



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: September 2015

From the Minister:

It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

Philippians 1:15

My friend the angel and I sprawled across the living room floor on either side of a Monopoly board. Somehow I'd managed to get him addicted to the game and now he often popped through his angelic interstitial gateway to play it with me and sample some human food and drink. Crunching his way through a chocolate digestive he looked up and smiled as he landed on Mayfair.

"That's mine," he gloated with wicked delight. "Now you're in trouble, Peter!"

I groaned. "Again!" I whined. "This is the third time in a row I'm losing."

"A bad loser, Peter. And you a minister!" He might have been subjecting me to gentle banter, but angels don't have a sense of humour like us, so I couldn't really tell.

"Well, I admit to being competitive. But I'm far from the only minister who likes to throw a few sixes now and then. I tell you who I'd like to play Monopoly with . . ."

"Who?"

"The Apostle Paul and the Apostle Peter. Now wouldn't that be something to behold?"

My friend the angel nodded with what might be construed to be amusement and added "They'd certainly love the *Get Out Of Jail Free* card."

I laughed. "But they were severely competitive guys were they not?"

"Hmm, maybe. But they'd had a run-in with the authorities so often they came to acknowledge their vulnerability in the end."

"But they both wanted to influence the early church in their way and they did have at least one mighty row in public."

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"They weren't the easiest of people to get along with, I will admit, but they both wanted the church to grow and weren't too fussy if it was messy sometimes. Although I dare say they'd be hard going around a Monopoly board."

"It's just that these days I see so many strutting round bragging about what they've achieved, and folk claiming that their church is the best, or the biggest, or the fastest growing, or the most miraculous, or the most successful in the area. When did church become a competition? If I thought it was a competition I'd put on more deodorant and get my teeth whitened."

He quietly bought eight hotels and dropped them onto Mayfair and Park Lane.

"You've overstepped the mark in praise of your own church sometimes."

"Alright, I have. But I like my church. And yes I know it isn't my church in the sense that I own it. It's mine in the sense it's the one I belong to. But it's still a cracking good church. I enjoy it."

"And so you should. But you're right: competitive Christianity is no part of the kingdom of God. Heaven doesn't keep league tables of churches."

"We can still get it right or wrong. Or just plain, flat and uninspiringly dull."

"Sure. But you're just going to have to accept that some people preach the good news of Jesus for wrong reasons, or poor motives. If God gave trophies for messing up you'd all have a mantelpiece full of the things. He's far more patient than you."

I threw a four and a three on the dice and painfully counted out seven until my top hat token landed on Mayfair.

"Ah," he said, "with four hotels that will be . . ."

"More than I can afford," I admitted. "I concede."

"You're going red in the face, Peter."

"No I'm not."

But then he was gone. A faint trace of biscuit crumbs where he'd been sitting, and a whiff of gloating satisfaction lingering in the air. It takes grace to lose. It takes grace to appreciate other churches. It takes wisdom to understand that we aren't separate churches, rather we're all just part of one body. The wisdom to accept and affirm all the different parts of the body of Christ on earth comes with maturity. It's easier to get your head around than losing at Monopoly. For some of us.

God bless,

Peter

Welcome to Students:

If you're a student we welcome you to Penrallt. Please collect a student pack from the door (available from late September), and join in our activities, especially Faith Café on Sunday nights from the 27th. Our Student Coordinator will be happy to tell you what's happening and to invite you to our student home group.

Services This Month:

Reminder: Don't forget that evening services revert to 6pm in September.

6 September

10:30am Speaker: Dr Menna Machreth.

Agents of God's Kingdom in the World *1 Peter 1:1-12*

6:00pm Communion Service.

The Baffling Mystery of the Divine Contract *Joshua 24:1-13*

13 September

10:30am **Your faith has healed you** *Mark 10:46-52*

6:00pm **Chained heart, change of heart: getting real with God**
Joshua 24:14-28

20 September

10:30am **Death, you will die!** *Mark 15:40-16:8*

6:00pm Baptismal Service.

