



YOURS FAITHFULLY

September 2023

MA Office address

Mail:
office@cnb-parish.org.uk

Tel: 01656 667690

Vicars

The Rev'd Maggie Thorne
Leader,

Ministry Area of
Penybont ar Ogwr

The Rectory

Merthymawr Road North
Bridgend

CF31 3NH

Tel: 01656 652247

Mail:
maggie53thorne@gmail.com

The Rev'd Roger Pitman
(Team Vicar to MA) –

The Vicarage,
Rogers Lane, Laleston,

Bridgend,

CF32 0LB,

Tel: 01656 859487,

Mail:
vicar@the-vicarage.net

Dear friends

Our last combined MA service on 30th July was a wonderful occasion with all 8 of our churches represented. In spite of the unseasonably chilly, windy and damp weather and many people being away on holiday, we had an excellent number in attendance and the singing/organ was especially rousing (Thank you to our organist, John!). It's so uplifting for everyone to come together to worship and enjoy fellowship with one another, but I fully appreciate that everyone has their 'home' church and feels a sense of loyalty to that special place. Having two stipendiary priests now doesn't make our rota any easier, nor does it mean that there will be more services, it just means that our 'retired' clergy angels can have a break. Two priests can conduct two Sunday morning services (plus baptisms) leaving four churches either to have a Licensed Lay Minister to conduct the service (when available) or the local lay team. We are completely blessed that every church has members who are more than able to take a gentle lead, announce notices, read the lessons, compile and deliver prayers and choose hymns. Where a service is led by a team, there are no restrictions on who can participate on it, so please put yourself forward to your lay representative if you feel moved to help. Where there is no priest or lay minister, Roger or I will supply a sermon to be read.



Hopefully the pattern of services will settle quickly into this new, sustainable pattern. There will always be 4 Eucharists available and if a lift is needed to get you to a different church from your usual, all you have to do is ask.

Although we're entering into the season of mellow fruitfulness, the winter months will be with us before we know it and I'm afraid that we are faced once again with exorbitant, crippling fuel costs. To that end, although the churches will remain open for Sunday and Wednesday services, you will need to rug up. I'll look into having some blankets available at each church for those who feel the chill keenly. If you have some spare ones to offer, please do!

But there's still some summer warmth to enjoy - at least, there should be! If you're returning from holiday now, I hope you've had a relaxing and enjoyable time, but if you're taking a late break in September, travel safely and see you soon.

*Love and every blessing
Maggie.*

Sunday Schedule
09:30, 11:00 & 6:30pm

Wednesday Schedule
Please see detailed
service schedule

Morning & Evening
Prayer at
8am & 7pm Monday to
Thursday via Zoom

Please see detailed
service schedule for
dates, times and
Churches

Please send any
information for the
October newsletter in to
mapenybontinfo@gmail.com
by 15 September 2023.

Inside this issue:

Service Schedule ... Page 2

Collect and
Sunday Readings ... Page 6

For Your
Prayers Page 8

Green News Page 9

General News Page 12

Services Schedule

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 20th August (11 th Sunday after Trinity)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Mike Komor
		Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Penny or Val
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Mike Komor
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Penny or Val
		Nolton	Eucharist	Roger
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Pete
Wednesday 23 rd August	9:30am	Laleston (only)	Eucharist	Roger
Sunday 27th August (12 th Sunday after Trinity)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Roger
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Penny or Val
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Penny or Val
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Pete
Wednesday 30 th August	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 3rd September (13 th Sunday after Trinity)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Penny or Val
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Penny or Val
		Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Pete
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong		
Wednesday 6 th September	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton Rectory	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger
Sunday 10th September (14 th Sunday after Trinity)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Maggie
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Tim
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Laleston	Eucharist	Maggie
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Tim
6:30pm	Zoom	Taizé		
Wednesday 13 th September	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 17th September (15 th Sunday after Trinity)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Val
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Val
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong		
Wednesday 20 th September	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger
Sunday 24th September (16 th Sunday after Trinity)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Roger
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Pete
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong		

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Wednesday 27 th September	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie

Morning and Evening Prayer at 8am and 7pm, Monday to Thursday via Zoom
Please contact Rev'd Maggie Thorne for the Zoom links you need.

