

News from the Churches continued

Llanfairfechan

We are having a new kitchen fitted in August and one of the toilets changed into an easy-access and baby-changing toilet. Our popular ploughman's lunches and afternoon teas help to raise money for these improvements. Our Summer Songs of Praise have been well attended. The organ has been dismantled so we now have to decide how to make best use of the space gained. We intend to repeat the Festival of Trees this Christmas.
Janice Pavey: Church Steward

St John's, Bangor

The players and choir enjoyed preparing for "Burning Questions", a Christian review by Paul Field, which was performed on Trinity Sunday evening to an appreciative audience who also enjoyed the comfort of our new chairs. We are now rehearsing for the pantomime Aladdin planned for Friday 12th and Saturday 13th January at 7 pm. Do come along! The Friday morning prayer group meets at 10 am in church to pray for the church family and people in need. "Solid Rock Coffee Plus" coffee morning follows at 11 am with an opportunity to chat or play board games. If you are in Bangor drop in and have a cuppa with us. We recently hosted an enjoyable Saturday evening concert by the North Wales Saxophone Choir. In July, 29 children enjoyed varied activities as they explored the secrets of Ancora at Holiday Club. We are looking forward to seeing them again at Messy Church on the 12th September.
Sue Hardy: Church Steward

St Paul's, Penmaenmawr

Our church garden is being landscaped. When finished, it will be a useful space for church activities and an asset to the community. An official opening is planned for the autumn. Congratulations to Rev. Kate for completing her Guide Leadership qualification in record time. She was presented with her qualification by the District Commissioner at the awards evening at St Paul's on 19th July. As a result of the success of "Who let the Dads out?" at St Paul's, Julian Bonnebaigt has been appointed North Wales regional rep.
Julian Bonnebaigt: Church Steward

Facebook users can keep up to date with circuit events on "Bangor and Holyhead Methodist Circuit"; others go to <https://www.facebook.com/bangorandholyheadmethodists/>. *Rebecca Miller*

The Bridge!

Autumn 2017

Dear Friends

I find myself struggling with writing this letter, mainly because I can't focus on anything other than feeling that this summer will be forever scarred by the tragedy of terrible events. Firstly, there was the Manchester terrorist attack, then the attack in London and then the Grenfell Tower fire. So many lives were lost, a wounded country was left lamenting, trying to find its way in the chaos and looking for healing. Of course, tragedies happen every day. That is not to minimise other single events as any less important or significant; one loss of life is never more important over another. But society struggles with collective group tragedy in terms of lamenting.

The prophet Zephaniah, who spoke against the people of Judah, but not in a message devoid of promise and hope, says, "Then I will cleanse the lips of the nations, that all people may call on the name of the Lord and serve him shoulder to shoulder". Zephaniah, of course, is reflecting on a time in the early reign of the Judean king Josiah before his reforms were fully developed. But they hold a relevant message today for us in a society that feels quite lost and with reforms that are also not fully developed.

To 'call on the Lord' and 'serve him shoulder to shoulder' one way or another with my Christian brothers and sisters is team work. I think it's the best, most fulfilling Christian way of living in a climate of confusion and uncertainty, whether personally or in the wider community. There's something very important in standing shoulder to shoulder – not much can get done while we try to work on our own.

A big event makes the world appear to be falling apart, but there are a million tiny acts of kindness still holding it together. We do those confidently, in the knowledge that God will deal with the evil of this world, and let us get on with the job of mission, standing shoulder to shoulder as Christian brothers and sisters in whatever challenges we are called upon to face.

Every Blessing, Kate

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

Circuit News

Circuit Meeting Report

Rev. Stephen Wigley, Chair of the Wales Synod, attended the Circuit meeting on 15th June to inform us that our superintendent minister, Kate, had requested a curtailment of her stationing and a leaving date of August 2018 had been proposed. The meeting reluctantly agreed to her request.

It was agreed that a letter, explaining the reasons for Kate's decision, from Stephen Wigley would be read out in all circuit churches, after the morning service on 18th June. This letter is available from church stewards and on St John's website www.bangormethodistchurch.org under "Superintendent's News".

Stationing: I have now completed the circuit profile for stationing next year. The Chair of Synod has contacted me to suggest some changes and I have returned the amended profile to him. If we are lucky enough to have a match, a prospective superintendent minister will visit the circuit in November.

Circuit Mission Statement: Churches are now working on their individual mission statements in readiness for the compilation of the circuit mission statement at the October circuit meeting.

World Church: Jean Owen volunteered to be World Church circuit representative.

Gobaith Môn: An Anglesey-based person is needed to replace Rev. David Jones as Gobaith Môn's Methodist representative. Please contact David for details.

Keith Alexander: Circuit Meeting Secretary.

World Church Easter Collection and Dedication

The circuit Easter Day collection raised £600 for World Church. The Easter Offering dedication service, at Amlwch on 12th May, was led by Jean Owen with the theme "Shine like stars". An excellent lunch followed, hosted by the Amlwch congregation. *Rev. David Jones.*

Mixed Blessings

The Holyhead and Amlwch churches are planning a joint circuit event on Saturday 21st October from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm at St David's, Holyhead. We plan to celebrate our two congregations' many blessings. Details to follow. *Rev. David Jones.*

Cymanfa Ganu - Big Sing

Circuit Bilingual Praise Evening, led by Robin Jones, Bethel, on Sunday 1st October at 6:00 pm at St John's Methodist Church. *Ellie Jones.*

Circuit News continued

MWiB Advent Day 2017

The MWiB Advent Day will be held on 25th November at Rhos-on-Sea Methodist Church. The speaker is Dr David Kundle, a doctor from Nigeria. *Jean Owen: MWiB Secretary.*

Local Preacher Training

Sarah MacDonald-Howard continues 'on note' as a Local Preacher. She is working hard at the new online "Worship: Leading and Preaching" course. Recently, some Local Preachers joined Sarah for the first "Explore" group session, designed to encourage reflection on preaching and worship issues. *Dr Jean Ware: Local Preachers' Secretary.*

News from the Churches

Amlwch

The very successful garden party at Rev. David and Liz Jones's home raised a magnificent £623 towards Water for Uganda, an "All you Can" project. They were delighted to be supported by so many neighbours, friends from the circuit and Anglesey Good Gifts and to be blessed by good weather.

Rev. David Jones.



A Report of Conference from Jean Ware

I represented the Wales Synod at the Methodist Conference in June. The representative session began with inaugural addresses from the New President and Vice-President, Rev. Lorraine Mellor and Vice-President, Mrs Jill Baker. I found Jill's address particularly inspirational. Watch it online on the Methodist website. The ordination service on Sunday afternoon and the Conference Communion on Wednesday were memorable times of worship. The conference decided to write to Sainsbury's to protest about their scheme to replace the Fair Trade mark with their own.

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