

ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH

AGENDA & REPORTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2nd July 2017

AGENDA

DEVOTIONS

ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

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ELECTION OF CHURCH STEWARDS

ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CHURCH COUNCIL

A.O.B.

1) Church Council

The Church Council provides leadership for, and oversight of, all aspects of the life and work of the Church, its finances and its property. We act as legal trustees of the property and of the Turney Bequest Fund. Council members are normally appointed for terms of six years. Volunteers to replace those who have served their terms are welcome.

The Church Council met five times in 2016 – for regular meetings in February, June, September and December, and an extraordinary meeting about refurbishment in October. Of the 23 Council members, an average of 18 (78%) attended each meeting during 2016. At each meeting the Church Council receives a range of reports, notably on finance and property, and makes appropriate decisions, guided by the Treasurer and Property Steward in particular.

During 2016 the Church Council fulfilled our statutory responsibilities and also addressed refurbishing the Church Hall and mission. Led by Martin and Sally Boyce (to whom we are profoundly grateful), we planned and implemented the refurbishment after consulting Church members, six of whom attended our extraordinary meeting in October.

Led by the Reverend Kate McClelland, we relaunched the Church's mission by inviting all Church members to consider new forms of mission. We asked all with new ideas to consult in order: the Church Stewards through Sue Hardy about consistency with our other mission activities; Jean Owen as Property Steward about the availability of hall or church; and the Church Council if there were financial implications. We welcomed 'Burning Questions' at Pentecost 2017 as the first fruit of this relaunch.

The Council is responsible for deciding how to spend the Turney Bequest Fund, the Benevolent Fund and the General Fund. From the Turney Bequest Fund we made two separate grants of £1000 to the Methodist Relief & Development Fund – to relieve flooding in Haiti and famine in Africa, a grant of £250 to Bangor Street Pastors (also mentioned in the report from Bangor Churches Together), and a grant of £162 to the Methodist Agricultural Chaplaincy.

Ian Russell

2) Stewards

This time last year, Kate suggested that we should use the money we had already raised to put a simpler plan into operation to redevelop the hall, kitchen and toilets. After the trades' people had done their work, our small but very talented "in house" team worked incredibly hard and long hours to finish the work and we are tremendously grateful for the amazing job they did!

After a serious incident occurred during and after the service at the end of January, we have held several meetings discussing how it should be dealt with, involving the Chairman of the district and Rev Keith Tewkesbury and latterly the connexional safeguarding team.

The Holy Week services and activities were very moving in preparation for Easter. The church was full on Easter Sunday and it was wonderful to have such a joyful family service!

"Burning questions" involved a lot of our church family and was an enthusiastic and colourful celebration for Pentecost.

It was great news to hear that the circuit is now designated as a mission circuit and we sincerely thank Kate for all the planning, hard work and enthusiasm that she has spread throughout the circuit.

Sue Hardy

3) Finance

Treasurer's Report

The annual accounts for 2015/16, approved by the Church Council on 6th December 2016, are as published in the Directory.

In the current year there has been an encouraging increase in collections and Standing Orders and, if maintained, should result in an increase of over £1,000 by the end of the financial year. Our Gift Aid tax claim has now been submitted and, if accepted, will give us just over £10,000 including about £750 for the Redevelopment Fund. This is a marginal increase over last year. It is obvious that Gift aid has become a very significant source of income and we would encourage any who are not already doing so, and pay sufficient tax, to sign up.

Apart from Maintenance costs all other items of income and expenditure are only expected to show relatively minor changes. Maintenance will be very much higher this year as the costs of refurbishing the hall have been charged to this account and some major electrical work has been done. This means that we are likely to show an overall deficit for the year but this is not a concern as we have built up adequate reserves over the last few years from which this can be funded.

Redevelopment Fund.

The redevelopment of the kitchen has now been completed and new chairs purchased for the hall and vestries at a total cost of £30,356. The amount received into the fund this year to date is £18,176 and the balance currently stands at £24,798.

Turney Bequest.