Sunday clubs run at Brackla, Coity and Pen-y-fai.
Please contact Rev'd Maggie Thorne for details.

Collects and the Sunday readings for the month

Date	Collects	Readings	
Sunday 20th August (11 th Sunday after Trinity)	O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	<i>Continuous:</i> Genesis 45. 1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11. 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15. [10-20,] 21-28	<i>or Related:</i> Isaiah 56. 1, 6-8 Psalm 67 Romans 11. 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15. [10-20,] 21-28
Sunday 27th August (12 th Sunday after Trinity)	Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	<i>Continuous:</i> Exodus 1.8 - 2.10 Psalm 124 Romans 12. 1-8 Matthew 16. 13-20	<i>or Related:</i> Isaiah 51. 1-6 Psalm 138 Romans 12. 1-8 Matthew 16. 13-20
Sunday 3rd September (13 th Sunday after Trinity)	Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	<i>Continuous:</i> Exodus 3. 1-15 Psalm 105. 1-6, 23-26, 45c or Psalm 115 Romans 12. 9-21 Matthew 16. 21-28	<i>or Related:</i> Jeremiah 15. 15-21 Psalm 26. 1-8 Romans 12. 9-21 Matthew 16. 21-28
Sunday 10th September (14 th Sunday after Trinity)	Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	<i>Continuous:</i> Exodus 12. 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13. 8-14 Matthew 18. 15-20	<i>or Related:</i> Ezekiel 33. 7-11 Psalm 119. 33-40 Romans 13. 8-14 Matthew 18. 15-20

Collects and the Sunday readings for the month cont...

Date	Collects	Readings	
Sunday 17th September (15 th Sunday after Trinity)	God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.	Continuous: Exodus 14. 19-31 Psalm 114 or Canticle: Exodus 15. 1b-11, 21 Romans 14. 1-12 Matthew 18. 21-35	or Related: Genesis 50. 15-21 Psalm 103. [1-7,] 8-13 Romans 14. 1-12 Matthew 18. 21-35
Sunday 24th September (16 th Sunday after Trinity)	O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	Continuous: Exodus 16. 2-15 Psalm 105. [1-6,] 37-45 Philippians 1. 21-30 Matthew 20. 1-16	or Related: Jonah 3.10 – 4.11 Psalm 145. 1-8 Philippians 1. 21-30 Matthew 20. 1-16

For your Prayers

Please pray for:

All those who are sick whether in body, mind or spirit.

Baptisms

Please pray for those who are preparing for baptism, including:

Elsi Chapman
Benjamin Leydon
Baby Ricketts



Weddings

Please pray for those who are preparing for their wedding, including:

Amy Cannon and Evan Stanton
Kirsty Taylor and Shane Burrows
Peter Morris and Zoe Davies
Rebecca Hill and Luke Ruell



Please continue to pray for Ukraine

God of all people and author of peace, we pray for all who are involved in the current confrontation in and surrounding Ukraine. May the nations of the world, their governments and leaders base their decisions upon your wisdom in all that makes for peace. Loving God, we recognise that conflict brings tragic loss for all involved, and so we pray that eyes and hearts may be opened to those things that unite us in our common humanity.

At this time of fear and tension, we pray for your beloved children; that they may know a de-escalation of fear and threat, which would enable them to live in peace and dignity.

We pray for a longed-for restoration of tranquillity in Ukraine.

Lord, we recognise that prayer is a privilege and the responsibility of each one of us; and so we hold in our hearts this situation, its context, and the future, secure in the love shown for all people through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Ministry Area Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the opportunity to work together as a Ministry Area. May we engage with each other with faith and encouragement and manage each situation with wisdom and mutual respect. May we serve with integrity, creativity and purpose and speak with openness and gentleness. May we offer our gifts, time and finances with generosity and face each challenge with courage and the desire to grow through it. May we all be drawn deeper into our relationship with you and be known as your disciples. Help us to tell our joyful stories, increase our capacity for good and extend your kingdom in this place. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

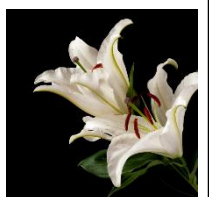
Amen.

RIP:

Cynthia and Selwyn Adams
Catherine Edwards

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory.

Amen.



