



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: July 2017

Longing to hear the voice of God... Holy Spirit, lead me on... lead us on... Come!

I look around our church on a Sunday morning and see a lovely, expectant and seemingly very much at peace congregation; but I know now that underneath that serenity there is sadness... deep sadness; fear... strong fear of ill health, strained relationships; perhaps concerns regarding sexuality; worries about future... and so on it goes. Are we any different from anywhere else? I think not. Are we not good, faithful Christians then? How would we exchange doubt, discouragement, depression, and fear for energetic faith and joy? Dear brothers and sisters, then look to Jesus for the answer. He said that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our hearts, souls and minds (Matthew 22:37). How do we do this? Is it the same as obeying God? Obedience is surely part of loving our Father but we all know that we can obey someone without really loving that person; so, love is not only obedience but also passion. Without passion obedience is simply discipline. Passion for Jesus will conquer a thousand sins in our lives. To a heart ignited with passion God reveals His extravagant affection changing his/her life powerfully and radically, replacing guilt and shame and regret and anger and disappointment and powerlessness with holy boldness and amazing peace. It is rather simple isn't it? When we invite Jesus into our lives the Spirit of the Creator of the universe remains with us every moment, leading us beyond all that is imperfect in our lives; we are transformed; we begin to:

- Work on what is real... rather than worry about what is unreal.
- Reach forward and press on... rather than remain a prisoner to the past.
- Act on what is revealed in Scripture... rather than trust in our own emotions and feelings.

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We have a choice; choose to live by the Spirit or choose to live by the demands of the world; follow the Word of God or follow our hearts' desires; herein lies the dilemma. His condition is that we let Him into every aspect of our lives, not just the ones we need help!

We are now listening to some uncompromising sermons in Penrallt; we might be shifting uncomfortably in our seats at times! But that is the Word of God in all its glory; so may I persuade you to listen, meditate and make changes accordingly. No worries dear friends, God loves us as we are, sinners; the opportunity to repent is open as is His grace and forgiveness. Oh! The Glory of God! How we suffer because we are so stubborn and want to live our lives our way! Dear reading friend, I do not wish to encourage you to downplay or look away from the hard times of life and the pain those times bring. Instead I am persuading you to look boldly in the face of adversity when it arrives, think of it as an opportunity from our Saviour to learn something we might not learn otherwise; opportunity that God promises to use for our good. Though hard times He reveals His nature. How? By encouraging us to trust Him to lead us on, believe in His everlasting love, in His power, in His promises... to make us each a masterpiece!

Dear friends, God has a plan for our welfare. When we wonder and ask, 'But...what happened there?' He shouts back to us through Jeremiah 29:11, 'Oh, I have a plan'. The path of our life may zig and zag, twist and turn but God has promised us, 'a future and a hope'. Let us claim that future.

God bless,

Roshni

Duty Deacons

Owing to the recent changes within the diaconate and in an attempt to even out the workload, every Sunday there will be a deacon on duty for both the morning and evening service, who will be responsible for opening and locking the building, ensuring that servers are allocated for communion services and cups, plates etc. washed and tidied away afterwards, as well as facilitating the general smooth running of services. The name of the duty deacon will be published in the weekly news sheet each week.

Services This Month

The speaker except where otherwise noted is our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, who will conclude our morning service sermon series on *Fruitfulness on the Front Line* and begin a new series on *The Fruits of the Holy Spirit* as well as continuing the evening series on *When God calls us to do His will*. This month we also welcome Claire Bedford, one of our BMS mission partners (working at a hospital in Chad). Deb Stammers and Roger Borlace, are both Penrallt members.

2nd July

10:30am **Fruitfulness on the front line #7:
Being a wise messenger of the Gospel** *Colossians 4:2–6*

6:00pm Communion Service
**When God calls us to do His will #4:
The disciples' call** *Matthew 4:18–22;
John 1:35–39*

9th July

10:30am **Fruitfulness on the front line #8:
Advice for our spiritual journey** *Colossians 2:6–7*

6:00pm **When God calls us to do His will #5:
Jesus' model of ministry** *Matthew 9:35–38*

16th July

10:30am Speaker: Claire Bedford (BMS).

