



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: April 2015

From the Minister:

"So, there's one question that always bothers me," I told my friend the angel as we sat in Costa Coffee together.

I use the term "friend" with caution. I never quite trust him not to switch into "smiting" mode, and the blank incomprehension with which he treats my human ways makes me wary of him. Still, I'd persuaded him to try a cappuccino, which was a start. He didn't like it. The murky liquid sat growing cold in the cup.

"So what's your question?" he said, his curiosity aroused.

"It's to do with the stone you rolled away from Jesus' tomb," I said.

"Well I had to. Those women would never have shifted it on their own. I'd have ordered the guards to do it but they'd scarpered. Once they'd recovered their senses of course. One of them had fainted and the other lay on the ground screaming for mercy, you know."

"Yeah, funny!"

"Funny?"

"Sorry, I forget you don't do humour."

"Well, anyway," he went on, without a smile, "Jesus had risen and didn't need any doors opened for him, thank you very much. But you, humans, you need a helping hand some times."

"Sure," I replied, "but that wasn't my question. My question is why you rolled the stone away and then sat on it."

"Orders," said the angel.

"Orders? Why?" I enquired, puzzled.

"I don't want to talk about it."

"You mean you can't talk about it because it's secret, or you won't talk about it because it's embarrassing?"

"Hmm"

Penrallt Baptist Church, Holyhead Road, Bangor LL57 2EU
Tel: 01248 353355; Email: office@penrallt.org; Website: www.penrallt.org
Office open Mon–Fri 10am - 2pm; Administrator: Magnus Forrester-Barker

Minister: Revd. Peter J. Cousins, 135 Penchwintan Road, Bangor LL57 2YG; Tel: 01248 353878
Secretary: Roshni Verghese, 2 Vicarage Close, Llandudno LL30 1PH; Tel: 07967 320048 / 01492 871444
Treasurer: Stephen Burrows, 39 Cil y Graig, Llanfairpwll LL61 5NZ; Tel: 01248 714048

"So it's embarrassing. On a warning were you?"

"Final warning. I'd been distracted a few times in the past."

"Like when you missed the choir in the hills of Bethlehem because you were playing with the lambs?"

"It's my ADHD."

"Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder?"

"Angelic Distractive Hindrance Disorder."

"Sounds similar."

"Yeah. I wander off some times. So this time they told me in no uncertain terms 'Sit on that stone and don't you dare move a muscle until the women get here.' So I did."

"Really?"

"More or less. OK, I played a few games on my angelic messenger phone. But I was still there when the women arrived. Nearly frightened them half to death as well."

"I have noticed that's a recurrent theme with you angels."

"We try not to. But there's only so much a quick 'Peace be with you' can achieve."

"It worked out in the end, though, didn't it," I admitted.

"Never in doubt. God's plans always work out. Don't believe what your newspapers tell you. That's never the real story."

A sharp ping sounded and he glanced at his angelic messenger phone.

"Do me a favour," I pleaded anxiously.

"What?"

"Don't disappear in the middle of the coffee shop again. Just walk down the stairs, round the corner and then slip quietly through your interstitial angelic space time warp."

"OK. See you round."

And he was gone. Maybe he took the stairs. Or maybe he got distracted and just disappeared. Either way, I went back to my newspaper, but gave up with only half a page read. Somehow the words "He is not here, he is risen!" seemed of more imminent importance than whether some TV dinosaur presenter would keep his job.

God bless,

Peter

(Thank you for your prayers during my absence due to surgery. I appreciate all your cards and phone calls. I'm back at work now. Although you might find me in a coffee shop from time to time.)

Services This Month:

5 April (Easter Sunday)

10:30am Family Service. **"Jesus descended into our mess"**

6:00pm Communion Service.

Peace be with you!

John 20:19-23.

12 April

10:30am Speaker: John Robinson.

During this service we will be saying farewell to Paul and Elaine Green, who are moving to Holyhead Baptist Church.

6:00pm Speaker: John Robinson.

19 April

10:30am **Reach out and ask Jesus to touch you in your hour of need.**

Mark 5:21-43

6:00pm **How to walk honourably in a deceitful society**

Joshua 10:1-15

26 April

10:30am Communion Service. Speaker: Rob Beamish.

