

ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH, BANGOR

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Please note these will be the last notices of 2024 – the next set of notices will be for week beginning Sunday 12th January 2025. I will circulate any emergency communications plus the paper services for the next three weeks.

Notices for week beginning Sunday 22nd December 2024

Worship at St John's over the Christmas period:

- Sunday 22nd at 10.30 Carol Service led by Rev'd Nick
- Sunday 22nd at 11.00 Zoomed Carol Service from Pen led by Mr Julian Bonnebaigt
- Tuesday 24th at 4.00 pm Christingle service led by Rev'd Nick
- Tuesday 24th at 11.30 pm Midnight Communion Service led by Rev'd Nick
- Wednesday 25th December at 10.00 am Family worship for Christmas Day led by Mr Richard Butler.
- Sunday 29th December at 10.30 am Morning Worship led by Dr. Jean Ware
- Sunday 29th December at 6.00 pm Zoom service led by Rev'd (Squadron Leader) Mike Hall
- Sunday 5th January 2025 at 10.30 am Covenant Service led by Rev'd Nick

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 services for personal use can be accessed here:

Sunday 22nd December:

www.bangormethodistchurch.org/Circuit%20worship%20sheet%2022124%20%281%29.pdf

Sunday 29th December:

www.bangormethodistchurch.org/Circuit%20Worship%20Sheet%2029th%20December%202024.docx

At a Glance – Circuit and St John’s over Christmas/New Year

Date and time		Event	Venue
Wednesday 18th	2.00 pm	“Nativities “ Readings by Colin Price	St John’s Bangor. An opportunity to stop for a while if you are in Bangor - tea, coffee, cake and mince pies after
Sunday 22nd	4.00 pm	Carols Under the Stars (Blue Church Carols)	Llanfairfechan Methodist Church
Tuesday 24th	3.30 pm	Nativity for All	St Paul’s Penmaenmawr
Tuesday 24th	4.00 pm	Family Christingle	St John’s Bangor
Tuesday 24th	6.00 pm	Christingle	Amlwch Methodist Church
Tuesday 24th	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion	St John’s Bangor
Saturday 28 th	1.00-5.00 pm	“Warm Spaces” Christmas Celebration. All welcome.	St John’s Bangor
Tuesday 7 th January	10.30 – 12.00 pm	Next “Time and Space”	”& Caws” café, Menai Bridge.
Wednesday 8 th January	2.00 – 4.00 pm	First Cameo meeting of New Year	St John’s Bangor

This Week

Prayers for the period 22 December 2024 – 4 January 2025

Advent 4, Christmas Day and beyond!



Prayer for Advent 4

Preparations almost complete, the time is nearly here. Promises and praises echo all around, silencing the noises of injustice. O hush the noise, **let's hear the angels sing.**

The promise of God for the servant lowly, God who comes to the help of all, whose ancient promise still stands today. O hush the noise, **let's hear the angels sing.**

And we watch and we seek, and we learn, we pray and we praise, and we wait and we wait. O hush the noise, **let's hear the angels sing.** *Methodist Church resources*

Advent Action

Think about how Jesus identifies with the homeless person or the foodbank user. Put together a bag of groceries to give to a homeless person or foodbank user.

Lord, you alone know our hearts, our histories and our hopes. You alone know our futures and our fears. Lead us on, so that whatever part we may play, our story may be shaped by your story, through Jesus, son of Mary, and given a name through Joseph. **Amen. Roots**

Prayer for Christmas Day

Light in our darkness, joy in our sorrow, our Saviour is born, the Prince of Peace, the King of all, Emmanuel, God with us. Let's share the song, **with angels let us sing.**

Glory to God, revealed among us, given for us, offered for us, living within, one with us. Let's share the song, **with angels let us sing.**

The day is here, the time is now. promised long ago and promised still. Within the laughter and the chat, let's share the song, with **angels let us sing.** *Methodist Church resources*

World

Loving God, as we prepare ourselves to celebrate your coming to us as flesh – Emmanuel, Saviour –we ask that you heal and guide our wounded world. We pray for areas where choices need to be made, and for those who make these decisions. Where the wrong path has been taken, or new circumstances arisen, may minds and hearts be changed. We pray that your light would puncture the darkness and bring hope and peace.

