



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: June 2014

From the Minister:

Before I went to bed I'd been reading an article in the Independent which highlighted how the British public are wrong about nearly everything. For example:

The British public believes that £24 of every £100 of benefits is fraudulently claimed. In fact the figure is just 70 pence per £100.

Most of the British public believes that crime is rising. In fact the figures show that crime is 19% lower than it was six years ago.

Over a quarter of the British public believes that foreign aid is in the top three items of Government expenditure. In fact it constitutes just 1.1% of what is spent.

As I drifted off to sleep it struck me that the great British public is no better informed on the Christian Faith than on any of the above. Then the nightmare began. Ever since as a child I was frightened by the George Langelaan short story *The Fly* I've been wary of flies, so maybe that was how I came to dream that I was a fly. A fly in a café, in fact, clinging hard to a wall running with condensation while below me, around the remains of some horrendously unhealthy (to humans) meals served in this clearly most unhygienic of greasy spoons, three friends were discussing religion. Ignoring the temptation of left-over bacon fat and ketchup which beckoned me from the plates below, I eavesdropped the conversation which centred on the Christian church.

"Most of the trouble around the world is caused by religion!" said Jan.

Nods of agreement from around the table, as Harry added "Yeah, the one true faith – they want you to join up or something. Make a donation. That kind of thing."

"No we don't" I screamed. A silent scream, destined to emerge as a futile buzz.

"Well, they're not all that bad," contributed Sally, "I mean, the good ones are very gentle and very kind, but a bit boring."

"Yeah," agreed Jan, "they're fairly perfect. There's no earrings in their nose. No body piercing."

"I know," replied Harry, "they've got to get rid of the formal clothes, turn up in jeans and a T-shirt"

"But you can!" I screamed, losing my foothold for a second.

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"Sure," opined Sally, "If it was a bit more social . . . It's got to be more entertaining. And it should be more discussional."

"But we are! We are! I buzzed in apoplectic exasperation, "You can come to our Alpha Course, sit around drinking coffee, eating cake and discussing Christianity to your heart's content. You can join a home group and meet in the comfort of a living room, and talk about spiritual things with your friends. Pray for each other, support each other, listen to each other. Isn't that what you want?"

But they couldn't hear me.

"Church should be comfortable, and not cold" insisted Jan.

"But, but, but under floor heating! Padded chairs imported from America!" I choked. However they just went to discussing the Bible.

"It's like the Lord of the Rings, isn't it?" snorted Sally. I mean it's all about another universe – a middle Earth."

"Is that a part of the Bible then, War and Peace?" enquired Harry. "Jesus was not a person. He's a made up character in the theatre. It's probably just a book written by a silly old man who thought, oh this would be good."

"Noooooooo" I yelled. To no avail.

"There's no evidence to support anything in the Bible" declared Sally, thus dumping hundreds of years of archaeological and literary research into the bin marked "who cares?"

"I don't think so," corrected Jan, "he might have been like a good bloke who helped a lot of people and then was persecuted for that and then he became a martyr and people exaggerated his stories."

"Why don't you check Jesus out for yourself before making your mind up?" I yelled. As far as a fly is able to yelp. There was a pause in the conversation as drinks were sipped, before Jan continued.

"There's a lot more Born Again Christians people as well. It's almost fashionable now."

"If only it were," I sighed.

"Yeah," said Harry, "they are trying to get the bands that the kids like to pull them in. I don't think they are trying to ram the old message down your throat, it's more like enjoy yourself. Which is cool."

And as the scene faded from my view I looked up to see my clock informing me that it was 4.30am. I snuggled my human head thankfully into my pillow and drifted off again.

God bless,

Peter

(The short story above is, of course fictional. But not quite. Every single comment by the fictional Jan, Sally and Harry are genuine opinions expressed in a 2003 research project by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. People were invited to join focus groups to discuss the Christian Faith. Read again the opinions above like you were a fly on the wall and weep . . .)

Services This Month: Please note that our evening services in June start at 7pm.

1 June

10:30am **The Unknown God in a world full of gods.** *Acts 17:15-34.*

2:15pm Service at Bontnewydd.

7:00pm Communion Service. *Romans 8:1-15.*

Let the Holy Spirit choose you to intercede.

8 June (Pentecost Sunday)

10:30am **The Holy Spirit looks like you when you . . .** *John 14:15-27.*

No evening service in Penrallt - joint service in the Cathedral (see below).

15 June

10:30am Speaker: Roger Borlace. *Psalm 103.*

'As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.'

7:00pm Speaker: Andrew March. *Matt. 22: 36-40*

Right or Wrong & how to tell the difference.

22 June

10:30am Speaker: Tim Gough.

7:00pm Speaker: Bryan Collis.

29 June

10:30am Communion Service. *Acts 18:1-25.*

"I have many people in this city" says God.

7:00pm *Nehemiah 1:1-11.*

Learning to weep for a broken world.