6:00pm **Praying in Full Screen**

Joshua 10:1-15

Our Speakers in April

Revd. John Robinson is an American/naturalized-Welshman who lives in Bangor and works with speakers of the Celtic languages. He is a fluent Welsh speaker and much in demand, so those of us in the English language churches rarely get the opportunity to sit under his ministry. **Revd. Rob Beamish** is the minister of Princes Drive Baptist Church in Colwyn Bay and is well known to some of us as the driving force behind Bible Unzipped. We appreciate his friendship and welcome him to Penrallt again. **Revd. Peter Cousins** is our minister and will be speaking at all the other services during the month.

Faith Café

Faith Café will resume on 12th April. It meets after church on Sunday evenings, for teenagers, students and other young adults. Starting around 7:15pm, it is an evening of chat, interviews, music and discussions. There is a short programme at around 7:40. There is no set time to finish so stay and chat if you wish.

Serving the people of God elsewhere:

Roger Borlace will be speaking at the Good Friday walk of Witness in Bangor on 3rd April and preaching (in Welsh) at Bethania, Y Felinheli on Sunday 26th April. Please remember him in your prayers.

If you will be ministering to other congregations and would like to be included in this list in future months, please send details to Magnus in the church office.

Dates For Your Diary:

Wednesday 1	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee in Options.
Friday 3		Good Friday events - see below.
Monday 13	7:30pm	Annual General Meeting for Penrallt Church Members (see "From the Church Office" later in this newsletter).
Saturday 18		Church for Everyone (training day in Blaenau Ffestiniog).
Monday 20	10:30am	Church Walk led by George and Anne Boyer.
	7:30pm	Tearfund evening in Mold.
Wednesday 22	7pm (TBC)	Penrallt Railway Group (speak to Lawrence, Andrew or Magnus for information).
Saturday 25	9:30-4	Focus Conference at Prince's Drive Baptist Church.
Monday 27	2pm	Pastoral Care Team meeting.
	7:30pm	Missions Group meeting at Sarah Jackson's.
Wednesday 29	7:30pm	General Election Hustings (Cytûn) at Penrhyn Hall.

Further details of many of these events can be found in the Noticeboard section later in this newsletter.

Good Friday and Easter Activities:

Good Friday (3rd April)

11am Cytûn (Churches Together) Walk of Witness down Bangor High Street, starting at St. John's Methodist Church.

6-8pm Good Friday Vigil: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*
Come to Penrallt between 6 and 8pm for a time of quiet meditation and prayer before the cross. You are welcome to come for the the whole time, or to drop in for as much time as you have, to reflect on Christ's passion and sacrifice with the help of Scripture readings, monologues, quiet music and pictures.

Easter Sunday (5th April)

7:00am Cytûn Service on Roman Camp, followed by breakfast in Penrallt.

See "Services This Month" on the previous page for details of the Easter morning and evening services at Penrallt.

News of People:

We are sad to report the death of **Brenda Buse** last month. The funeral service was held in Penrallt and led by Geoff Birch. We do not yet have a date for the memorial service for **Andrew Browne**.

Wil Lewis is recovering from his knee surgery.

Children's Birthdays in April:

11th: Samuel Adams

Weekday Events:

Please check with the contact people when there are meetings this month.

HG = Home Group

Day	Time	Details	Contacts
Tue	8:00pm	HG, Nilgiri	Joan Beer (353874)
Tue	7:30pm	HG Tyddyn Isaf (Menai Bridge)	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
Wed	2:00pm	HG, Carers	Carol Morris (208407)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Bethesda	Jon & Deb Stammers (602868)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Maes y Dref (pm)	Anne Collis (353173)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Nomads	Susan Cousins (353878)
Wed	7:00pm	HG, Students	Delvin Varghese (07528 958150)
Thu	10:30am	HG, Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7:30pm	HG, Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Fri	10:30am-12pm	Cheeky Monkeys (parent/toddler group)	Joan Rymer (713003)
Fri	10:30am-12:30pm	HG, Maes y Dref (am)	Anne Collis (353173)
Sat	8:30am	Prayer Meeting	

Noticeboard:

◇ **Advance Notice: Christian Aid Week**

This year's Christian Aid Week will be 10th – 16th May and we shall be looking for volunteers to help with the collection. Please speak to Susan. As usual, Christian Aid Week will finish with a quiz night on Saturday 16th.

