

ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH

AGENDA & REPORTS

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

3rd June 2018

AGENDA

DEVOTIONS

ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

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ELECTION OF CHURCH STEWARDS

ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CHURCH COUNCIL

A.O.B.

1) Church Council

The Church Council leads and oversees all aspects of the life and work of the Church, including finance and property. We act as legal trustees of the property and the Turney Bequest Fund. At each meeting the Council receives a range of reports, and makes appropriate decisions, guided by the Treasurer and Property Steward in particular.

The Council held four meetings in 2017 – regular meetings in March, June and December, and an extraordinary meeting about redevelopment in September. Of the 23 Council members, an average of 18 (77%) attended each meeting. We fulfilled our statutory responsibilities to the Methodist Connexion. Having refurbished the Hall during 2016, we agreed to redevelop the Church and established a task group to plan that.

Led by Reverend Kate McClelland and Sarah McDonald-Howard, we pursued our vision of St John's as a 'mission church'. We maintained initiatives from 2016, notably Café Church; Messy Church; and Singing for Fun. Sarah explored several future initiatives: 'listening ear'; soup run; parent & toddler group; community engagement; and using the Hall as a community resource. Kate and Sarah presented these initiatives to the 2018 Covenant Service and invited expressions of interest to help in setting priorities.

From the Turney Bequest Fund we made 3 main grants: £2000 to the Methodist Relief & Development Fund for famine relief in Africa; £2000 to St Paul's Penmaenmawr Action for Youth; and £1000 to Notting Hill Methodist Church for disaster relief around Grenfell Tower. We sadly but very gratefully thanked Mike Heslop on his retirement from the arduous job of Property Steward after decades of assiduously holding the Church together. Council members normally serve for terms of six years. Volunteers to replace those who have served their terms are welcome.

Ian Russell (Secretary)

i.t.russell@swansea.ac.uk

2) Stewards

During the year, the stewards have been progressing the development of the church building, understanding the change to the Connexions Safeguarding procedures and due to new government legislation have had to implement new procedures for cleaning the church buildings.

We have fulfilled Kate's planning for the major Christian festivals of the year. At very short notice we put together a "do it ourselves" service which was a new experience but could stand us in good stead for next year.

Many thanks to the folk who have volunteered their services to the church.

We now need a Church Safeguarding Officer, a JMA organiser, more stewards on the rota, welcoming at the door, helping with the sound, counting collections and reading during the services and a few people to clean or tidy specific areas when necessary.

Many thanks to Kate for her leadership and support for the many difficult decisions that have had to be made during this year. We wish her well in her new circuit and may God be with her in everything she does.

Sue Hardy

3) Finance

Treasurer's Report

The audited accounts for the year ended 30th September 2017 are as printed in the Directory. These show that on the General Account expenditure exceeded income by £2,483 and on the Redevelopment Fund by £11,500. The deficit on the General Account is accounted for by the fact that most of the cost of renovating the Hall came from this account and not the Redevelopment Fund.

For the current year the indications are that our income will be similar to last year. On the expenditure side, however, some items of cost will increase significantly. These are - the Circuit Assessment by at least £2,500, energy costs by about £1,000, and a known unknown for expenditure on the Mission initiative which could run into 4 figures in a full year. Maintenance expenditure is expected to fall (as the expenditure on the Hall will drop out this year) so we are likely to avoid a deficit.

We have adequate reserves at present but we must be mindful that we cannot take on costly commitments without thought as to where the money will come from. Last year our outgoings, excluding the redevelopment project, amounted to about £1,000 per week. Our main source of income is through the collection so I would appeal to those who have not reviewed their giving for some time give this their consideration. We operate the Gift Aid scheme and this gives us a valuable source of income from refunded tax that we could not do without (in excess of £9k this year), so please think about joining this if you have not already done so.

Redevelopment Fund.

