



# Penrallt Baptist Church

**Newsletter: February 2019**

As I write this it is cold outside and I can see the snow on top of the mountains. Some people don't like cold weather and you hear them say, "I hate winter". On the other hand some don't like hot weather so we hear expressions like, "I cannot stand this weather; it's too hot for me".

The truth is that in order to have the harvest we need the different seasons to be free of germs. We need the cold (and it is beautiful to contemplate nature when the sun shines).

It seems to me that when it comes to people it's sometimes difficult to live in harmony, because we are all different. If we just take the trouble to focus on what they could be, and not on what they are now, then it would be easier for us to accept them.

Someone once said, "We cannot wait for perfection in others just as we cannot be perfect ourselves!"

It is interesting how Jesus loved and accepted His followers. He did not dismiss them when they failed, instead He built them up. Take Peter for example; he failed a few times because of his character, and he even denied Jesus publicly three times. Jesus, with His eyes full of love, did not focus on who he was but on the person Peter would become one day.

Let's not be prompted to judge people when we see bad behaviour or something we know to be wrong. It could be because there have been problems in their childhood, or perhaps they just had a bad day. It is better to make a mistake because of excessive grace rather than excessive law.

But we cannot stop there, for sadly there are many people in our society and churches who tend to ignore the lethal reality of sin.

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They would say, "We never preach about sin in our church, we prefer rather to highlight grace and love". Nonetheless, the fact is that sin is what has destroyed God's beautiful creation, and it took the death of the Son of God to atone for it.

No! We are not to speak only about sin, because if we do this we will forget how much God loves us. The Bible says, "Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight" (Isaiah 5:21). There is something wrong if we are only happy when people do what WE want, and unhappy when things are not done OUR way. We can destroy people by our actions, comments or words.

On the other hand, to speak only about grace and love is to forget the price our Lord Jesus paid for us at Calvary.

We are to face these realities:

We are sinners (See Romans 3:23; Galatians 5:19-21), but God still loves us (see Romans 5:8) and His grace is available when we come to Him in repentance (Ephesians 2:8-9). Confession of sin is the first step we take towards salvation.

Peter understood this message, he asked forgiveness, then he was restored and used for the glory of God.

Maybe you are a believer and you have surrendered your life to Jesus as Peter did. I invite you to consider that as year by year we need the different seasons to produce the harvest and beautiful landscapes, so we need other people to shape our lives. The Bible tells us that, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17).

This New Year may we learn to love people, even though we may not necessarily accept their actions.

Or perhaps you prefer not to talk about religion, for you are sceptical about Christianity. I encourage you to read the Bible, to learn more about Jesus, to get closer to Him than you are. He doesn't expect us to be perfect. I am sure you will be surprised when you find out how much He loves you.

*Freddy*

## ***Services This Month***

Our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, will be the preacher at all services except where otherwise noted below. James Goodman and Magnus Forrester-Barker are both church members; Magnus is also the church administrator. Wendy Lemon is one of our deacons and leads our Sunday school team.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> February**

- 10:30am **Hope in healing and wholeness** *Luke 17:11–19*  
Preacher: James Goodman
- 6:00pm Communion Service  
**Wow, I'm free to serve** *Psalm 119:41–48*  
(Lessons from Psalms #20)  
Preacher: Magnus Forrester-Barker

### **10<sup>th</sup> February**

- 10:30am All-Age Service led by Freddy Farias-Palacios and Wendy Lemon  
*Matthew 22:37–40*
- 6:00pm **The comfort from the Word of God** *Psalm 119:49–56*  
(Lessons from Psalms #21)

### **17<sup>th</sup> February**

- 10:30am **Experiencing God through obedience** *1 John 2:1–6*  
(Experiencing God #12)
- 6:00pm Café Church service led by the students.  
This will be a testimony evening. Cakes welcome, please!