6:00pm Speaker: Deb Stammers.
**Jacob's encounters with God #1:
Heaven is closer than you think** *Genesis 28:10–22*

23rd July

10:30am Speaker: Deb Stammers.
**Jacob's encounters with God #2:
Wrestling with God** *Genesis 32:22–32*

6:00pm Speaker: Roger Borlace.
Knowing that we're children of God *1 John 3*

30th July

10:30am Communion Service
The Fruits of the Holy Spirit #1: LOVE *Gal. 5:22; Rom. 1:1–5
Matt. 22:35–40*

6:00pm **When God calls us to do His will #6:
Advice to deal with pressures** *1 Peter 2:11–12*

Dates for Your Diary

Saturdays	8:30–9:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Sunday 2	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre residential home in Llanberis.
Monday 3	7:30pm	Church members' meeting.
Wednesday 5	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Saturday 8	10:30am	Church walk at Aberffraw.
Sunday 9	3pm	Praise on the Pier with the other churches of Bangor Cytûn at the end of Bangor Pier.
Tuesday 11	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.

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

News of People

Congratulations to Wyn and Julia Morgan on the safe arrival of their latest grandchild (Siân and Al's first child) – Emma Tegid Rowlands, who was born last month.

Please uphold in prayer both Pauline Pearson and Allison Farias-Arias as they struggle with pain and illness.

Please remember in your prayers Malcolm & Judy Stammers who are caring for Judy's terminally ill friend. Consequently Judy will be stepping down from the pastoral care team for the time being.

Children's Birthdays in July

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

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 23rd 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.

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 weekly. 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	Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
Wed	7:30pm	Bryn Eithinog	Freddy Farias-Palacios (07506 710694)
Thu	10:30am	Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7:30pm	Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7:30pm	Ogwen Valley	Brian & Kate Wheatcroft (602516)
Fri	10:30am–12:30pm	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316)

Noticeboard:

◇ **Advance notice: Canolfan Closure August 2017**

Essential maintenance work is being done on the wooden floor in the hall and corridor, so ***the Canolfan will be closed for all activities during the week of 14th - 18th August.***

◇ **Church Lunch**

Sunday 2nd July

We will, as usual, have a church lunch on the first Sunday of the month, 2nd July. Please bring enough buffet-style food for yourself and a few others. *NB there will be no church lunch in August.*

◇ **Church Walk**

Saturday 8th July

9:15am

This month's walk will be on a Saturday and will be led by Dan Sayer. The walk is from Aberffraw to Pen Cob, approx. 7 miles. It follows one of the most beautiful coastal paths on Anglesey, starting from the small village of Aberffraw where we will follow the beach line to the start of the coastal path. We will pass the former home of Prince William and Kate, we will also have views of Newborough Forest and we should also see plenty of wildlife. The walk only has a few small ascents and may be a little muddy in places. We will finish at the Riverside Café with lovely homemade pies and cakes, perfect after this great walk. The meeting point

will be the Pen Cob carpark at Malltraeth (LL62 5BA), at 9:15am ready for a bus transfer to Aberffraw at 9:30. Bus passes or couple of pounds for bus transfer are essential, as well as snacks, water and money for the café at the end of the walk (which will be near the meeting point). For further information and to confirm you are coming on the walk please contact Dan on 01407 842235.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting** *Tuesday 11th July* *7:30pm*

In addition to our regular weekly Saturday morning prayer meetings, we now have a monthly mid-week evening prayer meeting for the whole congregation. All are warmly encouraged to attend. The meetings usually take place in the chapel, alternating between the second Tuesday and second Thursday of the month. On the week when the prayer meeting is on, our homegroups will not meet.

◇ **Pastoral Help**

If you have issues of concern about your own or someone else's welfare, please contact either our minister, Freddy (minister@penrallt; 07506 710694), or a member of the Pastoral Care team: Pat Borlace (713146); Adrienne Ferrada; Gwen Hicks; Geoff Moore (410582); Lawrence Moss (713793); Helen Thomas (600174).

◇ **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 reminded that they could, at times, be aggressive towards others. 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; this certainly would be a more meaningful form of help.

◇ **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 2nd July** but please check with the church office or see that week's news sheet to confirm that this is going ahead.