

June 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.

The alternative Garden Party

**You are invited to Afternoon Tea with
Rev David and Liz and Priscilla**

at 1 Bryn Goleu, Penysarn, Amlwch LL69 9YN

Numbers are very limited

Ring Liz on 01407 831323 to book, choosing
your dates

JULY

Mondays July 5, 12, 19 or 26

Saturdays July 3, 10, 17, 24 or 31

AUGUST

Mondays Aug 2, 9, 16 or 23

Saturdays Aug 7, 14, or 21

**There will be no charge, but donations to “
ALL WE CAN.”**

The Original date for a full Garden Party on July 10 has been cancelled
because of COVID. Sorry !

Please come 'cos it will force David to tidy the garden !

The Alternative Garden Party



Lockdown and back to church (buildings) again

Over the last 15 months or so we have all been on a journey in the way we worship. We have used a combination of ZOOM, Phone, Paper sheets, TV services and quite a few of us have been on virtual visits around the UK and further afield. Here are some peoples thoughts about what's been happening.

Jan Brightman from Llanfairfechan tells us about her experiences of Songs of Praise during lockdown.

Songs of Praise for me during the time of lock down, is a spring of living water. As we have thanked, praised, shared our stories, I have been renewed and refreshed. All so positive, and reassuring that God is in control, that Jesus Christ is Lord and putting our focus on Him and away from the focus on worries and uncertainty in these times where we have not walked before.

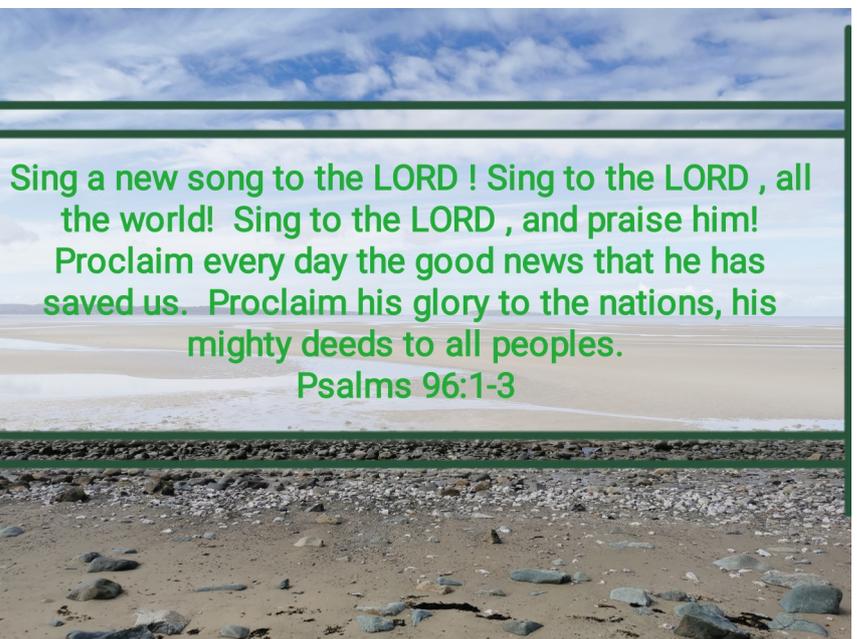
As we continue to praise and worship Him together, we find strength and support as His body.

We have welcomed people from across the circuit and from family from different parts of the United Kingdom on the first Sunday evening of each month. We have shared our favourite hymns and testimony. It has become a very special time when we can relax and share fellowship together. We may all be in our homes but it has become a very special time.

Lorna Sykes has also been joining with us on Songs of Praise and she has really enjoyed this and tells us that it has been really good to have new people join us who may have not been able to join in person. She says "As we look at each other on the screen and listen to people sharing its felt like we are getting to know each other better". Its been so good that so many people have been happy to share and join in. Thanks to the tech team for making it happen so smoothly.

Lorna was also back in church in person this last Sunday and says " although it was a little strange and we were unsure how to react to each other that soon passed". No hugs but distanced chats were enough to catch up and enjoy seeing each other in person again The best thing was actually being able to go physically to a place of worship.

