



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: June 2016

To be in or to be out, that is the question

This month, June 2016, is set to be a momentous month for the UK. The EU referendum on Thursday 23rd is a major event for the future of Britain. The last time the country had a referendum on Europe was 41 years ago, in 1975. So it's a "once in 40 years" opportunity to have a say. Just to be clear, at the time of writing I am still undecided, so I am not trying to influence you in either direction!

Opinions differ about the effects of in or out on a range of fronts – economics, legislation, immigration, personal finances, national security and sovereignty. Some reports claim that we're better off staying in and others are equally adamant that we would be much better off out. However, I am certain that it is impossible to know for sure, because there are too many interacting and overlapping variables, particularly associated with leaving the EU (but that doesn't necessarily mean it would be a poor choice).

We do have another very important in/out choice – being in or out of the kingdom of God. Fortunately, we can be absolutely sure about the consequences of our decision on that question. Although Jesus did sometimes talk in parables to describe the kingdom of God, the Bible does paint a vivid picture for us!

Countries wishing to join the EU must meet the Copenhagen criteria – which includes a free-market economy, a stable democracy and the rule of law, and the acceptance of all EU legislation. Mercifully, joining the kingdom of God is a much simpler matter. In John 3 Jesus told Nicodemus, "No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit." He goes on to say "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." When we do that, we are born again of the spirit and God becomes sovereign in our lives.

Joining God's kingdom is free; in Romans Paul tells us: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Nevertheless, there is a cost in following Jesus: Jesus told his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me". Yet, the Bible also assures us that the eternal rewards are immense.

Penrallt Baptist Church, Holyhead Road, Bangor LL57 2EU
Tel: 01248 353355; *Email:* office@penrallt.org; *Website:* www.penrallt.org
Office open Mon–Fri 10am - 2pm; *Administrator:* Magnus Forrester-Barker

Secretary: Roshni Verghese, 2 Vicarage Close, Llandudno LL30 1PH; *Tel:* 07967 320048 / 01492 871444
Treasurer: Stephen Burrows, 39 Cil y Graig, Llanfairpwll LL61 5NZ; *Tel:* 01248 714048

Only a limited group of people are eligible to vote in the EU referendum (mainly British or Irish citizens over 18, living in the UK), and the outcome will probably affect the UK for the next few decades. Conversely, the kingdom of God is open to everyone who comes to God in repentance and accepts Christ as their Saviour; the impact of that choice is eternal.

I'm not able to advise on how you should vote in the referendum, although I would urge you to exercise your democratic right on 23rd June.

On the other hand, I can totally recommend being part of the kingdom of God. It is the best choice you can ever make. If you haven't yet made that decision for Christ, the great thing is, you can do it today; no need to wait until polling day! Feel free to speak to one of the deacons if you'd like more information on that.

God bless,

Sarah Jackson

From the Diaconate:

Just a short note to keep all Penrallt worshippers informed of the progress on our search for a new minister; the real news is that we have very little to report at present. The message from Revd Phil Jump our Regional Minister is that at the last three months' National Settlement Team meetings the Penrallt profile was discussed but with not a great deal of response from those looking for new pastorates. He is also looking out for suitable ministers outside of the pool of applicants within the Settlement Team's discussion. Both Phil and Rob, our moderator, assure us that there is nothing unusual about this timescale though for us it seems ages since we put out our profile! Given the size and diversity of our congregation and the fact that we are placed in the heart North Wales, there are a number of practical aspects both the potential applicants and we need to take into consideration. So.... we wait.

Hey, guys, the Lord who is in our favour and seen our hearts is with us; we trust, we wait and when His time is right the anointed person will arrive. In the meantime we get on with the task He has instructed us to do – glorify His name by caring for the people, all people, He has placed in our church and around us. Therefore may we ask you to carry on working and waiting and praising in anticipation of the joy and celebrations promised for us?

God bless,

Roshni

Services This Month:

Geoff will begin our June morning sermons by concluding his two-part series on the Holy Spirit (started on 29th May). For the rest of the month, the morning sermons will be the first half of a series on the book of Malachi (based on the Tyndale commentary, from which the sermon titles are taken), while the evening sermons will begin a series on Colossians. ***Don't forget that evening services are now at our summer start time of 7pm until the end of August.***

5th June

10:30am Speaker: Geoff Birch *Ephesians 5:1–21; Luke 24:49*
When the Spirit is Received – Dynamic Power

7:00pm Communion Service
Speaker: Siân Rees *Colossians 1:1–8*
Kingdom People

12th June

10:30am Speaker: Trevor Casey *Malachi 1:1–5*
A privileged people

7:00pm Speaker: Diane Holmes *Colossians 1:15–23*
Tent-making, Paul's way

19th June

10:30am Speaker: Martin Williams *Malachi 1:6–14*
A privileged priesthood – indictment

7:00pm Speaker: Julia Bartholomew *Colossians 1:24–2:5*
How can I make a real difference?

