



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: July 2016

They think it's all over!

It is now – for a while, though I expect many are clamouring for a re-count, or a re-match and are adamant they will never accept the verdict.

When we ran the toddler group "Cheeky Monkeys" we always ended with the Hokey Cokey: "In, Out, In, Out; Shake it all about". As I write this I don't know the result of the EU referendum, leave or remain, but I do know that there has been a lot of harsh words and falling out between erstwhile friends. Both sides have been prophesying doom, whether we stay in or leave. Also, as we have seen, even when you join one side or the other and speak out some of your new "friends" say the weirdest things. It is embarrassing to find you are in the same company as them. You would like to belong, whether it is in the leave or the remain camp, but there are those bedfellows who, to be blunt, you really cannot get along with. It would be easier to bury your head in the sand, do nothing, not vote even and hope that it won't make much difference either way.

But some things do matter. And sometimes we cannot go back and have a re-run if we don't like the result.

It reminds me how difficult it is to be a prophet, whether for cash or conviction, and especially in your own town or city.

We are wanting a new prophet for Penrallt. Someone who will inspire and instruct us, lead and manage us and advise and guide us. Someone who will speak for us; and speak what we need to hear. We have spent a long time discussing what we want. He/she will have to cope with the diversity within the church and as prophet, pastor, leader, and minister be able to put up with some flak – and this is just the flak coming from our own side! We want a saint and a spokesperson. Someone who will do what we find so hard – be Jesus to Bangor and the surrounding area.

No wonder we are having difficulty in our hunt for a new leader as suitable candidates are few and far between.

So maybe we will have to manage by ourselves for a while longer.

At least we know why we do it.

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For we are all called to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matt 2:19).

We know that it will be hard.

“Lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus” (Heb: 12:1)

We know that we will be spurned, cold shouldered.

“If the world hates you, know that it hated Me before it hated you.” (John 15:18)

But we know what to do.

“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort.” (2 Tim 4:2)

And we know that even our friends will question what we are doing for as Jesus warns,

“A Prophet is not without honour, except in his own country and in his own house.” (Matt 13:57)

But, it’s much easier to stand on the side lines; to observe, to be a commentator or a TV pundit and wait and to see how things pan out. With no pastor to lead us, it becomes progressively easier to let things drift through lack of direction and inactivity.

So what will it be? The decision is ours. To do or to abstain.

Why don’t you step up to the plate?

As it says in Matt 9:37 “the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are so few”. We could just go on into v 38 and pray, but I pray that we will do more. That we will each follow the example of the Israelites as they told Joshua “No! we will serve the Lord”. (Josh 24:21)

Serving actively is much more rewarding, even if it requires great effort from each of us, than just sitting back and be-moaning the result, whether it be of the referendum or the ‘Euro’ football tournament or the fact that as yet we have no new Pastor. If you think it’s all over then please think again!

God bless,

Neil Rymer

Deadline for next month’s newsletter: Sunday 24th July.

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

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

Services This Month:

In our morning services in July we will hear the second half of a series of sermons on the book of Malachi (based on the Tyndale commentary, from which the sermon titles are taken). In the evenings, we will finish our series on Colossians before embarking on several standalone sermons.

3rd July

- 10:30am Speaker: Neil Rymer
The importance of family life *Malachi 2:10–16*
- 7:00pm Communion Service Speaker: Deb Stammers
A change of clothes *Colossians 3:1–17*

10th July

- 10:30am Speaker: Jon Stammers
The Lord is coming with justice *Malachi 2:17–3:5*
- 7:00pm Speaker: James Goodman
It is the Lord Christ you are serving *Colossians 3:18–4:1*

17th July

- 10:30am Speaker: Roger Borlace
The Lord longs to bless *Malachi 3:6–12*
- 7:00pm Speaker: Menna Machreth
Colossians 4:2–18

24th July

- 10:30am Speaker: Geoff Birch
God's judgment will be final *Malachi 3:13–4:3*
- 7:00pm Speaker: Jerry Clewett

31st July

- 10:30am Communion Service Speaker: Julia Bartholomew
Concluding exhortation *Malachi 4:4–6*
- 7:00pm Speaker: Christopher Penney
Reconciliation (Breakfast on the shore) *John 21:1–17*

Our Speakers This Month:

Menna Machreth is the national Mission Coordinator for the Baptist Union of Wales and BMS World Mission in Wales. **Jerry Clewett** is a missionary working with BMS in Nepal. **Christopher Penney** is a Baptist Minister who is currently taking a sabbatical researching for a degree with the University of Wales through Spurgeon's College London. **Julia Bartholomew** is the minister of Rhos-on-Sea URC. The other speakers are all members of Penrallt.

Dates for Your Diary:

Sunday 3	2:45pm	Service at Plas Garnedd residential home in Llanberis.
Wednesday 6	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Saturday 9	9:30am–1pm	<i>Bible Unzipped</i> in Rhos-on-Sea.
Monday 11	7:30pm	Church members' meeting in the Canolfan.
Tuesday 12	7:30pm	France Mission presentation from Rachel & Peter Calvert at Gwen's house (NB due to limited space it is necessary to sign up for this event).
Monday 18	10:30am	Church walk at Dolwyddelan.
Saturday 30	2pm	Wedding of Janet Gough and Peter Smith.

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

News of People:

Congratulations to **Janet Gough** and **Peter Smith**, who will be getting married at Penrallt on Saturday 30th July at 2pm. Revd. Geoff Birch will be conducting the wedding. Janet and Peter would love to have all Penrallt people attending the wedding and the refreshments afterwards, in the Canolfan.

Andy & Wendy Lemon both have new jobs: Andy has been appointed as Head of Maths (fixed term) at Ysgol John Bright in Llandudno, and Wendy is now the Provincial Safeguarding Officer for the Church in Wales. Congratulations to both of them.

