

Dear Friends

Greetings to you this Eastertide, well I'm back! well rested, fully rejuvenated and ready to 'get back on with the job of mission and fulfilling the calling of God's purpose for us in the Bangor and Holyhead circuit'. I was delighted to be received back by my friends and colleagues on the senior leadership team with bangs of 'party poppers and of course a 'cake'. This was before we settled in to the serious business of looking at the next 18 months and how we would prayerfully use the gifts and skills of those folk we have already serving within the circuit to responsibly fulfil the roles and responsibilities that are required of us being part of a wider connectional body but also be good pastors to one another without over-burdening those who are already giving of their time not only freely and willingly but often under pressures unknown and unseen by our regular worshipping community. The challenge of leadership in these times is a difficult one and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the senior leaders of this circuit, particularly David Ray who stood up into the superintendent role in my absence. Many of you of course, stood up over the past 10 weeks, took on extra responsibilities, often willingly as part of your service, and I would like to thank you for that and I hope those around you have acknowledged that in some way also.

Next year it is true, disappointingly we have been unable to secure a full time superintendent to come to our circuit. Although we have had the offer of some outside support. The reality of Methodism now is, and the future, as of this year with only 70 ministers to fill 140 appointments, stationing and indeed ministry itself is changing, and we all know, no one likes change, so we must be creative in our thinking, not only here, but up and down the country. Those you have appointed to the post of leadership in this circuit are working very hard, both strategically and prayerfully to try and do the best to make sure that they give the best advice, information and resources to all the churches. I ask you to support those in these roles through this difficult time and do whatever you can, in whatever way possible to support the plans and ideas that are put in place in a positive manner. By working together I believe we can turn this situation into a fruitful time of growing fellowship.

Some St John's notices

I would like to invite those of you who like to have a sing to come and sing HOPES AND DREAMS with St John's on Saturday 9th June at 10am practice - for Sunday June 10th 6pm if you know if you are interested I'll let you have a songbook and disc to practice -

4pm on that day 9th June come and have afternoon tea and be entertained in aid of MHA 75th anniversary

St John's Church council extra meeting to discuss the redevelopment opportunities will be held on April 17th at 7.30

I am looking forward to getting out and about and seeing all your lovely smiley faces as soon as I can

Many thanks

Warmest regards a Bendith Duw

Kate

Rev Kate McClelland B.A (Hons) MSc, Superintendent Minister Bangor and Holyhead Circuit and Chaplain for Bangor University.

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