

Summer 21

CIRCUIT NEWS

CIRCUIT NEWS AND VIEWS FOR BANGOR & HOLYHEAD METHODIST CIRCUIT

THE MISSION OF THE BANGOR & HOLYHEAD CIRCUIT IS TO LIVE OUT GOD'S WORD AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST BY LOVING AND CARING WHOLEHEARTEDLY THROUGH SERVICE AND WORSHIP WITH FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND JOY FOR ALL THE CHURCH FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY.



Holiday Club

St John's in Bangor are once again running their Holiday Club, which has been very popular with families over the years. Lets pray they have a good turn out and lots of fun.

Clwb Gwyliau

dechrau:28/07/21 a phob dydd Mercher yn dilyn
starting: 28/07/21 and each following Wednesday

9.30 – 12.00

To register i gofrestru

sue.eckersleybangormethodist@gmail.com

Croeso i blant 4+ Welcome children 4+

Science

Gwyddoniaeth

Nature

Natur

Holiday time at home and away

Our holiday times have been very different this last couple of years. Here are some of the things we've got up to and what folk are looking forward to doing again when conditions allow.



Rev David and Liz Jones along with Priscilla have been hosting afternoon teas for All We Can.

Folk from across the circuit have been enjoying a tea time treat.



Keith Alexander from Amlwch tells us about Pauline and his favourite Spanish retreat

Pauline and I return year after year to an old Spanish farmhouse named Finca Manolo. It is 30 minutes from Malaga in the mountains. From here we have a 360 degree view of the surrounding mountains known as the Montes de Malaga. The community is called El Romo. We are surrounded with silence until a tractor drives up or down the adjacent lane. From time to time we drive 25 miles to a hypermarket called Eroski and top up with food and drink. Their deli counter is amazing with hundreds of Iberian hams, Spanish cheese, and at the end is a wonderful fish and seafood section. Prawns are Gambas, Sea Bass is Lubina and Sea Bream is Dorada.

We take our car on Brittany Ferries and then take 12 days to drive down to the south. The scenery changes from Alpine in the North to Olive Trees in the South with vineyards along the way. The photo shows how we like our retreat in Spain



Paul and I went to this beautiful thatched cottage for our honeymoon in Abbots Morton, Worcestershire. It is beautiful and peaceful, a perfect place to rest and let go of stress. It is in its own grounds, with beautiful walks all around, a lovely old church across the road and a congregation devoted to prayer. A real blessing and Hillers farm shop very near, by car, for all the provision that you need for self catering.

Jacqueline Davies



Holidays - John and Rosemary Nunn

For twenty years we used to navigate the canals of England and Wales at almost every opportunity. As a teacher I was blessed with long holidays (and yes, I did use some of that time in school and at home in preparation!) and with the boat based in Northwich, we reckoned to be on our way chugging down the cut within a few hours of term ending. I could feel my whole body relaxing as we drifted past herons on their beat, ducks, geese, swans and other water birds (have you ever fed a swan by hand? - Wonderful!) and been thrilled by the power in an adult swan's wings if it took off along side the boat. If lucky there would be the occasional (and elusive) kingfisher to spot and trying to guess how long a grebe would stay under water and when it would surface. Two facts about canals: firstly they take you to many spots in the countryside totally unreachable by any other method, except possibly a farmer's tractor, and secondly when passing through major conurbations you follow a green corridor with the city apparently remote. For example approaching Gas Street Basin, probably the centre of the Birmingham conurbation, its only for the last few hundred yards that you are surrounded by buildings. There is a railway line, though!



Photo, A quiet mooring on the Montgomery Canal

Holyhead Church have been back with live worship for a few weeks now. They have moved the service to the afternoon as they share the building with the Church in Wales. Here we see Kathy Taylor being received into membership, this was a very special day for Kathy and the folk in Holyhead



Calling ... By Julian Bonnebaigt

We hear it every day,
My wife calls me to dinner ... a nurse calls me to be bled,
The mundane, but sometimes important
calls in the world.

