



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter for May 2013

5am in the morning found me sleeping soundly besides my newly-married wife in the front bedroom of my in-laws' house, perched picturesquely on a hill over Port Glasgow station, when the end of the world arrived. The room shook, a noise like thunder echoed in my ears and my eyes sprung open in panic. The rest of the household carried on sleeping peacefully; they had long ago got used to the daily 5am freight train. You don't hear what you're conditioned not to hear. We blank it out. I've even managed to start ignoring most of the horrendous music blasted at me in the gym during my morning exertions. But do we sometimes cease to hear what we are supposed to give attention to?

A recent radio programme * commented that the famous 19th-century Scottish writer Thomas Carlyle had a problem with "listening." He wrote about "The Worship of Silence" as the sacred respect for being quiet until you have a mature opinion on something, but it would seem that he was easily distracted. Living in Chelsea he felt besieged by his noisy neighbours to the point of building himself a very expensive "soundproof" study in the attic. It was a disaster. Too quiet. Once you were sat in that room the slightest noise would be magnified to the point of distraction. A visiting friend commented that "to be obsessed with quiet is never to be possessed of it." His wife Jane called it "the noisiest room in the house". Although I wonder how much he really listened to her. Their relationship was so stormy that Samuel Butler wrote "it was very good of God to let Carlyle and Mrs Carlyle marry one another, and so make only two people miserable and not four."

Carlyle had lost his Calvinist faith at University and with a distrust of democracy developed the idea of the charismatic hero who would save society. Not surprisingly the Nazis were rather attracted to that idea. Maybe if Carlyle had listened more he would have been a happier man and a better philosopher.

Social and spiritual deafness is a problem which Christians have always suffered from. I seem very good at hearing neither the cry of the poor nor the 'still small voice of God.' The Church through the centuries built bigger and more opulent cathedrals and cloisters to commune with God, yet failed to hear the suffering of the world at its gates. In creating ever more lavish worship and richer hierarchies it also failed to listen to God and needed numerous reformers to point it back to the Scriptural truth.

Hearing uncomfortable truths and dealing with them is hard, but we need to do it. The noise of the world is the soundscape God has created for us. Maybe we are too good at shutting it out. We have often locked ourselves in little self-satisfied evangelical ghettos, only to complain about the world outside. "Listen, listen, my people" says God. But we aren't.

God bless,
Peter

**The dark side of silence (BBC 18th April) by David Hendy. He is the author of the book 'Noise: A Human History of Noise and Listening'.*

SERVICES IN MAY

May 5

10.30am Geoff Birch ***The Message of the Mountain – Achievement***
Luke 9:28-36

2.15pm Service at Bontnewydd

6.00pm Communion Service. Roger Borlace ***Heroes of Faith*** *Hebrews 11*

May 12

10.30am ***Die the Death, Live the Life, Dream the Dream.*** *1 Peter 4:1-6*

6.00pm ***What do you say on your deathbed?*** *Genesis 48:1-20*

May 19

10.30am Pentecost Sunday. ***Living Fire for Extinct Volcanoes***

6.00pm No service at Penrallt. 6pm - Churches together at the Cathedral (see below)

May 26

10.30am Communion Service. Deb Stammers

6.00pm Elaine Green

Our Speakers for May

Peter Cousins is the minister of the church. **Geoff Birch** and **Roger Borlace** are retired Baptist ministers, members of Penrallt. **Deb Stammers** is a Penrallt deacon, a social worker by profession. **Elaine Green** recently completed her degree in Theology, is a Guide Leader and works in the NHS.

Faith Café

There is no Faith Café in May

CHURCH LUNCH

We will host a church lunch on **Sunday May 5**. Please bring enough buffet style "finger food" for yourselves and one or two others.

PENTECOST SUNDAY 19TH MAY

Our Morning Service will contain a period of prayer with a "prayer zone" at the front of the church. In the evening we will join the Cytun (Churches Together in Bangor) churches for a joint service at the Cathedral. Bring a picnic for 5pm. The service will start at 6pm. As it is our turn to chair Cytun this year, Sarah Jackson has invited Peter to preach. Last year's service was well attended and much appreciated.

REMINDER

Evening Services in June

A reminder that we hold our evening services at 7pm in June, July and August to allow you to enjoy the summer light and weather.

