

Bangor and Holyhead Circuit News.

Business as usual! Kate may have left but the work still goes on. She showed us how to be a mission circuit and it is for us to see it continues. The life of our circuit simply has to be based on mission so all five churches need to push forward with mission plans. Rev. John Howard will be giving us 25% of his time so we have to work hard to fill the remaining 75%.

2019 Stationing is now my priority. The profile has been done and the Circuit Stewards will be talking to the Synod Chair about profiles of possible ministers. The manse has to be sold in order to buy a replacement. This is just a small part of our heavy workload this Connexional year.

Pray that we succeed in our efforts to take the circuit forward in the name of Christ.

Keith Alexander: Circuit Meeting Secretary.

Welcome Service for Superintendent Minister.

The service to welcome Rev. John Howard and his wife Mary to the circuit is on Friday 31st August at 6 p.m. at St John's, Bangor. There will be a "bring and share" finger buffet tea in the hall at 5 p.m.

All welcome.

Avoid parking in Lidl's car park.

MWiB News: A total of £600 from the circuit for World Mission was dedicated at the Easter Offering Service, led by Jean Owen, on 25th May at Llanfairfechan.

Advent Day on Saturday 24th November at St. David's Church, Craig y Don from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., including worship, puppets, Messy Church and afternoon tea. *Jean Owen: MWiB Circuit Secretary.*

Local Preachers' News: In the past few months, we have said goodbye to Jeff and Carol Gough, and welcomed Lesley Gillion. Lesley trained as a Local Preacher in Newport and Lower Wye Circuit and was recognised as a fully accredited preacher at St John's on 17th June. Sarah Macdonald-Howard and Julian Bonnebaigt are both doing the Worship, Leading and Preaching Course. This includes 'Explore Groups', in which Local Preachers support them in small groups exploring theology and leading worship.

Jean Ware: Local Preacher's Secretary.

Rev. John Howard will address Bangor Churches Together about his work as Methodist Mission Partner in Israel & Palestine in Bangor Cathedral at 7p.m. for 7:30 pm on Wednesday 26th September; Methodists especially welcome!
Ian Russell: Secretary of Bangor Churches Together.

The Bridge!

Autumn 2018

Dear Friends,

Many of you will have heard the joke, 'How many Methodists does it take to change a lightbulb?' Various answers are given. My favourites are: "How dare you change the light bulb - my grandmother donated it 50 years ago!" or "At least 15. One to change the light bulb, and three committees to approve the change and decide who brings the faith supper".

A bit unkind perhaps, but it does highlight the truth that many of us struggle with change.

When I was at college we said there were two groups of students. One group represented 'change equals chaos' and the other 'change equals improvement'. The truth probably lies somewhere in between. Change for the sake of change can bring chaos whereas needed change can bring improvement.

Once again our circuit is facing change and it's unsettling. Each of our 5 churches will be affected by the changes – some more than others, but we are all in a new place.

We don't quite know where the changes will lead. We don't know what to expect. Hopefully the changes will not lead to chaos! Whether they do or not is largely up to us.

If we are determined not always to be looking back but be ready to embrace the changes and grasp the opportunities they offer then we could all experience something new and positive. And that newness could be really exciting and enable us to be reinvigorated to do God's will and help us to advance his kingdom in this part of North Wales. So let's stay close to God and to each other. He will guide us and we will follow. As we do so we will be faithful to our calling and true to our commitment to love each other in a supportive and caring way.

God bless you all.

David Ray

Rev David Ray: Pastoral Minister.

News from the Churches.

St John's Church, Bangor.

Cytûn Bangor raised £5,470.13 in Christian Aid Week. St John's supported the many events and collected £412.82 House to House and £304.13 in donations.

We sponsored the Brownies' walk in support of Water Aid and collected for the school in Ethiopia which the Scouts support and visit.

The worship at Cytûn's Praise on the Pier included Welsh hymns sung by Berea's children's choir and the St John's drama.

£1197 has been raised for Action for Children through Lantern and other donations and a sponsored walk.

The children and leaders had a great time at Holiday Club as we learnt about working together in the Jesus Team through story, song, craft and games.

The excellent weather for the church picnic encouraged seven adults to go swimming in the sea.

At Kate's final service David Good was baptised and he and Joe and Judith White were confirmed and made members of the Methodist Church.

The success of Hopes and Dreams has encouraged Singing for Fun to continue to meet monthly starting on 11th September in preparation for the pantomime, Snow White and the seven Dwarves, planned for Friday 11th & Saturday 12th January.

Trial runs for Soup for the Homeless and training for Listening Ear volunteers has taken place in readiness for both projects being fully operational by the autumn.

Sue Hardy / Stephen Jones: Church Stewards.

Amlwch Church.

Thank you everyone who supported our Garden Party on Saturday July 21st. We raised £427 for the "All We Can" [Methodist Relief and Development] water project in Uganda.

Liz Jones: Church Steward.

Llanfairfechan Church.

Royce Warner has retired as our Lay Worker at Capel Zinc. We thank him for his care, attention and dedication to the church and its congregation. On Sunday 19th August we presented him with a card and a gift and wished him health, happiness and blessings in his retirement.

All are welcome to our Ploughman's Lunch on Thursday 20th September at 12:30. *Barbara Tottle: Church Steward.*

Holyhead Church.

We were encouraged to welcome three holiday visitors from Runcorn at our spring bank holiday service. They had found out about our service from the internet.

We look forward to working with Archdeacon Andy Herrick who has been appointed the Ministry Area Leader and Vicar of Bro Cybi.

Rev. Kate conducted a service of dedication for the new Pastoral Care Team on 17th June

On Sunday July 29th we had a farewell lunch for Rev. Kate.

"Open the Book" is going along well. We now regularly go into Cybi, LLanfawr, and Rhoscolyn schools.

Dorothy Roberts: Church Steward.

St Paul's Church. Penmaenmawr.

On Sunday 5th August St Paul's Church hosted the Circuit Farewell Service for Rev. Kate McClelland and Rebecca Miller and the tea that followed. Each church's contribution reflected the activities Kate introduced or encouraged. Tributes, gifts and good wishes were given to Kate and Rebecca.

We welcome Anita Warwick Jones as our new Youth Coordinator and wish her success in her new role.

Averil Bentley.

Methodist Conference.

Here are the highlights of the five-day conference. The new President, Michela Youngson, spoke with passion and conviction. You can watch a video of her opening address and leading Saturday's worship

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2018/> The dramatization the Valley of Dry Bones, rewritten by Michela Youngson is well worth watching.

The debate on marriage and relationships was truly inspiring because of the spirit in which it was conducted. Two people of opposite views conversed before the whole Conference; exposing the pain of disagreement and their future hopes. They showed respect for each other's integrity as Christians and a determination to try to help the whole church move forward together.

Another highlight for me was the presentation and lunchtime session run by MHA. In particular every home has a chaplain, and if needed also seeks chaplains of other faiths to make provision for all their residents. *Jean Ware: Lay representative for Wales.*

Contributions for Winter Bridge 2019 by 10th November please. *Anne Jackson.*