Children's Birthdays in July

5 th : Cadi Evans	16 th : Georgina Osborne
19 th : Katherine Adams	22 nd : Llinos Davies

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**

We are aiming to hold a Baptismal service on the evening of Sunday 25th September. If you are considering baptism please will you 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**

Saturday 9th July 9:30am–1pm

Bible Unzipped aims to unpack Scripture with those interested in learning more than can be offered in a Sunday sermon. It also equips those leading in the church with some tools for studying and teaching from the Bible. We meet monthly on the second Saturday morning at Rhos-on-Sea URC from 9:30am to 1pm. Each morning includes three sessions. The course is free. This month's programme: *Book of Samuel, Part III* (Peter Cousins); *Christian Doctrine, Part III* (Rob Beamish); *Ephesians, Part III* (Julia Bartholomew). NB all sessions at Bible Unzipped are self-contained so even if you missed the first part of the series last month you can still benefit from this month's studies.

◇ **Cheeky Monkeys**

Fridays, 10:30am–12:00pm

Our parent/toddler group, every Friday morning during (school) term-time. It is free and is open to parents (or grandparents etc.) with young children whether or not they attend Penrallt. Contact Ceri Walker (07581 452098) for more information. The final session of this term will be on Friday 15th July.

◇ **Church Lunch**

Sunday 3rd July

Please bring enough buffet style food for yourselves and one or two others.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 18th July

This month's walk is a circular route of approx. 7 miles; walking boots are necessary. Meet at 10.30 in the station car park in Dolweddylan, grid ref: SH738521. Walk along the river Lledr, and have our sandwiches on the river bank. Then climb up a fairly steep path to Tŷ Mawr Wybrnant, the home of Bishop William Morgan, who in 1588 produced the Welsh translation of the Bible which for 400 years was the only Welsh Bible commonly used. The house is owned by the National Trust, and although it's not normally open on Mondays, the warden has agreed to open up especially for us. For those who aren't NT members, the entrance charge is £3.50. Then return to Dolweddylan. For more information, contact Roger & Pat Borlace (01248 713146).

◇ **France Mission Presentation**

Tuesday 12th July 7:30pm

An opportunity to meet Rachel and Peter Calvert and to hear about their work with France Mission. See this month's Focus article (on the back page of this newsletter) for more information.

◇ **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**

Did you know that we have a Facebook page? Search for "Penrallt Baptist Church". We also have a general group (search for "Penrallt", though note that this will also bring up several other pages and groups, many of which are not related to us) as well as our prayer-specific *Penrallt Prayer Point* group; unlike the page, you need to join the groups before you can use them.

◇ **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 Plas Garnedd on **Sunday 3rd July**.

From the Diaconate:

In order to keep you all informed, as much as we can at this early stages, of the vacancy search; we have had a few personal profiles sent to us from the National Settlement Team following which the search team met early June in order to discuss them. We decided not to proceed with one individual but contact the other two. This I did on the following day and at their request sent our full church profile to them for consideration in prayer. We have now heard from both of them; one person is in the middle of negotiation with another church it seems, as such our profile will be kept on file in case the current process falls through; the other person has come back to say that after prayerful reading and consideration of our vacancy the person feels that there is no calling from the Lord to pursue our vacancy further.

So... we need to continue praying and waiting in patience; the Lord's plan for us lies elsewhere. I will keep you informed as things happen, in the meantime please pray, give whatever you are able to according to the gifts God has blessed you with to support the day-to-day life of our church, support each other and let us know if you have any suggestions/issues/concerns/compliments or whatever. I know that the Lord is in our favour and He will move mightily in His own time although I feel now would be a good time!

God bless,

Roshni

Focus on...



Rachel & Peter Calvert

serving with France Mission

Laying the Foundations for a New Church Plant in Central France

Thank you for your prayers and support in this first year of ministry in Blois. It's been great to start building relationships with people from various walks of life in the historic town centre. We are praying for God to birth a new church here which will be a centre for church planting and training in the Loire Valley. Please pray that we would be bold and winsome as we seek to make disciples where God has placed us, here in the old town. Who knows, maybe some of the parents we meet at the school gate are the future church-planters that God is going to call to himself and equip to serve in this region and beyond! Maybe some of the children are too.

The church we are linked with in Blois North (a more multicultural area with mainly council housing) has been a great encouragement to us, and we have enjoyed serving there too. Pete is on the church council, both of us have joined the preaching and children's ministry teams and are involved in small groups. We're grateful for their support and the input of their pastor Michel into the church planting project. Please pray that in return, the new church plant in the town centre would be a source of blessing and renewal for the Blois North Church.

After nearly a year of research, networking and prayerful reflection, the precise contours of the church planting project are coming into clearer focus. We're grateful for the way God is bringing a team together for the launch of the new church. We would like to ask for prayer for our team-mate Marcio, whose Dad in Brazil died very suddenly a few days ago. Please pray too for Anecilia, a young nurse who hopes to be part of the launch team and needs to find work in the area, and Camille, a teacher who is in the same situation. Then there are Stephanie and Yang, with baby Leia, who are planning to join us for a two year training placement and need to find appropriate accommodation in Blois town centre. Please pray for unity of purpose and vision as we head into this adventure together.

*Rachel and Peter Calvert will be visiting in July and there will be an opportunity to meet them and hear about their work on **Tuesday 12th July** at 7:30pm. Gwen Hicks (Rachel's mum) will host the evening at her house. Due to space constraints, we must ask you to sign up if you wish to come; to do so, speak to Magnus (office@penrallt.org; 01248 353355). Refreshments will be provided but you are welcome to bring some food to share if you wish.*