



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: April 2018

This month in our first Sunday morning service (Easter Sunday) we will be welcoming five baptism candidates.

There are various questions people usually ask when attending a baptism service in a Baptist church:

Why do we have a 'swimming pool' in church?

In most Baptist churches baptism is by full immersion. This basically means getting completely plunged into a pool of water. Baptisms have taken place in rivers, the sea and swimming pools. However, most Baptist churches have a special pool (Baptistry) for baptisms. So why do we generally baptise people like this? Here are three good reasons why:

1. Because Jesus was baptised that way. Matthew 3:16 tells us that Jesus came up out of the river Jordan after he was baptised. If Jesus was baptised in a river then he would have used a lot of water! So if it was good enough for Jesus then full immersion is good enough for anyone.

2. The word itself describes this action. In the original language of the New Testament Greek, 'baptise' means to dip, plunge, immerse, overwhelm.

3. It is the form of baptism that physically represents a lot of what we believe about being a Christian. We are buried in the likeness of Christ's death by baptism (see Romans 6:4–5). It is like death and resurrection.

Why be baptised?

The first reason for baptism is to be found in the Great Commission. Jesus, as he was about to ascend to his Father, said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,

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baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to *obey everything I have commanded you.*" (Matt. 28:18–20).

It is the Lord Jesus who commands his followers to be baptised, so baptism is *an act of obedience*. The first Christians took this command of Jesus to baptise seriously. We see this on the Day of Pentecost. Luke tells us that, "When the people heard Peter's sermon they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised every one of you'... about three thousand people were baptised that day." (Acts 2:37, 38 and 41). We only have five people this time.

What is baptism?

A simple answer is that "*Baptism is the outward symbol of an inward reality*". But what is the meaning of this statement?

It is explained in Ephesians 1:13 – "*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit*"

When a person hears the message of truth (that we are all sinners and that the only way to the Father is Jesus), and he/she believes and repents, then forgiveness is available. The greatest treasure in the Bible is forgiveness. With God's forgiveness comes His acceptance and His purpose in our lives. It doesn't matter who we are, whether we feel we are good people or we feel we have made many mistakes in our lives and have lost our dignity, God can restore us and it is free.

Forgiveness comes in a moment when our repentance is genuine. The moment we repent and accept Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour, we get to receive the Holy Spirit. This is not about religion, liturgies or spending a life in penance. It is free, and is assured when we repent. Then we are accepted.

This is how our spiritual journey starts. This is our *inward reality* that we are walking in the Spirit and our lives must be absolutely transformed, and baptism is the outward symbol. The "symbol" of Christianity is not a "fish" or a "cross" we usually carry on necklaces or cars – but the beautiful emblem of baptism.

We welcome Emma, Gill, Jan, Paul and Tolu, who come on Easter Sunday to be baptised and publicly declare that they want to commit their lives to Jesus.

Freddy

Services This Month

Our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, will be the speaker at all services except where otherwise noted below. Corey Hampton is a minister in training based at Caersalem in Caernarfon. The other speakers are church members.

1st April (Easter Sunday)

- 10:30am Baptismal Service *Romans 10:9–10*
Salvation through Christ: The risen Lord
- 6:00pm Communion Service
The Love of Jesus Christ *John 13:1*

8th April

- 10:30am Speaker: Donald Poirot
Joseph's life in a foreign land *Genesis 37:29–36*
- 6:00pm Speaker: Magnus Forrester-Barker
Seeing and believing *John 20*

15th April

- 10:30am Speaker: Corey Hampton
The Parables of the Kingdom *Mark 4:21–34*
- 6:00pm Speaker: Deb Stammers
A Terrifying Encounter With Jesus *Mark 6: 45–52*

22nd April

- 10:30am **"Being people who have no idols"** *Exodus 20:4–6*
- 6:00pm Essentials to grow in the spiritual life #4:
Anguish and Hope *Psalms 88:1*

29th April

- 10:30am Communion Service
Lessons from the book of Jonah #1 *Jonah 2:1–9;*
Matthew 12:40
- 6:00pm Essentials to grow in the spiritual life #5:
Joy and Thanksgiving *Psalms 118:1*

Dates for Your Diary

Saturdays	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Sunday 1	7:00am	Cytûn Easter service at Roman Camp, followed by breakfast at Penrallt.
Wednesday 4	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Wednesday 11	1:30pm	<i>Women's World Day of Prayer</i> service at Our Lady & St. James (rescheduled from 2nd March).
Saturday 14	9:30am	Safeguarding training session.
Monday 16	10:30am	Church Walk at Hell's Mouth.
Monday 23	7:00pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
	8:00pm	Church members' AGM.

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

News of People

Ben Warnock has broken his leg while skiing.

Children's Birthdays in April

11th: Sam Adams 14th: Isabelle Capper
27th: Poppy & Tess Bendall-Jones

Students

Every year, we wave goodbye to some students following graduation, and welcome others for the first time. As our group of students change, so do their needs. It is important that we adapt and progress with these changes. Therefore, whilst we recognise that Faith café has worked well in the past, starting after Easter, we aim to invest more in combined discipleship and fellowship by moving Faith Café to 6:15pm on a Monday night, preceding Focus, our Bible study. The Bible study itself will begin at 7pm and continue in its usual format, with the addition of occasional guest speakers to cover specific topics. If you have any questions, please talk to Matt (students@penrallt.org; 07908 613858).

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 22nd April.

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

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
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:

◇ Church Lunch

There will be no church lunch this month.

◇ Church Walk

Monday 16th April 10:30am

April's walk, led by Andrew March, will be a section of the coastal path across Hell's Mouth bay and the headland further west (on the Llŷn Peninsula, beyond Abersoch). The first section will be a beach walk (we might collect tidal plastic debris on the way) as we head for Rhiw. Park cars in the car park south west of Llanengan as shown. It is suggested that walkers share transport. Further details will be available closer to the event.



◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

Monday 23rd April

7:00pm

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. This month we meet half an hour earlier than usual and the meeting (which is open to all) will be followed directly by the AGM for church members. We also have a weekly prayer meeting on Saturday mornings at 8:30am, which usually lasts slightly less than one hour.

◇ **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 brown 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, starting at 2:15pm) and Plas Garnedd (in Llanberis, starting at 2:45pm), usually on the first Sunday. This month we will be going to **Haulfre** on 8th April (a week later than usual).