27 September

10:30am Communion Service. *Joshua 12:7-13:1*

The Power of One

6:00pm **We don't preach great things, we live them** *Colossians 3:12-17*

Our Speakers in September:

Menna Machreth is the national Mission Coordinator for the Baptist Union of Wales and BMS World Mission in Wales. She obtained her doctorate from Bangor University during which time she was a member of Penrallt's congregation. She has been married to Parch. Rhys Llwyd of Eglwys Bedyddwyr Caersalem, Caernarfon for a year. We're delighted to welcome her back to Penrallt. **Peter Cousins** is our minister and is the speaker for every other service this month.

Dates For Your Diary:

Wednesday 2	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee in Options.
Saturday 5		Wedding of Mim Rees and Ronnie Winter in Hope Church, Newtown, Powys.
Sunday 6	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre Residential Home in Llangoed.
Monday 7	7:30pm	Deacons' Meeting.
Friday 11	1:30pm	Funeral of Mel Worsnip at Penrallt.
Saturday 12	9:30am-1pm	<i>Bible Unzipped</i> at Rhos-On-Sea URC.
Saturday 19	6pm	Farewell Party for Peter and Susan (see "From the Church Office" for more information).
Saturday 26	6:30pm	Gobaith Môn event at Llangefni Town Hall (see this month's <i>Focus</i> , on the back page).
Tuesday 29	10:30am	Church walk at Brynsiencyn.

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

News of People:

We are sorrowed to report the death of **Mel Worsnip** on 20th August in Ysbyty Gwynedd. Many of you were first welcomed to Penrallt by Mel strolling up to you and engaging you in conversation. We offer our condolences to Eileen and the family.

Marion Massey has had a spell in hospital but is home now. **Jonny Retallick** had a bad asthma attack but is well recovered.

Peter Cousins will start his radiotherapy on September 23rd.

Michael Hogg is currently off work with illness.

Our condolences to **Anne Collis** and family on the death of her adoptive mother last month.

Jean Browne has moved to Tennyson Wharf, Park Lane, Burton Waters, Lincoln, LN1 22D. Send her a card!

Children's Birthdays in September:

5th: Rebecca Owen

17th: Amy Harmens

24th: Elin Gwilliam

25th: Siân Thomas

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	7:30pm	HG, Bethesda	Jon & Deb Stammers (602868)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
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 12th September 9:30am

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 is yet to be decided.

◇ **Car Parking**

Free parking is available on Sundays in Fron Heulog (the School of Healthcare Sciences) behind the Catholic church. The car park next to Penrallt is now pay & display with no special rates for the disabled. Morrisons are happy for you to park in their car park on Sunday mornings and do your shopping after the service provided you register your car registration number at their information desk beforehand; they say they switch the cameras off to make the car park available to us on Sunday/weekday evenings after 6pm. *NB the private pay and display car park next to the church often shuts at 6pm.*

◇ **Church Lunch**

We will host a church lunch on **Sunday 6th September**. Please bring enough buffet style 'finger food' for yourselves and one or two others.

◇ **Church Walk**

Tuesday 29th September

This month's walk will be led by Roger & Eve Malone and will be from Brynsiencyn, taking in some burial mounds. The walk is about 6 miles, over easy terrain and roads. Meet at the car park in the village (opposite the Groeslon pub) at 10:30am. Bring a packed lunch.

◇ **Men's Prayer Meeting**

Wednesday 2nd September

10:30am

Time spent in prayer will be followed by coffee in Options. All are welcome to join us.

◇ **Pastoral Help**

If you have pastoral concerns please contact Peter or one of the other members of the Pastoral Care team: Pat Borlace (713146); Adrienne Ferrada; Geoff Moore (410582); Judy Stammers (364394); 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**

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 by emailing the office now and requesting to be put on the list. And for more immediate sharing and response in prayer why not search on Facebook for *Penrallt Prayer Point* and send a request to join our group dedicated to prayer.

◇ **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. So far Penrallt has contributed £5,455 to this scheme.

◇ **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 6th September** (please see weekly news sheets or check with the church office for confirmation).

