



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: May 2018

I am writing this 4 days after my family and I came back from holiday. It was good to be able to travel back to Ecuador to visit family and friends after almost three years. We give thanks to our God for this special time and His protection.

We had the opportunity to talk to many people there; I recall a conversation with a young woman who told me that she knew she needed a change in her life, and in the life of her family. She had **experienced** a few things, and she asked me a few questions about spirituality and faith. She had attended a service in a local church, and she said; "I was challenged by what the preacher said, and he made an appeal at the end of the service. But I did not want to make any decision because I sensed **I was not ready** for it."

As I write these lines, the story of the Samaritan woman in the Gospel of John 4:1–26 came to my mind. One key part of this passage is when Jesus offers this woman "living water". Jesus uses living water to illustrate the inner spiritual life that only He can give, distinct from "water" – ordinary water as a symbol to illustrate all material provision (possessions, companionship, recognition, the need of acceptance), things we need to sustain material life.

These things need to be **supplied** over and over again. Sometimes we can pursue material things as if they are the most important things in life. But Jesus said that "*Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.*" We need an inner spiritual life; **to quench our thirst for more**; we need God in our lives.

There is a wonderful statement here from Jesus. **Anybody** can receive living water from Christ; any person can experience a new life. Jesus told this woman; "*but **whoever drinks the water** I give them will never thirst. Indeed,*

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the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

It seems that this woman was not ready to receive living water as her life appears to be a bit messy. John 4:16–18 says:

‘Jesus told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

“I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” ’

However, this woman is willing to accept the living water Jesus is offering to experience a new life.

John MacArthur in his commentary about this passage said “Jesus’ conversation with this woman illustrates three truths about salvation.” The first one is that salvation comes only to those who recognize “their desperate need for spiritual life they do not have”. Living water will be received only by those who realize that they are spiritually thirsty. The second truth is that salvation comes only to those who “confess and repent of their sin and desire forgiveness”. This woman had to acknowledge her sins. And, the third one is that salvation is available only to those who “embrace Jesus Christ as their Messiah and sin-bearer”.

Whoever drinks the water Jesus gives, will never thirst. We will not find living water in another religion or in material things. The Samaritan woman comes as she is to receive Jesus’ living water for she says to him; “*Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.*” Having living water in our lives is having God’s forgiveness, a spring of everlasting life.

Are we experiencing this “more abundant life” which never ends?

We are starting our *Experiencing God* course on Tuesday 22nd May at 7:30pm; it will take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month. My prayer is that this material will help us in our walk with God and I hope that it will have a lasting effect on our lives and the lives of our families.

Freddy

Services This Month

Our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, will be the speaker at all services except where otherwise noted below. Deb Stammers and Donald Poirot are church members; Deb is currently training to become a Baptist minister.

6th May

10:30am Lessons from the book of Jonah #2: *Jonah 3:1–10*
A Second Chance
Sunday school theme: Up and Out (Acts 1)

6:00pm Communion Service
Essentials to grow in the spiritual life #6:
The Victorious Life *Psalm 18:48–49*

13th May

10:30am Speaker: Deb Stammers
Sunday school theme: Spirit-power (Acts 2)

6:00pm Speaker: Donald Poirot
He is Risen! *Matthew 28:1–8*

20th May (Pentecost Sunday)

10:30am **The Holy Spirit, the fire we need** *Acts 2:1–4*
Isaiah 4:2–4
Sunday school theme: Beautiful miracle (Acts 3)

6:00pm Essentials to grow in the spiritual life #7:
The All Knowing God *Psalm 139:4*

[NB Cytûn's Pentecost Praise service is not happening this year]

27th May

10:30am Communion Service
Lessons from the book of Jonah #3: *Jonah 4:1–10*
When we don't understand events in our lives
Sunday school theme: God-talk (Acts 4)

6:00pm Essentials to grow in the spiritual life #8:
God's promised blessing *Psalm 24:4–5*

Dates for Your Diary

Saturdays	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Wednesday 2	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Saturday 5	9:30am	Safeguarding training session.
	7:30pm	An evening with Paul Jones at Gloddaeth United Church, Llandudno.
Sunday 6	2:15pm	Service at Plas Garnedd residential home in Llanberis (<i>NB start time</i>).
Thursday 10	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
Saturday 12	9:15am	Working party to tidy the church grounds.
	7:30pm	Christian Aid quiz.
Monday 21	10:30am	Church Walk at Pen-y-Pass.
Tuesday 22	7:30pm	Experiencing God course starts.
Saturday 26		Wedding of Kim Jones and Tom Davies at Penrallt.

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

News of People

We congratulate Kim Jones and Tom Davies on their forthcoming wedding.