◇ **Bible Unzipped...**

... is taking a break this month. It will be back in May.

◇ **Car Parking**

Free parking is available on Sundays in Fron Heulog (the School of Healthcare Sciences) behind the Catholic church. The car park next door to Penrallt is now pay & display with no special rates for the disabled. Morrisons are happy for you to park in their car park on Sunday mornings and do your shopping after the service provided you register your car registration number at their information desk beforehand. Morrisons say that they switch the cameras off to make the car park available to us on Sunday and weekday evenings after 6pm.

◇ **Church For Everyone**

Saturday 18th April

9:45am-4pm

An event in Blaenau Ffestiniog for youth/children's leaders, church leaders and worship leaders, with practical ideas, resources and models for how to create a Church for all ages. Cost £15 (including lunch if you book by 11th April). To book, contact Aled Davies (07894 580192, aled@ysgolsul.com). The event is organised by a number of groups, including Urban Saints, Scripture Union Cymru, Youth For Christ and the Evangelical Alliance. See posters on the church noticeboards for more details.

◇ **Church Lunch**

Please note that Church Lunch will happen on the second Sunday this month, **12th April**, instead of the first Sunday to avoid a clash with Easter.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 20th April

10:30am

We will be walking through Newborough Forest to Ynys Llanddwyn a distance of approximately 7 miles on a mixture of well made forest tracks, beach and grass paths, with opportunities "hopefully" to see red squirrels and seals. The starting point is the Nature Pool car park at Llyn Parc Mawr on the A4080 between Newborough and Malltraeth villages. (OS Grid Reference: SH 413 669). Drive through the village of Newborough on the A4080 towards Malltraeth; approximately a mile after the village, the car park is signposted on the right. Parking is free. There are no toilet facilities at the start point. Meet at 10:30 am and bring a packed lunch. For further details contact George & Anne Boyer on 01248 852778 or 07798 716464.

◇ **Focus Conference**

Saturday 25th April

9:30am-4pm

A one-day conference at Prince's Drive Baptist Church, organised by Acts 29 Wales, taking time to refocus on Jesus and the call of the gospel in an age of constant noise. The event is free. For more information or to book a place, contact email@pdbc.org

◇ **General Election**

Wednesday 29th April

7:30pm

Cytûn has arranged Hustings at Penrhyn Hall (by the bus station) so you can hear the candidates for the Arfon constituency and have the opportunity to ask them questions.

◇ **Men's Prayer Meeting**

Wednesday 1st April

10:30am

Time spent in prayer will be followed by coffee in Options. All are welcome to join us.

◇ **Pastoral Help**

If you have pastoral concerns please contact Peter or one of the other members of the Pastoral Care team:

Pat Borlace 713146	Adrienne Ferrada	Geoff Moore 410582
Dave O'Brien 671848	Judy Stammers 364394	Helen Thomas 600174

◇ **The Prayer Room...**

...is open before and after the service for quiet prayer. Penrallt is a place of prayer, so make use of this sacred space.

◇ **Pray for Penrallt Every Day**

We believe in prayer and encourage people to pray. You can send prayer request to our electronic diary via office@penrallt.org (there are also prayer cards in the church porch that you can fill in). Better still, you can receive the prayer diary straight to your inbox every Monday by emailing the office now and requesting to be put on the list. And for more immediate sharing and response in prayer why not search on Facebook for *Penrallt Prayer Point* and send a request to join our group dedicated to prayer.

◇ **Sunday Afternoon Services**

We visit residential homes in the area once a month on a Sunday afternoon, alternating between Haulfre (in Llangoed, on Anglesey, starting at 2:15pm) and Plas Garnedd (in Llanberis, starting at 2:45pm), usually on the first Sunday. This month we are due to visit Plas Garnedd and will be going on the second Sunday, **12th April** (please see weekly news sheets or check with the church office for confirmation).

◇ **Urgent Job Vacancies in Penrallt - *STILL vacant!!!!***

If you are a Church Member would you please consider offering yourself for one of these two posts, currently vacant.

Cytûn Representative: Cytûn is the Churches Together organization in Bangor. Increasingly we are working with the other churches in our city and it is vital to have a representative on the Cytûn committee. You will represent Penrallt in the meetings (about six a year) and report to the church. You will be involved in events like the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Good Friday Walk of Witness and the Easter Sunday service on Roman Camp. Penrallt is an enthusiastic supporter of Cytûn so expect plenty of support.

