



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter for September 2013

God likes to fill things. The thought struck me this morning as I was splashing up and down the swimming pool. Maybe it was a full pool that gave me the idea. Anyway, as I spluttered along I got thinking about Genesis chapter 1. The order of the days listed has always provided commentators great and small with something of a conundrum. How do you have days before the creation of the Sun on the fourth day? Many theologians point out that the order reveals a pattern. In the first three days God creates empty spaces and then fills them on the following three days. So he creates the heavens on the first day and fills them with the sun and moon on the fourth. He creates the waters and the sky on the second day and fills the seas and air on the fifth day. And he creates the land on the third day and fills it with creatures on the sixth day. Neat. He likes to fill things.

At some point as I was doing my best to avoid drowning in four feet of water I got to thinking about the temple of Solomon. Costly, extravagant and beautiful, it was built to glorify God. So God says "Know what? I'm going to fill it with my glory." And on the day of its inauguration a huge cloud of glory fills the building so much that people are too overcome to stand there. He likes to fill things.

On a smaller level a widow (her husband had been a full time prophet) is bankrupt and asks the prophet Elisha for help. He tells her to borrow as many pots as she can and start filling them from her little store of oil. She does so and the oil keeps on flowing until all have been filled. God likes to fill things.

As we move into our autumn programme in Penrallt we'll be keeping that in mind. God loves to fill people with his love, grace and power. Aren't our bodies described as God's temple? God wants to fill us with his presence. Aren't God's people described as vessels/receptacles? Well, then, God wants to fill his people.

What does it feel like to be filled by God? Sometimes it can be exhilarating, sometimes it can be overwhelming, sometimes it can feel compelling. Sometimes it's sing out loud, sometimes it's put your head in your hands, sometimes it's get up and do. Sometimes it is powerful, sometimes it is gentle, sometimes you barely notice it at all. Always it spills over to those around you.

The best description of a Christian I ever heard is "A Christian is an owner-occupied property." A.W. Tozer wrote "What kind of habitation pleases God? What must our natures be like before He can feel at home within us? He asks nothing but a pure heart and a single mind. He asks no rich paneling, no rugs from the Orient, no art treasures from afar. He desires but sincerity, transparency, humility and love. He will see to the rest."

God wants to live in us, fill us, and use us for his glory. On Sunday mornings we will begin a quick trip through the book of Acts, especially looking at what happens when God's Spirit encounters different people and cultures. It's "God's Kingdom on a Cultural Odyssey". On Sunday evenings we will be looking at the book of Hosea. God and humanity have a troubled relationship, perfectly mirrored by a preacher in a disastrous marriage. Love wins in the end, though.

So that's it. A month to ask God to fill you with his presence in an ever richer and more productive way. Please remember that Roy Searle will be with us at the end of the month – one of the UK's most dynamic speakers. Don't miss his Saturday morning seminar. And please remember the Alpha Course. Think about coming along to it and bringing a friend. And if you're at school in years 3 to 6, come and join the JAM Club on Fridays.

If you're a student we welcome you to Penrallt. Please collect a student pack from the door, and join in our activities, especially Faith Café on Sunday nights from the 29th.

God bless,
Peter

Please remember that evening services will return to 6.00pm in September.

NB: We will be celebrating Communion on the 4th Sunday of September rather than the 5th.

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

September 1

10.30am ***Obedience Against All Impatience*** *Acts 1*
2.15pm Service at Bontnewydd
6.00pm Communion Service ***The Preacher and the Prostitute***
Hosea Chapters 1 & 3

September 8

10.30am Elaine Green ***Walking in the other man's shoes*** *Luke 15:11-32*
6.00pm Jon Stammers

September 15

10.30am ***Church Growth Against All the Odds*** *Acts 2*
6.00pm ***How Can I Give You Up? Try To See It God's Way*** *Hosea 4*

September 22

10.30am Communion Service. ***A Miracle Against All Expectation*** *Acts 3*
6.00pm ***Pressing on to Know the Lord? Are you sure you want to?***
Hosea 5:13-6:10

September 29

10.30am Roy Searle (see below)

6.00pm ***Time to Break up Fallow Ground***

Hosea 10

Our Speakers in September

Peter Cousins is the minister of the church. **Elaine Green** is a member of Penrallt and a BUGB recognised preacher. She is also a girl guide leader, works for the NHS, and has recently started a part-time MA in Contextual Theology. **Jon Stammers** is a church member, with a PhD in Linguistics, currently a carer for his daughter while doing some work for the University. He is also the lead song writer for the perhaps-to-be-famous band The Non-Stick Penguins.

Roy Searle in Penrallt

On Saturday morning, September 28th from 10am to 1pm we will be hosting a special free seminar led by Roy Searle of the Northumbria Christian Community on the subject: "Being Church in the 21st Century". Roy is one of the nation's leading thinkers on how to respond to the challenges of being church in a modern culture which is very different to the one most of us were born into. He is witty, profound, and passionately committed to the church – but he believes that we have to change how we interact with the world around us if we are to grow as healthy Christian communities. Roy is a cherished friend of Penrallt, who feels a connection with Bangor ever since his son Ben attended our church while at Bangor University a few years ago.

CHURCH LUNCH

We will host a church lunch on **Sunday September 1**. Please bring enough buffet style "finger food" for yourselves and one or two others.