Children's Birthdays in May

12th: Oisín Patton

Christian Aid Week

In addition to the quiz on Saturday 12th May, the following events will take place in Bangor for this year's Christian Aid Week (13th – 19th May):

Daily		House to house collection.
Monday 14 th	1pm	Opening service and frugal lunch at Berea Newydd.
Tuesday 15 th	9am – 3pm	All-day breakfast at the Deiniol Centre.
Friday 18 th	10am – 12pm	Coffee morning at the Quaker Meeting House.
	all day	Collection in Bangor High Street.

Please speak to Neil Rymer if you would like to volunteer to join Penrallt's team of collectors for the house and High Street collections. See this month's Focus (back page of this newsletter) for more about Christian Aid Week.

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 and may not meet all other weeks – please check with the named contact. All phone numbers below have the 01248 area code.*

Day	Time	Group Name	Contacts
Mon	7:30pm	Delta	Lawrence Moss (713793) Brian Wheatcroft (602516)
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)
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) Lesley Jackson (680330)

Noticeboard:

◇ **An evening with Paul Jones**

We have received news of an “Evening with Paul Jones (Manfred Mann) and Fiona Hendley Jones” taking place on Saturday 5th May at 7:30pm. The venue is Gloddaeth United Church, Chapel Street, Llandudno LL30 2YF. The event is free and will have a strong evangelistic slant, so it’s a great place to take your friends. For more information contact David Ainscough (07810 057001).

◇ **Church Lunch**

Sunday 6th May

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 21st May 10:30am

This month's walk will be led by Roger and Eve Malone. We are walking the miners path from Pen-y-Pass to the base of Snowdon and back. We need to arrange to go in as few cars as possible, drivers drop passengers off at Pen-y-Pass car park, and continue on down the hill to the T junction at the bottom. Turn right and park up on the layby on the left. One car returns to the car park with the other drivers, and we split the cost of parking it. Meet at the layby for 10:30 am, depart at 10:45 am.

◇ **Experiencing God**

Tuesday 22nd May 7:30pm

We are now starting the course that was postponed from last Autumn. It is designed to help us deepen our relationship with God. There will be monthly sessions in the chapel on the fourth Tuesday evening of the month (but we may be able to arrange a group on another night if you can't make Tuesdays). If you signed up to start the course in October, there is no need to reregister. Otherwise, please contact the church office if you wish to attend.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

Thursday 10th May 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 few meetings after this one will be on Tuesday 12th June, Wednesday 11th July and Thursday 9th August.

◇ **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); Judy Stammers (364394); Helen Thomas (600174); Roshni Verghese (07967 320048).

◇ **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 6th May.

A Note From Eve Malone

Eve writes: "I am so grateful to everyone who prayed for me during my recent cancer treatment, and to the Alaw Unit at Ysbyty Gwynedd and Glan Clwyd Hospital. Would you join me in fund raising for more equipment to help reduce waiting time at the units? My idea is for a CAKE & COFFEE EXTRAVAGANZA in the Canolfan on 23rd June, 11am – 3pm. Stalls to include: Home Baked Cakes; Guess the weight of the Cake; 'Everyone gets a gift'; Face Painting; Name the Teddy.' Please phone me (on 07522 120000) or Sue Moss (on 07597 373005) if you would like to help or if you have any new or unwanted gifts you can offer for the stalls."

Focus on...



Christian Aid Week: 13–19 May 2018

Together we're stronger than the storms

Marcelin's Story

Christian Aid Week brings tens of thousands of Christians together to achieve incredible things with some of the poorest people in the world.

In Haiti, Marcelin raised his three daughters alone. They've endured some of the worst natural disasters on earth. They're not just survivors. They're fighters. But they're only so strong. They won't survive the next hurricane without your help.

This Christian Aid Week, you can be in their corner. You can help them build a home that will weather the next storm, so they won't need to fight to survive anymore.

Christian Aid Week unites kingdom builders like you from all walks of life. We step out in mission for our neighbours like Marcelin, because we believe in life before death. We believe God's kingdom is stronger than the storms.

This Christian Aid Week, 13–19 May, Penrallt is hosting the Christian Aid Quiz on Saturday 12th May, helping with the collection on Bangor High Street on Friday 18th May and participating in the house-to-house collection during the week.

Could you participate this Christian Aid Week to help more people like Marcelin? If our church can raise £210, we could pay for two days' construction training for a local builder in Haiti. The builder could then build secure, comfortable homes for people like Marcelin, giving them a safe place to weather the next disaster, and a fighting chance to build a better life.

Speak to **Neil Rymer** today. Together we can be stronger than the storms.

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 20th May.

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