Eco Church & Forest Church news

Forest Church



Forest Church
Harvest Theme
@ St Crallo's
Coychurch
Saturday 16th September, 3.30pm
*Outdoor worship with forest church will be a small walk—for all ability and ages. singing, prayer and Scrumping to follow!
Call Rev Maggie —01656 652247 or Philippa—07553 928088 for more details

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips

August

Help birds in hot weather. Keeping your bird bath topped up with fresh water in warmer weather can be a life saver for our feathered friends. Get your garden birds through a heatwave when natural supplies, like worms, become scarce, by putting out supplementary food -

black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins and currants, mealworms, waxworms and good seed mixture.

September

Green your home this Autumn. Tackle climate change and reduce your heating bill by testing how draughty

or leaky your home is. Find the gaps that let the cold air in and warm air out (think keyholes, letterboxes, gaps around the edges or bottoms of windows and doors, loft hatches, floorboards etc.) and fix these gaps using the correct materials: (there are lots of handy tutorials on how to do this online). Now is also a very good time to prepare for winter by sticking tinfoil or radiator panels between the wall and radiator, as these will help reflect heat back into your room during the colder months.

For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email at:

arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian

A Rocha – IPCC update

The most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report dropped the news that global average temperature rise is now almost certain to exceed 1.5 degrees, with profound consequences for wildlife and people.



The IPCC has been carrying out a comprehensive five-year assessment on the subject. In March, they released their last report of the assessment, a 32-page summary of which can be read [here](#). The finding that grabbed the headlines was this: 'Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades'. The small print says we'll probably bust through 1.5°C before the end of this decade.

We are failing to 'keep 1.5 alive', which was the chief aim of the UN climate negotiations in Glasgow in 2021.

There is no disguising the utterly devastating blow this will be to nature and people, in terms of everything from habitat loss, flooding, droughts, extreme weather events, disrupted food supplies and sea level rise, forcing the abandonment of many coastal areas and low-lying islands.

Many of us will have noted the impact of last summer's unprecedented heatwave in our own gardens and local parks, including tree deaths from extreme heat. And that was at 'just' 1.1-2 degrees above the global average. The report notes that already: 'Hundreds of local losses of species have been driven by increases in the magnitude of heat extremes'. And 'Impacts [of temperature rise] on some ecosystems are approaching irreversibility...'

So, what should we do? The first thing is to shout from the rooftops that every fraction of a degree counts. 1.5 degrees may now be beyond us, but stopping at 1.55 or 1.6 would avoid many more extinctions and human deaths than stopping at 1.7 degrees, never mind the cataclysmic 2.4+ which the world is currently on track for. The 2015 Paris Agreement was to keep temperature rise 'below 2 degrees and as close to 1.5 as possible'.

Secondly, we must be crystal clear about the causes of human-induced climate change and redouble efforts to halt them. The report states that 'In 2019, approximately 79% of global greenhouse gas emissions came from the sectors of energy, industry, transport and buildings together and 22% from agriculture, forestry and other land use'. Burning fossil fuels remains the single biggest source of emissions. Getting our economies off fossil fuels, therefore, is the overriding priority.

We must also preserve our natural carbon sinks, from the Amazon rainforest to our remaining UK woodlands, grasslands and wetlands, establish new ones, switch to climate-and-biodiversity-friendly farming, plant trees and open new greenspaces in our towns and cities.

Finally, as Christians, we should use every tool God gives us to accelerate the right action for His creation – nature and people. Pray for change, for our faith to sustain us in concerning times. Use our power as consumers, for example, by switching our household electricity to a 100% renewable energy supplier. And critically – and entirely free – use our voice and vote to urge local and national politicians to use their much greater powers – to sign international agreements, pass laws, levy taxes, use the national budget to accelerate the right actions – to 'keep as close as possible to 1.5 degrees'.

No responsible person could welcome the news that we're on track to cross a thick red climate line in the next few years. But as Christians, it is a thunderous call for collective witness to our loving creator God, through our prayers, our actions, and our petitions to leaders.

Let's get on and witness!









A Rocha

Green News cont...

