



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: August 2014

From the Minister:

The producer was in rehab (according to the rumours) so it was me who pitched up with the team to film the first episode of *Put Your Life in Order*. The idea was that we would follow the professionals as they tried to straighten up the dysfunctional life of Paula who lived at number 27 (coincidentally her age too) in the street behind the studios. We were to be the flies on the wall as a company with the unlikely name of *Trinity Redemptions* did their stuff. I was glad to see their van had already arrived so we walked straight into the living room as if we owned it.

First thing we encountered was Paula, sitting on her sofa sobbing her heart out, clutching a Nexus tablet with one hand, and banging herself over the head with a soft cushion in the other. Curiously, around her ankle was a thick chain connected to a bronze statue of a severe looking elderly woman. I signalled to the cameraman to start rolling and try to get a few close ups of the tears. If you want to ratchet up the ratings some sobbing comes only second to full scale conflict-TV handbagging. You'll never get on to Channel 4 without some good wailing. Our work experience girl cut across me with a paper hankie to dab Paula's face, but I pulled her away and turned my attention to Trinity Redemptions.

There were three of them, which, I suppose, was fitting. I introduced myself to the one who looked like he might be the gaffer who said I should call him Dad. He told me that the middle-eastern looking bloke beside him was "My Beloved Son" but he was nicknamed Saviour. I thought that I'd refer to him as MBS. Might get an ironic chuckle from the viewers. I missed the name of the third member of the team who always seemed to be darting out from behind one or the other but I dubbed him Harry. Probably not what they'd said his name was, but who cares? By this time MBS was kneeling in front of the still-inconsolable Paula.

"Yes I know you feel that life's a mess, Sweetheart," he soothed, "but it's going to be alright. Dad's got a wonderful future for you planned out." She stopped beating herself with the cushion and began leathering MBS over the head with it instead.

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"That's OK," he murmured, "I've suffered plenty of that." And judging from the scars on his hands he wasn't joking. Still, it seemed to work and with a big sob Paula stopped her assault and looked at him through wet eyes. "But if we're going to turn this life of yours around," he continued, "we're going to have to admit to a few faults. So why don't you put the tablet down, stop looking at those very embarrassing pictures on your time line and face facts."

"But I didn't mean to..." choked Paula, "I mean I never intended... it wasn't my fault, I mean I'm not proud of what I did of course, we were all doing it at the time, and I was conned into going along with it, and someone must have spiked my drinks a few times and..."

I noticed Harry suddenly appear beside her and whisper a few things in her ear. She stopped gabbling for a second with a thoughtful look on her face, now all puffed up and red. Then she spoke quietly. "No, you're right. No excuses. I messed up."

I felt the work experience girl mouth a big "Yes!" and punch the air. I was still trying to work that one out when the door burst open and an agitated young neighbour in ill-fitting, stained clothes entered in a flurry. A crying toddler was being dragged behind her.

"Paula!" she begged breathlessly, "The baby's got a terrible asthma attack and we've been told to get him to A&E asap. This time you've got to help. Please, please look after Joel for me."

Conflicting emotions crossed Paula's face. "We're doing a TV show..." she began, but after catching the eye of MBS and looking in the direction of Harry she somehow relented. "OK then." She took the toddler by the hand and the child was immediately whisked away by the work experience girl who headed in the direction of the kitchen promising food. I saw Dad smile.

"See? She's just someone like you, no matter what your first impressions were." someone said. It almost sounded like all three of the Trinity Redemptions team at once. Paula nodded quietly.

The stillness was broken by the sound engineer tripping over the chain and crashing into coffee table.

MBS ignored the chaos as he knelt down with Paula again.

"If you're going to move on then you need to deal with her." And he tilted his head towards the bronze statue. "If you can't forgive you can't be forgiven." The words were familiar to me from somewhere but the conversation was long and protracted and by the end of it I was hating her mother as much as she did. But then Paula agreed that she'd begin the process of forgiving and she and Harry carefully unhooked the chain from round her ankle.

Free now, the rest of the afternoon was spent tidying up the living room. A few things were thrown out, some bright and beautiful replacements brought in from the van outside. Nice shots of dust in the sunlight, unspeakable filth being swept up, stains being polished out and broken ornaments being consigned to a black bin bag. The work experience girl helped out and seemed to be connecting to Paula in some way. Half way through the afternoon the toddler's grateful mother returned with a plate of home-baked cookies.

We were doing the day's closing shots, with a smiling Paula and a transformed room when the work experience girl whispered in my ear "Just like the Bible, isn't it? 'If anyone is in Christ they're a new creation. The old has passed away, the new has come.'"

Strange girl.

God bless,

Peter

Services This Month:

3 August

10:30am **A faithfulness worth more than life itself.** *Acts 20*

2:15pm Service at Bontnewydd.

7:00pm Communion Service.

How Spiritual Insurgency works: Isolation, Intimidation, Infiltration. *Nehemiah 6*

10 August

10:30am Speaker: Peter Calvert.