◇ **Sculpture Exhibition at Bangor Cathedral**

29 July-7 September

We have recently received news of an exhibition that is currently running at Bangor Cathedral, displaying a group of sacred sculptures made by Jesuit priest Fr. Rory Geoghegan (b.1931) of St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre, near St Asaph. Yorkshire-born Rory trained as an artist during the 1960s, and his ministry has included chaplaincy work in Bristol, Leeds, and the Shetland Islands. The sculptures are inspired by prayerful and challenging times in Rory's own life, and encompass themes as varied as the Song of Songs, the Flight into Egypt, 'Here is your King' (John 19, vv. 13-15), and the Trinity. All are most welcome to visit, and there is a special leaflet to assist exploration.

From the Church Office

The farewell party for Peter and Susan will be on Saturday 19th September from 6pm and we are expecting to finish by around 10:30pm. We cannot publish further details of the event here for obvious reasons! If you would like to know more, please speak to Roshni or Magnus. You are very welcome to attend the event but please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to do so, as we need to keep track of numbers.

If you have not already filled it in, the survey set up for us by Revd. Rob Beamish (the Minister of Prince's Drive Baptist Church in Colwyn Bay, who is acting as our Moderator to help us through the process of finding a new Minister) is still open until 20th September. This is to help us assess where we are now as a church and where we feel that God is leading us, so that we can look for a suitable person to become our new Minister. Please visit

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PenralltCongregationalSurvey1>

and take a few minutes to go through the questions. Alternatively, if you have a smartphone you can scan this QR code, which will take you directly to the website.



Advance notice: The next church members' meeting will be on Monday 12th October. We will be sending out the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting rather earlier than usual with a view to allowing members to be as prepared as possible for the discussion surrounding the search for a new minister. Rob Beamish, our Moderator, will be chairing the meeting. Members, please make every effort to attend.

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

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...

Gobaith Môn

Give thanks for **Joe Moreno** as he enters his second year as our youth worker, for his witness for Christ and for all the contacts he has had with the youth of the island. Join us on **Saturday 26 September from 6:30pm in Llangefni Town Hall** to hear more of the work including testimonies from some of the youth who have encountered Jesus.

Joe writes: "I look back with great thankfulness for how God has led us and the access that has been granted. I look forward with anticipation and faith at the potential that is within this amazing island, Ynys Môn. Each life has a purpose and destiny. I look for more amazing things occurring to honour Jesus. My hope is that the following few paragraphs provide this perspective – one of hope, excitement of what is to come, vision for all God has, and a renewed sense of enthusiasm for the task ahead!

When I started I did not anticipate the openness we received from the schools. The opportunity to connect with young people has been wonderful. I have taught every class at Syr Thomas Jones and was able to meet nearly every student. I have been teaching from a Christian perspective on Medical Ethics, Family, Marriage, Romantic Relationships and Bullying. Each year group brought its own challenges but the response was amazing. Many conversations happened asking deeper questions after class, with opportunities for the youth to forgive parents or others that have caused personal pain in their lives and opportunities to take a stand for positive change in their lives!

I have also been able to really get to know a number of young lads from across the island through American football sessions, both in and out of school times. This has really proven to be a major relationship building opportunity. All the lads know I love Jesus and we are slowly breaking down the misconceptions that they had as to what it means to love Jesus and to belong to a Christian community.

As part of this endeavour to embed our lives of faith into the community, Jules (my wife) and I open our home on Tuesday evenings to youth (under 16) and Thursday evenings to young adults (16-30). We eat together, laugh and grow deeper in our relationship with God. The needs of each group are different but each of these evenings is a time of building community and modelling a home that loves Jesus.

Mobilize is a course designed to give individuals the ground work of what it means to follow Jesus. We put a very strong emphasis on one to one discipleship/mentoring during the course, offering practical teaching that is applicable in daily life, and processing/discussion times are also incorporated during the sessions. The last course was an amazing time of building relationships and seeing young leaders emerge. We will run it again in the coming year so do pray for those who will join it.

We are also planning for a course called **Accelerate** to run on Wednesdays, starting in October. This course will equip those who want to be effective in Christian youth work and grow in their leadership skills. It is designed to bring confidence in reaching out effectively to young people in relevant ways. It will enable individuals to develop and progress in their vision and ministry to youth, both inside and outside the Church. Topics will include: Following Jesus and Leadership, Redeeming Gifts of This Generation, Generational Trends and Youth Movements, Youth Culture and more!"

For more information go to www.gobaithmon.org.uk