



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: July 2018

Hi everyone,

It is the holiday season. Are you visiting Penrallt while on holiday? I am your church secretary but I won't be greeting you as I also am away on holiday at present.

Perhaps you are one of our regular congregation but are thinking about and planning your own holiday.

What should we say about holidays? What questions do you get asked after a holiday? Maybe "What did you do?" or "Was the weather good?" or "Did you get stuck in the traffic?" "Did you lose your bags at the airport?" "Did you get sick; or sunburnt?" "

I think they are all the wrong kind of question.

We have been following the Experiencing God course and early on we see that so often Christians ask God the wrong question and are upset about His answers.

We ask "What shall I do? What shall I do for You?"

I am a doing sort of person; more of a Martha sort of man. Maybe that is why I am the church secretary. I want to sort things out for Him and if God says "thank you" I am satisfied. Maybe I should become more like Mary and be more focused on being than doing.

Here in Penrallt as we meet with the congregation and with visitors each week we should stop asking "Where are you from? What do you do?" Instead try asking "How are you with God?"

For that is the purpose of Penrallt and the reason why we meet week by week to worship and listen to the preaching of the word, for we all wish to be "right with God".

As Experiencing God says, don't ask "What we can do for God" but "What are you doing God?"

The Westminster Confession poses the question: "What is the chief aim of man?" And the answer is not a target, not something to achieve, not something to do.

The answer is "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever."

And that is what Jesus did, even when it got tough.

I have been looking again at the second set of Jesus' temptations – in the garden of Gethsemane. Before he started his ministry he was tempted to go for the short cut; to aim for the goal and forget the means. And now in the garden he is suffering from real turbulence in his spirit and experiencing real loss. He is wracked by anguish and despair. Is this God's way? I have no support? Not only my enemies are against me but even my friends have deserted me. Some have turned against me to betray me.

He could so easily have been tempted to ask his Father. "What shall I do? Should I change tack? If I were to slip away quietly then Judas would not need to offer the traitors kiss; Peter would not be tempted to deny me; Peter would not be overcome with guilt when he heard the accusing cry of the cockerel; the priests and the Pharisees would not go through with their conspiracy; they would not have to bear a life of knowing they had sent an innocent man to his death."

Jesus could so easily have thought "What should I do for you Heavenly Father".

But instead he prayed "Not my will but Thine. Show me your will. Confirm to me that this is indeed your will and I will do it."

We in Penrallt are considering bringing in a Youth Pastor and that sounds like a very good idea. But is it just *our* idea? We must be careful that our ideas don't get in the way of God's plan.

We need to wait patiently and seek God and his will and then see if he *wants* us (he does not *need* us but often in his grace and mercy and love to us he *wants* us) to be a part of his will.

John F. Kennedy said it slightly differently. Ask not what God can do for you, ask not what you can do for God, but simply ask God what he is doing and where and then say "Can I come too?"

May we have the humility to rest, to wait, to seek, to ask the right question and then to respond to the answer and to do God's will.

If we say to God "What do you want me to do *for* you?" the answer is often "Nothing!" And that is because we have asked the wrong question.

I am going on holiday. When I am back don't ask what I did. The answer may well be "nothing".

Ask instead how I was, how I am, how I am going to be.

I intend to be joyful even in turbulence. I intend to be relaxed, trusting, content and happy even when the luggage goes to the wrong airport.

For above all, I will be with my wife of fifty years and with my saviour of even longer. And that can't be bad.

God bless you all,

Neil

Services This Month

Our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, will be the speaker at all services except where otherwise noted below. Deb Stammers is a church member and is currently training to become a Baptist minister. Amy Burrows works for Gobaith Môn. Donald Poirot is a church member.

