



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: May 2014

From the Minister:

I didn't notice the angel arrive. One moment I was staring morosely into the brooding surface of a decaff latte in Caffè Nero and the next moment there he was in the seat opposite, steaming cappuchino cradled in his steady hands and a firm gaze focussed sternly on my surprised face. I knew he was an angel because, pinned to his immaculate royal blue T-shirt with the words "Peace to you" printed on it, was a dayglow yellow badge which stated "Don't be startled – I'm an angel."

"Peace to you." he declaimed in a deep sonorous voice.

"Yes," I answered, "I've read your T-Shirt."

"Well," he explained, "Our PR people thought it might lessen the shock a bit. You humans usually have a heart attack when we turn up."

"Who can blame us? It's not always good news you're bringing. You're not on a smiting mission today are you?"

"No."

"Just as well, 'cos I really couldn't cope with more mess at the moment."

"Having, how do you say it? A bad hair day?"

"I've had a bad hair day ever since I had hair. Can you imagine what it was like to grow up with tight curly hair as a boy? All those women cooing over you and saying they wish they had your curls. And then the Beatles made straight hair and a fringe the only fashion to have and that was the end of it. No, I'm just fed up with the human race at the moment."

"Anyone in particular?"

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"No. I'm just tired of being lied to and deceived. Being ignored or patronised. Then turning on the news to see the human race engaged in pointless conflict or mindless aggression."

"Hmm."

"It must make you sick too."

"Oh it does. The stuff we see . . ." The angel broke off his gaze, sipped his coffee and lapsed into a sympathetic silence. At least, he lapsed into silence. I'm not sure there was much sympathy there."

"Aren't you tempted to do a bit of smiting some times? Right a few wrongs?"

"That would be, how do you say it? Above my pay grade."

"Right. We'd deserve it though. Wouldn't we? I mean, I fear we could be facing another flood or something like that. "

"You're seriously fed up today aren't you!"

"Come on. You angels must have an opinion on this."

"To be honest, we struggle to comprehend it. None of us can understand why he has so much patience with you all."

"Who?"

"Him."

"Oh! Him! Well there you go. The compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. You angels would have given up on us thousands of years ago."

"You can be sure of it. Even angels are amazed at what he's got planned for you creatures. "

"He puts up with us and we still blame him for all our woes."

"Seems unfair, I will admit."

"So why are you here then? I mean a cup of coffee is always good, but you people always seem to be on a mission. Urgent mission. World changing mission. Or fighting spiritual battles behind the scenes. The only angel I can think of who seemed relaxed was the one who rolled the stone away from Jesus' tomb and then sat on it."

"Oh yes. That was me actually. But it's another story for another day. No, today I was just sent to encourage you. We know how you feel about the state of the world, but the kingdom of God is growing slowly and almost imperceptibly like a seed. And you should be grateful for God's patience. You really wouldn't want to face his displeasure. Come on, Peter. Jesus rose from the dead for a very good reason."

"I know. I know. So are you going to cheer me up by telling me an angel joke or two?"

"Angel joke?"

"You do tell jokes when you're hanging out with each other, don't you?"

"Jokes? Hanging out?"

"That's a no then."

I sipped my, by now, cold coffee and when I looked up he'd gone. I cast my eye around the coffee shop but no one was looking. Nothing had changed. Only me. It was time to ditch my foul mood. Sure, other people are frustrating. But so am I sometimes. God is the only one who never changes. And he never stops loving.

"Sorry!" I whispered, laying my cup carefully back down in its saucer and reaching for my coat.

But someone had stolen it.

Let nothing disturb thee,
Nothing affright thee
All things are passing;
God never changeth;
Patient endurance
Attaineth to all things;
Who God possesseth
In nothing is wanting;
Alone God sufficeth.

*Prayer of St. Thereza of Avila;
H. W. Longfellow (translator).*

God bless,

Peter

Services This Month:

Peter Cousins, the minister of the church, will be the speaker at all services this month.

4 May

10:30am **The God of the Second Chance.** *Acts 15:36-41.*
2:15pm Service at Bontnewydd.
6:00pm Communion Service. **Watch and Pray.**

11 May

10:30am **How to fulfil your part of the Great Commission of Jesus
(leaving you encouraged rather than feeling guilty).** *Acts 16:1-10.*
6:00pm **Arranging Your Arguments.**

18 May

10:30am **Conflict, generosity and greatness of character.** *Acts 16:11-40.*
6:00pm **What a Friend We Have in Jesus.** *John 15:5-8, 13-17.*

25 May

10:30am Communion Service. **Turning the world the right way up.** *Acts 17:1-15.*
6:00pm **Becoming People of Prayer.**

Church Lunch

We will host a church lunch on **Sunday May 4th.** Please bring enough buffet style 'finger food' for yourselves and one or two others.