We began the year with a balance of £25,420 in hand. Since then we have received £506 and spent £5,586 on accumulated architect's fees. This reduces the balance to £20,340. We have an additional sum of £7,500 created as a property reserve some years ago so if this were included we would have a total of £27,840 available for future work.

Turney Bequest.

The Trust Deed determines that the first priority of the income is to defray the cost of maintaining the Trust properties and to cover all proper costs and charges for the management of the Charity. Any remaining clear income should be applied to the religious or charitable work of the Methodist Church and, in particular, support of Methodist Ministers.

The opening balance was £9,316 and income for the first 6 months of this financial year was £7,638. Expenditure to date is £6,661. We can expect a similar income in the second half year.

We have sent £1,000 to aid the Rohingya refugees and £1,000 for relief after the Caribbean Hurricanes. £2,000 has also been sent to the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. The rest of the expenditure was for property insurance and maintenance, audit fee, property agent's fees and postages, Bangor Street Pastors by provision of a uniform, and the Agricultural Chaplain's expenses.

We have an ongoing commitment to the Circuit of £3,000 and we can expect to be asked to continue to support the work at Penmaenmawr which it is hoped to expand to include Llanfairfechan (£2,000 in each of the last 3 years). The Council have also agreed to donate £750 towards the cost of the 'Listening Ear' mission project. There will be ongoing costs for the Agricultural Chaplain, property repairs, and the property agent in the remainder of this year.

Michael Cooper

4) Property

July to December 2017 - Maintenance Work and Fire Protection Works

Since the last ACM, the water-damaged smoke detector on the landing in the Church has been replaced; a faulty emergency light at the foot of the stairs was replaced under warranty; an additional break-glass call point has been installed in the main entrance to the Church; and Fire Action notices have been fitted near all manual call points in both Church and Hall. A fire document box (containing relevant essential documents) and a framed fire zone plan have also been installed near the Church fire alarm panel.

The fire alarms in both the Church and the Hall continued to be tested on a monthly basis.

Decoration of the damp-damaged walls in the Vestry was carried out as a temporary measure prior to its use as the craft room during the Holiday Club.

At the end of September, a rodent problem was discovered in the Beavers Storage Cupboard in the Hall, which had to be resolved urgently. The culprit was effectively dispatched, but unfortunately the complete contents of the tightly packed cupboard had to be disposed of and some of the damaged timber had to be replaced before painting it internally.

The On-line Church return for the year ending 31st August 2017 was submitted on 14th December, following approval at Church Council.

Mike Heslop
Retired Property Steward

December to May 2018.

During January the fire alarm system and fire extinguishers were tested and approved. In February all the electrical items were PAT tested and have been approved.

During April a Beech tree had to be cut down due to it being diseased and came with a warning from Gwynedd Council that it was dangerous.

A new vacuum cleaner was purchased to replace to old one.

Paul Eckersley

5) Refurbishment

No report received.

Martyn Boyce

6) Safeguarding

No report received

Debbie Jones

7) Mission

Singing for Fun

The Singing for Fun group has grown in strength over the year and has provided musical fun and fellowship for all who have attended. The group has contributed to several services, musical events and the pantomime.

Burning Questions 10-11th 2017

This was such a success last year that we've decided to go ahead and do it again, this time in the form of Hopes and Dreams, 9-10th June 2018.

Uniformed organisations

I have been to several sessions with the uniformed organisations which meet on our premises and was invited to do the faith badge with the Beavers. We have also had several services which the uniformed organisations have participated in and I continue to work to strengthen these relationships.

Messy Church

We have held Messy Church roughly every other month for the last year. Whilst the first session saw around 40 of us joining together for fun, messy fellowship, we have struggled to get those numbers since – however, those who have attended have had a great time. We shared a really good time when we took Messy Church to Rainbows and Brownies and we are currently looking at how we can build on this moving forward.

Mission initiatives

In January I presented four new mission initiatives to the church. These were:

- Soup runs for the homeless
- Toddler group
- Listening ear
- community engagement

There was a great response and I am currently looking at starting the two which have the most support with volunteers. These two are the soup runs for the homeless and the listening ear service.

