

Biography Rhun ap Roberts 28.06.21

Originally from Aberystwyth, Rhun first moved to Pwllheli in his teenage years, his parents', Felicity and the late Robert Roberts, home patch. He is now delighted to, once again, be coming home to Bro Enlli.

Rhun was ordained in Llandaff cathedral in 2014 having studied theology at Cardiff University and trained for the priesthood at St Michael's College, Llandaff. He served his curacy at Aberafan, Port Talbot, and also remained in the parish serving as Vicar before moving to the Rectorial Benefice of Neath. Rhun is married to Magda who is a Principal Clinical Psychologist, and they have three children, Ioan, Mari and Elis.

Prior to ordination, Rhun worked as a Welsh for Adults tutor and pioneered Welsh language training in the workplace. His work took him all over Wales providing bespoke training for the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Government, DVLA, Swalec, Job Centre Plus and many other organisations. Rhun became a senior member of staff for Cwmni Acen, who also produced Welsh learner programmes for S4C, subtitles for learners and a wealth of digital and traditional learner support resources.

Rhun built a career in education after initially studying Communications for his first degree in Bangor. His main subjects were drama, film, radio & television, and language development. From Bangor, Rhun moved back to his birth town of Aberystwyth to pursue his teaching qualifications. Although primary trained, his first post was as a Welsh teacher in Bro Ddyfi Secondary school, Machynlleth, and then at St Gerard's Independent School in Bangor for pupils aged 4-18.

During his time in Aberafan, Rhun had the opportunity to use his various skills to produce a Nativity play in the town centre and converted a disused large shop into a theatre. It was an ecumenical project and all the churches and chapels of the town participated. Over the course of a week, with three daily performances, 1500 people and children attended and witnessed the true spirit of Christmas together.

As a first-language Welsh speaker, a number of his parishioners were delighted when Rhun introduced a weekly Sunday Welsh language Eucharist at Holy Trinity Church, Sandfields, Aberafan, at the heart of one of the largest housing estates in Wales. Rhun was also responsible for setting up religious study groups in the parish as well as participating at the FoodBank, and the Night Shelter Project for the homeless as part of the Housing Justice Cymru project. He was also a school governor at the local Welsh Primary School, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan.

By now, Rhun has re-connected with his studies and is in the middle of an MA course in Children, Young People and Families and is enjoying it very much. His other interests include tracing his family tree and biking. One of his most challenging projects was to cycle 565 miles around Wales visiting each of the Welsh Cathedrals.