Figures for the first 9 months are as follows:

Income: £11,307. Expenditure: £6,122. Balance: £12,015

The income arises from rents on the two properties and interest from the Central Finance Board on the Capital.

The expenditure included £4,000 sent to Methodist Relief and Development Fund for relief in Haiti and Africa, property insurance, Bangor Street Pastors, Agricultural Chaplain expenses and professional fees.

We are about to pay our annual commitment to the Circuit of £3,000 towards the cost of Ministry and at our last Church Council we agreed to make a further donation of £2,000 to St Paul's for their Action for Youth programme.

Michael Cooper

4) Property

(A) Maintenance

Since the last AGM, the main items of maintenance and annual servicing that have been carried out include the following: -

A drainage survey organised, along with jetting to clear a blockage and cleaning out of gullies.

The ceiling tiles in the Hall have been replaced and the surface of the supporting grid was cleaned, in co-ordination with the refurbishment work. Also the Hall was redecorated during the scheme and the heating boiler was replaced.

Electrical portable appliance testing was carried out on 9th January and all tested equipment has been issued with a pass certificate.

The annual servicing of the fire alarm system and emergency lighting in the Hall and the servicing of fire extinguishers throughout has been completed.

The annual servicing of both heating boilers has been carried out, along with that of the new gas hob in the kitchen.

The Heating Engineers have also cleared a blockage in pipework and a non-functioning radiator in the Hall and fitted new thermostatic valves to it.

Two external lights have been replaced on the Church with PIR activated LED lights to improve lighting on the steps and by the rear church door, whilst ensuring that they are not left switched on.

The central heating header tank in the Church roof space has been replaced, following a leak into the ceiling caused by a split in the tank. The leak also ruined the new smoke detector on the landing, which is being replaced.

Gwynedd Council have been paid for the garden waste collection service for 2017.

(B) Fire Risk Assessment and Improvements

Following a fire risk assessment, which is a mandatory requirement, the report identified certain items that needed improvement, some of which have already been completed.

An emergency escape push pad has replaced the lock on the security gate at the rear of the Hall and the gate has been modified to allow for this whilst still maintaining security. An additional external light has been installed above the gate in order to improve night time visibility to assist in operating the latch. A fire action notice has been fitted next to the main fire exit door and additional notices are being purchased.

In the main Church a fire alarm system has been installed and commissioned, incorporating hard-wired smoke detectors, call points and alarm sounders. Emergency lighting has been installed on escape routes. The 4 battery smoke detectors have been removed.

An additional CO2 fire extinguisher and a fire blanket have been installed.

The installation of an additional call point, 4 fire doors and other items is on-going. Fire action notices are to be fitted shortly, as they are on order. Fire extinguisher instruction signs have already been fitted throughout.

Following completion of all identified work, policies and training can be put in hand and the fire risk assessment can be updated.

(C) On-line Church Return 2016

The On-line Church Return for the financial year ending 31st August 2016 was formally submitted on 9th December 2016, following approval by Church Council.

(D) Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Allan Jones for carrying out the mandatory fire risk assessment and Lloyd Edwards for carrying out the mandatory Health and Safety risk assessment.

Although the Refurbishment Scheme is dealt with as a separate agenda item, some of the work was of a maintenance nature. The replacement of all of the ceiling tiles, in particular, was a dirty and time-consuming job, undertaken by Martyn Boyce, Neil Howard and myself and thanks is due to them both for this work. I wish to record my heartfelt thanks to Martyn Boyce for his sterling practical work in the Hall, (much of it using his joinery and plumbing skills), without which the scheme would not have been completed within budget and certainly not within reasonable time.

Thanks are also due to Martyn for his work in adapting the security gate as referred to above.

Mike Heslop

5) Refurbishment

No report received.

Martyn Boyce

6) Safeguarding

No report received

Debbie Jones

7) Mission

Our Year of Mission had a great start with the Pantomime, which had standing room only for late arrivals and it was great to see so many people from the local community there.

In January we shared in a café worship when just fewer than 30 of us joined together for fun, fellowship and worship. As it was such a success we launched our monthly Café Church in April.