Soup runs for the homeless

All risk assessments are now complete and I am currently making sure everyone has had the necessary safeguarding training and have been DBS checked. I have secured finance from the Church Council and ordered the start-up equipment and hope to have the project up and running by July.

Listening ear

Again, all risk assessments are now complete and I am making sure that all who have volunteered for this have had the necessary safeguarding training and have been DBS checked. I have also been looking into booking training for the volunteers and have decided on a Samaritans Course called 'Conversations with vulnerable people'. I have secured £750 from the Church Council and £200 in donations from the congregation to finance this course. I will need a further £450 to book it. Timescale for this project depends on finance and availability of dates from the Samaritans, but all else is ready to go.

Bangor homelessness

I have joined a focus group which has the support of Cytûn which is looking at the issue of homelessness in Bangor. It is very early days, but it is hoped that we will be able to look at providing some sort of shelter during the winter months. I have also been meeting with members of the local housing association, St Mary's hostel and Abbey Road centre who are hoping to open a daycentre in Bangor to meet many of the needs for the homeless in Bangor.

Sarah McDonald-Howard

8) Cradle Roll/Baptismal Roll

There have been no baptisms during the past 12 months. The children of families who have signed up to the GDPR for inclusion in future church directories will receive birthday/anniversary of baptism cards.

Margaret Moon

9) Music

Singing is a huge part of life at St John's. During the year there have been numerous compliments on the congregational singing both from visitors and regulars, and positive comments on the willingness to 'have a go' when a completely new hymn was requested within the service a few weeks ago.

The Singing for Fun evenings are very enjoyable and lively, led with great gusto by Kate. Thank you for it all – from 'Aladdin' in January, to 'Hopes and Dreams' coming on June 10th, and the wide variety of songs in between, some of which have been a part of Sunday services.

A small 4-part choir sang during the Carol Service and Easter Sunday evening Songs of Praise.

Not many churches have a rota of organists – we welcome Rosemary to the team, now 5, and with another who would consider playing in an emergency. Occasionally other instrumentalists have played in worship. The variety of styles is much appreciated.

Notes on the copyright licences for St John's are on notice boards in church. Please read through them and if anything applies e.g. background music at a coffee morning, material

copied for use on the premises, PLEASE send me any relevant information so I can keep our reporting up to date and fulfil our legal requirements.

Margaret Moon

10) Flowers

The flower committee would like to thank everyone who has arranged the flowers and also for those who have donated money for flowers. Volunteers are always welcome to join us!

Jackie Cooper

11) Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle is now only meeting on an ad hoc basis.

We are continuing to provide the Christmas shoe boxes at our October meeting and are grateful for the invaluable support from Church members for the box contents and for the monetary contributions to pay towards the cost of sending the sixty boxes abroad.

We had a very enjoyable evening after Christmas with a lovely supper.

In April we enjoyed a visit to Benllech to see the production of "Singing In the Rain".

Jackie Heslop

12) EWOT Fellowship

In the mission life of the church, all at EWOT - "Everyone Welcome on Tuesdays" (once known as St John's Women's Fellowship) hope that our meetings provide an opportunity for people to rest, recharge their batteries and be inspired, in good company, on alternative Tuesday afternoons. We would like to stress that our meetings are open to men and women and young people of all ages!

We continue to support the work of other churches in the circuit so our programme started in Sept with a visit to the opening First Tuesday concert in Penmaenmawr. The programme included Revd Ken Sykes continuing his life story, Revd Kate McClelland talking about her healing ministry and her trip to Iona, Jeannie Hatton on her work with VSO in West Africa, Carol Brown on the Benllech Melody Makers, and Rosemary Nunn telling us her story.

Just after Christmas, we enjoyed having dinner together at Caernarfon Golf Club once again. Delicious - again!