A Tale of Two Mountains.

Exodus 19:10-25; Hebrews 12:18-24

7:00pm Speaker: Jonathan Stammers.

17 August

10:30am **Ready to go, ready to die, ready to testify.**

Acts 21:1-22:1

7:00pm **The Great Revival.**

Nehemiah 8

24 August

10:30am All-age Family Service.

7:00pm **A very long time saying sorry.**

Nehemiah 9

31 August

10:30am All-age service including Family Communion. Speaker: Roger Borlace.

Jesus - the Bridge between Us and God.

John 10:7-15

7:00pm **We agree to...**

Nehemiah 10-12

Our Speakers in August:

Peter Cousins is the minister of Penrallt and is our speaker except when otherwise noted. **Roger Borlace** is a retired minister, a member of Penrallt. **Jonathan Stammers** has a doctorate from Bangor University and is a member of Penrallt. **Peter Calvert** and his wife Rachel are church planters in Saint-Étienne Sud, France (see this month's Focus for more information); Rachel is the daughter of Gwen and Peter Hicks.

Church Lunch

We will host a church lunch on **Sunday August 3rd**. Please bring enough buffet style 'finger food' for yourselves and one or two others.

Serving the people of God elsewhere:

The following members of Penrallt will be preaching or leading services at other churches this month. Please remember them in your prayers.

- Sunday 3 Roger Borlace preaching at Menai Bridge Presbyterian (am).
- Sunday 10 Elaine Green preaching at Menai Bridge Presbyterian.
- Sunday 17 Elaine Green preaching at Holyhead English Presbyterian.
- Sunday 31 Magnus and several other members of the Tyddyn Isaf homegroup helping to lead a service at St. Beuno's, Botwnnog (am).

If you will be leading services elsewhere and would like them included in this list in future months, please send details to Magnus in the church office.

Dates For Your Diary:

- Monday 4** 7:30pm Deacons' Meeting.
- Wednesday 6** 10:30am Men's Prayer Meeting followed by coffee in Options.
- Monday 18** 10:30am Church walk at Aberglaslyn.

Further details of the prayer meeting and church walk can be found in the Noticeboard section later in this newsletter.

News of People:

Congratulations to **Wendy and Andy Lemon** on the birth of **Harvey Rhys** who is already a regular member of the congregation. **Ronnie Winter** continues his treatment and **Barbara Thomas** will begin further treatment this month. **Phil McKenna** has suffered a stroke and is recovering in the Eryri hospital at the time of going to press. Congratulations to **Sue Moore** on her retirement.

Children's Birthdays in August:

- 2nd: Carys Burrows 16th: Bethan Stammers 20th: Zoe Mapatac
- 23rd: Ioan Stammers

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, Cymraeg	Owen & Nia Evans (352634)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Maes y Dref (pm)	Anne Collis (353173)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Nomads	Susan Cousins (353878)
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:

Autumn Alpha Course

An Alpha Course is planned for this Autumn at Penrallt, starting on Tuesday 30th September and running through to 9th December. Publicity material such as posters, invitations and small handouts will be available in September. However, a really good way to advertise the course is to talk about it with your family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues and anyone else not listed! **Pray for opportunities** to do just that and you'll be surprised at how God answers your prayers. **NOW** is a brilliant time to start getting alongside people and introduce them to the idea of Alpha. If you would like to chat about this, please see either Lawrence or Roshni.

Also remember that **the run up to Alpha has already started** because each week on Tuesdays here at Penrallt at 7:30pm there's an opportunity to **pray specifically for Alpha**. If you can't make Tuesdays, then be encouraged to pray for Alpha wherever you are and whenever you can. **You will be doing what Jesus did** – John 17:20 records him praying "My prayer is not for them (his disciples) alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message".

Please remember to pray for those involved in preparing for the course (Steve Burrows, Bryan Collis, Peter Cousins, Gwen Hicks, Esther Howie, Pat MacKenzie, Andrew March, Geoff Moore, Lawrence Moss, Brian Wheatcroft, Ellen Wilson, Jack Wilson, Roshni Verghese, and those looking after the catering - Pat Borlace, Susan Cousins and Sue Moss). If you feel that you would like to be involved in this year's course, either as a helper, or as a guest on the course, please contact either Lawrence Moss on 01248 713793 (or email lemoss@btinternet.com) or Roshni Verghese on 01492 871444 (or email vergheseroshni@hotmail.com).

◇ **Bangor Street Pastors need You!**

The training of the next batch of new Street Pastors is due to start in September so if you are interested in joining the team, now is the time to do it - otherwise you may have to wait more than a year for the next opportunity. If you are interested, or want to go out as an observer to see for yourself what Street Pastors do, please speak to Magnus. There is also a need for more Prayer Pastors (again, please talk to Magnus about this).