April also saw the launch of Messy Church which we hope will appeal to families and offer a new form of Church for the community. It was a great success, with about 40 of us worshipping messy style. This will meet every other month initially, from September.

Planning is well under way for our summer 2017 Holiday Club, at which we also hope to advertise Messy Church.

We now have two regular coffee mornings which meet in the Church Hall. Solid Rock Coffee+ meets on a Friday and is attracting new people from the community and other churches are attending.

WOW or Welcome on Wednesday, meeting fortnightly, is providing good fellowship for our folk.

We had a great Testimony Service in March, where three of us, and Kate, shared our stories. This was a moving service for many in the congregation and a great chance for us all to reflect on our own stories and why we are a part of St John's. Several people have mentioned to me that they feel further enthused for our Year of Mission since reflected on their personal testimonies.

A new pastoral mission outreach has been started with Jean Owen as the lead. Jean has taken all the names of those people on our list that can't attend and is busy recruiting new pastoral missionaries with skills in telephone, letter writing, prayer, or listening ear ministry. The idea is to keep in closer contact with those on the fringes of St Johns fellowship and hopefully bring them closer to us in love and care and enabling those who have pastoral skills to use their ministry in new and exciting ways. Our Pastoral visitors continue in their excellent ministry of our flock and more have joined their number which is good as more are joining our flock!

Singing for Fun is rapidly growing, with numbers between 24 and 30 each month and new members each time.

We have two new members at St. John's.

Two people have been given note to preach and have started the new local preacher training.

We started a quarterly prayer breakfast in April.

Over Easter there were all sorts of experiences to share with each other and the local community – including a Maundy service, meal and upper room experience, followed by a morning of meditation, prayers, crafts and hot cross buns on Good Friday, along with a display of the Stations of the Cross and the walk of witness. There was an Easter Sunday service in the morning and a Songs of Easter Praise in the evening. All of these were really well attended and many people commented on how moving some of the services were.

I started a blog in January so that people could keep up to date with all that I am doing and this has proved a great success. It has had over 1000 views, averaging 11 views a day since it went live and has been viewed by people in the UK, Ireland, Spain, Brazil, South Africa, Kenya and Australia.

The circuit Facebook page is working really well to advertise events and as an online community, reaching 1000 people in the last 28 days, and a regular post engagement of 2224. Although the reach is significantly lower than previous months, the engagement has soared from 66 in March. This shows that although we are reaching a little less, those that we do reach are very involved in all we are doing which is really positive.

We have just hosted our Burning Questions event which will included drama, dance, tambourine and crafts on the Saturday morning followed by a big sing in the afternoon with a performance on Sunday evening. It was a fantastic weekend with lots of people involved and barely a spare seat on Sunday evening.

Sarah McDonald-Howard

8) Cradle Roll/Baptismal Roll

There have been 3 baptisms during the past year (2 infants and 1 young adult). All the children on the list in the Church Directory receive birthday cards from St John's and we have recently started sending 'on the anniversary of your baptism' cards, designed for young children, to the under-3s. (Emily will receive one suited to an adult.)

Margaret Moon

9) Music

The year has seen a varied and wide range of music in the life of St John's with something somewhere for everyone. Congregational singing is an important element in worship and hymns and songs old & new make a joyful sound. 'Singing for Fun' is a regular monthly evening of joy ranging from Abba to Jerusalem, led with great enthusiasm and energy by Kate. Come and enjoy. The 'Sing for Fun'ners had a great time with the music for the Pantomime after Christmas and have also contributed in Sunday morning worship, memorably 'Climb every mountain' Easter Sunday morning. A 4-part choir (St John's and friends from the circuit) sang at the Christmas Carol service and Songs of Easter Praise. Lively percussion playing from all ages has accompanied at times. We are fortunate to have a number of organists who bring a variety of styles of playing and music into our church life. Thanks to them, other instrumentalists, all singers – soloists and groups, and to those who have taken part in and arranged concerts for our enjoyment.