BUT...

What of God?

The still small voice in the background?

Easily ignored

Drowned out in all our busyness

The persistent, nagging feeling

That God

Has a job for me?

My 1st call – To Salvation

A cave entrance, quiet ... yet busy

in a place far from home.

FOLLOW ME? And I did, and I do ...

falteringly, imperfectly

often falling. failing

BUT ... Picked up gently, held firmly

Living in His grace!

My 2nd Call – To service

Long years of training, Learning to care,

To give my all to the sick.

The day to day routine of elective surgery

The quiet times with the dying

The joys and privilege of birth,

and the deep sadness of loss ...

Called to care, to share in Jesus healing ministry,

to kindness and gentleness ... reflecting His compassion.

Congratulations to Julian Bonnebaigt from

Penmaenmawr who has recently completed his local preacher training.

Julian had to do a range of work over the last 3 years including leading services, doing a number of learning modules as well as completing a range of assignments. These included dramas, essays, Newsletter articles, film reviews and a piece of art work. Included here is a poem that Julian wrote at the beginning of his journey .

Continued

My 3rd Call – To preach

No voice, No tap on the shoulder

just a series of coincidences (God incidences?)

A feeling, that there must be more.

A feeling I can do better?

The call of ... Scripture ... *“And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent?” (Romans 10)*

Throw away comments by others.

and again ... Scripture ... *“Here I am, send me” (Isaiah 6)*

A growing feeling of excitement as I talk to others ...

And now I start a journey -

A journey of discernment, of prayer, of listening, of asking...

Is this really your call Lord??

I wait patiently to find out ...

And to You -

who have followed my journey

through these words ...

To what does God

Call

YOU??

Pause:

There are many ways that we are called to serve within the Church

These include Chaplains, being a member of your local church, Mission partners, Stewards, Deacons, and Presbyters (ministers), Local Preacher, Worship Leader, Administrator, flower arrangers, welcomers, light bulb changers and many more. If you want to find out more about any of these roles why not talk to the leaders in your local church or follow this link to the Methodist Church website

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/vocations/lovethiscalling/>

The Annual Methodist Church Conference was held at the end of June into July. One of the topics the conference considered and made decisions upon was the God in Love Unites work which was all about Marriage and Relationships. These decisions have been hard to make and its important that as we go forward we understand that even across our circuit many folk hold very different viewpoints. Here is the press release from the Conference.

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Conference confirms resolutions on marriage and relationships

Following prayerful consideration by the whole Church, the Methodist Conference has voted to confirm provisional resolutions on the principles or qualities of good relating, [understanding of cohabitation](#) and [same sex marriages conducted on Methodist premises or by Methodist office-holders](#).

A report on marriage and relationships, '*God in Love Unites Us*', was received by the Conference in 2019 and the local District Synods were asked to consider the provisional resolutions and report back to [this year's Conference](#) which is being held this week in Birmingham. The Conference received a report on the results of the local conferring which showed that 29 out of the 30 Synods confirmed support for the provisional resolutions.

The Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Conference, prayed ahead of the main debate on Wednesday morning in Birmingham, asking that the Conference's "words may be imbibed with your grace, with tenderness from on high."

A range of views were expressed on the resolutions, in particular on cohabitation and same sex marriages. The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, spoke to the Conference acknowledging the "depth of feeling, pain and anxiety that there is" with a commitment to work across the Connexion with District Chairs to heal divisions.

Speakers called for unity going ahead irrespective of the decision. Other speakers spoke of the acceptance of diversity that younger Church members have for each other with younger speakers relating their own lived experience as Christians from the LGBTQI+ community. Another representative asked that the Church does not ostracise those who oppose the introduction of same-sex marriages in the Church, saying the great majority of these people are trying to be faithful to Scripture as they see it.

The Methodist Church included other denominations and Methodist Churches across the world in the process of listening and consultation, with written submissions from ecumenical partners to the '*God In Love Unites Us*' report and workshops with global Methodist partners.

