



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter for August 2013

Thank you for asking. We enjoyed our holiday. We visited an excellent church. The worship was good, the teaching first class, the people friendly and the experience uplifting. We spent a bit of money in the local community: a boat trip, a cream tea, ice creams, meals out and the theatre. But did we do much good? Not really. We were on holiday. We didn't do any harm. Well, a bit of carbon into the atmosphere, but nothing more. If you're on holiday in North Wales, visiting our church, then I hope you have an equally pleasant time. Be our guests and sample the beautiful scenery and the excellent facilities. As long as you leave it like you find it, that will be fine.

But do you know what worries me? There are Christians who are permanently on holiday, even when they're at home. They visit a church every Sunday, find the worship good, the teaching first class and the experience uplifting. They spend their money in the local shops. They don't do any harm. But they don't do much good either.

In fact, I can think of a number of churches that don't much good (names withheld to protect the guilty). You would hope that the love of God would impel Christians to seek the benefit of our estates, villages, towns and cities, but it isn't always that way. God wants to bless our communities and often uses non-religious people to do so. That's good, because humans often do the right thing without feeling a religious compulsion, but it's bad because sometimes Christians are conspicuous by their absence.

God preserve us from trying to do more than we are able to cope with, but we were never meant to live in religious ghettos. If we're not making a difference to the world in which we live, then we're failing.

This is one of the themes that we'll be exploring in the month of August. Join us and ponder on the mystery of why God saved us. It wasn't just to keep us like trophies locked in his cupboard.

God bless,
Peter

SERVICES IN AUGUST

August 4

10.30am ***"Live such good lives that people might see your good deeds and glorify God." Doing good in the community.***

2.15pm Service at Bontnewydd *1 Peter 2:12*

7.00pm Communion Service ***The Undivided Heart*** *Psalm 86*

August 11

Andrew March

10.30am ***Effective Christian Living – How God spoke then***

7.00pm ***Effective Christian Living – How God speaks now***

August 18

10.30am ***How to Live as an Undercover Priest*** *1 Peter 2: 9-12*

7.00pm ***The Undivided Heart Meets the Real World*** *Psalm 91*

August 25

10.30am Communion Service Geoff Birch *2 Kings 4: 1-7*

Stewardship – God's Miraculous Plan of Economy in Operation ***1: A Field Trip in the Old Testament***

7.00pm Faith Café-style service led by Roger Borlace and Andrew March. An opportunity to discuss some interesting issues, and enjoy relaxed fellowship over a cup of coffee.

Please remember that evening services will return to 6.00pm in September.

Our Speakers in August

Peter Cousins is the minister of the church. **Geoff Birch** is a retired Baptist Minister. **Andrew March** is a Penrallt deacon, now retired after a number of different careers, including time in the Army.

CHURCH LUNCH

We will host a church lunch on **Sunday August 4**. Please bring enough buffet style "finger food" for yourselves and one or two others.

SPECIAL DATES

We try to keep meetings to a minimum in August. Here are the ones that will be happening:

Monday 5 7.30pm Deacons' Meeting

Wednesday 7 10.30am Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee in Options.

Saturday Morning Prayer Meeting

In contrast to previous years, the Saturday Morning Prayer Meeting will continue throughout August. The folk are keen to keep on praying, so join us at 8:30am.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Congratulations to **Linda and Paul Warnock** on the birth of Ben Ruaridh on 27th June weighing 9lb 5ozs. Our friend **Menna Machreth** has been appointed to the role of Mission Coordinator for the Baptist Union of Wales and BMS World Mission. We wish her God's blessing in her new post.

Children's Birthdays in August:

2nd: Carys Burrows; **16th**: Bethan Stammers; **17th**: Andreas Alexandroy;
19th: Luke Young; **20th**: Zoe Mapatac; **23rd**: Ioan Stammers

WEEKDAYS

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	10.30am	Men's Prayer Meeting	Peter Cousins (353878)
Wed	2.00pm	Carers' Home Group	Carol Morris (208407)
Wed	7.30pm	HG, The Nomads	Jess & Seamus Adams (421185) Susan Cousins (353878)
Wed	7.30pm	HG, Bethesda	Jon & Deb Stammers (602868)
Wed	7.30pm	HG, Penchwintan Road	David McCormack (07725 028074)
Wed	8.00pm	HG, Grŵp Cymraeg	Owen & Nia Lloyd Evans (352634)
Thu	10.30am	Post-Alpha Bible Study	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7.30pm	HG, Llanfairpwll	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Fri	10.30am - noon	Cheeky Monkeys	Joan Rymer (713003)
Fri	10.30 – 12.30pm	HG, 6 Maes y Dref	Anne Collis (353173) anne@collis66.freeseve.co.uk
Sat	8.30am	Prayer Meeting	

NOTICEBOARD

➤ ***Advance Notice: Roy Searle in Penrallt***

On Saturday morning, September 28th from 10am to 1pm we will be hosting a special free seminar led by Roy Searle of the Northumbria Christian Community on the subject: "Being Church in the 21st Century" Roy is one of the nation's leading thinkers on how to respond to the challenges of being church in a modern culture which is very different to the one most of us were born into. He is witty, profound, and passionately committed to the church - but he believes that we have to change how we interact with the world around us if we are to grow as healthy Christian communities. Roy is a cherished friend of Penrallt, who feels a connection with Bangor ever since his son Ben attended our church while at Bangor University a few years ago.

➤ ***Penrallt Walking Group*** ***Tuesday 20 August 10.30am***

We will walk around the tidal estuary separating Holy Island from Anglesey on a mixture of old lanes, tidal roads and the coastal path (6 miles). Leave the A55 at Junction 4 then take the A5 towards Caergeiliog and Holyhead. Drive through the village of Caergeiliog, taking the road on the left as you leave the village signposted Llanfairyneubwll and Cymyran. Free parking is available in the beach car park at Cymyran. For further information contact Paul and Ruth Hebblethwaite on 01248 490581 email paul.hebblethwaite@virgin.net.

➤ ***Conference: 'Understanding how Christian faith-based collaboration can work best for the common good.'*** This is a residential weekend at Liverpool Hope University with a number of high profile speakers, including Phil Jump. There is a poster on our noticeboard and more information on the website. <http://www.togetherforthecommongood.co.uk/home.html> Cost of the weekend is £250.

➤ ***Penrallt on Facebook***

Do you know there is now a Penrallt Page? Go to Penrallt Baptist Church. If you 'like' it, then you will be updated with any events/news etc. 120 people are signed up to it. Join us.

Homeless in Bangor

Please do not give money directly to the homeless in Upper Bangor. We have found in the past that it has encouraged aggressive begging on the church premises by people who have a history of violence. You will find brown envelopes in the porch to put your gift in. This will buy vouchers which are distributed to the homeless by the Cathedral via St Mary's Shelter.

➤ ***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***

Sign up to receive our prayer diary by e-mail every Monday morning by sending your request to: office@penrallt.org.

If you have some subject for prayer, either send it in by e-mail, or fill in one of the pink cards, which are available in the porch, and place it in the visitors' cards box or give it to Peter or Magnus.

➤ ***Pastoral Help***

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

Pat Borlace 713146; Judy Stammers 364394; Geoff Moore 410582
Helen Thomas 600174

Holidays

Peter and Susan will be on holiday from August 9th to 16th. If you have any enquiries please contact the church office or one of the pastoral care team.

Deadline for next month's newsletter Sunday 18 August
Please send information to Gwyneth (gwyneth@brindley-wales.com or
352682)