Green Quiz – Part 5

Answers to last month's round 5

Round 5 – Butterfly picture round

<p>A)</p> 	<p>B)</p> 	<p>C)</p> 
<p>D)</p> 	<p>E)</p> 	<p>F)</p> 
<p>G)</p> 	<p>H)</p> 	<p>Match these names to the correct pictures</p> <p>Peacock, Small tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Painted lady, Comma, Meadow brown, Common blue, Speckled wood.</p>

A) Red admiral	B) Comma	C) Common blue
D) Speckled wood	E) Meadow brown	F) Painted lady
G) Peacock	H) Small tortoiseshell	



Bridgend Repair Café

Do you want **something fixed for free, your bike safety checked or some sewing repairs carried out?**

Bridgend Repair Café is a volunteer organisation that helps fix household items for free, **for anyone**, in a friendly environment at the following locations and dates (ample parking):

Saturday 19th August	Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre
Saturday 23rd September	Bryncethin Community Centre
Saturday 28th October	Bryncethin Community Centre
Saturday 18th November	Bryncethin Community Centre

All from 10am to 12.00 mid-day

Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre, Mount Pleasant, Bridgend CF31 4EF
Bryncethin Community Centre, Ogmor Terrace, Bryncethin, Bridgend CF32 9YF

We will have fixers for a range of items including:

- ✓ **Bikes** an 'M safety check'
- ✓ **Electrical items** e.g. toasters, kettles, vacuum cleaners
- ✓ **Clothing** e.g., jeans, bags, shirts (Repairs of all types of textile products- not general alterations but **we will repair or alter/adjust school clothing**)
- ✓ **IT** e.g. PCs, laptops (hardware and software)
- ✓ **Costume Jewellery**
- ✓ **General** e.g. toys, ornaments, small furniture

Bring your items to us and we'll try our best to fix it! Free Tea and biscuits while you wait!

To make sure we have an appropriate fixer for your item, it would be really helpful if you could email bridgendrepaircafe@gmail.com with basic details of your item before the relevant Saturday or just turn up and take a chance!

Pilgrim Course:

The Pilgrim Course will resume on Sundays at 5:00pm on 10th and 17th September. Zoom links will be sent prior to the dates.



If any new pilgrims would like to join, contact Maggie for further details.

"WARM WELCOME" LUNCH

On Thursday 31 August 2023 and Thursday 21 September 2023 from 12.00 noon to 2.00pm on each day at All Saints Church in Pen-y-fai.

This is a continuation of the successful "Warm Hub" initiative held at the church.

Although the "Warm Hub" programme has finished the congregation of All Saints Church are now offering a warm welcome and light lunch at the church on the last Thursday of each month.

All are welcome at these events which are free of charge. For more details, please contact Mrs. Jenny Morgan on 01656 722953.



Mothers Union News

General MU News

Thursday 7th Sept the Diocese is celebrating the 130th Anniversary of Mothers' Union in Llandaff. There is a service in the Cathedral at 2pm.

Laleston Branch

Monday 4th Sept 7pm in St David's, Pontycymmer, Deanery Talent Extravaganze. The branch is taking part and Ann (Branch Leader) has tickets at £1 each.

Ann Butler – Branch Leader

Coity & Nolton Branches

No news this month

Jean Rees – Branch Leader

Coychurch Branch

The next meeting of the Coychurch branch of the Mothers' Union will be on the 13th September.

Details of the Summer Lunch (tba) to follow.

Ruth Weeks – Branch Leader

Ukraine – Host Families Urgently Required

The situation in Ukraine continues and more host families from Bridgend are urgently needed for refugees. If you have a spare room, or know of anyone who has, and could help in this way, please contact Maggie (usual email), or Christoph Auckland (Outreach and Social Justice Lead for the Diocese) on christophauckland@churchinwales.org.uk

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 23rd September
St Teilo's, Merthyr Mawr
10am – 1pm



Following on from our pop-up teas on 26th August there is another opportunity to come and enjoy cake and tea/coffee at St. Teilo's. All are welcome and everything raised will go to Macmillan cancer support to help those living with cancer live the best life they can.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING
AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH, PEN-Y-FAI
On Monday 25th September 2023
from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.



In addition to tea and coffee, a range of delicious cakes will be available.

All are welcome at this event, so please come along with your friends and show your support for this very worthwhile cause.

For more details, please contact:
Miss Delyth Parry on 01656 724994 or
Mrs. Jenny Morgan on 01656 772953.

Free to a good home

If anyone would like a Wii fit Plus – all working- it's free to a good home. Please contact Maggie.



