

ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH, BANGOR

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Notices for week beginning Sunday 7th August

Reminder

This is the last set of full notices until Sunday 4th September. I will continue to send out the appropriate zoom link for the weekly zoom service and email out the paper service and post that to those of you who receive it by mail. Also any emergency messages will be sent out.

Worship

Worship at St John's

This is our Anniversary Service and is live only and will be led by Rev'd Nick Sissons. There will not now be a presentation from Action for Children but the service will be followed by the General Church Meeting. Bring a packed/picnic lunch. It is important that as many folk as are able, attend

M:APS Prayer time 10:00

We encourage everyone to join in to this prayer time. We are looking at the possibility of holding a second session at a different time but need volunteers to co-ordinate it. The zoom link is here:

<https://zoom.us/j/94322536249?pwd=WVRnQ1dTNepNaIVDdFhveUdhZDU2QT09>

Meeting ID: 943 2253 6249, Passcode: 854056

Sunday Worship from St Paul's Penmaenmawr at 11am

Preacher: Rev'd Joan Warner

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97553104781?pwd=WUk4bElIOctuWWVha0dQWThsQkxldz09>

Meeting ID: 975 5310 4781, Passcode: 081658

Paper Service Sheet

This has been prepared by Howard Jackson and can be accessed here:

www.bangormethodistchurch.org/Service%20Sheet%2007082022.pdf

This week

Prayers for the week 7 August 2022

World

- This week, protests in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) against the United Nations

peacekeeping forces turned violent. Local people are criticising the troops for doing little to stop armed groups carrying out attacks. As the protests spread to other cities, pray they will not escalate into fully fledged fighting. And pray for new solutions to tackle violence by armed groups, and for lasting peace in the DRC.

- More than 1,000 families are sheltering in an evacuation centre after a powerful earthquake hit the north of the Philippines on Wednesday 27 July. A local church – trained by Tearfund’s local partner, PHILRADS – was able to respond immediately and help those in need. PHILRADS is carrying out assessments so they can help target support at the most vulnerable. Thank God for the church’s quick response and pray for provision of people’s immediate needs.
- Parts of the capital city of Haiti – Port au Prince – are currently controlled by gangs. When opposing gangs fight for territory, entire districts can become inaccessible and dangerous, with people forced to move from their house and look for somewhere safer to live. Keep praying for the success of the training Tearfund is running with church leaders in conflict resolution and mediation, and that it will lead to lives being changed and an end to the violence.
- Pray for those displaced by world events; for those affected by wildfires and flooding in the USA; for those affected by the wars in Ukraine and Mozambique.

Action Prayer

Walk around your local area. Take note of what you see; jot down, sketch or take photos of places and people you want to pray for. Take a few moments to pray for them and their needs.

Church

- Pray for those in our congregations struggling with ill-health and facing hospital treatment; for those recovering from Covid and those who feel anxious about the Covid situation and struggling to resume social contact; for those who feel lonely and isolated. Pray that they feel strengthened, reassured and made aware that they are loved.
- Pray for the Church at Amlwch as it makes the transition to a church without buildings; give thanks for the new opportunities this has provided and the positive outlook of members of the congregation.
- Pray for the afternoon teas for All We Can at David and Liz’s house.
- Pray for the St John’s Holiday Club; for those leading and those children attending, that they will be blessed.
- Pray for St John’s AGM this Sunday; pray especially that important vacant positions will be filled and that decision making processes will be fully inclusive.

Heavenly Lord, weaver of life and cementer of relationships, we pray that you will weave us into your goodness and into each other.

Events

To all friends in the Circuit,

I am circulating here a letter of thanks from Jean Ware for a gift that I presented on your behalf at last weekend's service to mark her 50 years of Local Preaching.

As always Jean does not miss the opportunity to raise a pertinent question about how inclusive we are in our church gatherings and I hope we will ponder what she says.

With all good wishes,

Rev'd Nick Slssons

Jean writes *"This is just a note to say thank you to the Circuit for the gift of the book Women, Preachers, Methodists, which I received at the service last Saturday. As it's composed of conference papers I have started at the end, with the contributions about the situation now, and am working my way towards the beginning. There were certainly some formidable women preachers in the early days of Methodism! Those whose stories are recorded often overcame all sorts of obstacles, in order to answer God's call. One of the points I have found to be of greatest interest is that the early women preachers were mainly to be found amongst the Primitive Methodists and the Bible Christians, which the book suggests were essentially working class in origin. Sadly it also suggests that as the various branches of the Methodist church began to look for social respectability; women preaching was seen as less acceptable. It makes me wonder who we exclude today in order to conform to social norms or the expectations of our ecumenical partners."*

Jean

St. John's General Church Meeting: 12.30 pm Sunday 7th August 2022

All are welcome to attend this meeting.

Agenda

- 1 Conversation on the Ministry and Witness of the Church
- 2 Financial Affairs
- 3 Election of Church Stewards
- 4 Any Other Business (previously notified to the Minister)

Please bring lunch or a snack that can be eaten before or during the meeting. Any apologies should be sent to the minute secretary Della Fazey (email: della.fazey@btinternet.com Telephone: 01248 600226/07483 801584).

