



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter for June 2013

I read the news in April, and so I assumed it must be a belated April Fools' Joke. The story was that Facebook is going to start charging UK users up to £11 to send messages to celebrities and other people who do not figure on their list of friends. I checked it out and discovered that it isn't a joke. They really are offering you the chance to send messages into the inbox of celebrities and other less well known people. But at a price. Although you can currently send messages for free to anyone on Facebook, they go into a box entitled 'other'. And as no one ever checks that folder this new method allows you to fire your message directly under the nose of the person you want to contact.

So how much does this privilege cost you? According to the press (and I deny all responsibility for the accuracy of this. I'm just reprinting what was in the papers) fees range from as much as £10.68 to contact a celebrity such as Olympic swimmer Tom Daley down to a standard 71p to contact less well-known figures, such as BBC's Robert Peston or Prince Harry's girlfriend Cressida Bonas.

Aren't you so glad that God isn't on Facebook? Can you just imagine the frenzy in the office of Mark Zuckerberg when the news breaks?

"Hey guys. Have you heard? God's on Facebook!!"

Cheers all round

"We're gonna be rich, we're gonna be loaded, we're gonna be ridiculously wealthy!"

"But we are already."

"Oh yeah."

A pause while they all mentally add another 3 zeroes to their bank statements.

"At £10.68 per person per message, that's like zillions and zillions, 'cos everyone's gonna want to contact him."

"Wha da ya mean £10.68? This is God! Must be worth at least fifty bucks a message!"

"Nah! A hundred!"

"What about a hundred twenty-five, but two for a hundred fifty?"

A pause, punctuated only by the tapping on iPads as a room full of drooling executives calculates the mark-up.

Minister: Revd Peter J. Cousins, 135 Penchwintan Road, Bangor LL57 2YG (01248 353878)

Secretary: Neil Rymer, 20 Brynteg, Llandegfan, Menai Bridge LL59 5TY (01248 713003)

Treasurer: Stephen Burrows, 39 Cil y Graig, Llanfairpwll, LL61 5NZ (01248 714048)

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"Wait a minute. The service is free to your friends."

"Yeah, so what?"

"Well won't everyone be, like, friends of God?"

Horrified silence as the orders for private jets are mentally cancelled.

"Nah! The whole of humanity can't be God's friends. I mean, would the world be in such a mess if they were?"

"But what if people start taking out lawsuits for discrimination? Like, asking why that other group are God's friends and they're not?"

"Could get messy."

"Yeah, but we can afford the lawyers. And we can always blame God."

"We're gonna have to make this exclusive. I mean, we don't want God on MySpace, or Google+ do we? Even if we have to cut the Almighty into the profits somehow, we've gotta make him sign an exclusive with us."

Then the reverie suddenly ends. Zuckerberg's iPhone pings and a message tells him that it was all a hoax. God was never on Facebook, and humanity will have to go back to the old-fashioned means of communication called prayer. And it's free. Apparently it's not so hard to be God's friend either. Seems the Son of God came to fix that for us too.

And as the gloom settles around Zuckerberg's office, out in the corridor the office cleaner, poor and unnoticed, bows her head for a second praying to God for a grandchild who is ill. Free and unfettered her words fly heavenward, and God answers in an instant.

"Do not fear, my child. Peace be with you."

God bless,

Peter (On Facebook and you can be my friend. Just ask.)

Note: please remember that evening service in June, July and August will begin at 7pm. We want your Sundays to be a true Sabbath when you not only enjoy our excellent worship services but also take time out in the garden or on the beach to relax and let God minister to you through his creation. Don't hesitate to come to church still in your walking boots, tho' changing out of your swimwear might be an idea. 😊

SERVICES IN JUNE

Our Speakers in June

Peter Cousins is the minister of the church. **Roger Borlace** is a retired Baptist minister who is a member of Penrallt. **Roy Godwin**, with his wife Daphne, leads the Ffald-y-Brenin Christian Retreat Centre and House of Prayer near Fishguard. He is author of the highly-acclaimed book *Grace Outpouring: Blessing Others Through Prayer*. **Elfed Godding** has been the National Director of the Evangelical Alliance, Wales since 1999 and is in leadership of the Grangetown Baptist Church, Cardiff. He is married to Jackie: their son Neil is married to Ruth, the daughter of Andrew and Leslie March.

