



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: August 2016

For many this is the time of the year to "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" Mark 6 v 31.

The problem for the disciples was the same as for those travelling to North Wales for a bit of peace and quiet. "But many who saw them leaving ... got there ahead of them. When Jesus landed (he arrives by boat) and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd." Mark 6 v 32-34.

I've often wondered how many dogs were among the 5,000 plus of Mark's day. Not as many as in North Wales over the holidays I'll wager!!

North Wales' residents are savvy, for they know the places to avoid in July and August and, if we can walk a bit, we know the quiet places that few people know and can enjoy the presence of the Lord and rest awhile. Also many of us don't go on holiday when schools are out. (I'm so sorry if you have to!) When September comes schools and colleges resume and the 'wrinklies' set off for fresh adventures at home and abroad.

Most of us don't go on holiday by ourselves, even the disciples had each other for company, but, with whom do we go? (Notice no split infinitive!) – family, friends, church folk or even strangers when we book coach trips or package tours? Early in my ministry church members asked 'Can we have a church family holiday?' "What" I responded, "you want to go on holiday with people you see 50 weeks in the year!!" And, "Do we go hotel, guest house, Christian Centre or camping?" 'Ah good question.' So, we didn't have church holidays in my 30 years of ministry, although I know others did and had great times.

Sometimes we did go in church groups to Spring Harvest, Soul Survivor, etc. However, many of us independently went to Baptist Holiday Fellowship places, Christian guest houses, non-Christian B & B's and caravans for our rest and recreation. We also sent our children and young people to S.U. Christian camps and holidays. At all these Christian venues we met other Christians from all over the country and from many different churches. They enriched our holiday experience and our love for the Lord. Some of these friends we still contact at Christmas. How blessed we were and still are!

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Rachel Treweek, (The Right Reverend) now Bishop of Gloucester, remembers with affection that the most important thing she learned at S.U.'s Criccieth Beach Mission was 'learning how to develop a friendship with Jesus and knowing I could talk to him in prayer every day'. As a teenager she returned to Criccieth as a volunteer helper at the Beach Mission. So many leaders today have been converted, blessed and built up through Christian camps and missions. I pray that we are not failing our present children and young people by insularity! Let's use all Christian camps and holidays for our children and young people to develop in their faith and relationships. Let them go!!

As you draw aside over the next few weeks, going to many different places with fresh experiences, pray for Penrallt, but also enjoy sharing the experience of new people and new places, but more than anything else, enjoy the presence of Jesus, finding rest for your souls, Matt. 11 v 28-29, and your bodies, Mark 6 v 31.

Have a happy and blessed summer break.

God bless,

Geoff Birch

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 21st August.

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

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

Because Magnus will be away for much of August, please also send a copy to Roshni (secretary@penrallt.org) or contact her on 07967 320048.

Services This Month:

Our morning services in August will be family services. Activities for children will be provided in the service and the crèche room will be open if you wish to take your very young children there during the service. In both the morning and evening services, we will be hearing a series of standalone sermons before starting new series in September.

7th August

10:30am Leader: Joe Moreno

7:00pm Communion Service
Speaker: Diane Holmes
Psalm 46 ... and ... pause

Psalm 46

14th August

10:30am Leader: Bob Woods
Going for Gold

1 Cor. 9:24–27

7:00pm Speaker: Neil Rymer
Discipleship for Dummies

21st August

10:30am Leader: Geoff Birch
The message of the mat

Mark 2:1–12

This service will include the recommissioning of Duncan and Trudie Tough as they prepare to return to Papua New Guinea.

7:00pm Speaker: Roger Borlace
Mission: Courage, Commitment & Creativity

Matthew 10:5–33

28th August

10:30am Communion Service
Leaders: Deb & Jon Stammers
God gives me everything I need

Exodus 16

7:00pm Speaker: Rob Brook
"If my people would but listen to me"

Psalm 81

NB from the beginning of September, evening services will revert to a 6pm start.

Our Speakers This Month:

Joe Moreno is a native of Texas who worked in Australia for a number of years before moving to Anglesey, where he now works with Gobaith Môn as a Christian youth worker. The other speakers are all members of Penrallt.

Dates for Your Diary:

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|--|
| Wednesday 3 | 10:30am | Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee. |
| Sunday 14 | 2:15pm | Service at Haulfre residential home in Llangoed. |
| Monday 15 | 10:30am | Church walk in the Conwy Valley. |
| Saturday 20 | 9:30am | Penrallt Railway Group construction day (TBC). |
| Saturday 27 | 9:30am | Penrallt Railway Group construction day. |

Please see the Noticeboard section of this newsletter for more about most of these events.

