

Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter for August 2012

The Governor of the Club of England warmed his Hennessy's Beauté du Siècle brandy caressingly in the cup of his hands, while surreptitiously slipping off his Gucci shoes under the table. He could never admit he'd bought the wrong size. You don't admit to mistakes in this job. He smiled benignly on the little circle of chairmen of all the various other clubs who were sipping Bollinger and comparing scores and bonuses.

"A little bird tells me," said the governor with a twinkle in his eye, "that some of you have been fixing your par rates."

"Excuse me," replied one of the chairmen, eyes wide in mock disbelief,

"We would never do something like that."

"Oh," said the governor, "you wouldn't, say, increase the par for the course to 95 when it's your round and drop it to 72 for everyone else would you?"

There was ribald laughter from the chairmen.

"And the suggestion would be untrue that the last round of 15-under that you shot had more to do with the temporary elevation of par to 103 than to your skill with a five-iron?"

The chairmen wiped a tear of joy from his eye and replied, "You know we can't admit high scores to the opposition. That would be international disaster."

"And possibly illegal if proved. And maybe actionable by all the others punters who shot twenty-five over the real par."

"You brood of vipers." A firm voice emanated from a leather armchair in the corner.

All heads in the circle of important golfers swivelled round to stare at the bizarre bearded figure dressed in strange leather and wearing sandals.

"And you are?" asked the Governor.

"John, although some call me the Baptist" he replied with a strong middle-eastern accent.

"You're not a member here" squeaked one of the chairmen with outrage.

"No, thank God," answered the Baptist, "but you need to repent, turn to God and be baptised. We could probably use the water feature by the thirteenth fairway for that. Not that I see much sign of repentance in any of you. Not until it comes out in the press and the share prices of your clubs start dropping."

"The press?" gulped the Governor of the Club of England. But the Baptist ignored him.

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Secretary: Neil Rymer, 20 Brynteg, Llandegfan, Menai Bridge LL59 5TY (01248 713003)

Treasurer: Stephen Burrows, 39 Cil y Graig, Llanfairpwll, LL61 5NZ (01248 714048)

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"To be fair, you're no different from most people. You're just able to earn more money, squander your life on a grander scale and cause more damage than the man or woman in the street. Making up your own rules is what everyone does these days. That way the moral balance is always in your favour. But whenever you twist the rules for your own benefit someone innocent always suffers."

"I think you should leave." Said the Governor firmly.

"Me? It's not me you should fear. It's Him. The Lord. Remember what he said: *"Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me. I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."*

There was silence for a moment.

"Anyway, I need to get back to the office," murmured one of the chairmen, and the meeting quietly dissolved. One, however, detached himself from the group and slid guiltily into a vacant chair opposite the prophet.

"What should I do?" he asked quietly.

The prophet smiled, extracted a fried locust from a bowl on the coffee table in front of him, dipped it in a pot of wild honey alongside and crunched it between his teeth. Then he began,

"What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, but lose his soul? There's a Saviour waiting to forgive you"

Scandals apart, if you are on holiday in the area we wish you God's peace and refreshment. You are welcome at all our services. The quotation above, by the way, is from Matthew 25:41-45 and it is a passage we shall be looking at on the Bank Holiday Sunday evening in August

God bless,
Peter

SERVICES IN AUGUST

There will be no Sunday School in August, but after the opening worship Ceri Walker will be leading a team to present stories, singing, fun and games for all children. The crèche will continue to operate for under 3s. The programme is inspired by the Olympic Games and called *Run the Race*.

Time of Evening Services

The evening services will begin at 7:00pm until September 2nd when they will revert to 6:00pm.

In June Peter asked if anyone had doubts they would like to hear a sermon on. Only two people replied (clearly "doubt" is not a general problem in Penrallt!) so on the 19th and 26th Peter will be preaching in the morning on the two replies he had.