June 2

10.30am

Speaker: Roy Godwin

2.15pm

Service at Bontnewydd

7.00pm

Communion Service.

Speaker: Elfed Godding

Evening Services in June

A reminder that we hold our evening services at 7pm in June, July and August to allow you to enjoy the summer light and weather.

June 9

10.30am

Baptismal Service. Speaker: Roger Borlace

"So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not!" (v1, *The Message*) *Romans 6*

7.00pm

Jacob's Burial. A sermon about bones and faith. *Genesis 50*

June 16

10.30am

Fathers' Day.

How to live a life that glorifies God (it isn't as difficult as you might think it is!) *1 Peter 4:7-11*

7.00pm

Speaker: Roger Borlace.

The Holy Spirit encourages us to call God 'Father'. *Rom.8:1-17*

June 23

10.30am

Preaching at your own funeral*1 Peter 4:12-19***7.00pm**

Having a Good Moan. Hello Magazine 1,000BC Edition *Psalm 12*

June 30

10.30am

Communion Service Speaker: Geoff Birch

*1 Peter 5:1-7***7.00pm**

Baptismal Service

CHURCH LUNCH

We will host a church lunch on **Sunday June 2nd**. Please bring enough buffet style "finger food" for yourselves and one or two others.

SPECIAL DATES**Saturday 1**

Blessings Conference Llangefni (see below)

Monday 3

7.30pm Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday 4

Rob Parsons event in Old Colwyn (see 'Noticeboard')

Wednesday 5

10.30am Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee in Options.

Saturday 8

NWEBU event in Wrexham (see below)

Bangor Carnival (see 'Noticeboard')

Monday 8

7.30pm HGV (Music and worship group) at Magnus' house.

Saturday 22

Anglesey Prayer Walk (see 'Noticeboard')

Note:The Church Members' meeting will be on **Monday July 1st**.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Tony Mason had just left hospital at the time of writing. We continue to pray for him and Joan. Our condolences to **Glenys Poirot** and family on the death of her mother.

We are sad to say goodbye to **Hannah Gordon-Roberts** who will be leaving at the end of this month to join Tim in Scotland. Hannah has been so heavily involved in our children's work, not least in the leadership of the crèche, that we will struggle to fill the huge gap she will leave. Thank you, Hannah, for all you have done. And of course, Natalie, Charis and Becky will be leaving also. We will miss you, but pray God's richest blessing on you all. (Please note that the crèche on Sunday mornings is now under the leadership of Kate Wheatcroft.)

Margaret Griffiths sent us this email:

"Please could you pass my thanks onto everyone at Penrallt for their support and prayers over the last few years. I will write a formal response to the church in due course."

Children's Birthdays in June:

20th: Bradley Jones; **28th**: Ben Mitchell

WEEKDAYS

Please check with the contact people when there are meetings this month.

HG = Home Group

Day	Time	Details	Contacts
Tue	8.00pm	HG, Nilgiri	Joan Beer (353874)
Tue	7.30pm	HG, Tyddyn Isaf, Menai Bridge	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
Wed	10.30am	Men's Prayer Meeting	Peter Cousins (353878)
Wed	2.00pm	Carers' Home Group	Carol Morris (208407)
Wed	7.30pm	HG, The Nomads	Jess & Seamus Adams (421185) Susan Cousins (353878)
Wed	7.30pm	HG, Bethesda	Jon & Deb Stammers (602868)
Wed	7.30pm	HG, Penchwintan Road	David McCormack (07725 028074)
Wed	8.00pm	HG, Grŵp Cymraeg	Owen & Nia Lloyd Evans (352634)
Thu	10.30am	Post-Alpha Bible Study	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7.30pm	HG, Llanfairpwll	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Fri	10.30am - noon	Cheeky Monkeys	Joan Rymer (713003)
Fri	10.30 – 12.30pm	HG, 6 Maes y Dref	Anne Collis (353173) anne@collis66.freerve.co.uk
Sat	8.30am	Prayer Meeting	

