

ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH, BANGOR

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Please note there is usually a copy of the current notices displayed in the church foyer and the church noticeboard in the Hall.

Notices for week beginning Sunday March 30th 2025



Mothering Sunday **(Start of British Summer Time)**



Worship at St John's

This morning's service at 10.30 am will be led by Deacon Stephen Roe as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations. Nick will also be participating as we shall also be celebrating the confirmation of Grace Eckersley. This will be followed by Holy Communion.

Deacon Stephen Roe

I am Stephen, a deacon currently stationed in the North Wiltshire Circuit, living in Swindon. I am married to Angela, and we have two children, Christopher and Emily. Angela and I met when I was a secondary school teacher of German and French in March, in Cambridgeshire. In 1999, I left teaching and went to a village near Stowmarket in Suffolk as a Church Lay Worker. We were there for five years, and during that time I felt a call to be a deacon, so candidated and was accepted. After two years part-time and one year full-time training in Cambridge, in 2004 we were stationed to the Bangor and Holyhead Circuit, to the churches at Amlwch and Holyhead. In 2010, by which time I had learned Welsh and was also serving in the Welsh language churches on Anglesey, we moved to Menai Bridge where I continued to minister to the Welsh language churches and was also Methodist Chaplain at Bangor University. Many of you will particularly remember Angela, Chris and Emily who were members at St John's, which is where Chris and Emily were baptised and confirmed. In 2016 we moved to Dolgellau, where I was stationed entirely in the Cymru Circuit and District, serving in churches and as Circuit and District Safeguarding Officer. In 2021 we moved to my current appointment in Swindon, where I minister to two churches, one Methodist and one which is currently an Anglican/Methodist LEP. We are looking forward to being with you again at St John's at the end of March.

The Evening Service will be led by Rev'd (Squadron Leader) Mike Hall over Zoom (see below)

Doing it Differently

We are over halfway through the season of Lent, and next Sunday is Mothering Sunday. Our Sunday evening worship space on 30 March will be used to consider the following:

Who and where is our Mother Church?

What part has this church played in our faith journey? What and who are we thankful to? Is there anything of which we need to let go?

What other church fellowships have been part of our story of faith? What do we need to pray for in their life? What else should we be doing to build church?

Come to this worship space ready to reflect on all this. Paper and pens might also be useful. As is the usual practice, cameras should be left on.

Feedback afterwards is welcomed.

Hope to see you there.

Mike Hall

Link for the evening service:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89505633093?pwd=9LanGelkNlwrSDeesCMbNHRMEcWIV4.1>

Meeting ID: 895 0563 3093, Passcode: 468825

Prayers for the Circuit - each week on Zoom, Thursday 4.30-4.45pm

This weekly prayer time enables us to bring before God any issues and concerns from churches around the Circuit. We hope that people who can access the internet will want to join us to spend a few minutes each week asking for God's guidance and continued blessing on our work. The Zoom details will not change and they are as follows:

<https://zoom.us/j/97250466383?pwd=MEEydUNTRmpHWWWEzdWc2ZEJGT2liQT09>

Meeting ID: 972 5046 6383, Passcode: Circuit

Nick Sissons

Paper Service

The paper service for personal use can be accessed here:

www.bangormethodistchurch.org/Circuit%20Worship%20Sheet%20300325.pdf

St John's 150th Anniversary

This will be a permanent feature of the notices for the rest of this, our 150th Anniversary year. Please check the list regularly as times and dates might change and events will be added (and removed). There are a lot of "tbc"s (to be confirmed), some of which may not happen for any number of valid reasons but as said above, other events may well be added. We need to get the idea of what is/might be happening in our heads as soon as possible. If you feel able to help with refreshments at any of the events please let the organiser know.