August 5

10.30am Bryan Collis: ***Run the Race – but it's not a competition***
2.15pm Service at Bontnewydd *Matthew 20:1-16*
7.00pm Communion Service. Andrew March: ***Worldly or Other***
Worldly Attitudes: Responding to the Word of God – Biblical
Principles *Matthew 16:1-12*

August 12

10.30am Bryan Collis: ***Run the Race – as a team*** *Galatians 6:1-10*
7.00pm Andrew March: ***Worldly or Other Worldly Attitudes: My***
Place in the Grand Scheme of Things. MY task is...?

August 19

10.30am ***What to do when your prayers aren't answered and people***
are telling you things you don't believe to be true
Job 19:1-29
7.00pm ***Undefeated. Reflections on the Paralympics.***

August 26

10.30am Communion Service. ***How to cope with fear, especially the fear***
that God may not provide. *Isaiah 41: 1-20*
7.00pm *Matthew 25:31-46*

Our Preaching Team for August:

Peter Cousins is Penrallt's minister. *Dr. Bryan Collis* is a deacon of the church with the area of responsibility for outreach and he works for the WCVA (Wales Council for Voluntary Action). *Andrew March* is also a deacon of Penrallt with the area of responsibility for discipleship and prayer. He is retired.

CHURCH LUNCH

There will be no church lunch this month, but on Sunday 5 August a visit to Benllech beach is planned. Tim Gordon-Roberts has the details.

SPECIAL DATES FOR AUGUST

Wednesday 1 10.30am Men's Prayer Meeting followed by Coffee in Options.
Sunday 5 1.30pm Visit to Benllech beach. All welcome.
Saturday 11 7.00pm Men's Fellowship Evening

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Our condolences to **Jackie Branch** and her family on the sudden death of her daughter last month. And also to **Lesley Jackson** on the loss of her step-mother. Our prayers are with you all.

Mike Straker writes: "I want to thank you all so much for the last four years, especially this 'Relay' year. It has been a real privilege to serve and be part of such a welcoming church. Thank you all for your support and prayers over the last few years and the opportunities to grow in my relationship with God. University was made so much better by being welcomed into Penrallt and being part of such a loving community. I will miss you all so much."

An ex-Penrallt couple, **Thierry and Akiko Dupont** are moving to France very soon. Akiko is going to have to add another language to her skills! Their address: Thierry and Akiko Dupont, 7bis Rue de Bellevue, 02100 Saint-Quentin, France.

Children's Birthdays in August

2nd: Zoe Mapatac; **16th**: Bethan Stammers; **17th**: Andreas Alexandroy;
19th: Luke Young

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)
Thu	7.45pm	HG, Talwrn	Gill & James Goodman (751074)
Fri	10.30am - noon	Cheeky Monkeys	Joan Rymer (713003)
Fri	10.30 – 12.30pm	HG, 6 Maes y Dref	Anne Collis (353173) anne@collis66.freeseve.co.uk
Sat	8.30am	Prayer Meeting (none in August – restart 1 st Sept.)	

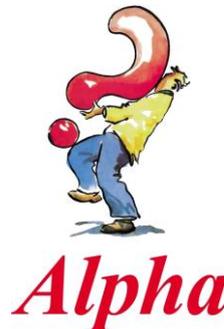
NOTICEBOARD

➤ **Baptism**

Peter is talking to people about being baptised. If you are interested he will be pleased to meet you and discuss what is involved.

➤ **Autumn Alpha Course**

An Alpha Course is planned for this Autumn at Penrallt, starting on Tuesday 2nd October and running through to 18th December. Publicity material such as posters, invitations and small handouts will be available soon. Please remember to pray for those involved in preparing for the course (details of the team will be given in due course). 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 lemoss@btinternet.com) or Roshni Verghese on 01492 871444 (or email vergheseroshni@hotmail.com).



➤ **Men's Prayer Meeting** **Wednesday 1 August** **10.30am**

The men will meet for prayer as usual, followed by coffee in Options.