We pray especially for Peace in Ukraine; for peace, order and stability in the Middle East; for food and shelter for those displaced as a result of famine in East Africa.

Church

We pray for our Circuit churches as they look to celebrate Christmas in their respective communities. For Capel Zinc in Llanfairfechan with Blue Carols Under Stars on 22 December; for St Paul's at Penmaenmawr, with the Nativity for all service on Christmas Eve; for Amlwch and St John's with their Christingle services also on Christmas Eve; for the Christmas Day services across the Circuit when people attend who would not otherwise do so at other times in the year; for the Warm Spaces Christmas Celebration on Saturday 28th December at St John's. May all feel welcomed, loved and included.

God of love, at this time of the year so many people are lost or lonely. Giving thanks for the love that we know in our own lives, we pray for all who are struggling with depression or fear. May our churches be places of sanctuary for all; offering generous welcome, peace, warmth and kindness. May we show Jesus to all we meet and lift the burdens of those who are struggling.

We pray for the student community in the Bangor area. We give thanks for those students graduating this week and particularly those who have contributed so richly to the life of St John's – they will be sorely missed! We also pray for those international students who will be remaining in the area over the Christmas period and all those travelling, that they will remain safe.

May the God who knows where we come from and where we should be going, go with us. May the God who knows our hopes and dreams, bless us – and others through us – more than we can possibly imagine. May the God who was with Joseph and Mary in all that they faced, be known to us as Immanuel – God with *us*. Amen.

Nativities Readings

On December 18th Colin Price will present "Nativities" in St John's Church Bangor, hopefully with co-presentation from Joy Ostle. To assist with parking arrangements, there will be a prompt start at 2:15; the presentation takes about an hour and 15 minutes. Afterwards there will be tea, coffee, cake and mince pies. **Colin Price**

Thanksgiving Service for the life of David Barker

The **Thanksgiving Service for David Barker**, a member here at St John's, who died on December 7th, will take place on Thursday December 19th at 1.30 at Bangor crematorium. The service will be led by our own minister, Nick Sissons, and Pam and her family invite any, who can come to the service, to join them afterwards at Yr Heulyn (formerly La Marina) on Hen Gei Llechi, Y Felinheli. Pam and David were regular attenders at St John's for many years having moved to North Wales from Oswestry where they were very involved in the Methodist Church. David had worked in New Guinea and India as a community dentist and he and Pam maintained links with India, visiting friends there in recent years. **Nick Sissons & Sue Fish.**

Open the Book

Schools are on holiday.

Church Website

Because of my ongoing health problems, I would like to hand over the job of updating the Church Website after Christmas. This is a weekly operation, taking about ten to fifteen minutes. If you are interested, please contact me by email. **Howard Jackson**

Events

Warm Spaces



Christmas Celebration

On Saturday 28th December from 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm there will be festive food and games for anyone who wishes to join us. Lunch will be served at 1.00 pm followed by games or a chance to chat, and then tea at 4.00 pm. If you are able to help there will be many opportunities, from decorating the hall in the morning and preparing food, to serving food, chatting to guests, organising games and, of course, clearing up at the end. You may not be able to be there all day but any offers to help for a couple of hours and in any way would be MUCH appreciated. And if you feel unable to help, please just come and share in the general festivities! Please contact me with offers and suggestions or to let me know you'll be coming. **Della Fazey email: della.fazey@btinternet.com; mobile 07483 801584 or landline 01248 600226**

Visiting Preachers

As part of our celebrations next year for the 150th Anniversary of St. John's we have invited former ministers and preachers to lead worship at the end of each month until August. In January we welcome Revd John Howard and in February Revd Alf Williams. Both are well known to many in the congregation and it will be a pleasure to meet with them again. As their preaching appointment coincides with the