**We are God's people
and that is what we do.**



Around the Circuit, Holyhead and Penmaenmawr were also back at the beginning of June, with St Johns having been back for a few months now.

Live Worship St John's

A bit like the curate's egg - good in parts but with some negatives. The good first. It has been a real pleasure to meet people in the flesh so to speak, even if socially distanced. Especially this is true of folk who don't join Zoom. The Holy Communion Services led by John Hughes have also been very special. On each occasion they have been a bit "different" apart from just the COVID restrictions. Who knew John had such a fine voice: quite unannounced and unaccompanied he used one of the communion hymns as an introduction to the sacrament. Additionally, so far anyway, the technology has worked perfectly whilst only being used within the building.

It has also been a pleasure to actually see and worship in our "new" church. It looks so much lighter and welcoming to me. However, this leads neatly onto the negative which is that worshipping at this time of year with the doors open ends up with a very cold Church. Our new heating system installed before COVID provides hot air blowers which are turned off before the service begins. In normal times this will heat up the building and the heat will be retained for the length of the service. However with both doors open



Live services at St Johns

St John's is currently holding live services on the first and third Sundays of the month.

To be sure of a place book on

contactstjohnsbangor@gmail.com

Hybrid Church from St Johns

We aim eventually to operate as a "hybrid" church zooming to those unable to attend.

We have to solve sound problems caused by an "echo" effect in the church.

"Work in progress".

St Paul's have now had 2 live services both of which were linked to a ZOOM congregation. This enabled people who are still wanting to be at home to join in. It was really lovely to be back in church sharing with other friends on ZOOM.

Here are some of the comments from the people on ZOOM

'The Service last Sunday went very well and it was great to see the inside of St Paul's. Mair Hobson'

'Great service, thank you for all the time and effort in making it work. Sound and video was perfect.'
Martyn Boyce

'It was just so wonderful to be in your church! On zoom, you managed and created an amazing feeling of togetherness, and it was all so clear.' Sally Boyce

Holyhead Methodist Church had their first service back in the building at the beginning of June. When I was talking to Rev Sue Altree about this she was really pleased that folk had come back after the long break. They are also using the grounds of a local café to have catch up and fellowship times and are enjoying catching up with each other.

They have also been busy during lockdown as well as continuing to connect for worship using the telephone services a number of the members made these lovely flower crosses over Easter.



carbon offsets and conscience

Colin Price

At a world forestry conference in Malaysia, back in 1993, I reported that the carbon emissions caused by all of us attending the conference could be compensated by planting about 2.3 hectares of forest. Members of the conference took interested note, thinking that this was quite an achievable action. However, I did mention further, that there were many thousands of conferences taking place across the world, and that there was not an infinite amount of afforestable land: eventually the scope for such compensatory planting can be exhausted. Specifically, by paying for forest planting to offset emissions, we may foreclose an option whereby *future* conscience-stricken air travellers could have financed tree-planting, to quieten their own qualms.

The key point is, that carbon storage is not simply cumulative between one cycle of forest growth and the next. When a forest area reaches maturity, biological processes continue, but the *net* carbon fixing drops towards zero. If a forest is felled and its carbon-dense products are utilised, the fixed carbon is released into the atmosphere, rapidly or slowly, by decay or combustion. *Additional* carbon is fixed when the forest is replanted, *only* to the extent that wood products from the first planting endure, or displace combustion of fossil fuels, or supplant materials – like steel and concrete – whose manufacture entails high carbon emissions.

It is not self-evident, either, that the sooner we use this limited carbon-fixing potential, the better it will be, in a context of deepening global climate crisis. Lasting benefit arises, not from the amount of carbon locked up in trees, but from reduction in CO₂ in the atmosphere. Because of interactions with the ocean and other terrestrial ecosystems, carbon uptake into trees, at a particular time, subsequently has an ever-declining net effect on the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Thus, forest carbon offsetting *might* be more valuable if it were retained for use at a later date, by which time the global cost of carbon emissions may have risen. I am currently writing an article about the difficulties this creates for the economic analysis of forestry options.

There are other processes, such as engineered carbon capture and storage, whereby the global cost of carbon emissions may fall, but the balance of factors is not yet determinate: we should not act as though it were. And, if immediate tree planting did turn out, on balance, to be beneficial, it would still be possible to pay for it, and at the same time not to fly so much.