◇ **Bible Unzipped**

Bible Unzipped is taking a summer break and will restart in September.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 18 August 10:30am

Approaching Beddgelert from the direction of Caernarfon, park in the car park just a couple of hundred yards before the village centre (590 482). Walk past Gelert's grave, then on to the Aberglaslyn Pass (one of the most photographed places in Snowdonia), through Cwm Bychan, past Dinas Emrys, the Sygun Mine Museum (site of the film set of a Chinese village used in 'The Inn of the Sixth Happiness'), and return to Beddgelert (cup of tea and/or very good ice cream). Distance 6 miles, approximate time 3 hours.

◇ **Getting your prayer life into gear**

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 page dedicated to prayer.

◇ **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 meal vouchers which are distributed to the homeless by the Cathedral.

◇ **Knit for Peace**

This is an organisation that works in Britain and around the world to strengthen communities and to help people in need. It collects knitted and crocheted items to give to people who need them and runs knitting groups in vulnerable and segregated communities where people benefit from getting together with a shared purpose. For more information go to www.knitforpeace.org.uk. If you would like to participate, either by knitting / crocheting something or with a small financial donation to cover postage, please speak to Katherine Bale (kjbale@hotmail.co.uk), who will be happy to tell you why she is supporting this work, or to give you yarn, patterns, and knitting advice.

◇ **Men's Prayer Meeting**

Wednesday 6 August 10:30am

Time spent in prayer will be followed by coffee in Options. All men are welcome.

◇ **Morrisons Car Park**

Morrisons car park only allows you to park for two hours so please use the School of Nursing car park if you want to avoid an £85 fine on Sunday mornings. However, the manager has rung to say that if you would like to do your shopping after the morning service, you can leave your car there provided you present yourself to the information desk just inside the door and ask them to put your registration number into their computer. You can then do your shopping even if you arrived before 10:30am for the morning service.

◇ **Pastoral Help**

If you have pastoral concerns please contact Peter or else 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.

◇ **Room to rent**

A room is available to rent in a cosy bungalow in Menai Bridge, with one friendly co-tenant. Please speak to Magnus (01248 717570; drmeffb@gmail.com) if you are interested.

◇ **Website**

The Penrallt website, www.penrallt.org, has recently undergone a facelift (largely with a view to making it work better on mobile devices). Magnus would welcome constructive feedback - either have a chat with him in person or drop him an email to office@penrallt.org

From The Church Office:

Please note that the office will be closed between 20th and 27th August as Magnus will be away. Because of this, the deadline for the September newsletter will be earlier than usual, on Thursday 14th August. Also, the news sheet on Sunday 17th August will cover two weeks and there will be no separate news sheet on Sunday 24th August.

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Thursday 14 August.

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

NB all notices should be submitted in writing, preferably by email.

Focus on...



The Calvert Family

Peter and Rachel Calvert work with France Mission in St-Étienne (about 50km southwest of Lyon), where they have led *l'Eglise Protestante Evangélique de St-Étienne sud* (the South St-Étienne Evangelical Protestant Church) for the past 8 years. If you speak French you can get a good flavour of their church at <http://www.lumieredanslaville.fr/>

The church has a strong focus on both evangelism and discipleship. As well as a busy programme of events, they achieve a lot simply by getting alongside people and chatting to them. One particularly exciting development is an after-school Bible club that was started at the insistence of Peter and Rachel's young daughters, who wanted to be able to share the Good News of Jesus with their friends. This has already generated quite a lot of interest.

Over the past couple of years they have been working to formalise the structure of their church and to encourage other members into leadership roles. The most recent prayer letter from the Calverts said there was "encouraging participation at [their] church meeting back in June".

In early July, the Calverts were taking part in a summer camp for about 60 teenagers, where Rachel was responsible for teaching the 10-12 year olds and Peter for teaching the 13-15 year olds as well as helping out with activities. Several members of their church, including two teenagers, were also there as helpers and the Calverts' daughters were there "enjoying the open air and the freedom of not having school!"

Recently, Peter and Rachel have been exploring the possibility of moving from St-Étienne to the nearby town of St-Chamond to work there, but they don't feel that God is giving them a clear go-ahead for this at the moment so they anticipate remaining in St-Étienne for another year or so to continue equipping the saints there.

We look forward to a visit from the Calverts on Sunday 10th August, when Peter will be preaching in our morning service.

Please pray the Calverts and their church:

- Give thanks for seeds that are sown both in conversations and at evangelistic events; pray that they will bear much fruit.
- Pray that the church members would be encouraged by the positive responses they receive to their evangelism and not too discouraged by the negative responses.
- Pray for those who are new in their faith, that they would quickly grow strong roots; pray too for the leaders of the church to have wisdom in discerning where they are at spiritually and encouraging them in their life of discipleship (and for all members of the church to be committed to discipleship in both directions).
- Pray for clear guidance for Peter and Rachel as to when the time is right to move on from St-Étienne and where to move to, as well as for the church to be in a strong position to keep going when they leave.