Date	Event	Venue	Time
30 th March	Service led by Deacon Stephen Roe	Church	10.30 am
12 th April	Folk Night – Robin Lipson and friends	Hall	7.00 pm
13 th April	Afternoon concert and light tea – Swales and friends	Church	3.00 pm
27 th April	Service led by Rev'd Will Morrey	Church	10.30 am
10 th May	Arts and Crafts afternoon – Lyndis Harden	Church	2.00 pm
10 th May	Folk Night – Robin Lipson and friends	Hall	7.00 pm
25 th May	Service led by Mr John Summerwill (150 th celebrations)	Church	10.30 am
tbc	Workshop including banner-making – Mary Bulmer	tbc	2.00 pm
18 th June	African Choir Concert	Church	7.00 pm
tbc	Plant and Seed planting – Carol Brown	Hall and Mason's Yard	tbc
tbc	Harvest Festival Feast – Jean Ware co-ordinating	tbc	tbc
tbc	Puppet Show (Lyndis) and Open the Book presentation	Hall	3.00 pm +
29 th June	Rev'd Bill Jones (150 th celebrations)	Church	
31 st August	Rev'd Dr Jonathan Hustler (150 th celebrations)	Church	
tbc	Singing For Fun – Jacqueline Davies	Church	tbc
5 th October	Anniversary Communion Service	Church	10.30 am
Sept/Oct tbc	Drama – History of Methodism -Joy Ostle	tbc	tbc
3 rd /4 th Dec.	Nativity/Crib Exhibition – J & R Nunn et al	Church	tbc

At A Glance

Wednesday 26th March @2.00 pm:
Wednesday 26th March @ 10.00 am:
Tuesday April 1st @ 10.30 – 12.00:
Thursday April 10th @10.30-12.30:
Saturday April 12th @7.00 pm:
Sunday April 13th @3.00 pm:
Saturday 10th May @ 7.00 pm:
Thursday 29th May @7.00 pm:
Wednesday June 18th@ 7.00 pm:

Wednesday afternoon house group
Funeral of Ursula Jones at Bangor Crematorium.
Time and Space at “& Caws” Café.
Reaching the 95%. Session in the Hall
Folk Night in Church.
Musical entertainment from the Swales family and friends
Folk Night in the church.
Ascension Day Service in the church.
African Concert in the church.

This week

Prayers for the week 30 March 2025 – Lent 4

Give us a new heart, O God, free enough to live by faith, brave enough to endure in hope and generous enough to love without limit.



A way into wellbeing

Sit comfortably. Regulate your breathing, taking steady deep breaths. Allow yourself to relax and leave to one side for the moment the chores and tasks for the day. Close your eyes if it helps, or if you prefer look out into your garden or any green space. Spend a few minutes being quiet; reflect on the wonders of God's creation, the power and beauty expressed in God's world. Then think for a moment of that power and beauty, manifest in a human being.....Jesus. Imagine Jesus is there with you, and he turns to look at you; he smiles at you, he touches your arm and looks into your eyes. Know this – you are a child of God, you are loved and accepted for who you are, you are a delight to God.

Breathe in God, breathe out love; breathe in Christ, breathe out love; breathe in Spirit, breathe out love.....

Prayers for Mother's Day

God with a mother's heart, you gather us as your children. You comfort and hold us in your warm embrace. When we hurt your arms enfold us. God with a mother's heart, your love surrounds and supports us, in good times and tough, in the midst of joy and pain, always and everywhere. You will never leave nor abandon us. God eternal and loving one, God with a mother's heart, we thank you this day for being part of your family. *Christine Sine*

Creator God, we thank you for your love which shapes us and helps us to grow. On this Mothering Sunday we give thanks for women who have been examples of self-giving love, who have given

time, wisdom and care to the nurture of children, their own or others. We pray for those who find this a difficult day, who do not have happy memories of their own mothers, those who grieve for their mothers or for their children, and those who long to be mothers but cannot be. We remember mothers in the Bible, giving thanks for the tenacity of Sarah the generosity of Hannah and the courage of Mary. May your Spirit continue to shape us, heal us and guide us today. Amen.

World

Now turn your thoughts outwards to the world, and still imagining Jesus with you in all his risen power, bring to God.....

1. The people of the Gaza in their acute suffering – displaced, surviving in a bombed-out warzone, without basic provisions and wondering when the next bomb will fall.
2. The people of Sudan facing famine and living in fear of warring factions.
3. The people of Ukraine, ravaged by war for more than three years and wondering what shape proposed peace plans may take.
4. The people of Turkey protesting and worried about the state of democracy in their country.
5. Those people and situations which concern you.....

Lord, we know that you have promised to make all things new. We pray that you will bring healing to the nations.

Church

We hold before God our various churches, their communities and the various church and other groups they work with. We pray for a renewed sense of purpose and love in all they seek to do.

