

Bangor and Holyhead Circuit News.

A New Superintendent. Since the last edition of The Bridge a lot has happened. We arrived at Stationing Round 3 with no success, so other options were considered. We had a planned meeting with the Synod Chair on 4th March but heavy snow prevented him travelling to the circuit. The meeting was re-convened on 11th March and during that week a surprise offer was on the table.

Rev. John Howard, Methodist Mission Partner in the Holy Land, volunteered to fill the gap on a 25% basis for one year. The Invitation Committee discussed this offer and accepted it. It will mean a heavy work load for the circuit leaders from September as we take on the balance of the Superintendent's role. Additionally we shall be dealing with the stationing process again, aimed at getting a superintendent from September 2019.

Emails have been flying between here and Bethlehem, and the process of discerning what duties will come under the 25% heading is well under way. John is looking forward to sharing his time with us. During this year he will also be travelling round the UK talking about his two years in the Holy Land. *Keith Alexander: Senior Circuit Steward.*

A Goodbye and Good Wishes Service for Rev Kate McClelland and Rebecca Miller will be held at 4:00 pm on Sunday 5th August at St Paul's, Penmaenmawr.

Kate will be responsible for 5 churches in the 30 church circuit of Mid-Derbyshire. Rebecca is going to train to be a primary school teacher at Bangor University,

A Service of Welcome for Rev John Howard will be held at 6:00 pm on Friday 31st August at St John's, Bangor.

In May the circuit committee agreed that a letter be sent to Gwynedd Council protesting about their decision to close all their youth clubs. *Keith Alexander: Circuit Meeting Secretary.*

Quarterly Circuit Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 7th July at 9:00 am for bacon butties, sausage sarnies and prayerful sharing. *Jean Owen.*

Rev. John Howard has been invited by Bangor Cytûn on Wednesday 26th September at 7:30 pm in Bangor Cathedral, to speak about his work as Methodist Mission Partner in Israel & Palestine.

Ian Russell: Bangor Cytûn: Churches Together Secretary.

MWiB Advent Day on 24th November at St. David's, Craig y Don. *Jean Owen: MWiB Circuit Secretary.*

The Bridge!

Summer 2018

Dear Friends,

Sydney Carter's famous hymn has marked times of change in my life: 'and it's from the old I travel to the new, keep me travelling along with you'. It has been used at services when I have been moving on, the words poignant and relevant to future trials: leaving my home circuit for the first time, and my mum and dad who had supported me in raising the children alone; we were leaving home together for college, and I was entering the world of ministerial training.

'As I travel through the bad and good, keep me travelling the way I should, where I see no way to go, you'll be telling me the way I know': moving into a circuit after leaving college and the friends I had made, desperately needing confidence, leaving as student and arriving as minister. 'Round the corners of the world I turn, more and more about the world I learn, all the new things that I see, you'll be looking at along with me': leaving that appointment to go home to care for my dying father, 'where I see no way to go, you'll be telling me the way I know'. Moving away again from family to Wales, so full of excitement and hope, 'leap and sing in all I do, keep me travelling along with you'.

And now I prepare again to take one more step along the world. "I am the Lord your God, who takes hold your right hand and says to you, 'Never fear, I will help you'." "I, the Lord have valued you in my goodness; I will take hold of your hand." (Isaiah 41:13, 42:6).

During my sabbatical, I was reminded of difficult situations and our response to them. Problems and challenges are always easier when someone is beside us guiding us forward, rather than us taking a 'step' on our own. Carter and Isaiah remind us of God's promise to support us along life's journey. The message holds for whatever we face, whether it be a time of testing or blessing, darkness or light. We can be sure that Jesus is with us, not simply by our side, but leading the way, one step beyond.

Every Blessing, Kate.

Rev. Kate McClelland BA [Hons] MSc, Superintendent Minister Bangor & Holyhead Circuit

Rev. Kate McClelland's Farewell Service

Sunday 5th August at 4:00 pm at St Paul's, Penmaenmawr.

