

## Zoomed into office

*Viv Sayer, LMA Dean in Bro Dyfri, finds being the first person to be licensed remotely in our diocese a bit of a rush*



When the Bishop's chaplain offered me two dates for my licensing as LMA Dean, May the Fourth jumped out as being particularly suitable (fans of *Star Wars* will understand).

The daunting nature of my new responsibilities was somewhat mitigated when I learned that my licensing would not take place in the usual way. In fact, I would have the distinction of being the first vicar in the diocese to be licensed by Zoom, the electronic conferencing program that has been such a lifeline during lockdown.

I brightly suggested that we should have a virtual party after the service instead of the usual tea at the back of the church. This idea was enthusiastically received and so I prepared some cheese and pineapple on sticks and tucked a glass of fizz just out of sight.

Obviously there was also preparation of a more serious and devotional nature, as well as practical stuff like printing out the service and the licences.

By 1 o'clock I was nearly ready. I just needed to turn the table around in the study and close the curtains – the study has the best internet signal but can be very bright in the afternoons, with serious consequences for the on-screen image. I needed to close the curtains if I didn't want to look as though a bag of flour had been emptied over my head.

Plenty of time, I thought; still an hour to go. Then the phone rang. It was a call that would have needed all my attention at the best of times but infinitely more so during the pandemic. It was not a call to be hurried . . .

With minutes to go, I had got as far as closing the curtains. As I tried to move the table I realised that I was about to pull the internet cable out of its socket. As the connection died, so I was on the floor frantically trying to plug myself back in.

Then the phone rang. This time it was my best friend. 'Where are you?' she said. 'The Bishop was about to begin the service when she noticed someone was missing!'

At 2pm precisely I was sitting calmly at my laptop. To my fellow Zoomers, hopefully, I appeared composed.

The short service proceeded like clockwork, and by 3pm the new Dean was raising a grateful glass to Bro Dyfri LMA. Diolch i Dduw!