'Warm Spaces' lunch following the service, I am assuming that they will be happy to join us for that event. Should anyone wish to offer them accommodation during their stay in Bangor, please let me know as soon as possible and I will ask them if they would like to be hosted. It would be a great opportunity to catch-up with old friends!. **Della Fazey (Church Council Secretary)**

Cytun

Annwyl Gydwethwyr/ Dear Colleagues,

Cytûn's AGM has been confirmed for the 18th June 2025, in room G1 at the Gateway Education and Arts Centre, Chester Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 1NB.

The venue itself is a short walk from Shrewsbury train station.

Tea and coffee will be available from 11.00am room G1 with the formal business commencing at 11.30am.

Lunch will be available from 12.30pm with the meeting room booked until 2pm.

In order to ensure sufficient catering is provided for the meeting, I would value responses to attendance via post@cytun.cymru.

Please kindly let me know of any dietary needs for example , vegan/ vegetarian/ gluten free.

Cofion/ Regards

S Perriam *Bilingual Office Manager & PA to Dr Cynan Llwyd*

Cytûn: Eglwysi Ynghyd yng Nghymru | Cytûn: Churches Together in Wales

St John's Methodist Church Bangor Fellowship Group

CAMEO

Come and Meet Each Other

Spring 2025

Weds 8th Jan Epiphany – the decorations are packed away for another year but what does Epiphany mean for us today? Come to the first Cameo meeting of the spring to hear some Bible readings about Epiphany and poems, hymns and stories to do with this special time.

2-4.00 pm in the church

Chair: Ellie Jones

Programme Sec: Jean Owen

Treasurer: Margaret Jones

Birthday Sec: June Cooper

News

Baby Changing Facilities

Many thanks to Jeffrey Swales and the Turney Trust who fitted and paid for, respectively, baby changing facilities in the larger of the two toilets in church. No longer do babies have to be carried over to a possibly locked hall and in possibly pouring rain to be changed.

Mason's Yard

Many thanks to various folk over the last few days who have made a superb job of cleaning and tidying up Mason's Yard, beginning the planting up process of the 'new' planters and erecting a good sized and illuminated Christmas Tree overlooking the yard.



Stamp Collecting for Charity

Martyn Boyce is collecting Blind Association. Please them in to church for



used stamps for the Deaf and start saving them and bringing Martyn.

Shine Your Light

- Nineteen folk from our church and others met on Mason's Yard to sing carols at 2.00 on Saturday 14th. Lots of vehicles passing by were very responsive, blowing their horns and waving from their cars. In particular almost the entire crew of a fire engine conducted our singing as they went past.
- The booklets provided by "Shine Your Light" were handed out in church with the suggestion that people might like to pass them on to some non-attending friends.
- On Saturday also the "Shine Your Light" initiative received royal endorsement from no, less a personage than King Charles.



Pastoral

Please pray for a Ukrainian girl called Diana in Year 9 at a school in the Manchester area. She has been doing extremely well from a standing start of no English three years ago. However, she is now suffering flashbacks and her school work is beginning to suffer. **John Nunn**

June Cooper fell in Menai Bridge on Wednesday and has broken bones in both arms. She is in Conwy ward at Ysbyty Gwynedd. Please remember her in your prayers and we send our love and best wishes for successful outcomes for both.

David Barker's funeral will be at 1.30 on 19 December with a service at the Crematorium (see more details above). Please continue to uphold Pam and the family with your prayers. **Sue Fish**

CHUCKLE CORNER



Zoom phone numbers for all connections:-

Use any of these and then use the relevant Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted. Numbers:

0203 901 7895, 0131 460 1196

0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5240

0203 481 5237

Telephone Service:

- Step 1: Dial 03 33 0164 757
- Step 2: Room No? Dial:6323 2615 #
- Step 3: Pin – dial 9564# sav



*Blessing and peace at
Christmas to you all.*

John and Paul