Giving:

For details on how to give, please contact Sandra Arnott (Treasurer to the Ministry Area) sandra.arnott49@gmail.com or 862211.

Also, here is the link to our easy-to-use online Campaign Page: [MA Penybont ar Ogwr Donation Page](#) or scan the QR code with your smart phone or tablet.

For your interest, there's also a card reader in church, allowing you to donate via debit/credit cards.

Those in CNB who are used to giving through the envelope system will find envelopes in Coity Church.

Please contact Karen Phillips on 651338 or 07944 627519 if you'd like to be included in this scheme.

Please be as generous as you possibly can in your giving as we are very worried that with escalating fuel costs, the Church might be affected detrimentally yet again.



Ministry Area News

Dear all, apologies. Only half the newsletter entry for last month was printed and therefore made no sense. Thanks to Rev. Maggie for hastily sending it out as an email. A technical glitch I'm told. Gremlins.

We are in the process of mapping all our social media pages to ensure a consistent "look and feel" with up-to-date information. Much work still to do but a good start. Also, it is good to see more items and information appearing on our pages slowly but surely. Since last month I have had several comments made about the idea of a Ministry Area Calendar and the possible value of a joint events committee. Many of you are aware of the suggested date for our Harvest celebrations. A good example of the kind of event that can be organised together and advertised right across the Area. As we move towards the Autumn season, I'm sure these matters will reappear for discussion at the next Ministry Area Council Meeting in September. But thank you everyone for the interest shown.

I am delighted to report that the numbers of worshipers attending the last joint Eucharist service on 30th July was over one hundred. (It also made me feel a little sad that I was unable to attend). I pray that this is indeed the start of things to come. Equally pleasing was the welcome we were able to give Rev. Roger at his licencing service. Thanks to everyone for providing such a special evening. If you have not yet welcomed or even met, Roger he is about.

Best Wishes, Andrew Dix, Lay Chair.

Bridgend County Borough Council News

Cabinet approves early transfer of land to Bridgend College

Bridgend County Borough Council's Cabinet has approved the early transfer of land to Bridgend College to secure the new town centre campus.

As part of a 'master' planning programme which aims to regenerate Bridgend town centre over the next ten years, the proposed college development will be built on the former South Wales Police Station and Brackla One multi storey car park at Cheapside.

The demolition of the police station took place in June, and the removal of the multi storey car park is set to be completed by April 2024, with tenders just being issued.

The demolition of the car park poses challenges surrounding the structure of the building, as well as its proximity to the mainline rail network, Asda and Aldi. Network Rail will need to provide permission, and appropriate indemnity insurance should be in place, prior to work beginning on the car park.

In a meeting earlier this week, the council's Planning Committee approved the proposals for the college. Set to open in September 2025, the campus will encompass two new buildings at Cheapside that will provide exceptional teaching and learning facilities, including a theatre, hair and beauty salons, recording and dance studios, design workshops and more.

The project will offer a net-zero carbon building, with community benefits including a 200-seat theatre space, a coffee shop and flexible meeting spaces. The initiative also meets Welsh Government's 'Town Centre First' policy for public investment.

The campus is in a highly sustainable location in the town centre, close to bus and train stations. In line with the National Planning Policy, the council will be taking measures to take advantage of this location and will promote active travel, as well as the use of sustainable means of transport.

Simon Pirotte, Principal and Chief Executive Officer of Bridgend College, said: *"This is an exciting and important milestone in our ambition to deliver a sustainable twenty-first century learning and skills centre in the heart of the county borough. It is an ambitious and complex project, representing a substantial investment into the regeneration of Bridgend town centre. The new campus will provide a diverse range of training, apprenticeships, up-skilling, and higher-level skills development to support businesses and the economy here in Wales."*

Cllr Rhys Goode, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration, said: *"The location of the new campus promises to contribute significantly to the economy of Bridgend town centre - daily student and staff footfall in the town will most certainly boost local businesses. With its close proximity to Pen-y-Bont train station and bus station, there are considerable opportunities to promote active travel and the use of public transport to the site, helping us to reach our net-zero carbon target. We are hugely excited by this development and what it will offer to Bridgend town centre, as well as the wider county borough area."*



Bridgend County Borough Council News cont...

New food waste recycling campaign launches to drive more households into action

Bridgend County Borough Council has wrapped five collection vehicles as part of a wide-spread campaign to boost household food waste recycling participation throughout the county borough.

