this from the group.

James suggested that the clergy should be asked to be a pastoral contact for each of the groups (one cleric per group) that the Mission Group set up. All present thought this was a good idea and proposed that the clergy be invited to do this.

The group acknowledged that the above plan covers all parts of the ministry area and everyone from the youngest to the oldest.

A discussion took place regarding who, what and why in relation to DBS and safeguarding requirements for the proposals detailed above. It was agreed James would contact the Ministry Area Safeguarding Officer and Lydia would introduce it for discussion at the next MAC.

Members of the group expressed disappointment that there is a lack of understanding in parts of the Ministry Area about what the Ministry Area is which generates negativity. They asked if there was anything that could be done? Fr Jon said he would put information in the next Magazine to help explain what the Ministry Area is about. It was also suggested that members of the Mission Group should attend other church in the Ministry Area as our existing congregations are part of our Mission and Outreach as well. Some members of the group said they would do this and all looked forward to the service at St James on Thursday 26th May as an opportunity to begin this work. There would also be a request that this be discussed at the next MAC meeting.

James made a request for group members to contact him with suggestions of what they would like to highlight in the next Magazine.

The meeting ended with everyone saying they were excited and enthused by what had been discussed and that they all looked forward to working together and making the planned Mission and Outreach a success.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th June at 6:30Pm in the Abbots Kitchen.