'Burning Questions' – the On Fire Revue by Paul Field & Stephen Deal with Rob Frost - was performed Sunday evening June 11th. It was a mix of drama sketches, dance, song and bible readings, ending with the song 'On Fire' plus tambourines & flags. Preceded by a family day of workshops and singing, the whole experience was enjoyable, moving to the point of tears at times, and a challenge to spread the Gospel. Thank you Kate for bringing it all together, to everyone taking part and to the appreciative audience on the night.

Notes on the copyright licences for St John's are on notice boards in church. Please read through them and if anything applies e.g. background music at a coffee morning, material copied for use on the premises, PLEASE send me any relevant information so I can keep our reporting up to date and fulfil our legal requirements.

Margaret Moon

10) Flowers

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way to the lovely flowers we have in our church each Sunday. We are very pleased to welcome Mary Bulmer and Melanie Jones who

have joined our happy band of flower arrangers. Please see Sue Hardy or myself if wish to join us.

Jackie Cooper

11) Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle is now only meeting on an ad hoc basis.

We are continuing to provide the Christmas shoe boxes at our October meeting and are grateful for continued support from Church members for the box contents and for the monetary contributions to pay towards the cost of sending the sixty eight boxes abroad. Again a special thanks to Alice Simpson for her fantastic contribution of knitting.

We had a very enjoyable evening with Margaret & Rob Moon In November with a brilliant illustrated talk on their canal holidays. The refreshments were also well received.

Jackie Heslop

12) EWOT Fellowship

St John's Women's Fellowship has rebranded itself as EWOT - "Everyone Welcome on Tuesdays" this year to make it quite clear that our meetings are open to all. As St John's mission work increases we hope that EWOT will provide an opportunity for people to rest, recharge their batteries and be inspired, in good company, on alternative Tuesday afternoons.

Our meetings this year started with Revd Kate McClelland sharing some of her story with us. We were especially interested in hearing about her chaplaincy work. The rest of our programme has ranged from being entertained by Pam Ayres, courtesy of Carol Brown, to inspiring talks by Gwen Hicks from Penrallt, our own Audrey Aspey on her hymn writing, and Revd Ken Sykes beginning his life story, (to be continued). During Lent we visited Revd David Ray's Retreat Centre and this spring we were delighted to take part in Revd Kate's audit of people's vision for the future of our church.

During our summer break, we had an afternoon in Conway Water Gardens as well as a trip to Gerddi Fron Goch for afternoon tea, in memory of one of our previous members. At Christmas, we enjoyed having dinner together at Caernarfon Golf Club once again. Delicious - again!

Our thanks again to all the people kind enough to host our meetings and/or come to talk to us. Our fellowship with each other is enriched as a result. Our thanks to Jean Owen, who composes our inspiring programme of activities, to Margaret Jones, our treasurer, who keeps us in the black, and to Sue Hardy our birthday secretary who does sterling work, keeping us in touch with past and present members. Our thanks also to the drivers who provide lifts.

We thank God that we have enjoyed much fun and Christian fellowship this last year. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to anyone, male or female, who would like to join us, fortnightly on Tuesdays. Lifts to meetings can be provided.

Ellie Jones

13) Christian Aid

Christian Aid week this year took place from 14th – 20th May. Events included the usual opening service and lunch, Quiz night at Penrallt, in which a team from St John's again participated, House to House and Street Collections, A Big Brekkie, run by the Christian Aid office and an Open Garden Morning. As in previous years the various events were well-supported.

At this point it is unfortunately too soon to be able to give the overall total for the week.

The street collection to which a number of people from St John's contributed raised £320.19
House-Home Collection: Collectors from St John's collected £404.01 from the streets in our 'patch', with a further £309.50 being contributed in donations. This encouraging total is due to the dedicated work of a number of faithful collectors, whose work is much appreciated. However, this year some of those who have helped with the house-to-house collections faithfully for a number of years have moved away or were unable to help. As new housing is being built in Bangor, more collectors will definitely be needed next year if everyone in the area is to have the opportunity to contribute. As the President and President of Conference have reminded us recently, "we are called particularly to advocate for the needs of the most vulnerable in our society and world"; and supporting the work of Christian aid is one major way in which we can do this.