News of People:

Lauraine Harries is recovering at home following a heart attack last month. **Gwyneth Brindley** also spent some time in hospital in July. At the time of writing, **Eve Malone** is in hospital with stomach problems, waiting for a clear diagnosis. **Andrew Metheringham** is very poorly in hospital after an episode of fainting. Please continue to hold all of them in your prayers as they journey back to full health.

Congratulations to **Rob & Nancy Brook** on the safe arrival of their new grandson on 25th July (his name had not been announced at the time of going to press).

Children's Birthdays in August

16th: Bethan Stammers 23rd: Ioan Stammers

Homegroups:

Many of our folk meet in small groups during the week for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. We encourage you to join one of these groups if you are able to.

NB not all these groups meet every week. Please check with the contact people to find out when and where they are meeting this month.

| Day | Time | Group Name | Contacts |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tue | 7:30pm | Nilgiri | Joan Beer (353874) |
| Tue | 7:30pm | Tyddyn Isaf (Menai Bridge) | Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570) |
| Wed | 2:00pm | Carers | Carol Morris (208407) |
| Wed | 7:30pm | Bethesda | Jon & Deb Stammers (602868) |
| Wed | 7:30pm | Nomads | Pat & Roger Borlace (713146) |
| Thu | 10:30am | Llanfairpwll (am) | Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793) |
| Thu | 7:30pm | Llanfairpwll (pm) | Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793) |
| Fri | 10:30am–12:30pm | The Lydias | Freda Birchall (371316) |

Noticeboard:

◇ **Baptismal Service**

Sunday 25th September

It is not yet too late to get baptised at our next Baptismal service, which is due to take place at the end of September. If you are considering baptism please talk to any of the deacons (a list of them can be found on the noticeboard at the back of the chapel, as well as on our website).

◇ **Bible Unzipped**

Bible Unzipped is a free monthly course, on Saturday mornings, which aims to unpack Scripture with those interested in learning more than can be offered in a Sunday sermon. It is taking a break in August and the next session is due to be on Saturday 10th September.

◇ **Church Lunch**

Please note that there will be no church lunch in August. The next one will be on Sunday 4th September.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 15th August

This month's walk follows the same overall route as the June walk, which was not completed, and starts and finishes at Rowen in the Conwy Valley. Take the A55 to Conwy and then the B5106 on the west side of the Conwy Valley. After about 2½ miles from Conwy turn right (signed Rowen) immediately after Y Groes Hotel. On entering Rowen turn right to the free car park (signed) with public toilets. The walk starts on road gradually rising to Cae Coch Farm and from here generally follows contours northwards on easy tracks taking in spectacular views. Part of the walk is on the Pilgrims Way and over one short woodland stretch very narrow on sidelong ground which ends going down steep steps. Walking boots are recommended. Meet in the car park at Rowen at 10.30 am. For more info contact Sue or Lawrence Moss on 01248 713793.

◇ **Pastoral Help**

If you have issues of concern about your own or someone else's welfare, please contact a member of the Pastoral Care team: Pat Borlace (713146); Adrienne Ferrada; Gwen Hicks; Geoff Moore (410582); Lawrence Moss (713793); Judy Stammers (364394); Helen Thomas (600174).

◇ **Penrallt on Facebook**

We have two groups on Facebook: a general group for news and information, called *Penrallt* (NB searching on Facebook for "Penrallt" will also bring up several other pages and groups, many of which are not related to us) and a prayer-specific group called *Penrallt Prayer Point*.

◇ **Penrallt Railway Group**

The group are making good progress on their n-gauge model of the Bala Junction/Rhuabon line c. 1958 and are planning one or two construction days at Penrallt (Saturday 27th August and possibly also Saturday 20th August, to be confirmed) to work on scenery for the model. Please speak to Andrew March or Lawrence Moss if you would like to know more or wish to join the group.

◇ **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 (or occasionally on Tuesdays) by emailing the office now and requesting to be put on the list. For more immediate and interactive sharing of prayers, search on Facebook for *Penrallt Prayer Point* and send a request to join our group.

◇ **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.

◇ **Saturday Morning Prayer Meeting**

Every Saturday morning at 8:30am there is a prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room to pray for the Penrallt family, our wider community and any other concerns that the Lord lays on your heart. All are welcome.