News from the Churches.

Amlwch Church.

Holy Week and Easter in Amlwch.

In our Maundy Thursday service we massaged one another's hands. The Good Friday ecumenical Walk of Witness ended at the Methodist church with coffee, followed by a meditation led by Rev. David Jones. Those unable to take part in the walk made patterned crosses for our display.

“All We Can: Can-Can!” Garden Party.

You are invited to a garden party at David and Liz's home* on Saturday 21st July from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in aid of **ALL YOU CAN**, the Methodist relief and development fund. The afternoon of fun, games includes afternoon tea, with homemade cakes, and a bring-&-buy stall for tinned goods, garden produce and plants. *1, Bryn Goleu, Penysarn, LL69 9YN.

Liz Jones: Church Steward

St John's Church, Bangor.

Student trip to the Holy Land.

In February, funding from St John's enabled a student, Laura, in our Bible study group, to take a tour of the Holy Land, *Christians living in the Holy Land*, led by Rev. John Howard. She found it both educational and spiritual and was deeply touched by the experiences of many Christians in the Holy Land. To share her experiences, Laura hosted an April event at St John's "Where Jesus used to walk". We shared in a Palestinian style supper, saw pictures of her trip and heard about the difficulties a Bedouin community faced. The event raised £253 to help the Bedouin community buy a new tent.

Bangor University Chaplaincy Team Annual Lecture.

The Chaplaincy Team hosted Glynn Harrison MD FRCPsych, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, University of Bristol, for their annual lecture in March. Over a hundred people came to the talk "Identity and the Cliché at our Core: is contemporary individualism doing more harm than good?" which explored what it means to be 'me'. Glyn ended by putting this into the context of Christian faith and answering some interesting questions.

Summer Events.

Praise on the Pier: Sunday 8th July at 3:00 pm with Bangor churches.

Church Picnic: Sunday 15th July from 1:00 pm on Llanddona beach.

Children's Holiday Club: Each morning from 23rd to 27th July.

Sarah McDonald-Howard: Assistant University Chaplain.

Contributions for Winter Bridge 2018 by 10th August please. *Anne Jackson.*

St Paul's Church. Penmaenmawr.

St Paul's Junior Church's version of Psalm 23.

Lord you are my Google and my Satnav
You are my Foodbank and Citizens Advice Bureau
You let me rest in my bed or a peaceful forest
You lead me along the scenic route and you show me a spring
with fresh water
When there are no streetlights, you are my torch and I can be
led to safety.
You take me to a pizza party while my enemies watch
You buy me unlimited refills on my pop
Your kindness and love will always be with me and I look forward
to endless sleepovers at your house!

Welcome the Summer Arts Festival at St Paul's on Thursday 16th & Friday 17th August.

The programme of activities for all ages and an evening entertainment will be published shortly. Come for a chat, coffee, or a light lunch while enjoying the sea views from the church community garden. On Sunday 19th there will be a celebration service and a BBQ lunch.
Rebecca Miller: Youth & Community Worker.

Llanfairfechan Church.

On Monday 30th April friends and family filled the church for the funeral of Peggy Gwilliam one of our much loved and respected members. All are welcome to our ever popular lunches held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 12:30 pm and Summer Songs of Praise on the 1st Sunday of the month at 6:00 pm. *Janice Pavey: Church Steward.*

Report from the Local Preacher's Meeting.

Lesley Gillion moved to Bangor in August from Newport. She attended the January Bangor meeting for her circuit interview, to become fully accredited. Her recognition service will be at 4 pm on Sunday 17th June in St John's.

Julian Bonnebaigt from Penmaenmawr has been given a Note to preach.

It was agreed that, subject to a successful Trial Service Sarah McDonald-Howard will progress to being On Trial.

We sent a greetings card to Jeff and Carol Gough as they have now moved to Lancashire. They will both be greatly missed.

Jean Ware: Local Preacher's Secretary.