Meetings later in the winter were hampered by bad weather, but among those which did run were a visit to the Llanfairfechan Church's Zumba group, Joy Ostle on the history of her home, Sarah McDonald Howard on the way forward for St John's mission work, Revd Kate McClelland reporting on her sabbatical and Anne Jackson telling us about the Bible Reading Fellowship's latest ministries.

One of the most unforgettable experiences was caused by the bad weather when in a change to the programme, Rosemary Nunn gave a very witty presentation entitled, "Slugology, a Christmas story about slugs"!

As we extended our programme this year, we have not yet held our AGM when we decide on summer outings but watch the notices for news!

Our thanks again to all the people kind enough to host our meetings and/or come to talk to us. Our fellowship with each other is enriched as a result.

Special thanks to Jean Owen, who composes our inspiring programme of activities, to Margaret Jones, our treasurer, who keeps us in the black, and to Sue Hardy our birthday secretary who does sterling work, which is much appreciated by past as well as present members. Our thanks also to the drivers who provide lifts.

We thank God that we have enjoyed much fun and Christian fellowship this last year. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to anyone, male or female, who would like to join us, fortnightly on Tuesdays. Lifts to meetings can be provided.

Ellie Jones

13) Christian Aid

Unfortunately, the timing of the Church Meeting this year, means that Christian Aid week is still in progress as this report is being written. However, I report that a number of people from St John's (supplemented by a couple of doctoral students) won the Quiz this year, to be rewarded with a second hand soft toy each. The opening service and lunch were very well attended and over £450 was raised. The Big Brekkie in Caffi Deiniol attracted a number of people who were just passing and noticed that the cafe was open, giving us the opportunity to chat to them and talk about the work of Christian Aid, as well as offer breakfast to some people who might otherwise not have eaten so well that day.

I would like to pay particular tribute to the small band of dedicated individuals, who have supported the events and also collected from house to house and taken part in the Street collection, and thank Norma Caughter for her help with organising the St John's contribution to Christian Aid week this year, as Peter Thorpe has taken over from Anne Jackson as Bangor Coordinator.

Jean Ware

14) Pastoral

All our Pastoral Visitors are as listed in the directory.

Those who attended the Covenant Service were commissioned by Reverend Kate McClelland and directories and membership cards were given to each Pastoral Visitor.

This year of Data protection, a slip was included with each directory, asking members to complete for the purpose of inclusion in the future directories.

Those who have ceased being a Pastoral Visitor, Carol and Jeff Gough, who have moved and we wish to thank them for their support.

A number of non-attendee members are contacted by Jean Owen, by a phone call and kept within the Church family network. This is close to the weekly Prayer Group held on a Friday, and up to date information is available. Prayer cards are sent from this group to any members who are hospitalised, or unwell or bereaved.

Sally Boyce

15) Traidcraft

Fairly Traded goods are on sale in the Hall every Sunday morning. Sales of £200 are achieved most months. St John's is now using fairly traded cleaning materials as well as tea or coffee.

Have a look in the Traidcraft spring catalogue to make sure we are stocking the goods you need. The new range of fancy goods includes hand painted planters made from recycled tyres. Fancy goods can be ordered through Sue. My thanks to Sue Eckersley for running the stall and Howard Jackson for dealing with the end of month settlements.

Anne Jackson

16) World Church

No report received.

Stephen Jones

17) JMA

No report received.

18) Cytun

We undertook 6 regular activities (A) and organised 10 separate events (E):

A1 Street Pastors

Since 2010 teams of 4 trained volunteers from our Churches have patrolled Bangor streets from 22:00 to 04:00 every Friday and some Saturdays; and given pastoral care & practical help to people on the streets; a prayer pastor supports them and provides refreshments. During 2017 we delivered 70 patrols, helped 631 people, and gave them: 313 pairs of flip-flops, 148 warmers, blankets and ponchos; and 97 bottles of water. These figures are lower than in previous years, suggesting that people are looking after themselves better. We organised 6 training courses and commissioned 5 new pastors to replace those who retired, thus maintaining the number of trained volunteers at 26. Information about becoming a pastor from Paul Rowlinson via bangor@streetpastors.org.uk or (01248) 605365.