### **24<sup>th</sup> February**

- 10:30am Communion Service *Luke 4:14–21*  
**A mission statement for our spiritual journey**
- 6:00pm **Perseverance in the Word of God** *Psalm 119:57–64*  
(Lessons from Psalms #22)

## ***Dates for Your Diary***

<b>Saturdays</b>	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
<b>Sunday 3</b>	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre residential home in Llangoed (near Beaumaris).
<b>Wednesday 6</b>	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
<b>Tuesday 12</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.</b>
<b>Wednesday 13</b>	7:30pm	Cytûn AGM at Penrallt.
<b>Saturday 16</b>	9:30am	Bible Unzipped at Rhos on Sea URC.
<b>Monday 18</b>	10:30am	Church Walk at Cymaran (Rhosneigr).
<b>Tuesday 26/Thursday 28</b>		Experiencing God course continues.

*Please see later in this newsletter for more about many of these events.*

## ***Children's Birthdays in February***

7<sup>th</sup>: Afan Hedd Whitton      8<sup>th</sup>: Sophie Toplis      10<sup>th</sup>: Rosa Tough  
16<sup>th</sup>: Emily Reid              21<sup>st</sup>: Harmony Wilson  
23<sup>rd</sup>: Tommy Capper      27<sup>th</sup>: Siôn Davies

***Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February.***

*Please send information to Magnus (office@penrallt.org; 01248 353355).  
All notices (including alterations to standing information) should be  
submitted in writing (preferably by email) as early as possible.*

## ***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 groups generally do not meet on the week of the monthly prayer meeting or the Experiencing God course and may not meet all other weeks – please check with the named contact. All landline numbers below have the 01248 area code.*

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Contacts</b>
<b>Mon</b>	7:00pm	Delta	Brian Wheatcroft (602516) Pat MacKenzie (670948)
<b>Tue</b>	10:00am	Nilgiri	Joan Beer (353874)
<b>Tue</b>	7:30pm	Tyddyn Isaf (Menai Bridge)	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
<b>Wed</b>	2:00pm	Carers	Carol Morris (208407)
<b>Wed</b>	7:30pm	Bryn Eithinog	Freddy Farias-Palacios (07506 710694)
<b>Wed</b>	7:30pm	Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
<b>Thu</b>	10:30am	Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Thu</b>	7:30pm	Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Thu</b>	7:30pm	Ogwen Valley	Brian & Kate Wheatcroft (602516)
<b>Fri</b>	10:30am	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316) Lesley Jackson (680330)

◇ **Bible Unzipped** *Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February 9:30am–12pm*

This is a theological learning community that meets monthly on the third Saturday morning. Normally at Rhos on Sea URC Church, this month it will instead be at **Prince's Drive Baptist Church, Colwyn Bay**. Bible Unzipped is entirely free though donations towards costs are welcome. This month's programme is not yet finalised but is due to include a session led by Jon Stammers on Matthew's use of the Old Testament. For more information, please speak to Roger Malone or Magnus Forrester-Barker.

◇ **Church Lunch** *Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February*

As usual, there will be a (free) bring and share lunch after the morning service on the first Sunday of the month. Please bring enough buffet-style food for yourself and one or two others. Visitors are very welcome (and are not expected to bring food).

◇ **Church Walk** *Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 10:30am*

Meet at 10:30am at the Cymyran Hotel. (Take Junction 3 off the A55, Valley and turn back along the A5 towards Caergeiliog. Turn right along Cymyran Road, (signposted Llanfair yn Neubwll) follow road for just over a mile and the hotel is on the right.) There will be an opportunity for a quick coffee here if needed. The walk is a linear walk along the Coastal Path to Rhosneigr, about 4½ miles long. It is flat, the main section being along Cymyran beach. There are a few muddy areas around gates along the first part, so suitable shoes should be worn. Bring a packed lunch as usual and we hope to visit a cafe in Rhosneigr at the end. Contact Mari or Ian for more details (01248 421783, 07443038183).