SPECIAL DATES

Monday 2	7.30pm	Deacons' Meeting
Wednesday 4	10.30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee in Options.
Saturday 14	9.30am	Bible Unzipped (see 'Noticeboard')
Monday 16	7.30pm.	Cytun Meeting in Penuel.
Saturday 28	10am-1pm	Roy Searle Seminar in Penrallt.

Advance Notice We will be running the new course of Alpha from **1st October** (see 'Noticeboard')

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Steve Collis and **Katie Liber** will be married in Penrallt on Saturday 7th at 1pm. Please come along to the service and give them your support and encouragement. You might also like to remember **Andrew Packwood** and **Jalia** as they marry in Kampala on 14th September and also **Andy Wilson** who marries **Flora** in London on 28th. Congratulations to **Elvis** on his engagement to **Rene**, who will be married next summer in Cameroon, and to **Bethany Elliott** who has just got engaged in the States.

We wish **Delyth Buse** all the best in her new job of Head of the Mathematics Department in Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen in Caernarfon.

Pauline Pearson is recovering well from her operation. Our condolences go to **Janet, Maldwyn and family** on the death of Maldwyn's mother.

Children's Birthdays in September:

5th: Rebecca Owen; **16th**: Jacob Alexandroy; **17th**: Amy Harmens;
18th: Catrin Donnelly; **24th**: Elin Gwilliam; **25th**: Sian Thomas

WEEKDAYS

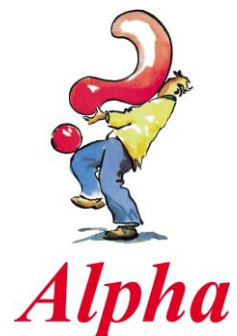
Please check with the contact people when there are meetings this month.

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	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.freemove.co.uk
Sat	8.30am	Prayer Meeting	

NOTICEBOARD

- **Men's Prayer Meeting** **Wednesday 4 September** **10.30am**
The men will meet for prayer as usual on Wednesday morning September 4th. Time spent in prayer will be followed by coffee in Options. All are welcome to join us.
- **Bible Unzipped – 1st Session Saturday 14 September 9.30am - 1pm**
Bible Unzipped is run by a group of local ministers who have a passion for Biblical Theology. Its aim is 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. The histories of the texts themselves, the different ways they have been interpreted and their use for contemporary life and personal devotion will be considered.
Bible unzipped meets monthly on a Saturday morning at Rhos-on-Sea URC from 9:30am to 1pm. This term's dates are 14th September, 12th October, 9th November. Each morning includes three sessions which develop a theme through the term. The themes for this term are: Minor Prophets, Developing Our Spirituality, Mapping Scripture. The course is free and Peter has room in his car for 4 others if you are interested.
- **Penrallt Walking Group** **Tuesday 17 September** **10.30am**
We shall be walking the Nefyn peninsula on the Lleyn. Follow the A499 Pwllheli road from Caernarfon. Just past Trefor, at a roundabout, turn right onto the B4417 for Nefyn. In the centre of Nefyn turn right at a mini roundabout, posted Aderdaron, also with a brown golf club sign. Into Morfa Nefyn and just past the old Claremont Garage (on the left) fork right for golf club, traeth and Porth Dinllaen. At the end of the houses, opposite 'Caffi Porth Dinllaen', turn right into the National Trust car park. Parking is free to Trust members, but £4 for others. There is a toilet at the Caffi and at Porth Dinllaen, 20 minutes into the walk. The walk is very gentle, partly on the coastal path and is just under 5 miles. Meet at 10.30 a.m. as usual and bring a picnic. Geoff and Marilyn are leading the walk: 01286 870944.
- **Alpha** **starting 1st October**
The Alpha course is open to anyone interested in discovering what Christian life is all about. It's where people can come and relax, share a meal and their thoughts; anyone can come and everyone is encouraged to ask questions delving into the meaning of life.
Alpha in Penrallt is run over a period of 11 consecutive Tuesdays starting with the Celebration Supper on the 1st of October at 7pm. There is an Away Day on Saturday 9th of November which will be at a local venue. There is no charge for the course or the Away Day.



People attend Alpha for a wide variety of reasons. Some want to investigate whether God exists, others may have attended church occasionally but feel they have never really understood the basics of the Christian faith. If you are a non-believer and are full of doubts about the Christian faith, come and find out what it's all about. If you question and wonder if there is a God at all, great, come with an open mind. Whatever your reasons, you will be most welcome to come on the course.

One of the most effective ways to encourage people to come on the course is by **personal invitation**. Please consider and pray for those people who you would like to invite and take **invitations** and small handouts which will be available from 1st September. Also, please remember to pray for those involved in preparing for the course and if you feel that you would like to be involved in this year's course, either as a helper, or as a guest on the course, please contact either Lawrence Moss on 01248 713793 (or email lemos@btinternet.com) or Roshni Verghese on 01492 871444 (or email vergheseroshni@hotmail.com).

➤ ***Penrallt on Facebook***

Do you know there is now a Penrallt Page? Go to Penrallt Baptist Church. If you 'like' it, then you will be updated with any events/news etc. 120 people are signed up to it. 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
Helen Thomas 600174

Deadline for next month's newsletter Sunday 22 September
Please send information to Gwyneth (gwyneth@brindley-wales.com or 352682)