A2 'Agor y Llyfr' and 'Open the Book'

This is a 3-year programme of dramatised Biblical storytelling developed by the Bible Society for primary schools. Across the UK teams of Christian volunteers use drama, mime, props, costume, children and staff to present Bible stories. During 2017 4 teams told Bible stories in 4 local schools – 2 weekly & 2 fortnightly. One team works in Welsh, two bilingually, and one in English. Volunteers to join these teams are always welcome. The most urgent need is for a convener to lead the new team at Ysgol y Faenol. Information from Jennifer Roberts via rbrjn5@aol.com or 07 717 754 194.

A3 'Y Cam Nesa' and 'It's Your Move'

Each year we present 180 children graduating from primary schools in Bangor with booklets from the Scripture Union to guide them from primary to secondary education – 'It's Your Move'

in English or 'Y Cam Nesa' in Welsh. In 2017 Dean Kathy Jones of Bangor Cathedral presented books at 3 leavers' services; & we distributed books to the other schools.

A4 Wales Nation of Sanctuary (WNOS)

In April the Welsh Areas of Sanctuary launched Wales Nation of Sanctuary (WNOS) to help the Welsh Government (WG) apply the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to people seeking sanctuary in Wales and maximise the benefit to them and their communities. Though WG provide refugees with sanctuary and essential services, the UK Government is directly responsible for those refugees.

Against this background Cytûn Bangor adopted the pledge: "We support the vision of NW Wales as 'Area of Sanctuary', welcoming those fleeing persecution in other countries. We recognise the contribution to NW Wales of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. We are committed to take practical steps to welcome them and include them in our activities." Information from Ian Russell via i.t.russell@swansea.ac.uk or 07 775 997 824.

A5 Refugees

Five Syrian refugee families have arrived in Bangor. We work closely with: Gwynedd Council, who provide housing for them; the social worker & interpreter appointed to support them; and Supporting Refugees. To complement the basic grant from HM Government, we have created a support fund and provided household items for all the families. All are making excellent progress, especially at school and in language classes at Coleg Menai.

A6 Communication

We maintain a website; and advertise in North Wales Calendar of Christian Events and local press, both English & Welsh. In September we distribute cards detailing all Sunday services, mainly through the University Freshers Fair. At Christmas we distribute Christmas cards specifying seasonal services, mainly through our carol singing. At Easter we distribute Easter cards specifying seasonal services, mainly through our Good Friday Walk of Witness.

E1 Christian Aid Week from Sunday 14 May to Saturday 20 May 2017

Including Gift Aid we raised £7245, very similar to 2016. Most came from the collection from house to house, conducted by 90 collectors from all member Churches. We complemented this by: introductory quiz night at Penrallt Baptist Church; service and lunch at Capel Berea; 'Big Breakfast' at the Christian Aid Office in Bangor; street collection in Bangor city centre; and coffee morning at Friends Meeting House. We are especially grateful to Anne Jackson, who has retired after many awesome years as Christian Aid Organiser. Information in future from Peter Thorpe, the new Organiser, via Peter.Thorpe@gulmay.com or (01248) 351723.

E2 General Election Hustings on Saturday 3 June 2017

Following postponement in recognition of terrorism in Manchester, 4 candidates and nearly 40 electors attended these hustings in the Bangor City Council Chamber, chaired by Bishop Andrew John and translated by Paul Rowlinson of the Church of Our Lady & St James.

E3 Pentecost Praise on Sunday 4 June 2017

Following a 'bring and share' picnic tea on the Cathedral Green, about 80 celebrated Pentecost in a lively service in St Deiniol's Cathedral, addressed by the Revd Aled Edwards, Chief Executive of Cytûn Cymru, and accompanied by Penrallt Baptist Church Band.