Following the vote on the provisional resolutions the Revd Sonia Hicks said: "The debate today and our wider conversation has been conducted with grace and mutual respect. As we move forward together after this historic day for our Church, we must remember to continue to hold each other in prayer, and to support each other respecting our differences."

This letter was read out in Churches following the Conference vote but I thought people who read our newsletter would appreciate being able to see this again.

A pastoral letter from the President and Vice-President following the Conference vote on Marriage and Relationships

We wished to take this opportunity to write to you after the Conference voted on the resolutions contained in the marriage and relationships report.

We very much appreciate that these decisions will stir up many different emotions for our siblings across the Connexion. There will be some who will be deeply hurt and others who will rejoice by what has been decided.

Our Presidential theme this year is God's Table: An Invitation for All, and God's invitation is for every single one of us. The Methodist Church has held tension for many years and as a Church and a family, we must do all we can to live with contradictory convictions.

This work was first reflected on back in 1992 and we have been on this journey together since that point. During the past years we have continued to listen to and to pray for each other and remaining true to what God is saying to us. We must remember in all this, to continue to hold each other in prayer, and to support each other as we find a way forward, respecting our differences.

It is perhaps helpful to remember that there are other issues, some of them discussed at the Conference, on which we hold differing and sometimes strong opinions. We live with them and we do not allow them to impair our communion with each other. We respect each other's consciences, we exercise judgment in when to speak and when to be silent, and we hold one another in prayer. We do all this not for our own sake but for the sake of Christ and the sake of the world which urgently needs to know the power of Christ's reconciling love.

Our prayer for you, beloved siblings, is that in joy or sorrow, in pain or excitement, we might continue to live within that reconciling love.

The Revd Sonia Hicks
President of the Conference

Mrs Barbara Easton
Vice-President of the Conference

On the next page you will find a report for Jean Ware about the Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity which was also discussed at this years conference. Jean has been involved in this work

How to contact the editorial team:

Heather Bonnebaigt

Printing and Distribution Manger

Circuit Administrator

☎ 07944 006196

✉ Heather.bangormeth@gmail.com

Rev David Jones

Superintendent Minister

☎ 01407 831323

✉ davidb.jones@btinternet.com

CIRCUIT NEWS

We need you to help us to fill future editions of Circuit News. If you have any words of wisdom, jokes, pictures, stories you would like to share please send them to us.

Thanks to Rev Rosemary Nunn for acting as a proof reader for this and other editions of the Newsletter.

Feedback from Conference on the Strategy for Justice

On the final day of this year's Methodist conference, as the Conference Business digest says 'the Conference adopted a far-reaching Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity, which will see "a profound change in the culture, practices and attitudes of the Methodist Church". As it is rolled out, the strategy will support Methodists with issues of equality, diversity and inclusion, with the aim of becoming a Church in which God's unconditional love is expressed in word and actions and where all people are able to play their part.'

I have had the privilege of being part of the group which worked on the report, first as a member of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee and latterly as a member of the Inclusive Church Implementation Group (ICIG). Being a small part of that committee has certainly made me think long and hard about the assumptions I make and the language I use. We have heard account after account of people being discriminated against, or treated dismissively because of their gender or race or some other characteristic. It's also made me even more aware than I was before of that tendency for us all to have a mental picture of a minister, a steward, a pastoral visitor and to assume that anyone who doesn't fit that mental picture is unsuitable for the role. One thing the JDS strategy will seek to encourage is getting to know and celebrate the gifts of people who are not "like us" across the church; whether that is in terms of ethnic background, disability, sexuality, class, theology or anything else. I am excited by the vision of a church where all feel free to offer their gifts in the service of the kingdom, and where we learn more of God through encountering human diversity. I would like to encourage everyone to read the Strategy for Justice Dignity and Solidarity and reflect on what part we can play in making the vision it presents a reality in our churches.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/21966/conf-2021-56-strategy-for-justice-dignity-and-solidarity-working-towards-a-fully-inclusive-methodist-church.pdf>

Jean Ware