◇ **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 Haulfre on **Sunday 14th August** (NB this is the second Sunday of the month).

◇ **Wales to the World**

Saturday 1st October

7:30pm

We look forward to hosting the first evening of a Wales-wide Bible Society tour that looks at the rich spiritual heritage of Wales to give us inspiration for how we can bring the Bible to life in people's hearts now and in the future. The evening, featuring Dai and Cath Woolridge, will be a fusion of songs, stories and spoken word. More information on booking tickets will follow.

From the Diaconate:

The latest update regarding the pastoral vacancy: On Sunday 10th July we have had three further profiles sent to us from Rev. Phil Jump, our Regional Minister. The search team met on Monday 18th and came to the decision, after much prayer, to proceed with two of the applicants and not go further with the other one. The next day all three were contacted and at their request we sent our profile to the first two. I have now heard from both to say that they have carefully and prayerfully considered us and are happy to proceed with us. Therefore we will enter into the next stage of negotiations with each which is rather difficult to manage until early September as a number of the team are on holiday in August, at different periods. However, I will update you as things progress; meanwhile could you please join some of us in fasting and praying for wisdom for all, discernment and an extra sensitive ear in listening to God. Please remember all of us in the search team are fallen sinners often short of patience and good temperament and pray that we remain faithful, unanimous and totally open to God.

Should you guys have any questions, concerns or advice to give please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the search team, unless of course you are asking for personal details of the applicants at this stage!

As and when things move ahead we will plan dedicated prayer evenings when we can all come together and pray for Penrallt and the potential minister but for now we rely on your personal prayers for God's guidance to get there.

God bless you all and thank you for your support.

Roshni

From the Church Office:

Magnus will be heading to Ireland from 11th to 24th August to join Colm & Catherine Ó Brolcháin and a team from OM in outreach at the Fleadh Cheoil, an annual Irish music festival. He will also be away on Friday 5th and Monday 8th August (sailing round Anglesey). While Magnus is away, Roshni is intending to spend some time in the church office most days but is not likely to be around all the time during the regular office hours (10am to 3pm). If there are any issues/concerns during this period, please contact her directly on 07967 320048 rather than coming through the office; also, emails during this period should be sent to Roshni (secretary@penrallt.org), not to Magnus (office@penrallt.org).

Focus on...



Tearfund

(The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund)

Tearfund, a leading relief and development organisation, is one of the Christian charities Penrallt supports both financially and by prayer. Tearfund works in partnership with Christian agencies and churches in over 50 countries, including the UK, tackling the causes and effects of poverty. Tearfund knows the Gospel has the power to transform lives and heal communities and sees this truth in its work every day.

Here in the UK Tearfund partners address issues such as poverty, addiction, family breakdown, abuse, debt and unemployment. Evelyn from Peckham, London was distraught when her husband abandoned her and their four children. With no money, no family support and no job, Pecan, a Tearfund partner, was her only hope. Pecan provided her with emotional support, skills coaching and mentoring. Evelyn is now more confident, has a job caring for the elderly and is able to provide for her children. Evelyn also has a hope for the future.

Tearfund works in 46 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean

A Tearfund Partner, PEDC, is working in Chad in north central Africa with the local church in Hillé Bar, a predominantly Muslim village. A lack of rain caused by global warming and El Niño, plus exceptionally high temperatures, has resulted in the harvests failing. Mothers are digging through ants' nests, often in temperatures of 50°C to find seeds buried by the insects to feed to their children. However, PEDC workers and church members are cultivating new communal nursery areas close to what water remains. Also, following many years of destructive tree-felling, PEDC is working with villagers to replant trees so farmland can be rejuvenated.

In Syria and Iraq millions have fled their homes to escape the terrifying brutality of Islamic State militants. Despite security risks, Tearfund partners are supporting families who urgently need access to safe water, shelter and other vital essentials.

Tearfund also advocates for justice and speaks out for those who have no voice, both here in the UK and across the world. The Miskito people of Honduras have secured the rights to their land which has been under threat. This took 30 years of campaigning by a Tearfund partner.

Tearfund respond to disasters when they happen. Where there are no local partners, or where the scale of an emergency is immense, Tearfund implement their disaster response teams. Long after the journalists and TV reporters have returned home, Tearfund teams will still be there helping communities with long-term disaster recovery.

So what can you do to help Tearfund in its mission to bring an end to poverty and injustice? **Please pray. This is so important.** To find out what to pray about, and maybe to make a donation if you feel able, please visit Tearfund's website at www.tearfund.org.