E4 Praise on the Pier on Sunday 9 July 2017

In fine weather more than 60 attended this vibrant celebration, led by Mark King and Ruth Godding of Bangor Community Church and Capel Berea Newydd's childrens choir.

E5 Bangor Carnival on Saturday 15 July 2017

We erected and resourced a Cytûn gazebo alongside the route of the procession down Bangor High Street, thus enabling Bangor Street Pastors to showcase their work.

E6 Reformation Day service in Bangor Cathedral on Tuesday 31 October 2017

Led by Dean Kathy Jones, we celebrated the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 theses, using the inspiring liturgy developed by Cytûn Cymru for the national celebration in Cardiff. Most member churches contributed and 80 worshippers filled the choir of Bangor Cathedral.

E7 Christmas Carol Singing on Friday 15 December 2017

We sang carols at Morrison's supermarket, led by Anna Jane Evans of Christian Aid and Gwyneth Brindley of Penrallt Baptist Church. We raised £72 for Christian Aid.

E8 Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity from 18 till 26 January 2018

Following the theme 'That All May Be Free', we held services at: Eglwys Emaus (including the commissioning of new street pastors, recognising that they represent member churches working in unity on the streets), Capel Berea Newydd and the Church of Our Lady & St James. We also held a Day of Prayer for Our World in a vacant unit of the central Deiniol Shopping Centre. Total attendance at these 4 events exceeded 150.

E9 Walk of Witness and Passion Play on Good Friday 30 March 2018

In dry conditions 80 processed from the first act of the Passion Play (directed by John Nunn) inside Bangor Cathedral, paused on the Cathedral Green for the second act, and concluded on Debenhams' plaza with the Crucifixion as final act and address by Canon Nathan Jarvis.

E10 Dawn Service on Easter Sunday 1 April 2018

On a sunny morning about 50 climbed to the Roman Camp above Bangor to celebrate the Resurrection, supported by musicians from Penrallt Baptist Church, where we breakfasted.
Ian Russell (Secretary; email i.t.russell@swansea.ac.uk; text & mobile 07 775 997 824).

19) Uniformed Organisations

7th Bangor Brownies

Another busy year. Many badgers have been achieved, Number Fun, Home Skills, Communicator, Hobbies and Fire Safety, including a visit to Bangor Fire Station.

Brownies have enjoyed a Glow in the dark evening and an Indian themed evening, a slime night and of course a Christmas party and a visit to the pantomime at Venue Cymru which this year was Peter Pan.

They have made edible sparklers, done some apple bobbing and had hot chocolate and smoares. They have had a Christmas sleepover, made a Mother's Day collage and had a Thinking Day ceremony. At Easter time they had an Easter egg competition and made Easter cakes.

The Brownies have New Zealand pen pals with whom they have communicated via letters and email. They did a sponsored walk to Aber Falls in support of Water Aid and raised £532.61. Finally they have been delivering anonymous plants to people in the community who need cheering up.

This year they will be celebrating 75 years of Brownies and are raising money to go down to London.

As usual a very busy year with things to look forward to during the next 12 months.

Wendy Moore

Rainbows, Beavers & Scouts

No reports received.

20) House Groups

No report received.

Jean Ware

21) Sunday Club/Summer Holiday Club

Sunday Club continues each week at St Johns and is very much appreciated by Orion and Grace who are occasionally joined by other children. We continue to use the "Roots" material. Thank you to all who help with this work.

2017 Children's Holiday Club was a great success. We used the Scripture Union Resources " Guardians of Ancora " which is also a children's computer game in which the children have adventures following Jesus .The Friday evening Celebration was well supported and families were made aware of the children's activities here at St Johns.

The 2018 Children's Club is being planned for July 23rd to 27th.

