

St John's Methodist Church, Bangor

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Notices for week beginning Sunday 2nd February 2025

****Stop Press: Important update to everyone. The heaters now work properly thanks to Jeffrey Swales for dealing with issues and making repairs. The heaters should be turned down to 5 on the dials during services. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure they are turned fully back up when the service is over. Otherwise the room will be cold next time. If you see them turned down after the service – turn 'em up!**

Worship at St John's

Sunday February 2nd 10.30am - A Special Sunday Morning Service

To everyone who worships with us at St John's Methodist Church: on Sunday February 2nd we are not worshipping on our own at St John's but joining two other churches for morning worship at Penrallt Baptist church near to Morrisons and we want everyone to be there.

This special service is to celebrate the joint work that St John's, Penrallt and Mosaic have done as three churches working together to fund and appoint a full-time Centre Director for Bangor Youth For Christ. Grace O'Boyle, who has her office base with us in St John's, began in this role in December and the service on February 2nd is a celebration of her move from the US to live and work amongst us bringing the gospel to the young people of this city, who have no connection with any of our churches.

We rarely cancel our morning worship except in very special circumstances such as this. It's really important, therefore, that we make this service a priority to show that we are fully behind this initiative and to offer our prayerful support to Grace and to the trustees (which includes Allison Pilling and myself from St John's) of the charity established to support her work.

Please put this date in your diary and please don't turn up at St John's on that morning because the doors will be closed! But come to Penrallt where our wonderful act of worship will cater for adults, young people and children alike.

Nick Sissons

Songs of Praise

There is a Songs of Praise service over zoom at 6.00 pm led by Rev'd Ken Sykes

Here is the zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92426420488?pwd=sPN0MzSg4AnVFicpOHaxkSTeFzX7i.1>

Meeting ID: 924 2642 0488, Passcode: 457373

Howard Jackson's Funeral details

Dear friends,

as many of you will know by now, the thanksgiving service for the life of Howard Jackson will take place on Friday February 7th.

The service will be held at St John's in Bangor at 10.30am. Please come in plenty of time as we may well be quite full. For those who don't know Bangor, the best place to park is in the ASDA car park (which gives you 3 hours of free parking) and then use the exit ramp onto the High Street, which brings you out very close to the church. We anticipate the service lasting about 45 - 50 minutes.

The church service will be followed by a burial (to which everyone is most welcome) in the cemetery a 100m from St Iestyn's Church, Llanestyn a mile or so east of Llanddona village on Anglesey where Anne and Howard have lived for many years (see the red arrow on the attached map). Allowing for people to get their cars after church and travel to the cemetery (where there is a fair-sized car park right next to the graves) we do not expect to begin the burial service before 12.15. The burial will then be followed by refreshments served in Llanddona village hall (formerly the village school -postcode: LL58 8TS) around 1.00pm.

If you are planning to come to the service to give thanks for Howard's long life and rich Christian witness, then please do think about sharing transport if possible, especially on Anglesey where some of the roads are very narrow and where parking at the graveside and village is limited.

We look forward to seeing many of you on the 7th.

Nick Sissons, Superintendent Minister



Anne adds the following comments:

- The family are not wearing black - this is a celebration of Howard's life.
- Family flowers only please. Donations in memory of Howard to Tearfund. Gift Aid envelopes will be available at the church.
- There are no toilets at the cemetery.

Prayers for the Circuit - each week on Zoom, Thursday 4.30-4.45pm

This weekly prayer time enables us to bring before God any issues and concerns from churches around the Circuit. We hope that people who can access the internet will want to join us to spend a few minutes each week asking for God's guidance and continued blessing on our work. The Zoom details will not change and they are as follows:

<https://zoom.us/j/97250466383?pwd=MEEydUNTRmpHWWEzdWc2ZEJGT2liQT09>

Meeting ID: 972 5046 6383, Passcode: Circuit

Nick Sissons

Paper Service

The paper service for personal use can be accessed here:

www.bangormethodistchurch.org/2025%2002%2002%20CWS%20v2.pdf

At A Glance

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| Wednesday 29 th January @2.00 pm: | Afternoon Study Group resumes. |
| Wednesday 29 th January @7.00 pm: | Evening Study Group second meeting. |
| Friday 31 st January @7.30 pm: | Explorers' Pantomime in St John's Church Hall. |
| Saturday 1 st February @12.30 pm: | Candlemass Vigil at Bangor Clock Tower. |
| Sunday 2 nd February @ 10.30: | Special morning service at Penrallt with Mosaic as we celebrate our three churches work with "Youth For Christ". |
| Wednesday 5 th February @2.00 pm: | Grace O'Doyle, "Youth For Christ" leader – her story |
| Thursday 6 th February @ 7.30 pm: | Cytun Agm at Capel Emaus |
| Friday 7 th February @10.30 am: | Howard Jackson's Funeral at St John's, Llaniestyn and Llandonna |
| Saturday, 15 th February 10.00 am – 12.00: | Coffee Morning in aid of Asylum seekers and refugees. |
| Tuesday, 11 th March @ 6.30 – 9.30 pm: | Safeguarding Training at St John's |

This week

Prayers for the week – 2 February 2025

Barista God, may we be coffee bean followers, willing to be ground and shaped, and so infused with your love as to bring a richness of flavour. Bubble and percolate within us, bring up hidden depths, that people may taste and recognize your goodness. And may Love be at the heart of all that we own to be and do.



World

Open a news website, app or newspaper. Ask God to help the people involved in the first story you see or hear. Delve deeper, look at the World or international section, consider what you uncover then.....

Pray for peace in areas where there is war and conflict (The Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen, many others). Pray for the fragile peace between the state of Israel and Hamas to hold. Pray for justice in places where there is intolerance, prejudice, racism. Pray for love to abide in places where there is selfishness.

Care for Creation



Lord, open our eyes each day to see something new and wonderful in your world, so we may choose to be more considerate towards your creation during this week.

We pray for A Rocha and its partners, including the Methodist Church as they seek to encourage churches to express love for God's creation in management of buildings and land, community and global leadership, lifestyle, worship and teaching. We pray especially for a greater uptake of Eco-Church in North Wales where presently there are few churches involved in the scheme.

A Prayer for LGBT+ History Month

God of Community, encompassing all that was, that is and that can be, who brings to birth each precious being in your creation; we thank you for our capacity to love, and for your love poured out on us. We pray for your blessing on our LGBTQIA+ Community. May our Common Life be enriched by their presence, and blessed by their gifts. Grant us Grace and Humility to heal past hurts, and transform us, that together we may take our place in your Kingdom. Amen *(Rev Canon Sarah Jones)*

Church

We pray for those churches with church council meeting in the next few weeks, that there will be a spirit of love and belonging amongst people attending, and that wisdom and sound judgment will be exercised.

We pray for St Paul's, as it prepares for its next Messy Church this month; that members get the message out and people come and see what is going on.

We pray for Grace O'Boyle, the recently appointed Youth For Christ director and her work with the youth of Bangor which is partly being funded through St John's Methodist Church. We pray for her this Sunday and for the congregations of St John's, Penrallt Baptist and Mosaic Evangelical churches who will come together in a united commissioning service to formally welcome her ministry in the area. We pray it will be a time of great blessing and encouragement to all who attend.

We pray for the congregation at Capel Zinc, that they might be encouraged by their strong sense of community and find new ways to connect with people who live close by. We pray particularly that the Songs of Praise taking place this month will draw people together from round the Circuit.

We pray for those at Holyhead involved in the Open the Book group going into 4 different schools this week, that the message contained in the story told will give blessing to those who hear it and that the team will find the joy of the Lord gives them strength as they progress through the week.

We give thanks for the steady progress being made at Amlwch with the recently revived Churches Together, and especially for the encouraging service and Prayer Walk which took place in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We pray for those who will attend the next meeting on Monday 3 February and pray that they will be guided how to best proceed with joint events and activities in the next few months.

We pray for all those grieving the loss of loved ones and those many people attending funerals this week, that the Spirit who is the Comforter will sustain them.

Loving God, bless all those we meet today and those who will give us some part of themselves; their love, their knowledge, their wisdom and their grace. May we gladly receive our neighbours into our lives and in doing so meet you, the God of all grace. Shape us, Holy God in and through our neighbours this day. Surround us with your free and generous love. Amen

Time and Space

We meet as usual at 10.30 at “&Caws” café in Menai Bridge for an hour and a half of fellowship and conversation.

Open the Book

Glancegin and Cae Top Schools will hear the story of the temptation of Jesus. An Open the Book team also visits Hirael School on a fortnightly basis. More volunteers would be welcome for all three groups.