We pray for the Bangor Cytun meeting on Thursday 27 March and the Amlwch Churches Together meeting on Monday 31 March, that they will be occasions when people will be open to the promptings of the Spirit and for expression of unity in mission.

We pray for the congregation at Capel Zinc, that they might be encouraged by their strong sense of community and find new ways to connect with people who live close by. We pray particularly that the Songs of Praise taking place on Sunday 6th April will draw people together from round the Circuit.

We pray for each of our churches through the Lenten period, that the various fellowship groups, prayer meetings and study groups will encourage a depth of spiritual input which will inspire growth, mission and a sense of belonging.

We pray for those members of our church family and extended connections who are unwell or recovering from operations at this time and in need of our thoughts and prayers. Let us focus on each and ask God to bless them with an outpouring of love and wholeness.

God, grant me the serenity to stop beating myself up for not doing things perfectly, the courage to forgive myself because I am working on doing better and the wisdom to know that you love me just the way I am.

Open the Book

- Glancegin and Cae Top Schools will hear the story of The Crucifixion.
- Hiracl School will hear the story of the Last Supper on Friday 4th April. The week after, 11th April, is the last day of school, so we will be acting the Crucifixion and Resurrection, all being well. Thank you. Please pray for some new recruits to come and join us, we are low on numbers. *Shalom Jean Owen <><*

Choir For Easter

Choir for Easter rehearsals are Friday 4th and 11th April in church at 6pm. Please enter by the back door. A further rehearsal is still to be arranged. Many thanks **Margaret**

Wednesday evening Housegroup

The Wednesday evening housegroup meets **tomorrow** 27th March at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. We are continuing our study of Philippians and have reached Chapter 4 This week we will be led by Jean Ware Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85165311873?pwd=tnPaAaTfcvtMA9YPJ9G3UqcGZ9aAwp.1>

Like Chapter 2, Chapter 4 includes some very familiar passages, all welcome, as we try and work out what Paul's words have to say to us in North Wales today. **Jean Ware**

Wednesday Afternoon House Group

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th March. We will spend some time thinking about our contribution to the 150th Anniversary Banner celebrating all that goes on at St John's. All welcome – contact John Nunn john@thernunns.com. 07790 540097

Easter gardens

If anyone has sweet boxes (eg Quality Street) that we could transform into Easter Gardens please could you bring to Sue ? Many Thanks. **Sue Eckersley**

Warm Spaces Lunch

There will be a Warm Welcome lunch on Sunday 30th March to which all are welcome - 12.30 start to allow for a longer Service and Coffee after Church. **Sue Eckersley**

Events

Folk Night 12th April – help requested

I am happy to organise (ie lay out tables, get tea, coffee, biscuits) this but if anyone feels they can assist on the night or provide additional eats please let me know. Thanks. **John**

African Concert

Please note we now have a date for this – 18th June at 7.00 pm – and it will appear in the calendar of events from now on.

Ascension Day

There will be an Ascension Day Service at St John's led by Mrs Anne Jackson at 7.00 pm on Thursday 29th May (Ascension Day). There will be coffee before the service for those who have travelled from afar.

"They're never off their phones! – Reaching the 95%"

On Thursday April 10th 10.30 - 12.30, Keefe Owen from Scripture Union will be leading a session at St Johns on how we can relate better to the 95% of young people who have NO contact with Church . So if you struggle with your Gen X and Gen Z's this is the session for you ! Keefe is a gifted and experienced Youth Worker who is well worth listening to! Please let Sue Eckersley know if you can come. Circuit friends are very welcome.

Scripture Union fundraising

Keefe Owen Scripture Union North Wales mission enabler is uni-cycling 95 miles around Wales to raise money for Scripture union's 95 campaign. If you would like to support him he has a "just giving" page or, as he is leading training at St John's on April 10th donations could be given to Sue Eckersley who will present them at the training. Many thanks. *Sue*

St John's 150th

Two celebratory events – book them in your diary now. Frankly wild horses wouldn't keep me away from those scones! If you can play an instrument and/or have a folk song you can sing have a word with Robin. It's an open invitation to participate in the folk evening.



St John's 150

The Swales family presents

**MUSIC
AND
SCONES**

an hour or so of musical entertainment followed
by homemade scones and cake

Palm Sunday, 13th April at 3 pm
in St John's Methodist Church

Illustrations include a cello, musical notes, scones, and a cartoon band.