Thank you to St Johns for supporting this outreach both financially and by your prayers

Sue Eckersley

22) Street Pastors

Included in Cytun Report

23) Prayer Group

Thanks to all who come to share the concerns and needs of the church and the wider world. We believe that the bedrock of all mission and progress are the prayers of believers. We meet every Friday for the whole year, at 10am till 11am, to share, not only our concerns, but those of anyone who requests prayer back up, whether for themselves, for friends, or news stories.

We always pray for each preacher planned for the following Sunday, and for the congregations they will minister to. Anyone is welcome to come and join us, even just for a short time, if they

wish. We are not an exclusive group. We believe that as we agree together in prayer, mountains are moved.

The extension to this is the group who volunteered to be intercessors when we shared the day of challenges to our congregation. Requests for healings are sent out to them for private prayer at home. If there is anyone else who now would like to intercede on another person's behalf, please contact me to become part of the group.

Again, thank you to the whole church for the opportunity to make a difference.

Jean Owen on behalf of all intercessors.

24) Open The Book

St John's supports two Open the Book teams who each week take a dramatized Bible story into a local school. An ecumenical team goes into Hirael School every Friday morning and a Methodist team goes into Glan Cegin, Maesgeirchen each Monday lunch time. Help is needed by the Glan Cegin team to make a few children's tabards.

If you would like to join one of these groups please let Jean Owen or Howard Jackson know

Anne Jackson

25) Action for Children

By July 2017, 6 shop collecting boxes and 15 lanterns were distributed. When these were collected, ready for Action For Children Sunday, the total was £518.67. Monies from envelopes and cash donations amounted to £37.30 and a cheque for £100 was donated from the Church Benevolent Fund. Two lanterns were returned later containing £49.21.

In October, £58.16 was collected and handed to me in a shop collecting box.

Our Christmas collection, which included money from the collecting plate, envelopes and a top up from the Church Benevolent Fund amounted to £256.06.

In January, proceeds from the Church pantomime were kindly given to me for Action For Children and after Christmas I received a "Charities Aid Foundation" cheque for £20.

The total sum of money raised between May 2017 and May 2018 is £1154.40. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Charity this year.

Norma Caughter

26) Methodist Women Britain

The main event for this are the Easter Offering Services and collection, which is for the World Church. The only one we have in the year, which is always planned for Palm Sunday. The service of dedication last year was at Amlwch, very well attended, and we shone like

stars. This year's is on May 25th, and will have already taken place when you read this report.

Llanfairfechan have invited us to join them at 10.30 that Friday. The theme is "Seek peace and pursue it". One of the stories to be shared is from Rev John Howard. We will have explored the theme in various interactive ways, building a bridge of hand prints, moulding clay into symbols of peace, and writing an acrostic on the word: PEACE. All are made welcome, to share songs and prayers and intercessions for a change in the world.

There was an Advent day of sharing last November, and the next one is to be held at St. David's Church, Craig y Don, Llandudno, on 24th November. The theme will be decided at the next District meeting.

Thank you for your support for this important outreach.

Jean Owen

27) MHA

MHA is now the largest employer of music therapists working with people living with dementia. It is having great effect for them and their careers. As our production of Hopes and Dreams is taking place the same weekend as MHA Sunday, it was decided to have a "bring and share" afternoon tea with entertainment on Saturday 10th June 2018 at 3.30p.m. to raise money for the appeal.

Sue Hardy

28) University Chaplaincy

I continue to set up on campus in the various catering outlets (as we do not have a formal base on campus) and have formed some good relationships with lecturers who continue to steer students to me when they are judged to be in need of extra support. I am continuing to support various societies as and when they need me.

In November 2017 I set up a Student Bible Study group which meets on the first and third Sunday evening of every month during term time. There are five of us that meet together, first sharing in a meal and then a time of Bible study and prayer. Two of the students have cooked their favourite foods for us to enjoy. It's a really nice evening and is perfect for getting to know the students better. We are in the process of becoming a recognised MethSoc which carries with it certain benefits at the university.