The final event for Christian Aid Week this year, the open garden at 23 Llandygai Village, took place on Saturday 3rd of June, and those who attended enjoyed the opportunity to admire a wonderful garden in beautiful sunny weather and an amazing total of over £700 to be divided equally between Bro Deiniol and Christian Aid.

Jean Ware

14) Pastoral

No report received.

Sally Boyce

15) Traidcraft

The sale of fairly traded goods, on the "not for profit" weekly Sunday morning fair trade stall, has increased to over £200 a month. The church is now using fairly traded household goods. Several people have noticed, with appreciation, that we have recently upgraded our brand of coffee. Fairly traded decaffeinated coffee and tea are also available from the kitchen.

The stock is renewed on the first Sunday of the month. Please browse the Traidcraft catalogue and let Dan know if there are any goods you would like to see included.

My thanks to Dan Whitear for serving on the stall each week and for Howard for dealing with our supplier Liz Perkins of Just Shopping each month

Anne Jackson

16) World Church

No report received.

Stephen Jones

17) JMA

As the new JMA secretary. I wanted to make our Church aware of the work of JMA. We also had more children in the Church and it seemed a good opportunity to do a presentation. With the help of Kate we did just this in October. As a result many of our members committed to supporting our children by giving their names and contributing each week. The Quarterly magazine is given to each of our children and the members who collect pennies. In December we had our Rainbow Badges presented, of which three children received their first badge.

The total raised last year was £126.21, £50.00 of this total was a donation from Audrey from the sale of the wooden animals that her brother had made and sent for fund raising. We hope that this year's total will be considerably better. A Church the size of St John's should be able to support JMA in a much more active way.

Carol Gough

18) Cytun

We undertook 6 regular activities and organised 9 separate events:

A1 Street Pastors

Since 2010 teams of 4 trained volunteers from our Churches have patrolled Bangor streets from 22:00 to 04:00 every Friday and some Saturdays; and given pastoral care & practical help to people on the streets; a prayer pastor supports them and provides refreshments. Over 7 years we have delivered 400 patrols, spent 8,000 volunteer hours on the streets, and helped 2,400 people. Our annual income of about £4000 includes donations from Churches and grants from public bodies; and expenditure includes licence fee, training costs and items distributed on the street. Our service is welcomed by the people we help, others who feel safer, and the police. At present we have only 26 trained volunteers and seven applicants. For information about becoming a pastor or observing a patrol, please contact Paul Rowlinson via bangor@streetpastors.org.uk or (01248) 605365.

A2 'Agor y Llyfr' and 'Open the Book'

This is a 3-year programme of dramatised Biblical storytelling developed by the Bible Society for primary schools. Across the UK teams of Christian volunteers use drama, mime, props, costume, children and staff to present Bible stories. During 2016 4 teams told Bible stories in 4 local schools – 2 weekly & 2 fortnightly. One team works in Welsh, two bilingually, and one in English. The 2 teams in their 4th year have started Year 1 again. We have recently recruited several more volunteers for these teams, notably through coffee mornings, and develop 2 new teams. Bob Hartman, the author of the original book, and Val Ralston of the Bible Society visited us in November and shared their future vision. For information about joining Open the Book, please contact Jennifer Roberts (Children's Ministry Enabler) via rbrjn5@aol.com or 07 717 754 194.

A3 *'Y Cam Nesa' and 'It's Your Move'*

Each year we provide nearly 200 children who leave 1 of the 6 primary schools in Bangor with 1 of the 2 booklets developed by the Scripture Union to facilitate the move from primary to secondary education – 'Y Cam Nesa' in Welsh and 'It's Your Move' in English. In 2016 the Dean of Bangor presented books at 3 school leaver's services; and Open the Book teams distributed books to the other 3 schools.