Chairs etc

Later this week a document will be circulated to those people on the current attenders list, with details of the deliberations of the Furniture sub-group – the group looking at chairs and tables etc for the church. Please look at this in advance of the meeting.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

St John's Methodist Church in Bangor is officially 147 years old on August 26th this year and therefore this Sunday's Anniversary service has a lot to celebrate, so please do come prepared to enjoy yourselves; we have much to be thankful to God for. I have invited Mr Mike Pilling to preach on this occasion. Mike is an Anglican Lay Reader, recently moved to Anglesey, who has been worshipping with us for some months now along with Allison his wife and it is a delight to ask him to address us on this special occasion. The theme he has chosen for the service will be 'Faith.'

Can I also ask you to bring something with you on Sunday? There are at least two songs that we want to sing with great gusto and with much attendant noise, so please see if you can find something to shake or bang or rattle and bring it to church with you. We are, in fact, trying to assemble a proper collection of percussion instruments that we can use during lively songs in worship and if you happen to have some such instruments at home that are redundant then we would love to receive them as special Anniversary donations!

Rev'd Nick

Pray for God's blessing on Holiday Club

We had a wonderful start at Holiday Club with 16 children joining us, several of them for the first time. We have had to change some of the dates. We are now meeting on Tuesday 9th August, Wednesday 17th August, & Tuesday 23rd August at 9:30am -12noon. Parents and friends are invited to join us at 11:30 am on Tuesday 23rd August for our final celebration followed by a light lunch for all.

**St John's Church Holiday Club
for children 4 years and over
at 9:30am till 12:00noon**

**REVISED
REMAINING DATES**

**Now on Tuesday 9th August
Wednesday 17th August
Tuesday 23rd August**

**Parents & friends are invited
to join us at 11:30 am
on Tuesday 23rd August
for a Celebration & Lunch**

Contact Sue on 0771 322 5028

No charge

Pastoral

From Jackie Cooper

We would like to thank all our friends at St John's for their messages of support and prayers at this sad time. Special thanks go to everyone who helped in any way with the delicious tea. **Jackie, Guy and Ellen**

News

Gift to All We Can from the Fair Trade Stall


The small discount received on orders from TraidCraft enables the weekly fair trade stall to make occasional donations to some of the charities supported by St. John's. This quarter, it is the turn of All We Can, the Methodist charity dedicated to relief and development projects in the third world, to receive our gift of £65.

See the All We Can Web site for details of their work: <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/what-we-do/>

Howard Jackson.

Please note the form for inclusion in the next church directory and the Treasurer's report for the General Church Meeting attached below.

CHUCKLE CORNER



'Dover tailbacks showing signs of improvement' say drivers joining in Aberdeen.

Zoom phone numbers for all connections:-

Use any of these and then use the relevant Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted.

Numbers:

0203 901 7895

0131 460 1196

0203 051 2874

0203 481 5240

0203 481 5237

Directory – and Data Protection

I would be grateful for your help in compiling details for the St. John’s Directory for 2023. It might seem a long way off, but it takes weeks and weeks for to-ing and fro-ing of getting it right before print.

I understand and welcome we have new Members and regular attendees who will not be already listed; which is purely optional and I am asking for permission to continue with all and those already listed, and also for the Office Pages.etc new posts .

Data Protection requires we have to sign each year for permission for all named entries; therefore please could you complete the form below and either send to me by post or sign electronically.

I do need these back by no later than August 8th, which will directly follow the AGM where there will possibly be several changes for the Office pages.

Thanking you for your help with this

Sally

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Data Protection Form for Directory Details submission

Full Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Email address.....

Telephone (include Area Code).....

Church Office Held..... eg Steward; , etc please see current Directory for the pages 1-6

This form will now include new office(S) held.....

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Signed.....

Treasurers Report to the Annual Church Meeting 10 07 22

- This has been my first year as Church Treasurer. It has been a rapid learning curve! Michael Cooper offered invaluable support and training for which I am extremely grateful . Eleanor Price has also been a great help .It has been a challenging year so far. The national financial difficulties have affected us all , and our church finances have not escaped .
- Our energy bills have increased rapidly . Last years accounts record gas expenditure as £1,232. So far this year we have spent £1,683.23 and still have bills for 3 months to come .
- It is clear that many people go above and beyond in their financial support of St John's . Thank you to everyone who contributes by standing orders which give us a reliable and steady income source . If you would like to take up this manner of payment please let me know .
- Our weekly income totals are currently down from last year . Thankfully there have been no major property issues in our newly developed Church which is a big relief .However we have needed new fire equipment from Snowdonia Fire Ltd and call outs when alarms have gone off . This is essential for safe functioning of the Church and Hall but impacts upon our finances .
- Can I also thank all those who have signed Gift Aid declarations . This is an extremely helpful source of income for the Church , over £9,000 this year. Even if you do not pay income tax we can still claim Gift Aid on donations under the “small gifts scheme “ .
- There are two imminent issues for us to face financially:
- Firstly , the need to employ a cleaner and pay the “living wage “ , in agreement with Methodist Policy .
- Secondly , the recommendations of the furniture group regarding new chairs for the church building.
- I would not be looking, at the current time, to meet the chairs expense from the general funds and would welcome suggestions as to how we can raise this funding.
- Can I ask that we all re evaluate our giving , even though times are tough !
- Secondly , that we consider a “ Gift Day “ in the new financial year which has , in the past, been a very successful way of raising funds
- The Full Year Accounts and Reserves Policy will be presented to the Church Council , post audit , in October . My current forecast is for a manageable deficit but as I am not totally familiar with our income from Trusts , which will arrive before the end of the financial year , I am unable to give exact figures .
- I will be very happy to take questions on this report
- Sue Eckersley
- St. John's Methodist Church Treasurer