Our Speakers in June:

Peter Cousins is the minister of Penrallt and is our speaker except when otherwise noted. **Roger Borlace** is a retired minister, a member of Penrallt. **Andrew March** is retired, one of Penrallt's deacons. **Tim Gough** is a full time Youth Worker based in Llandudno for the organization Youth For Christ. **Dr Bryan Collis** is a Senior Research Officer for the WCVA, one of Penrallt's deacons.

Church Lunch

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

Faith Café

Susan says: "Faith Café has now finished until September. My very grateful thanks to the large number of you who have contributed food over the academic year. It has been greatly appreciated and the young folk send their thanks for all your hard work and generosity."

Dates For Your Diary:

Friday 6	8-9pm	Cytûn Pentecost Vigil at Bangor Cathedral, led by Father Adrian.
Saturday 7		Bangor Carnival.
Sunday 8	5pm	Cytûn Pentecost picnic at Bangor Cathedral, followed by a service at 6pm.
Monday 9	7:30pm	Deacons' meeting.
Wednesday 11	11am	Pastoral Care Team meeting.
Saturday 14	9:30am-1pm afternoon	Bible Unzipped in Rhos on Sea. North Wales English Baptist Union in Llandudno.
Monday 16	7:30pm	Worship Committee.
Tuesday 17	10:30am	Church Walk.
Wednesday 18	10:30am	Men's Prayer Meeting followed by coffee in Options.
Saturday 21	10:30-12:0 6:00pm	Upper Bangor Society Coffee Morning in Penrallt. Anglesey Prayer Walk meeting in Llangefni Town Hall.
Saturday 28	12:30pm	Wedding of Georgia Randall and John Hughes.

Further details of most of these events can be found in the Noticeboard section later in this newsletter.

News of People:

Ronnie Winter and **Barbara Thomas** are both facing major medical treatment this month. **Tib Lloyd** has been offered a position in Ellel Ministries and will be moving to Surrey. **Neil Rymer** is having a significant birthday this month.

Children's Birthdays in May: 17th: Thomas Howie 20th: Bradley Jones

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, Cymraeg	Owen & Nia Evans (352634)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Maes y Dref (pm)	Anne Collis (353173)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Nomads	Susan Cousins (353878)
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:

◇ **Anglesey Prayer Walk**

Sunday 15 - Saturday 21 June

A call to "Soak the land in prayer". This will take place informally around the Island (i.e. organise your own prayer walk in your chosen area during the week), finishing with a gathering for praise and worship together at Llangefni Town Hall on Saturday 21st June at 6pm. Details on the church noticeboard or from Magnus in the office.

◇ **Bangor Carnival**

Saturday 7 June

We need volunteers to set up the facilities for the Carnival on the Friday night and to pick up litter afterwards on Saturday (it takes less than an hour). Also stewards are needed on the day. See Bryan Collis if you are free. If you would like to help out in the Cytûn Tea Tent for any length of time on the Saturday, talk to Susan Cousins. It is not difficult work and it does your heart good to see the people of the area coming together for a fun day out.

◇ **Bangor Street Pastors need You!**

The training of the next batch of new Street Pastors is due to start this autumn so if you are interested in joining the team, now is the time to do it - otherwise you may have to wait more than a year for the next opportunity. If you are interested, or want to go out as an observer to see for yourself what Street Pastors do, please speak to Magnus.

◇ **BBC Broadcast**

The radio service we recorded for Pentecost Sunday will be broadcast on Radio Wales on Sunday morning 8th June (time TBC, though likely to be 7:30am, possibly repeated at 5:30pm). It will also be available for a week on BBC iPlayer (choose Radio and type Celebration into the search box). We hope to receive a copy of both our broadcasts from the BBC and will make those available to you. More information to follow.

◇ **Bible Unzipped**

Saturday 14 June

9:30am-1pm

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. It meets monthly on a Saturday morning at Rhos-on-Sea URC from 9:30am to 1pm, usually on the second Saturday. Each morning includes three sessions which, this month, are: *The Book of Hosea* (taught by Julia); *The Book of Acts – God-fearers* (Tim Gough); *Does God change?* (Rob). The course is free and we may be able to offer you a lift. Talk to Peter if you are interested. About 9 members of Penrallt attend.

◇ **Church Walk**

Tuesday 17 June

This will start at The Car Park opposite Hackers Tyre Service Centre, on Lon Glan Mor/ Beach Road, Bangor (A5) at 10:30am. The walk is linear and is a little over 8 miles long and for most of the length, follows the North Wales Coast Path. After skirting Maesgeirchen on the tarmac surfaced dismantled narrow gauge railway route, the path heads towards Llandegai and passes under the A55 and crosses the Afon Ogwen. From that point, the path begins a steady climb through Cochwillan, Pant y Gwair and on to

Plas Uchaf. From there, the path roughly follows contours to just before Aber, where the path descends steeply and the walk ends at the cafe called Yr Hen Felin. The return is by bus from Aber to the Nelson stop in Bangor. Have your bus passes ready! For more information please contact Lawrence Moss (01248 713793; lemos@btinternet.com).

◇ **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 meal vouchers which are distributed to the homeless by the Cathedral.