Faith Café

Faith Café for teenagers, students and other young adults will take place after the evening service on April 27th and May 4th. Beginning at around 7:15pm it is an evening of chat, interviews, music and discussions. Free food is served. There is a short programme at around 7:40 after which you are free to leave or stay and chat. There will be no Faith Café on May 11th, but Peter and Susan will be hosting a lunch for Faith Café patrons at their house after the morning service that day. After this, Faith Café will restart in the autumn term.

Dates For Your Diary:

Wednesday 7	10:30am	Men's Prayer Meeting followed by coffee in Options.
Saturday 10	9:30am-1pm	Bible Unzipped.
Monday 12	7:30pm	Deacons' Meeting.
	12:30pm	Christian Aid Week - Introductory Service & Frugal Lunch at Berea Newydd.
Wednesday 14	4-7pm	Christian Aid Collection at Morrisons.
Thursday 15	4-7pm	Christian Aid Collection at Morrisons.
Friday 16	9:30am-12:30pm	Christian Aid Collection on the High Street.
	10am-12:30pm	Christian Aid Coffee Morning at the Friends' Meeting House, Dean Street.
Saturday 17	7:30pm	Quizaid - Christian Aid quiz night with refreshments.
Monday 19	10:30am	Church Walk.

Further details of most of these events can be found in the Noticeboard section later in this newsletter.

News of People:

Andrew March is recovering well from a hip replacement operation. **Pat Borlace** is in plaster after breaking a wrist. **Paul** and **Yvonne** were in church on Easter Sunday and thank everyone at Penrallt for our prayers during their recent, tragic bereavement.

Please note that there are two more people on the Pastoral Care Team now: **Adrienne Ferrada** and **Dave O'Brien**.

Children's Birthdays in May

6th: Guto Evans

16th: Mark Walker

Weekday Events:

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	2:00pm	HG, Carers	Carol Morris (208407)
Wed	7:00pm	HG, Students	Ben Bowden-Pickstock (07872 531601)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Bethesda	Jon & Deb Stammers (602868)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Cymraeg	Owen & Nia Evans (352634)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Maes y Dref (pm)	Anne Collis (353173)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Nomads	Susan Cousins (353878)
Thu	10:30am	HG, Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7:30pm	HG, Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Fri	10:30am-12pm	Cheeky Monkeys (parent & toddler group)	Joan Rymer (713003)
Fri	10:30am-12:30pm	HG, Maes y Dref (am)	Anne Collis (353173)
Sat	8:30am	Prayer Meeting	

Noticeboard:

◇ **Bible Unzipped**

Saturday 10 May

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. It meets monthly on a Saturday morning at Rhos-on-Sea URC from 9:30am to 1pm, usually on the second Saturday. Each morning includes three sessions which, this month, are: *The Book of Habakkuk* (taught by Peter), *God of the New Testament* (Julia), *How People Come to Faith* (Peter). The course is free and we may be able to offer you a lift. Talk to Peter if you are interested. About 9 members of Penrallt attend.

◇ **Christian Aid Week**

11th - 17th May

Please see the Dates For Your Diary section earlier in this newsletter for a list of the events happening this week. House to house collections will continue all week. If you would like to help in any capacity, please speak to Susan Cousins (tel. 01248 353878 or 07791 295353).

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 19 May

This will be a linear walk of 5 miles approx. Meet at Betws y Coed Station at 10:30am to catch the 10:56 train to Pont y Pant. (Fare £2.20/£1.45, free for Gwynedd and Conwy Bus Pass Holders.) Starting at Pont y Pant station the walk goes along Sarn Helen to the old village of Rhiwddolion and then back to Betws via Llyn Elsi where we will end the walk behind St Mary's Church. It starts with a steady climb but it is on a tarmac surface, overall ascent is about 700ft. Bring a packed lunch; there are plenty of places for refreshments before or after the walk. Contact Mari or Ian for further details (marikelso@yahoo.co.uk or 421783).

◇ **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 meal vouchers which are distributed to the homeless by the Cathedral.

◇ **Men's Prayer Meeting**

Wednesday 7 May

10:30am

The men will meet for prayer as usual this month. Time spent in prayer will be followed by coffee in Options. All are welcome to join us.

◇ **Morrisons Car Park**

Morrisons car park only allows you to park for two hours so please use the School of Nursing car park if you want to avoid an £85 fine on Sunday mornings. However, the manager has rung to say that if you would like to do your shopping after the morning service, you can leave your car there provided you present yourself to the information desk just inside the door and ask them to put your registration number into their computer. You can then do your shopping even if you arrived before 10:30am for the morning service.

◇ **Pastoral Help**

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

Pat Borlace 713146
Geoff Moore 410582
Judy Stammers 364394

Adrienne Ferrada
Dave O'Brien 671848
Helen Thomas 600174

◇ **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. Please note that in addition to the pink prayer request cards, there are also blue testimony/thanksgiving cards and yellow "Listening to God" cards that can also be filled in and submitted for the prayer diary.

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 18 May.

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

NB email is the preferred way to submit information for the newsletter, if possible (and it is strongly recommended that you don't rely on verbal requests for items to be included)!