A4 *North West Wales as Area of Sanctuary*

Wales Nation of Sanctuary have invited us to lead Bangor to become the 10th Area of Sanctuary within Wales. We are visiting potential stakeholders to build support for the core aim of promoting the inclusion and welfare of refugees by making public commitment to become a place of welcome and safety. Declared supporters include: Bangor Islamic Centre; Bangor Students Union; Bangor University; Hope not Hate; and Pobl i Bobl.

A5 *Refugees*

Four Syrian refugee families have arrived in Bangor. We work closely with: Gwynedd Council, who identify houses for them; the social worker & interpreter appointed to support them; and Supporting Refugees. To complement the basic grant from HM Government, we have created a refugee support fund and provided household items.

A6 *Communication*

We maintain a website; and advertise in North Wales Calendar of Christian Events and local press, both English & Welsh. At Christmas we distribute Christmas cards specifying seasonal services, mainly through our carol singing. At Easter we distribute Easter cards specifying seasonal services, mainly through our Good Friday Walk of Witness.

E1 *Christian Aid Week from Sunday 15 May to Saturday 21 May 2016*

Including Gift Aid we raised £7320, slightly more than in 2015. Two thirds of this came from the collection from house to house, conducted by 88 collectors drawn from all member Churches. We complemented this by: introductory service and lunch at Capel Berea; street collection in Bangor city centre; coffee morning at Friends Meeting House; and quiz night at Penrallt Baptist Church.

E2 *Praise on the Pier on Sunday 10 July 2016*

Despite a strong wind about 50 attended this celebration led by Bangor Community Church. As in the television series 'Songs of Praise', each church chose a hymn.

E3 *Bangor Carnival on Saturday 6 August 2016*

We erected and resourced a marquee on the Carnival field, thus enabling Capel Penuel to organise the interior in 3 areas – for children's activities, nappy changing and reflection.

E4 *Christmas Carol Singing on Thursday 15 December*

We sang carols at Morrison's supermarket, led by Revd Kate McClelland & Ellie Jones of St John's Methodist Church. We raised £157 for Christian Aid, more than in 2015.

E5 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from 18 till 25 January 2017

We followed the theme of 'Crossing Barriers', commemorating the 500th anniversary of Luther publishing his 95 theses. We held services at: Penrallt Baptist Church, the Church of Our Lady, St John's Methodist Church, and Capel Penuel. We concluded with a day of prayer for refugees in the Bangor Arts Initiative Gallery in the central Deiniol Shopping Centre. Total attendance at these 5 events exceeded 200.

E6 Walk of Witness on Good Friday 14 April 2017

In dry conditions about 60 processed from initial meditation in St John's Methodist Church, paused outside St Deiniol's Cathedral for further worship, and concluded at Debenhams' plaza, notably with a dramatic presentation of the Crucifixion.

E7 Dawn Service on Easter Sunday 16 April 2017

On a sunny morning about 40 climbed to the Roman Camp above Bangor to celebrate the Resurrection, supported by musicians from Penrallt Baptist Church, where we breakfasted.

E8 General Election Hustings on Saturday 3 June 2017

Four candidates and 35 electors attended in the Bangor City Council Chamber. Expert chairing by Bishop Andy John, and seeking questions for candidates by email in advance, encouraged candidates to be honest, polite and timely.

E9 Pentecost Praise on Sunday 4 June 2017

On a balmy afternoon, following a 'bring and share' picnic on the Cathedral Green, about 80 celebrated Pentecost in a lively service in St Deiniol's Cathedral, accompanied by Penrallt Baptist Church Band.

Ian Russell

19) Uniformed Organisations

7th Bangor Brownies

2016 started well with a pack holiday at Felin Bach. The theme of the weekend was Roald Dahl to celebrate his 100th birthday.

In the Spring £150.00 was raised for the Deaf Children's' Society.

65 years of Beatrix Potter was celebrated by making Mr. McGregor's jelly garden and Peter Rabbits were made.

Later in the year there was a visit to Tan y Ddraig pottery and Brownies made Christmas ornaments.

10th Bangor Guides organized a Hogwarts evening in the cathedral to which the Brownies were invited. They had a wonderful time playing quadditch, chasing ghosts and, of course, eating food!!