I once asked an author of a paper that had advocated carbon offsets what the land to be afforested had previously been used for, and he replied that it was probably for peasant agriculture. And what would the displaced peasants do? Quite possibly, infiltrate the nearest natural forest area, destroy its store of carbon, and convert the land to food production. It is to be hoped that ethically driven tree-planting schemes would have provisions in place to avoid such unwanted knock-on effects. Still, it isn't as easy as we would like it to be. As for all the "manifold other benefits of forestry" which are routinely mentioned by proactivists, these too may have their negative counterparts.

[Believe me, I wish I could in conscience offer a simple message about this issue that everyone would love to hear, and that would make me a popular hero. But long years of searching have not found it. In the meantime, it is better to fly less often, drive fewer miles, turn the heating down and unneeded lights out. Then, just possibly, planting trees at present might buy us enough time to find a more permanent solution to the climate crisis, before the afforestable land runs out.](#)



The Pentecost Window



St John's had the privilege, and stress, of preparing the Pentecost Window in St Vincent's shop, on Bangor High Street, on behalf of Cytûn Bangor Churches Together. The first window shows Acts 2:1-4 with the text readable in both Welsh and English. The second gives information about the all the member churches and focuses on an invitation to the "Pentecost

Praise" Zoom service which is normally held in the Cathedral. *Anne & Howard Jackson and Sue Eckersley*



Letter from the Rev David and Liz Jones

On a cheerless day –

“Laugh and the world laughs with you
Weep and you weep alone.”



Liz’s grandad, who was a Methodist Minister, was a man of quotations and this he used most days. How true it is! In these strange times, I guess we’ve all had some time of crying, but Liz and I find ourselves laughing more and more.

Jesus had a great sense of humour- sometimes lost in translation from their culture to ours. There are a number of examples of Jesus’s humour and ‘over the top’ exaggerations-

What about the story of the person who is told to get the huge plank of wood out of his friend’s eyes before he can even see to get out the tiny speck of sawdust from his friend’s eye! what hypocrisy is in us sometimes!

Or the challenge to rich people- “ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” !

We didn’t realise that the parable of the king who lets off the debt of a servant 10,000 talents was actually talking about a debt of £ 200,000,000 ! – you can imagine the laughter about that and then the servant won’t let off his fellow servant a few denarii – actually a couple of pounds, and finishes up in jail. Jesus says, “This is how my heavenly Father will treat you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

Below are some wonderful children’s spelling mistakes during Scripture lessons sent to me by a friend on Facebook.

Here they are: -

“The seventh commandment is Thou shalt not admit adultery.

Solomon, one of David’s sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.

Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraction.

One of the opossums was Saint Matthew who was also a taximan.

Christians have only one spouse, this is called monotony.”

Keep laughing!! – Christians should be the happiest people on earth!

God Bless, Rev David and Liz Jones



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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.

Thank you to everyone for all your hard work getting churches opened, cleaning, running tech, preparing services and continuing to take part with on line, phone and use the paper worship sheets.

I thought it was a good idea to let you all know where things are up to across the circuit as everything seems to be changing as our churches are reopening for live worship across the circuit.

I think we should first of all give ourselves a round of applause. All our churches will be opened by the middle of June. This represents a massive amount of work for the teams involved in risk assessments, cleaning, planning and leading the services. I know for lots of folk last week was quite stressful but with God's help we got there. Thanks to everyone who was involved and those who took part in our services.

I also think it's a good time to summarise the arrangements for getting information to the various churches about the services and on-going planning. As well as our team of Supernumerary ministers working hard across the circuit and providing pastoral support etc each church has a named lead for preachers and others with general enquiries to contact. The names contact details are on the plan

The circuit is planning to continue with a mixture of Live, ZOOM, Paper and phone services over coming months and we trust everyone will find a form of worship that is meaningful to them. If you are wanting to come back to live worship and still feel a bit hesitant if you contact Heather Bonnebaigt or your minister we can find someone who you can chat to about it. It's quite normal to feel a bit anxious and you are not alone. Some people will not be ready to return yet and that's equally OK, go at your own pace.