1st July

- 10:30am Infant Dedication of Jeffrey Packwood
Successful Parenthood *Deuteronomy 6:4–7*
Sunday school theme: Philip Explains (Acts 8:26–40)
- 6:00pm Communion Service
Lessons from Psalms #4: *Psalm 36*
The Mercy of God

8th July

- 10:30am Experiencing God #3:
Learning to be a servant of God *Philippians 2:5–8*
Sunday school theme: Peter Prays (Acts 9:32–43)
- 6:00pm Lessons from Psalms #5: *Psalm 40:1–3*
A model to present ourselves to God

15th July

- 10:30am Speaker: Deb Stammers
Naomi's Story: "Stop calling me nice!" *Ruth 1:20–21*
Sunday school theme: Cornelius Prays (Acts 10)
- 6:00pm Speaker: Amy Burrows
The Fatherless Generation *Psalm 68:5–6*

22nd July

- 10:30am All-Age Service *Matthew 9:9–12;*
God's plan for His people *Proverbs 16:9*
- 6:00pm Speaker: Donald Poirot *Genesis 5:1–24*
And Enoch walked with God

29th July

- 10:30am All-Age Communion Service *Exodus 5:1–6:13;*
Trusting God in the tough times *2 Cor. 12:8–10*
- 6:00pm Lessons from Psalms #6: *Psalm 91*
The protection of God

Dates for Your Diary

Saturdays	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Sunday 1	2:15pm	Service at Plas Garnedd residential home in Llanberis.
Monday 2	7:30pm	Church members' meeting.
Wednesday 4	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Sunday 8	3pm	<i>Praise at the Pier</i> with the churches of Bangor Cytûn.
Wednesday 11	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
Monday 16	10:30am	Church Walk at Llyn Gwynant.
Tuesday 24	7:30pm	Experiencing God course continues (also on Thursday 26 th at 10am and 7:30pm).
Saturday 28	2pm	Wedding of Matt Dawson and Rebecca Robinson at Penrallt.

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

News of People

At the time of going to press, Eileen McKenna was expecting to have hip surgery within a few days. Pauline Pearson suffered a stroke. We continue to hold them both in our prayers.

Our congratulations to Neil and Joan Rymer, who celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary this month, and also to Matt Dawson and Rebecca Robinson who will be getting married at Penrallt at the end of the month.

Children's Birthdays in July

2nd: Summer Wilson-Williams; 13th: Cai Davies;
16th: Georgina Osborne; 19th: Katherine Adams, Ben Reid;
25th: Patsy Bendall Jones; 30th: Mark O'Malley

A note from Carol Morris

Thank you all for your care and support shown after the passing of my son James in February. The Undertaker collected £177 and sent it to Ascension Trust [the charity that runs Street Pastors worldwide] although I had stipulated it was for Bangor Street Pastors. For this reason, £130 was split between Bangor Street Pastors and St Mary's hostel in Bangor. Thank you all for your contributions.

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.*

Day	Time	Group Name	Contacts
Mon	7:00pm	Delta	Brian Wheatcroft (602516) Pat MacKenzie (670948)
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	Bryn Eithinog	Freddy Farias-Palacios (07506 710694)
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)
Thu	7:30pm	Ogwen Valley	Brian & Kate Wheatcroft (602516)
Fri	10:30am	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316) Lesley Jackson (680330)

Noticeboard

◇ Averil's Morroco Trekking Challenge

9th August

Averil writes: "I am celebrating a milestone birthday this year and an old school friend has asked me to join her in a 3 day trek to Mount Toubkal which is self funding. To encourage myself to reach the summit, I am raising money for St David's Hospice including the new premises in Holyhead. I shall be grateful for any sponsorship however small and will have forms on me."

◇ Church Lunch

Sunday 1st July

We will, as usual, have a church lunch on the first Sunday of the month. Please bring enough buffet-style food for yourself and a few others.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 16th July

10:30am

This month's walk is led by Andrew March, who writes:

I would recommend boots, walking poles, stick or staff as essential equipment. You will need a packed lunch and lots of cold drink if the summer temperature is high.