◇ **Cytûn AGM** *Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 7:30pm*

Cytûn brings together most of the churches of Bangor for a variety of activities throughout the year, many of them focused on outreach. This year, their AGM will be hosted at Penrallt. As well as the business meeting, there will be a discussion on "The Lost Generation: Bringing Jesus into teenage life" led by Tim Gough (Llandudno Youth for Christ) and our very own Amy Burrows (Gobaith Môn), with a view to developing Christian youth work in the secondary schools of Bangor. Please do come along and take part.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting** *Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 7:30pm*

Our monthly mid-week prayer meetings, for the whole congregation, usually take place in the chapel and last about an hour. The next two meetings after this one will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April.

### ◇ **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: Adrienne Ferrada; Gwen Hicks (353648); Geoff Moore (410582); Lawrence Moss (713793); Helen Thomas (600174); Roshni Verghese (07967 320048).

### ◇ **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](mailto: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**

We do not recommend giving money directly to the rough sleepers in Upper Bangor. You will find labelled envelopes in the porch for a gift that will buy meal vouchers which are distributed to the homeless by the Cathedral; this certainly would be a more meaningful form of help.

### ◇ **Sunday Afternoon Services**

We usually visit local residential homes on the first Sunday afternoon of the month, alternating between Haulfre (in Llangoed, near Beaumaris) and Plas Garnedd (in Llanberis). The services start at 2:15pm and last roughly half an hour. This month we will be going to **Haulfre** on **3<sup>rd</sup> February**.

### ◇ **World Day of Prayer**

This year's World Day of Prayer\*\* service in Bangor will take place on Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00am at Eglwys-y-Groes, Maesgeirchen. The service this year has been written by Christian women in Slovenia and lasts for approximately one hour, and will be followed by refreshments with a Slovenian flavour. Come and be part of this amazing day, a great wave of prayer encircling the globe, sharing with people in over 120 countries and islands around the world. Collections taken on the day give significant sums to support a large number of charities. Everyone welcome. Anyone willing to take part (e.g. short readings) please contact Judith Stammers.

*\*\* (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer, but member countries worldwide recently voted to change the name, though it is still women-led)*

*Focus on...*

## **The Calvert Family Church Planting in Blois (Loire Valley, France)**

Thank you for your prayers for us and the church here in Blois. Do you remember me telling you about the Christian scout group we started a couple of years back? This year there are 22 children, aged between eight and twelve. Please pray in particular for the children in the group who aren't from Christian families. Several of them participate well in discussions around the Bible, but a couple of them pretty are negative about anything to do with the God. We need the Holy Spirit's inspiration and help to be winsome in the way we present the gospel, both in word and in action.

One of the Mums from scouts has been coming along to the *My Life Workshop* discovery group which I asked you to pray for last time. Please pray that she would soon find peace with God through Jesus. Her daughter was also one of the group who came to camp with us last summer. Pete and the team are already hard at work preparing the the next Interaction Camp (26th July–3rd August). We would be glad of your prayers for God's provision of leaders and helpers. We hope to take a group of campers from Blois and the surrounding area again, including some from scouts. Please pray that God would be preparing hearts to welcome the gospel of life. It's a bilingual French/ English speaking camp, so if you know any 10-17 year olds (or potential leaders) who might be interested, do get in touch! (pierrerachel.calvert@gmail.com)

We're thankful to God that the core of the church plant has been growing gently. Please pray for Cédric and Linda, with their children Mehdi, Suzannah and Emile, who are preparing to move to Blois within the next few months and hope to get involved in the church plant. Cédric plans to develop sports chaplaincy nationally, particularly in tennis. In the meantime, Annelicia, who has been on the team since 2016, hopes to leave to go to Bible College in the summer to prepare for cross-cultural ministry. Please remember her as she seeks God's leading for where and how she can best use her nursing qualification to serve him.

Prayer pointers :

- Thank God for the families who send their children to scouts. Please pray that each child would progress in their knowledge and love of God this year.
- Pray for growth, both in depth and in numbers, in the church plant
- Pray that 2019 would be rich in opportunities to share the good news of the gospel, and that we would be bold, loving and clear.

*Rachel Calvert*