Student supported to travel to the Holy Land

In February, thanks to financial support given by St John's, one of the students in our Bible study group was able to visit the Holy Land and participate in a study tour, *Christians living in the Holy Land*, led by Rev John Howard. Laura found this trip both educational and spiritual and has been deeply touched by the experiences of many Christians in the Holy Land.

Chaplaincy Team lecture

This year the Chaplaincy Team hosted Glynn Harrison MD FRCPsych for their annual lecture in March. Glynn is Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, University of Bristol, and formerly a

consultant clinical psychiatrist. The lecture was well attended, with well over a hundred people joining together to hear the talk titled *Identity and the Cliché at our Core: is contemporary individualism doing more harm than good?*

Together we explored the question of human identity and what it means to be 'me'. Glyn rounded off the evening by putting this into the context of Christian faith and answering some interesting questions from those in attendance.

Student Mental Health Strategy Group

I have joined the Student Mental Health Strategy Group at the university as a representative of the Chaplaincy Team. This has strengthened my understanding of the need for a Listening Ear service in the area and will feed into the mission work of St John's.

University Restructure

The university has been making big changes to the way it is structured. This has had an impact on many staff and there were 30 members of staff still 'un placed' in February. The Chaplaincy Team have provided, and continue to, support staff through these changes and the rest of this academic year will be a transition year.

Industrial Action

This year has seen industrial action at the university which has impacted staff and students. The Chaplaincy Team supported staff and students during the strike and continue to support those with ongoing concerns.

Methodist Higher Education Chaplaincy Group (MHECG)

In July 2017 I was elected onto the MHECG which aims to support Methodist HE chaplains across the UK and acts as a link to the Connexion. I am currently helping to plan a 24 hour refresher course for Methodist Chaplains which will be held in July at Cliff College. The theme is the development of reflective practitioner skills via the use of story and narrative.

Sarah McDonald-Howard

29) Notices & Church Web Site

I am very grateful to all the people who send me notices for inclusion in the weekly Notice Sheet. Without your help there would be a lot of blank space and many people lacking vital information. I send out the Notice Sheet by email each week and print enough copies for people attending church without email.

The Website exists both for members' benefit and for visitors to the area to know where St. John's is located, what we do and what is happening in the week. The site also has the current Preaching Plan and adverts about coming events.

Church Website address: www.bangormethodistchurch.org

Howard Jackson

30) Singing for Fun

A random group of singers join together to enjoy all kinds of music. Lots of fun and laughter, especially when we get it wrong. Kate conducts to backing tracks, and we were the musical sound track to Burning Questions last year, and the pantomime which Kate had written. This January we put on two performances of Aladdin, to full houses. The "choir" sang in between acts, songs from shows etc., which echoed the theme of the pantomime.

We are producing "Hopes and Dreams" in June, just before Pentecost. This will be part of worship, and all the singers are practicing with Kate's guidance. Margaret Moon will be the accompanist for this. Grace is opening with a solo called "Timeless".

We have sung at one or two services too.

We meet usually once a month, and really enjoy a different kind of music. We are hoping to continue after August, with everyone welcome. You don't have to be a clever chorister to join, just come and enjoy the fun. It really is as it says on the tin: "Singing for Fun".

Jean Owen

31) Solid Rock Coffee

Most Friday mornings we meet from 11a.m. for coffee, tea and other refreshments. Usually there is a chance to play Scrabble. Come and challenge David Good, or learn how to play if you don't already know!

A large banner on the railings outside invites people in and invitations are sent regularly to the residents of Uxbridge Court and Y Gorlan.

We are hoping to extend this time to include a light lunch. Sue Hardy would welcome anyone who feels they would like to help in this outreach to the community. St. John's wants to be a point of contact for more passers-by!

Jean Owen on behalf of the Jacksons, Sarah, and Sue Hardy.

32) Cathedral Food Bank

To make it easier for people to donate to the Cathedral food bank we are now able to take gifts left in the box in the church porch to the Cathedral on your behalf.

Anne Jackson