Using existing 'Be Mighty. Recycle' creative artwork, the vehicles have been wrapped in imagery highlighting the 'Power of Food Waste' and how food waste can be recycled into climate change-fighting renewable energy in Wales.

The local authority was awarded grant funding for the vehicle wrapping and other campaign materials, as part of a nationwide campaign from WRAP Cymru and Welsh Government to improve its recycling rates, thereby supporting the Welsh Government's goal of becoming a zero-waste nation by 2050 and for Wales to become the no.1 recycling nation in the world. The 7,601 tonnes of the food waste collected from homes in Bridgend County Borough is recycled locally at an anaerobic digestion plant in Stormy Down that is used first to generate electricity to power local homes before being ploughed back into the food chain as organic fertiliser (6,080 tonnes*), which will be applied to around 3,000 acres of nearby farmland.

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment, Cllr John Spanswick said: *"We are pleased to secure this funding from Wrap Cymru and Welsh Government, and to be able to participate in the 'Be Mighty. Recycle' campaign, which has been called Wales' most ambitious recycling campaign to date. The five collection vehicles look fantastic and are certain to capture the attention of residents across the county borough. We hope this awareness campaign will encourage those households who are not yet participating in our food recycling collections service to do so."*

To find out more about recycling in the county borough, or to request food waste bags, please visit the council's [website](#).



Bridgend County Borough Council News cont...

Consultation on draft housing and homelessness strategy given go ahead by Cabinet

Bridgend County Borough Council's Cabinet has approved the launch of a public consultation on a draft four-year plan to tackle the national housing and homelessness crisis in the county borough.

The council's draft 'Housing Support Programme 2022-2026' strategy identifies key priorities for the council and its partners, in the delivery of homelessness prevention and other housing related support services. These priorities have been developed following a substantial review of these services and in consultation with partner organisations and key stakeholders. As the housing authority for Bridgend County Borough, the council is legally required to have a homelessness strategy. While there is no legal need for a housing strategy, there is a strong correlation between housing, homelessness, and rough sleeping.

According to a report presented to the Council's Cabinet, figures provided showed that over the last four years, homelessness applications have increased by 25 per cent. In 2020/21, (the first year of the pandemic), the council saw a record number of people presenting as homeless, with 1,612 applications received in that year alone. Added to this, the number of temporary accommodation placements has increased by a massive 251 per cent, since 2019.

There are currently around 485 people, from 260 households in temporary accommodation (as of end of June 2023). With the number of households on the common housing register increasing by 212 per cent between March 2020 and February 2023. And as of July 2023, there are 2,629 households on the common housing register, with almost 60 per cent of applicants waiting for a one-bedroom property.

Cllr Rhys Goode, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration, said: *"These figures make for stark reading, and combined with the rapidly rising cost of living means we need to find joined up answers to tackle the housing crisis in what is already a challenging financial climate for the authority. Our draft strategy will help us work more effectively towards meeting these challenges. With the needs of households becoming more complex and time critical, the demand for affordable housing and support services is unprecedented. "The draft strategy sets out how we will collaborate with our partners and third sector services to ensure homelessness is rare, brief and unrepeatable. The scale of the challenge ahead should not be underestimated. However, with the continued commitment to our strategic priorities and with the development of the new 'Rapid Rehousing' approach to homelessness we hope to make a real change within our community."*

A 12-week public consultation will go live shortly, and all members of the community are encouraged to participate, with more details to follow. In the meantime, anyone who is threatened with an eviction notice is urged to notify the council as soon as possible, to ensure early intervention, and a speedy solution is provided. Visit the homelessness advice and prevention page on our website for further advice or call us on 01656 643643.



General News cont...

Ministry Area Social Media Pages

MA Webpage 

[Ministry Area of Penybont ar Ogwr – Celebrating Christian worship for over a thousand years \(cnb-parish.org.uk\)](http://cnb-parish.org.uk)

Facebook Pages 

[Parish of Coity, Nolton and Brackla with Coychurch](#)

[Laleston St David's Church](#)

[Merthyr Mawr](#)

[Penyfai](#)

[Newcastle \(St Illtyd\)](#)



©RSPB - Sue Kennedy

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, is the gift of Christ, the Lord