St John's 150

FOLK @ ST JOHN'S

SATURDAY APRIL 12th

7.00 PM

HOSTED BY OUR VERY OWN RADIO STAR ROLLIN' ROB LIPSON SUPPORTED
BY HIS FOLK GROUP "DREAMWEAVER".

Expect local musicians, singers and poets

There will be refreshments and good company.

Free Entry

St John's Methodist Church, High Street, Bangor (opposite Farrar Road)

Illustrations include an acoustic guitar, a man playing a guitar, a folk group silhouette, and a photo of a crowd.

Easter Offering

This years Easter Offering Circuit service will be on Friday 23rd May at Capel Zinc. 10.30 for 11.00
Entitled : Education for All, Hope for All focuses on the right of every person to receive an education.
This is the only fund raising for the World Mission Fund each year. Envelopes given out at Palm Sunday and Easter Day services. The service is prepared by Methodist women in Britain as a gift to the Methodist people following a tradition of fundraising begun nearly 140 years ago.
All are welcome. All to share this important outreach. Thank you. *Jean Owen for the Circuit. Shalom <><*



Start of British Summer

Spring forward

Don't forget to set
clocks ahead
one hour
at 2 a.m.
Sunday.

time

AP

Illustration of a clock face showing the time 1:50 and a red arrow pointing to 2:00.

Banners - further reminder from Mary Bulmer

Anniversary Banner

- We are hoping to produce a fabric banner for hanging under the mural in church to celebrate our 150th anniversary.
- We (Joy and myself) would really appreciate groups in the church being involved in this. The idea is to have “panels” of approx 12” x 9” (old money!) to applique on the banner. We are thinking maybe 9 panels, but would adapt to suit the number of panels produced.
- If you are a member of any group within the church, could you consider being involved?? The “panels” can be embroidered, patchwork, fabric paints – whatever you think that would be long lasting, and indicate the group you are representing.
- We hope to have something ready for mid year, maybe August (which is the actual month of the anniversary).
- As well as hanging the original in church, it has been suggested we could then have an outside banner made to hang in Masons yard.
- If you are able to help, could you have a word with either Joy or myself.
- Many thanks, in advance.

Mary.

maryebulmer@gmail.com

joyostle@btinternet.com

Pastoral

Funeral of Ursula Jones

This will take place at 10.00 am at Bangor Crematorium this Wednesday (tomorrow) 26th March.

Stella Jolley

The photograph shows Stella Jolley with her family (Trevor, Tom and Lis) in her care home near Bristol. Stella was a much-loved member of the congregation at St. John's until her dementia meant that a move into care, near to her family, was necessary. Stella is well and will be celebrating her 90th birthday on 31st March. Her memory can be stimulated so if you wish to send her birthday greetings the family will share those with her. Stella's address is: Mrs Stella Jolley, Oak Tree Care Home, Lark Rise, Bristol BS37 7PJ



Congratulations to Emmanuel Eloebhose and Diana Joseph..

..who were married in Nigeria on 15 March. Emmanuel and Diana are pursuing their careers in medicine in Cardiff and Kettering at present. We send our warmest wishes and prayers for their future happiness together and look forward to seeing them whenever they are able to visit St John's. **Sue Fish**

News

Cytun Policy Bulletin

Please find here the link to the latest Cytun Policy Bulletin:

<https://mail.one.com/api/webmaster%40bangormethodistchurch.org/mail/1/IN-BOX/1263914099/5155/3/Policy%20Bulletin%20April%20May%202025.pdf>

Omni Directional Conference Microphone,

The Wednesday Group use an omni-directional conference microphone to enable our hybrid meetings, if anyone would like to know how it works, or thinks they might find this useful for a housegroup or other activity please just let us know- we'll be happy to demonstrate it and for other people to use it (though not on alternate Wednesday evenings!) Contact Jean or Peter. **Jean Ware**

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CHUCKLE CORNER



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

Telephone Service:

- Step 1: Dial 03 33 0164 757
- Step 2: Room No? Dial:6323 2615 #
- Step 3: Pin – dial 9564#, say your name, then say "Entering the service"

Start of British Summer Spring forward



time

Don't forget to set
clocks ahead
one hour
at 2 a.m.
Sunday.

AP