Wednesday Afternoon Housegroup

We next meet at the home of John and Rosemary Nunn on 29th January at 2.00 pm and will be using material produced by the Methodist Church entitled “Sunshine and Showers – the Bible’s Beautiful Strangeness”. If you don’t go to one of the study groups already why not give it a go. Don’t be put off by the word “study”. We sit and chat and laugh a lot! And, hopefully learn a bit. **John Nunn**

CYTUN BANGOR

The AGM will be held on 6/2/25 at 7.30pm at Capel Emaus All welcome

Wednesday evening Study Group

The Wednesday Evening Housegroup will meet on 29th January at the home of Rob and Margaret Moon, 14 Caer Delyn, Bodffordd, LL77 7EJ and on zoom. We will be looking at Philippians Chapter 1: 18-end, led by Jean Ware. All are welcome either in person or on zoom, regardless of where in the circuit you worship.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85165311873?pwd=tnPaAaTfcvtMA9YPJ9G3UqcGZ9aAwp.1>

Candlemass Vigil

Bethesda/Bangor/Caernarfon peace activists have organised a quiet candlemass vigil by the town clock in Bangor to remember children killed in Gaza. Some poems will be read between periods of silence.

Meet at the clock 12.30 Saturday February 1st after the fairtrade coffee morning in Capel Emaus. Please spread the word! Diolch **Anna Jane Evans**

Events

Cameo Fellowship Group

The next meeting will be on 5th February in church 2.00 (coffee) for a 2.30 start. Come and listen to our new Youth Worker, Grace O’Boyle as she explains her Christian journey

Coffee Morning in support of Asylum Seekers and Refugees



Explorers' Panto

Please do support the Explorers who are donating money raised at the Panto to St John's



Coach trip to Liverpool Anglican Cathedral on Thursday February 20th.

'Threads through the Bible' is an extraordinary, uplifting textile art exhibition now on show at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. For the very first time 44 beautiful silk panels in three parts are on show together: *Threads through Creation*; *Threads through the Cross* and *Threads through Revelation*. The Methodist Circuit of Bangor and Holyhead have organised a coach to go to Liverpool and are inviting friends

from other churches in the area to join us. There will be 40+ seats available which can be booked on a first come first served basis. The coach will cost £20 per head. The exhibition is free.

This is a preliminary notice. Full details will be circulated very soon, but if you are interested please book the date in your diary and make sure you respond quickly when the full booking notice circulates. There will be several pick up points so we hope nobody will need to travel too far to get to the coach.

News

Church Accounts

- I am very pleased that our new Church auditor has approved the St John's accounts for 23-24 . I will ensure that some copies are available, on the table at the back of church , for those members who have not had opportunity to view them as Church Council members. Please do not hesitate to ask me questions .
- Our outgoings continue to exceed our income . Please do , if you are able , review your giving at the beginning of this new year . I have also requested that a " Thanksgiving Offering " be part of our 150 years Celebration .
- Thank you to everyone for your on-going generosity to our Church . **Sue Eckersley**

Visit of John Howard

I have available a fairly good video recording of John Howard's talk and follow-up question and answer session. If anyone had hoped to come but was unable to do so and would like to borrow my memory stick to download the talk onto their own laptop/PC it is available. **John Nunn**

Using Zoom

For those of you who use ZOOM they have in recent months updated some of the features.

One that may help people is the Captions feature. This has been much improved and people who reply on it due to hearing problems are giving it a favourable review with minimal wrong words.

If your ZOOM is up to date (and it does tend to auto update) you can now choose yourself whether to show captions or to hide them. This then gives you a transcript of what is being said on your screen. It defaults to the bottom but you can change the font size and colour and position of the captions bar.

Kind regards **Heather Bonnebaigt**

Indian church

Our friends of the Indian congregation have found a new Priest who can lead them in worship in their Malayalam language. They have booked both church and hall for this Sunday evening 2nd February, for their service. They will be there from 5.00 pm. Their congregation has increased now to average of 100. We rejoice with them. **Jean Owen <><**

Congratulations

Congratulations to Susan and David Swales for another wonderful panto by the Criccieth Starlight players . Well done ! Really enjoyable ! **Sue Eckersley**

Safeguarding Training

Here is a notice about an up and coming safeguarding training that Cliff has asked me to pass on. He will have contacted folk who's role requires them to undertake this training regularly. However, it's important to remember that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we would welcome anyone attending this training. Kind regards **Heather Bonnebaigt (Circuit Administrator)**