The usual annual trip to the panto in Venue Cymru took place. This time to see Aladdin.

The Queen's Sapphire Jubilee was celebrated with an indoor street party. Cards were sent to the Queen and a reply was sent to the Brownies from a lady in waiting.

The year was completed by entering the Royal Mail Christmas stamp competition.

Wendy Moore

Rainbows, Beavers & Scouts

No reports received.

20) House Groups

The Wednesday evening study group has met fortnightly throughout the year; with usually somewhere between 6 and 12 people attending on each occasion. We have studied a variety of materials this year, including *The Story Luke Tells* by Jose Gonzalez. *Being Disciples* by Rowan Williams, a BRF Lent Book by Barbara Mosse. Currently we are looking the letter of James, using the Methodist Church's Bible month materials. We have also attended an evening led by the 2017 Vice-president of Conference Rachel Lampard on holiness and Justice, and followed this up with discussion on how we can become more involved in promoting Social Justice. As part of our contribution to the mission of St John's we have been hosting a lunch on an approximately monthly basis; which we advertise as open to all, and on several occasions this has been attended by people who are not regular worshippers. We plan to continue this lunch, on a regular basis, so that those who come know on which Sunday of the month to expect it.

Jean Ware

21) Summer Holiday Club

24 children attended "Go Global" Holiday Club in 2016 and enjoyed singing, crafts, Bible stories and games.

The "Jungles" - younger, "Barrier Reefs" 7-8 years and "Volcanoes" 9-10 learned about how the Good News of Jesus has spread through the whole world.

Church members, young people families and helpers all came together for a "Global Celebration on the Friday evening.

We are looking forward to "The Guardians of Ancora" Holiday Club 24th – 28th July 2017 at which all children 4 years plus are welcome.

Sue Eckersley

22) Street Pastors

Included in Cytun Report

23) Prayer Group

We meet every Friday throughout the year, in the Vestry from 10 till 11 am. All are welcome to come and pray, to send requests for prayer, to come for a short time, for a one off when in need, or to become regular participants. We believe that prayer is the foundation of our work for God in this place.

Cards are sent out to anyone who is ill or in trouble, this year a total of 45 have been sent, and are always appreciated by the recipients. Carol Gough makes the cards as part of her ministry. Also Judith White has been making cards to send to people in our directory who are not able to attend worship.

As an extension of this, we now have a quarterly Circuit Prayer breakfast, the first Saturday of each quarter. 9am with bacon and sausage butties to sustain our prayers. These are also open to all, and are in the school room. The next one being July 1st. then October 7th.

St. John's are going to be part of a national prayer initiative, on the weekend of the 29th September. More details to be posted in the notices.

Jean Owen

24) Open The Book

Two schools in Bangor benefit from members of our congregation taking the Lion Bible Storyteller book assemblies. There are set methods of presenting the stories, taken from the Old and New Testament. The children participate in the drama, dressing up and acting with the teams. Our Hiraël school team go in each Friday morning and the whole school comes to watch and take part. Our Ysgol Glan Cegin team go on Monday afternoons, and share in the same way. We are warmly welcomed by the staff, and I feel they are learning about God in a non-threatening way. As always, if anyone feels they would like to help, please have a word with either, Anne Jackson or myself, and we would be glad to welcome you.

Jean Owen

25) Action for Children

Since my report in 2016, these sums of money have been raised for Action for Children this last year.

From shop collecting boxes £217.64

From home lantern collecting boxes £214.23

From our Christmas collection £300

From sponsored money raised in our Church to support Alf Williams who ran the London Marathon in aid of Action For Children £260

From a donation £40

From cakes sold in the hall on A.F.C Sunday £4.25

The grand total of monies collected was £1036.12

I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way towards raising this generous sum of money which is so urgently needed to help children in so many different ways.

Norma Caughter

26) Methodist Women Britain

The Advent day last November was in Rhuddlan Methodist church with the Rev. Bev, from Llandudno, leading us in following her Pilgrimage to Rome. This was preceded by Frances Williams's exploration of new songs for Advent. A really good day.