26th June

10:30am Communion Service
Speaker: Rob Beamish *Malachi 2:1–9*
A privileged priesthood – judgement

7:00pm Speaker: Roger Borlace *Colossians 2:6–23*
Freedom in Christ

Our Speakers This Month:

Siân Rees and **Martin Williams** are both members of Caersalem chapel in Caernarfon and both work at Ysgol John Bright in Llandudno; Siân is the Head of Performing and Expressive Arts while Martin is a maths teacher. **Trevor Casey** is the Minister of Sussex Street Baptist Church in Rhyl. **Julia Bartholomew** is the Minister of Rhos-on-Sea URC. **Rob Beamish** is the Minister of Princes Drive Baptist Church in Colwyn Bay and Penrallt's Moderator during our current pastoral vacancy. The other speakers are all members of Penrallt.

Dates for Your Diary:

Wednesday 1	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Sunday 5	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre residential home in Llangoed.
Monday 6	7:30pm	Deacons' meeting.
Saturday 11	9:30am–1pm	<i>Bible Unzipped</i> in Rhos-on-Sea.
Monday 20	10:30am	Church walk in the Conwy Valley.
Monday 27	2pm	Pastoral Care Team meeting.

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

News of People:

We are delighted to announce that **Janet Gough** and **Peter Smith** 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.

Eileen McKenna wishes to thank everyone at Penrallt for their prayers, card and practical demonstrations of care for her and Phil while she has been recovering from her recent hip operation; she hopes to be back with us soon.

Several members of our congregation have been struggling with a variety of health issues in recent months. Please hold them in your prayers.

Children's Birthdays in June

17th: Thomas Howie 20th: Bradley Jones

27th: Harvey Lemon & Ben Warnock

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 planning to organise a Baptismal service in 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 11th June 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 II* (Peter Cousins); *Christian Doctrine, Part II* (Rob Beamish); *Ephesians, Part II* (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.

◇ **Church Lunch**

Sunday 5th June

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

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 20th June

The walk will start and finish at Rowen in the Conwy Valley. Take the A55 to Conwy and then the B5106 on the west side of the Conwy Valley. After about 3 miles from Conwy turn right (signed Rowen) immediately after Y Groes Hotel. On entering Rowen turn right to the free car park (signed) and public toilets. The walk starts with a stiff climb to a Youth Hostel and we will take this very slowly with plenty of stops for 'taking the air'. Once at the top of the climb the route generally follows contours northwards on easy tracks taking in spectacular views, one of Conwy's best kept secrets ("sing newt ", yells Nancy. anag) and find out what happened to Wallace. Part of the walk is on the Pilgrims Way and over one short woodland stretch very narrow on sidelong ground. Walking boots are recommended. Meet in the car park at Rowen at 10.30 am. For more info contact Sue or Lawrence Moss on 01248 713793.

◇ **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.

◇ **Spring Harvest**

Sarah Swallow is hoping to organise a group to go to spring harvest in April next year, from Saturday 8th to Thursday 13th April 2017 (Good Friday is the 14th April) which fits in with the school Easter holidays in Gwynedd and Anglesey. The cost for a room with shower (no lounge or kitchen) and half board dining is £264 (adult), £199 (child 6–14) or £177.75 (child 2–5). Other accommodation is available at a higher cost. For every 14 people going we will get a free place. Please contact Sarah as soon as possible (01407 720237, sarah_swallow@hotmail.co.uk) if you are interested as she will need to book by 15th June.

◇ **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 5th June**.

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 19th June.

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

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

Focus on...

Colm and Catherine Ó Brolcháin

servicing with OM Ireland



Former Penrallt members, Colm and Catherine Ó Brolcháin are part of a 25 strong OM Ireland team and are based at Lacken House in Roscommon. OM Ireland exists to reach the lost, equip and mobilise the church.

As you might expect, Colm and Catherine are involved with a variety of opportunities for ministry. OM Ireland was delighted to be invited to present the Palm Sunday Service at Easter time. The audience is likely to have been over 80,000 people. OM Ireland took the opportunity to lay out the Gospel through the two short talks that were part of the service which also included

worship, Bible readings and prayer. A donkey and a sheep narrated what was going on in Jerusalem at the time. This is the third time OM Ireland has produced Gospel-centred content for RTÉ. Colm was part of the 16 strong team and he read from Matthew 26:1-5!

During March OM Ireland were blessed with the presence of three different teams: 11 teens from The King's Academy, 16 adults for the St Patrick's outreach and 15 teens from an international School in Lisbon, Portugal. Colm and Tim, the two drivers, were naturally very busy collecting them and transporting them to all the outreach venues. The Big Red Bus was a great tool with all teams.

Catherine was involved in feeding the King's Academy team away in Carrick on Shannon. She was very moved to hear the testimony of one of the young guys on their team. His parents divorced when he was five and God showed him recently that he had been forgiven and given a second chance. The Lord gave him the courage to forgive his father and to meet with his Dad to offer him a second chance.

The Creative Arts team toured Primary Schools with the Spring Show "The Singing Tree" and the Big Red Bus has recently worked with a church in Galway for 2 days and another 2 days with a church in Dublin.

Colm recently brought a team down to Cork City for a 7 day outreach on the streets with a large High School team from the U.S. This is an annual event and Colm loves it!!

Colm and Catherine are excited that daughter Ciara is returning to Ireland after 8 years in the UK, for part-time Post-grad Diploma. Sinead, their other daughter, has enjoyed the challenge of her first Youth Work placement in Kilkenny. Son Ruairi decided over the Christmas break to withdraw from his college course and is thinking about what he will do next.

For more information about the work of OM Ireland:
<http://www.ie.om.org/>

