

St John's Church

On Action for Children Sunday 8th July a special collection was made which together with money collected in the AfC lanterns by supporters and shops raised £407. In addition Norma Caughter did a sponsored walk, raising £340.

At her last service, Kate baptised David Good and brought him and Joe and Judith White into membership of the Methodist church: a fitting end to her ministry in the circuit. At the end of August we welcomed Rev. John Howard and his wife Mary into the Circuit with a service at St John's.

At our harvest thanksgiving service £411 was given to "All We Can" the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. The gifts of tins and packets were given to the Cathedral Foodbank and the fresh fruit and veg was taken to St. Mary's hostel for the homeless to be used for their "Gateside" meals service.

Instead of a Hallowe'en Party we held a children's Light Party in which there were a variety of crafts, a short video and a party tea all to illustrate the theme "Jesus the light of the world".

A community Christmas event is planned for Saturday 8th December. There will be a toy sale or swap in the hall, so parents can save money and still give Christmas gifts to their children. Everyone will also be encouraged to visit the angel display in the church.

Throughout the autumn the "Singing for Fun" singers have been practising for our panto, "Snow White and the seven dwarves". Come and share in the fun on the Friday 11th January, at 7 pm and Saturday 12th at 6 pm. Come along and bring all your friends, and neighbours. The World Day of Prayer is held every year on the first Friday of March. This year the service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia with the theme "Come—Everything is Ready!" In Bangor the English service will be in Eglwys y Groes at 11am. *Sue Hardy & Jean Owen: Church Stewards*

St John's, Bangor.

At the Student Bible Study we have been pleased to welcome a few new members to the group this year. We are currently studying the letter of James.

For the launch of the Listening Ear Project on Saturday 17th November thirteen **postAproblem** boxes were distributed round Bangor. These were really well received and problems shared by members of the local community have been very honest and moving. People were invited to view the display and chat to our "Listening Ears" over refreshments. We plan to have a couple of "Listening Ears" on duty at all our events. *Sarah McDonald-Howard: University Chaplain*

The Bridge!

Winter 2019

Dear Friends,

I am having difficulty believing that Advent is about to begin. It means that I have been here now for a quarter of the time I will be - and that's frightening!! I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the churches and the people of the circuit. There is much to be proud of in the work and witness the churches and circuit makes, from the Youth Work at Penmaenmawr to the Soup Run in Bangor, not to mention the uniformed organisations and the fellowship of the five churches.

At the same time, as the body of Christ we are challenged never to be complacent; there is always much more to do in mission and outreach. We exist to be making a difference for Christ, to be agents for the building of God's Kingdom. Sometimes that building comes through specific pieces of work we do together but more usually it is through the impact God has through us, changing lives, inspiring faith, challenging injustice, comforting the disturbed and disturbing the comfortable.

The Christmas season offers opportunities and challenges for us. We are likely to have some new people coming over the Christmas period. Are we ready to welcome them, to help them feel at home and to want to come again? There will be people who we only ever see at Christmas, how can we deepen our relationship with them?

The story of Christmas has within it a wonderful message. God so loved the world that he gave his own Son. God incarnate, God living on earth and in doing so being with the ordinary people of his time. That same God is with us today, reaching out in love to each of us with that self-same openness to all. How can we hear this message again this Christmas? How can we share this message this Christmas?

May God bless us through Advent, Christmas and into the New Year.

John Howard.

Rev. John D. Howard: Superintendent Minister.

Llanfairfechan Church.

On Saturday 15th September, Sue Hardy and I, Circuit Stewards, travelled together to the Wales Synod in Newtown. We both found it a fruitful and enjoyable day.

Every other Tuesday at 10 am Rev. Ken Sykes leads our Bible Fellowship. The expanding group from Llanfairfechan, Bangor and Penmaenmawr enjoy the hour together.

On Friday September 28th our Macmillan Coffee morning raised an impressive £368.60.

During the autumn one person was baptised and together with four others was welcomed in to membership of the Methodist church.

Every Tuesday at 2:30 pm there is "Zumba Gold" for exercise and fellowship. On Tuesday 13th November we held a "Zumba Gold Party" in aid of Alaw Ward, Ysbyty Gwynedd. We were delighted so many came, many wearing pink. £155 was raised for Alaw Ward.

We continue to hold Ploughman's Lunches on every third Thursday of the month at 12:30 pm. [No Lunch on 20th December]

Geoff Tottle: Church Steward.



St Paul's Church, Penmaenmawr.

During the summer St Paul's held its third two-day Arts Festival providing a range of activities for all the community. The first day included a Messy Science session followed by a Big Art project on the second day.

We said farewell to Rebecca Miller at the end of August and wished her well as she started her teacher training.

Anita Warwick-Jones started in post as the Youth and Community Worker in September. Anita has been assisted by Dave and Prue, two friendly but rather naughty puppets.

All the regular activities are back on track after the summer break with lots of exciting things happening in our children's work. We are planning to hold Messy Church monthly.

In the last few weeks we have sadly lost three church members: Gordon Chamberlain, Jean Davies and John Bentley. Most folk will not remember Jean who had been housebound for several years but will have fond memories of Gordon's enthusiastic singing and John, our Church Steward's warm welcoming smile and legendary bow ties on a Sunday morning.

Heather Bonnebaigt: Church Steward.

From the Circuit Stewards

This is a particularly busy time for the Circuit Stewards. We have been perusing over 90 presbyter profiles in our search for a Superintendent Minister from 1st September 2019.

On Thursday 1st November we had a meeting with Rev. Dr Stephen Wigley to share with him our shortlist of names from the information provided. By the end of the meeting we had our final shortlist of five names.

Week commencing Monday 5th November sees the first round of stationing. You will be interested to know that our circuit has priority and the District Chairs will be working to provide a match. On Thursday 8th November the District Chair will call Keith Alexander to advise whether we have a match. If it is positive news, Keith will, the following day, call the minister involved and arrange a visit to the circuit. This is most likely to be around 16th November.

All five churches will be visited and senior members will be meeting the visitor. Following the visit the Invitation Committee will meet to discuss the visit and decide, on your behalf, whether to extend an invitation to the minister.

The next move is once again to contact the minister and advise whether an invitation is extended. We then await his/her answer
Keith Alexander: Circuit Meeting Secretary.

Amlwch Church.

In 2018 we planned to have two "Cafe Church" experiments in worship in the schoolroom. The first was on Bank Holiday Sunday in August and the next will be on December 30th at 11:10 am in the schoolroom, when the service will include making our own Christingles. Everyone who is not worshipping elsewhere is welcome to come and join in. The Christingle, which has been popularised recently by the Children's Society, was first introduced by the Moravians who influenced John Wesley and the early Methodists. *Liz Jones: Church Steward.*

Holyhead Church.

We had a lovely harvest service followed by a lunch in the church. This year we gave our gifts, of both tins and fruit, to Digartref the hostel for homeless young people.

Our Friday Fellowship came together to pack Christmas shoe boxes. We managed to pack 31 boxes this year. We will be taking part in St Cybi's Christmas Tree Festival again this year.

The Open the Book team has now gained entrance into a fourth school, Kingsland. *Dorothy Roberts: Church Steward.*