April 1st was the turn of our own minister Rev. Kate McClelland who spoke movingly about her previous work for the NHS as Chaplain for Palliative Care, also her work with mental health patients; in prisons; and the trauma suffered by many who fall through the net of care. Proving what an amazing ministry she has been called to work in before coming here.

Our morning was a chance to explore crafts with the theme "Shining like Stars" organised by Rebecca Miller and Rev. Joan Warner. Followed by a wonderful lunch provided for us by Penmaenmawr, St. Paul's church.

The next event is going to be in Rhos on Sea Methodist church on Saturday November 25th. Speaker to be arranged. All are welcome, no discrimination!

Jean Owen

27) MHA

MHA has been recognised as a leader in the care of the elderly, whether in residential homes (our nearest in Rhos on Sea) or At Home care or Dementia care.

It is so well thought of that their advice was taken by ITV during their recent story line about the vicar Ashley Thomas in Emmerdale to make it more realistic.

Current copies of their magazine Heart and Soul can be borrowed from the bookshelves in church.

Sue Hardy

28) University Chaplaincy

I have spent time on campus introducing myself and getting my name, face and hoodie (!) known by students and staff. This has led to some involvement with different societies and, having been approached by some students for help, I am currently trying to arrange insurance so that we can start a Pickleball club which would link Church, community and the university.

I regularly set up on campus in the various catering outlets (as we do not have a formal base on campus) and, having formed some good relationships with lecturers, I'm now having students steered to me when they are judged to be in need of extra support. This has been particularly good for students recently who have been under pressure with exams and dissertation deadlines.

I attended the Bangor University Science Festival in March which was a great success, where they welcomed over a thousand visitors to enjoy a variety of science based activities.

Several students have talked to me about my blog, which is really great as it shows that it is reaching the students and they're feeling connected to our work through it.

The LGBT Society has elected its first ever Faith Representative which is a real step forwards for this group of students who have often felt excluded and marginalised by The Church. Emma has already passed my details to several students she felt would benefit from my support and I will continue to work with her over the next few months and as new students arrive in September.

This year Rowan Williams (now Baron Williams of Oystermouth) gave the annual chaplaincy lecture at the end of April, titled 'worshipping God, growing the church, loving the world'. There were about 250 of us who joined together for this thought provoking and challenging evening.

Students attended Messy Church in April and the Burning Questions act of worship this month.

At the end of May I was nominated, and elected, onto the Methodist Higher Education Chaplains Executive which meets at Methodist Church House quarterly. This is a great chance for the work that we are doing here to get greater coverage, and provides an opportunity to learn from the experiences of other university chaplains.

Sarah McDonald-Howard, Lay Chaplain Bangor University

For my part, the other half of our chaplaincy Methodist team I have been in my role as co-ordinating Chaplain for the multi-faith team for the past 17 months. I have been involved in several appointments to the staff team which is quite a lengthy process but worthwhile getting to know our ecumenical colleges and building networks within the community.

While Sarah is a presence on campus I have been taking more of a counselling role with students with referrals coming more individually. Interestingly Sarah and I are the only two female Christian chaplains on the team and colleagues have referred students to me who are unable to access the university counselling service, presenting with issues of severe homesickness, relationship issues and resettlement problems, things which we are told today we need 'emotional resilience for'.

I feel that Sarah and I work well together, our different gifts and skills complimenting the diverse needs of the disparate population which is the university. We look forward to the next 12 months.

Rev Kate McClelland, Co-ordinating Chaplain Bangor University

29) Notices & Church Web Site

Many thanks to the people who supply me with notices for the weekly notice sheet. Many thanks also for the people who cover for my absences. Things have changed in the last year

and I have little difficulty filling the sheet; in fact often just the opposite and I find myself trying to shrink the content without losing essential details! I send out the notice sheet by email to St. John's people and to other people in the Circuit who produce notices for their own churches. The notice sheet also appears on the church web site, along with the quarterly preaching plan and other church events of note. See <http://www.bangormethodistchurch.org/>

Howard Jackson