◇ **Men's Prayer Meeting**

Wednesday 18 June 10:30am

Because of holidays, the men will meet for prayer two weeks later than usual this month. Time spent in prayer will be followed by coffee in Options. All men are welcome.

◇ **Morrisons Car Park**

Morrisons car park only allows you to park for two hours so please use the School of Nursing car park if you want to avoid an £85 fine on Sunday mornings. However, the manager has rung to say that if you would like to do your shopping after the morning service, you can leave your car there provided you present yourself to the information desk just inside the door and ask them to put your registration number into their computer. You can then do your shopping even if you arrived before 10:30am for the morning service.

◇ **North Wales English Baptist Union**

Saturday 14 June

Our local Baptist association will be hosting its Spring meeting in Llandudno Baptist Church, on the West Shore (not to be confused with the West Short Baptist Church which isn't actually a Baptist church at all!). The speaker will be Chris Duffett, President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and an expert on street evangelism. If you want an inspiring afternoon, there is no one better than Chris to lead you. More details to follow.

◇ **Pastoral Help**

If you have pastoral concerns please contact Peter or else one of the other members of the Pastoral Care team:

Pat Borlace 713146	Adrienne Ferrada	Geoff Moore 410582
Dave O'Brien 671848	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**

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. Please note that in addition to the pink prayer request cards, there are also blue testimony/thanksgiving cards and yellow "Listening to God" cards that can also be filled in and submitted for the prayer diary.

◇ **Roy Godwin**

Saturday 7 June

10am-4pm

Roy will be speaking to the Anglesey prayer network in St. Andrew's Church, Benllech. Coffee/Tea and a light lunch will be served. Cost £5. Booking is required and forms are available on the church noticeboard in the porch or by email to rowen@uwclub.net

◇ **Roughshod: Incredible!**

Wednesday 28 May

7:30pm

Riding Lights Roughshod Theatre Company will take you on an exhilarating and thought provoking journey through the bends and breaks of modern life, discovering that it really can be Incredible! Wednesday, 28th May, 19:30, St John's Methodist Church, 53-55 Mostyn Street, Llandudno, LL30 2NN . Box Office: 01492 860439. Tickets. All £6.00

◇ **Spring Harvest - Easter 2015**

Next year Spring Harvest is entitled *Immeasurably More* and is based on the book of Ephesians. We are hoping to take a group to Minehead, Somerset from 28/3/15 - 2/4/15. It is a long way off, but we need to book by 25th June 2014.

Prices for half board accommodation:

Adult (15+) from £236.50; Child (5-14) from £172.7; Child (2-5) from £161.50

If you would like to join the group or for further information contact Sarah Swallow (01407 720237, 07712729043, sarah_swallow@hotmail.co.uk) or Cathy Fooks (07729892303). Spring Harvest website: www.springharvest.org (NB Spring Harvest are offering some bursaries for people who may need financial help or who are on benefits).

From The Church Office:

Advance Notices:

- Jane Leadbetter (NW Messy Church Co-ordinator) and Kirsty Williams are arranging a Messy Church Training session for all who would like to attend, on **19th July 2014** at 10am. This event is highly commended and the skills imparted to you might very well come in useful. Try to get along. More details to follow.
- School of Worship in Pontypridd with Graham Kendrick, Noel Robinson, Su Rinaldi. 24th-26th July. See the church noticeboard for more details.

Church office closure: Please note that the church office will be closed between 2nd and 6th June as Magnus will be away.

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 22 June.

*Please send information to Magnus (office@penrallt.org; 01248 353355)
NB all notices should be submitted in writing, preferably by email.*

Focus on...

Amy Burrows going to South Africa with Tearfund's International Citizen Service (ICS).

Amy writes:

I will be going to South Africa for 10 weeks from 14th July to 21st September with Tearfund. There are 26 people in the team and once there we will be split into smaller teams of about 4 or 5 to help with different parts of the project. Areas that I could be involved in include:

- Visiting children and families to see what help they need to become less vulnerable
- Developing health campaigns for schools, organisations and communities.
- Running assemblies or lessons in schools about various topics that affect their lives.
- Sharing skills with the organisations that we will be working in.

The project is located in the Valley of Thousand Hills which is outside of Durban on the east coast of South Africa. The region is subtropical with lush and well-watered valleys, washed by the warm Indian Ocean! We will be working in an organisation called Zoë-life. ([www. Zoë-life.co.za](http://www.Zoë-life.co.za)). Zoë-life is based in Durban and works throughout the KwaZulu-Natal province as well as into different parts of South Africa. Zoë-Life's goal is to transform the lives of children, vulnerable families and communities that have been affected by disease, poverty and injustice. They do this in partnership with people on the ground, churches, and the government - creating lasting change from the individual experience all the way to policy improvements.

I would be grateful for your support in prayer. Particular prayer requests would be....

- I don't get any diseases
- Adapting to a new culture
- Safe travels

As part of this I also need to raise a minimum of £800. This money goes to support the project and not to cover the cost of me going which is funded by the government. I would be grateful if you are able to donate and this can be done on line at www.justgiving.com or please see the Church Treasurer (aka my Dad!).

Thank you!

Love

Amy