➤ **Men's Fellowship Evening** **Saturday 11 August** **7.00pm**

➤ **Walking Group** **Tuesday 21 August** **10.30am**

Meet at the car park on the quay near the harbour in front of Caernarfon Castle. The walk (6 miles) is fairly easy starting along a lane with views across the Menai Strait. The return is through fields, a cycleway and then a path by the Welsh Highland Railway. Any queries telephone Paul and Ruth Hebblethwaite or email paul.hebblethwaite@virgin.net

➤ **Holiday Bible Club** **20 – 24 August**

- St John's Methodist Church are running their Holiday Bible Club for children 5 - 11+ from Monday 20th August to Friday 24th August from 9:30 to 12 noon each day using "On Your Marks!" from Scripture Union. All children are welcome. For information, publicity and booking forms please contact Deacon Stephen Roe on stephen.roe@methodist.org.uk or (01248) 717084

➤ **Penrallt on Facebook**

100 people are signed up to Penrallt's Facebook site. 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 goes to a scheme run from the Cathedral whereby the homeless are given vouchers for generous free meals.

➤ ***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:

Geoff Birch 01286 870944 Pat Borlace 713146, Eunice Smith 713296,
Judy Stammers 364394 Geoff Moore 410582

Peter and Susan will be on holiday between August 2nd and 9th. If you have any pastoral concerns, please talk to one of the Pastoral Care Team.

Deadline for next month's newsletter Sunday 19 August

Please send information to Gwyneth
(gwyneth@brindley-wales.com or 352682)

FOCUS ON...

VALE OF CLWYD MISSIONER PROJECT



As a church we became involved in this project about eight years ago, through our involvement with the Baptist Churches across North Wales. The aim of the Vale of Clwyd Missioner Project is to perform youth work, create fresh expressions of church and encourage churches in the Vale of Clwyd which runs from Rhyl up through St. Asaph, Denbigh and Ruthin. It has become an ecumenical project, although mainly Baptist, and is bilingual.

Glyn Watson is the Missioner, a young man in his early twenties, completing his training as a Christian Youth Worker. He heads up a number of projects in the Vale, but is based mainly in the Baptist Church in St. Asaph. The Youth group he runs on Friday nights has more than seventy on its books, with an average attendance of about thirty. This is supplemented by a young people's Bible study group which has doubled in size over the last twelve months. He is looking to the future and is currently training seven youth leaders who will hopefully take over direction of this group and release him to start new groups. We are especially looking at Denbigh, with the possibility of cooperating with a local church to establish a new youth group there.

Glyn uses his skills to lead a monthly Dyffryn Clwyd Youth Celebration which draws in young people from a variety of churches and denominations in the area to worship and meet together. This attracts between 35 and 50 young people, brought along by their youth leaders, and as the Celebrations are held in different churches the reach and influence of this project is growing.

Glyn no longer works in the local school, but continues to use his skating skills to make contact with young people outside of the churches, although one manoeuvre too many resulted in a knee injury which kept him off his skates for a few months.

The new project which is causing us most excitement is *The Gathering*, a monthly event which unites young adults (18 to 30) for coffee and activities. It began as a Facebook group under Glyn's leadership, but has now grown to over 55 members.

Lack of space prevents us from going into details of preaching ministry to the local churches (Welsh and English languages), puppet ministries, summer camp ministries and a mission trip to South Africa with young people from the Vale. We are also hoping to add a gap year worker to the team from September 2013. You can read more on the project's new website: **www.vocymonline.com**.

Finally we would appreciate your prayers:

- ❖ Pray for Glyn's outreach to the young people.
- ❖ Pray for the emergence of new leaders to take over the work from Glyn in St. Asaph.
- ❖ Pray for the plans to start a new youth work in Denbigh.
- ❖ Pray for the project's finances. By God's grace we have broken even three years in a row! Please pray the money in for the rest of the year.
- ❖ Pray for more people to join the management group. We are currently desperately short of a treasurer. A very urgent prayer request indeed.