WEEKLY NOTICES

ST JOHN'S **METHODIST** CHURCH, BANGOR

10 December 2025





CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 21st December Carol Service at 10:30am

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December
Christingle at 4pm
Midnight Communion at 11:30pm

Christmas Day Thursday 25th December Christmas Worship at 10am

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

Morning worship

10.30 am E. Jones

There will be Introductory Worship Singing before the service.

Children's worship during morning worship

Refreshments to follow in the Church.

Welcome Warm Spaces lunch in the hall from 12:15pm.

THIS WEEK'S QUICK DATES LINKS:

Saturday 13th
December <u>Carol</u>
<u>singing at Morrisons</u>

Sunday 14th December Foodbank Christmas Presents Donations

Wednesday 17th
December 12pm
Deadline for notices

NEWS, EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bismarck and Millicent have a new baby! Ama Sarpong Osie Tutu was born at midnight on Sunday, 7th December and Millicent and her daughter are at home and doing well. It has been an eventful year for Bismarck. As well as becoming a father again, he has submitted his PhD thesis and will have his viva in January.

Many congratulations to the whole family. Della Fazey

CYTÛN: BANGOR CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL CANCELLED

Sadly, due to forecasted bad weather on Saturday 13th December, the Bangor Christmas Festival has been cancelled. Thank you to all those who volunteered to join in the events as part of Bangor Cytûn, especially those who have worked to organise it all. It is disappointing and was due to be part of the "Shine your Light" National Event happening over this weekend.

FOODBANK CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

At Christmas the Cathedral Foodbank distributes presents to their clients as well as food. Some people have already generously donated Christmas items to the Foodbank and, if this is something you are considering, then please also consider donating items for men. Most of our clients are single men and, currently, there are not enough suitable presents for them. Items such as scarves and gloves and toiletries wrapped and labelled 'adult male' would be much appreciated and would ideally be in church by this next Sunday (14th December). Many thanks, Della Fazey





WELCOME WARM SPACES Sunday 14th December 12:15pm

All are welcome to join us for a Welcome Warm Spaces lunch in the church hall on Sunday from 12:15pm.

NATIVITY & CAROLS SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S 21st December 10.30am

On the Sunday before Christmas, we are having an all-age service in which we will act out the Nativity story and have carols from around the world to reflect our multinational congregation.

We are inviting you, if you wish, to take part in the action by coming dressed as one of the following characters mentioned in the Christmas stories:



- ★ Angel
- ★ Mary
- ★ Joseph
- ★ Shepherd
- ★ Sheep
- ★ Wise Man

There will be some costumes available on the day if you haven't dressed up and suddenly feel the urge to perform. No lines to learn, just the chance to take part in celebrating the story once again.

Come and join the celebration! Nick Sissons, Minister

WEBSITE

A reminder that the new web address is now www.bangormethodist.org.uk.

If anyone has a reasonably large digital picture of the new banner and they mail it to me I will use it to replace the old picture on the church website homepage. *Peter Thorpe*



Prayers for the period 6th– 20th December 2025

Prayer for Advent 2

Gift-giving God, may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving. Holy God, the greatest gift giver of all times, you are not the 'stocking filler' or little extra, you are the greatest and best gift that can be given. You call us to be the gift of God to neighbours and strangers. You call us to be life giving to all those we encounter. You call us to be a blessing to the Church and the world. May we sort the wheat from the chaff in our lives. May we not be just little stocking filler extras but full to overflowing with your love. May we truly seek to be the holy gift you call us to be.

Prayer for Advent 3

Gift-giving God, may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving. You speak to us through messengers, words and deeds, the rhythm, the beat of your gift never ceases, never stops or falters or fails. Your gift is for life, not limited by time or space. You challenge us to be the heartbeat of love to our community. You challenge and call us to be a constant power for good. You inspire us to be the bringers of good news. May we be up to the challenges you set before us. May we give you time in our busy days, in our list making and our shopping, so that we are buzzing with your Spirit as your gift to all we meet.

Hope for the world

Look through the headlines of a trusted news provider and focus on a news story or place in the world where hope is needed. Hold that story and place in your mind as you join in with the prayer below of the Rev'd Felipe Cortés, the National Ecclesiastical Secretary of the Iglesia Metodista de Chile:

"Hope is seeing growth and flourishing among the droughts of our lives. Hope is feeling that a new world is possible and that human beings can change. Hope is trusting that justice, goodness, forgiveness, peace and reconciliation always triumphs over every sign of evil. Hope is feeling that Christ acts among us and with us, placing that new world in our hearts. Amen."

Lord, bring your hope into the world, we pray.....even through us, we pray.

Prayers for the Church

Think of one person in your church fellowship; perhaps someone you sit next to in services or at bible studies; someone you chat with over coffee; someone you see regularly or whom you recognise but you rarely speak to. Give thanks for them, and pray for them, that they may be aware they surrounded by God's love.

Nativity Display

St John's Methodist Church, Bangor has a special Nativity display (with over a hundred individual displays) on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th December which is open to members of the local community to attend and enjoy. Pray that those who attend will be inspired to reflect on the wonder of the Christmas message, that relationships may be built and God speaks to them.

Open the Book teams

Bangor Cytûn have Welsh and Englishspeaking teams going into various primary schools throughout December to present bible stories which will include the Christmas story. Holyhead Cytûn will be presenting the Christmas story in four schools in the w/c 1 December. Pray that God will use these simple dramatisations to speak to children and staff alike.

Christmas Festivals – Amlwch 06/12/25, Bangor 13/12/25

Amlwch and Bangor Cytûns both have involvement at their local Christmas festivals being a presence and sharing a message whilst celebrating with their respective communities with activities for children and spaces to pause, reflect and chat. Pray that opportunities will arise for meaningful chat and to build new relationships.

Public Carol Singing

Bangor and Amlwch Cytûns have groups Carol singing outside Morrisons, Bangor on Saturday **13/12/25** and the Co-op store, Amlwch on Friday **19/12/25**. Pray that the words and joy of the singers will speak to the hearts of people.

Care Home Carol Singing and special services

Residents in care homes are a group very much at the margins, often not catered for. Many have dementia or physical issues which prevent them going to Church. Over the past few months, the Cytûns at Amlwch and Holyhead have been offering services and communion across local Care Homes, and Amlwch Methodist Church have held monthly Sunday services and mid-week bible studies with residents at Hafan Cefni Residential Home, Llangefni for some time now. This Christmas, they are holding both a carol service on Sunday 21st December and a special "Blue" Christmas" service (for people who struggle at Christmas) on Monday 15 December at Hafan Cefni. Amlwch Cytn also have a groups going into Bryn y Mor Care Home on 16/12/25 and Brwynog Care Home on 19/12/25 for Carol Singing, whilst Holyhead Methodist Church has a group doing the same at Plas Dwyffryn Care Home, Valley on 18/12/25. Pray that all involved or attending will experience a sense of God's presence and blessing.

God, beyond all speech, above all thought and surpassing all imagination; when you speak may we listen; when you draw near, may we rejoice in your presence; when you reveal yourself, may we bow in adoration.

Gregory of Nazianzus

CONTACTS

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