Park cars at Bethania on the A498 South West of Llyn Gwynant park near the far end. The 5½ mile or so circular route begins with a 'C' class road walk followed by a footpath, track through some forest and tracks again downhill before some more road-side walking alongside Llyn Gwynant. We cross the valley floor over fields. Lunch will be enjoyed alongside the river. There were ducks to watch when I pre-walked the route. Following this path it becomes rather uneven but not entirely problematical before walking the farm track as far as the end of the Watkin Path where the A498 leaves us 50 or so yards back to the cars. If the cafe is not open we may have to go into Beddgelert to sample the award winning ice-cream, tough I know but someone has to do it!

◇ **Membership Classes**

If you are interested in getting baptised or becoming a church member please contact the church office or speak to Freddy as we are planning to run membership classes soon.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

Wednesday 11th July

7:30pm

Our monthly mid-week prayer meetings are for the whole congregation and all are warmly encouraged to attend. The meetings usually take place in the chapel, and last about an hour. The next two meetings after this one will be on Thursday 9th August and Tuesday 11th September.

◇ **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).

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 22nd July.

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

◇ **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. 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 residential homes in the area once a month on a Sunday afternoon, alternating between Haulfre (in Llangoed, near Beaumaris) and Plas Garnedd (in Llanberis), usually on the first Sunday. The services (now including those at Plas Garnedd) start at 2:15pm and last roughly half an hour. This month we will be going to **Plas Garnedd** on 1st July.

Focus on...



Peter & Rachel Calvert

Serving with France Mission in Blois

"For God, who said 'Let light shine out of darkness' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." (2 Corinthians 4:6–7)

It's a paradox, isn't it? When we share the message that Jesus is Lord, the same power which breathed the universe into being, that strength which raised Christ from the dead, is at work in us. Mind blowing, life-changing, salvation giving truth. And yet often we feel so small, so weak, so inadequate for the job. Maybe you do too? And we are! Paul says that God has deliberately put the treasure of the gospel into rather unimpressive containers (us) so that people won't get distracted by the pretty packaging, but instead will give all the thanks and praise to the one who deserves it (God).

We're really grateful for your prayers and support for us as a family as we work to plant a new church in the town centre of Blois, the the Loire Valley region of Central France. We often feel like pretty scruffy crack-pots, but we know that the gospel which has been entrusted to us is pure gold! Over the summer we are exhibiting work by seven local artists at the gallery we use as a base in town. Several of them are people we have really enjoyed getting to know. Please pray for great conversations, with both artists and visitors... that we would be able to share our hope in Jesus in words that make sense, and strike home with the Spirit's power.

A small group of musicians from the All Souls Orchestra (I think some of you saw them in concert last summer in Llandudno?) will be coming to Blois for the second time at the end of July. Please pray that God would open doors for their testimony, at the gallery, busking on the streets and particularly on the Tuesday evening (24th July) when they will be giving a concert. After the concert, we'll have a quick turn around as we head off to help set up for camp. Please pray for Interaction, the Christian camp for 10–14 year olds which we'll be involved in from 27th July to 4th August. It's an amazing opportunity to share our lives and share the gospel with over 50 young people (French and British). Four of Anna's school friends have signed up this year... please pray in particular for them and their families. Please pray for God's Holy Spirit to work powerfully to give "light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ."

Mid August we are planning to go away camping as a family for a few days. Please pray for physical and spiritual refreshment, and for God's leading as we set ministry priorities for the new school year. Anna will be starting secondary school and I think would appreciate your prayers for that new challenge. We are hoping to run a seven session course called "My-Life Workshop" developed by a churchplanter in Germany, which aims to demonstrate the importance of the gospel message to people who are very secularized and not immediately predisposed to think the Christian faith has anything to offer. I expect you know quite a few people like that... so do we! Please pray that God would show his all-surpassing power in the lives of our friends and neighbours here in Blois.



Peter and Rachel Calvert, with Anna (11), Sophie (9) and Inès (7).

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