Health and Safety Officer: Penrallt has adopted a Health and Safety Policy but it needs to be implemented. Please be the one who ensures that the users of our building stay safe by our having a robust scheme in place. We are not aware of any major problems at the moment, but the Policy does need to be fully implemented in certain areas.

◇ **Rough Sleepers**

The church's policy is not to give money directly to the rough sleepers in Upper Bangor. Be warned that some of them can be aggressive. You will find brown envelopes in the porch for a gift that will buy meal vouchers which are distributed to rough sleepers by the Cathedral. So far Penrallt has contributed £5,455 to this scheme.

◇ **Tearfund evening**

Monday 20th April 7-9:30pm

Beauty for Ashes, an evening of Songs and Stories, will take place at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Glanrafon Road, Mold CH7 1PA. This is part of Tearfund's *No Child Taken* initiative – helping Tearfund partners to protect children who are vulnerable to trafficking, disease and disaster. There will be songs from Penrhyn Bay Presbyterian Choir and stories by Tim Magowan, Head of Tearfund Northern Ireland. Entry is free – donations gratefully accepted on the evening. All proceeds are for No Child Taken. For more information, speak to Sue Moss (713793).

◇ **Work Party**

Andy Lemon writes: "I am looking for volunteers to take part in a working party to help tidy up the garden and grounds in preparation for the summer. If you are able and willing to spend some time then please let me know or pass on your details via the church office. I would expect this to take place at the end of April/start of May but will confirm dates once I have an idea of numbers."

From the church office:

Penrallt AGM: Monday 13th April 2015 – This meeting for church members will take place in the Canolfan, starting at 7:30pm. Coffee and biscuits will be served before the meeting. Please arrive a few minutes early, so that we can start promptly, and enter via the side door. As you enter, please tick your name off on the attendance list and make a note of any apologies you are bringing. Please make every attempt to attend this meeting and to read the annual report prior to coming so that you can ask pertinent questions to the deacons.

Focus on...

The Hembury Family

Serving with Hull Youth For Christ

"Small is beautiful" some would say and we would echo the sentiment at this present time (maybe at all times) as we reflect on the mission God has called us to. The cultural climate of youth work has changed in recent years, there is so much more on offer for children and young people, the schools have wrap around provision and technology plays its part in keeping them entertained and off the streets. This has a knock-on effect for the various clubs we run; where once we would have expected between 60 and 70 children a week at our after schools clubs, we now get between 10 and 15 (Breakfast club and camps have withstood this down turn; last year we took 30 young people on camp and we expect the same number this year, and in a few weeks we will entertain over 100 parents and children at our Easter cooked breakfast).

We are grateful to God for this opportunity to share our faith with these smaller groups of mainly vulnerable young people with complex emotional and behavioural needs. In fact, this is how we prefer to work as we wouldn't see ourselves as entertainers but rather as relationship builders. We have never really been about numbers and always took big turnouts with a hefty pinch of salt, knowing that it didn't necessarily say much about the depth or quality of our work. But we are being reminded again to appreciate the real importance of valuing each young person God puts before us.

In the other areas of our work, things continue to develop: the community garden is being planted out with a new stock of vegetables and over Easter we plan to build a pizza oven with local families; our Orts sewing collective has quickly become a place of sanctuary and each week we don't know what to expect but are always surprised by joy; the vicarage on our doorstep is (as we write) being purchased by the Church Mission Society for Hull YFC to use as a house for mission. All these things interweave with each other and we are conscious of God's hand at work - we are clearly part of something bigger.

Family life continues to be a heady cocktail of teenage challenges, mid-life crises and menopause! Despite this, the children seem to be coming through fairly unscathed (so far); school happens, FIFA dominates the TV screen and there is an endless trail of nail varnish and hair products all around the house. Chris is building a motorbike in the front room and when it is completed we intend a dramatic ride off into the sunset!

As always, we are grateful beyond words for your continued love, support and prayers, for ties that bind us to our Penrallt family in Wales.

Much love, God bless,

Chris, Anna, Elijah & Kavita Hembury

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 19 April.

Please send information to Magnus (office@penrallt.org; 01248 353355)

All notices should be submitted in writing (preferably by email) as early as possible.