NOTICEBOARD

- ***Blessings Conference*** ***Saturday 1 June, 10.00am-4.00pm***
Held in Llangefni, This is a study day on the principle of blessing others, led by Roy Godwin. More details are available on the church noticeboard in the porch. Please note that you need to pre-register for this study day. Forms are on the noticeboard.
- ***The Rob Parsons Event*** ***Tuesday 4 June 7.30 – 10.00pm***
Getting Your Kids Through Church Without Them Hating God
This event is led by Rob Parsons and Gavin Calver. It will be held at the Sure Hope Church, Old Colwyn. To purchase tickets (£5) visit the website <http://www.gettingyourkidsthroughchurch.org.uk/tour/events-and-booking-1>
- ***Men's Prayer Meeting*** ***Wednesday 5 June 10.30am***
The men will meet for prayer as usual, followed by coffee in Options.
- ***North Wales English Baptist Union*** ***Saturday 8 June, 10:30- 4:00pm***
The NWEBU will be hosting its AGM and Spring meeting in Chester Street Baptist Church, Wrexham. Meet at 10am for coffee. Peter will give you a lift if you wish to go (bring a packed lunch).
- ***Bangor Carnival*** ***Saturday 8 June***
You will enjoy it even more if you do some volunteering (Seriously! It's fun.). Spend an hour or two of the day helping to make the event a success. Offer your services to Bryan Collis asap.
- ***Walking Group*** ***Tuesday 18 June 10.30am***
Meet outside Debenhams in Bangor at 10:30, and walk to Caernarfon via the Botanic Garden woods along the Menai Strait to Britannia Bridge, then on to Parc Menai, through the estate to Felinheli, and then along the cycle track to Caernarfon. It's a flat, easy walk which takes about 6 hours. Anyone who doesn't have enough time can get a bus back to Bangor at various points. If it's a fine day strong sandals will be sufficient. Walkers are advised to bring a picnic and money for the café. Arranged by Freda M. Birchall 01248 371316
- ***Anglesey Prayer Walk / Taith Weddi Môn*** ***Saturday 22 June***
Christians from all denominations will be walking around the Anglesey coastal path and praying for the Island. The walk is divided into 12 sections so you can choose which one you want to do. There are also prayer gatherings for those whose mobility does not allow them to walk the path. Get your details and register on <https://www.facebook.com/prayerwalkmon>.
- ***A Very Rewarding Experience!***
We are looking for families or single people with a spare room to host students for 12 days at a time. The last group is of university students who will stay for three and a half weeks. There are 5 groups this summer starting at **the end of June**. Remuneration £100 per week, pro rata. For more information please

contact Penelope Williams on 01248 362 4759 (work), 670 465 (evenings and weekends) or at church.

➤ ***Penrallt on Facebook***

120 people are signed up to Penrallt's Facebook site. Join us.

➤ ***Homeless in Bangor***

Please do not give money directly to the homeless in Upper Bangor. We have found in the past that it has encouraged aggressive begging on the church premises by people who have a history of violence. You will find brown envelopes in the porch to put your gift in. This will buy vouchers which are distributed to the homeless by the Cathedral via St Mary's Shelter.

➤ ***The Prayer Room...***

...is open before and after the service for quiet prayer. Penrallt is a place of prayer, so make use of this sacred space.

➤ ***Pray for Penrallt Every Day***

Sign up to receive our prayer diary by e-mail every Monday morning by sending your request to: office@penrallt.org.

If you have some subject for prayer, either send it in by e-mail, or fill in one of the pink cards, which are available in the porch, and place it in the visitors' cards box or give it to Peter or Magnus.

➤ ***Pastoral Help***

If you have pastoral concerns please contact Peter or one of the other members of the Pastoral Care team.

Pat Borlace 713146, Judy Stammers 364394 Geoff Moore 410582
Susan Cousins 353878 Helen Thomas 600174

Deadline for next month's newsletter Sunday 23 June

Please send information to Gwyneth (gwyneth@brindley-wales.com or 352682)

FOCUS ON...

Bangor Street Pastors