SPECIAL DATES

Wednesday 1	10.30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee in Options.
Saturday 12		<i>Bible Unzipped Course</i> in Rhos-on-Sea. See below.
Monday 13	12.30pm	Frugal Lunch for Christian Aid at Capel Berea Newydd
	7.30pm	Deacons' Meeting
Saturday 18	10.00 – 12.30	Coffee Morning for Christian Aid at the Friends Meeting House
	7.30pm	Christian Aid Quiz (see below for further details about Christian Aid Week)

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Children's Birthdays in May:

1st: Rebekah Gordon-Roberts; **6th:** Guto Evans; **14th:** Oliver White;
16th: Mark Walker

Congratulations to **Andrew Packwood** who has announced his engagement to **Jalia Nabukalu**. We look forward to Jalia joining us in Penrallt after their wedding this summer in Jalia's home church, the Kampala Baptist Church in Uganda. Congratulations to **Gill and Mike Jamison** on becoming first-time grandparents. William Michael was born to their son Alex and Tracey on 2nd April. **Steve Collis and Katie Liber** have set the date for their wedding as September 7th at 1pm in Penrallt.

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	7.30pm	HG, Penchwintan Road	David McCormack (07725 028074)
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.freeseve.co.uk
Sat	8.30am	Prayer Meeting	

NOTICEBOARD

- ***Men's Prayer Meeting*** ***Wednesday 1 May 10.30am***
The men will meet for prayer as usual, followed by coffee in Options.
- ***Bible Unzipped.*** ***Saturday 11 May 9:30am - 1pm***
Bible Unzipped continues monthly on a Saturday morning at Rhos-on-Sea URC. The themes for this term are: The Song of Solomon, and Jesus Encounter. The course is free, and if you talk to Peter we can probably arrange a lift for you.
- ***CHRISTIAN AID WEEK*** ***12 – 18 May***
 - Monday 13**
 - 12.30pm Opening Service for Christian Aid Week in Berea Newydd.
 - 1.00pm Bread and cheese lunch in Berea Newydd
All welcome.
 - Thursday 16** 4.00pm–6.00pm Collection outside Morrisons. Volunteers needed!
 - Saturday 18** 9.30am-12.30pm Street collection on Holyhead Road. Volunteers needed.

10.00-12.30pm Coffee Morning at Quaker Meeting House

7.30pm *Quizaid In Penrallt*. Please form teams for this quiz evening or come on your own and join one of our mixed teams. Entrance fee £3 per person.

The collections outside Morrisons and on Holyhead Road are new ventures this year and are Penrallt's responsibility. Also, we have been allocated some new residential streets for house-to-house collections. Therefore we need more collectors. *Please, please* speak to Susan to offer your services (Tel. 353878). Thanks.

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

The Walking Group this month will be led by Geoff and Marilyn Birch and will explore some of the foothills of Snowdon. Park again in 'Caban' car park in Brynrefail and, starting at 10.30 a.m. we will walk up through Cym Y Glo and then over the hills towards Snowdon. Bring the usual packed lunch. Some hilly bits.

➤ ***Bangor Street Pastors and Waitrose***

Efallai yr hoffai'r rhai sy'n siopa yn Waitrose wybod bod Bugeiliaid Stryd Bangor, a gefnogir gan ein Heglwys, wedi'u henwebu fel un o'u tri elusen y mis yn ystod mis Mai. Os hoffech gefnogi'r fenter werthfawr hon gallwch roi eich tocynnau ym mlwch Bugeiliaid y Stryd a byddant yn derbyn cyfran o'r arian sydd ar gael gan Waitrose.

Those who shop at Waitrose might like to know that the Bangor Street Pastors, supported by our Church, has been nominated as one of their three charities of the month during May. If you wish to support this worthwhile venture you can put your tokens in the Street Pastors' box and they will receive a share of the money on offer from Waitrose.

➤ ***Advance Notice*** ***Saturday 22 June***

ANGLESEY PRAYER WALK / TAITH WEDDI MON

The Anglesey Prayer Network is inviting Christians across the island (and beyond) to walk around the coast of Anglesey and complete a 'circle of blessing' over the island. Using the 12 sections of the Anglesey Coastal Path, people are invited to sign up for the section they would like to walk or pray for. Families and the less physically able will be welcome to join part of the walks, or meet in 'prayer houses' on the route, and there will be tea and cakes, and a service of worship and sharing at the end of the day. More details will be given out nearer the time. The emphasis on the day will be to simply enjoy walking together in love around this beautiful island.

For more detailed information and to sign up for the day, see the information leaflet or log on to the website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/prayerwalkmon/> (*The Anglesey Prayer Walk 2013 is organised under the auspices of the Anglesey Prayer Network/Crosslinks and is being organised and supported by representatives from a number of fellowships in North Wales, including Penrallt (Bangor) and Holyhead Baptist Churches, The Church in Wales, Amlwch Assemblies of God and Capel Cildwrn Llangefni. It is also supported by Pray4Wales / Ffald-y-Brenin.*)

➤ **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 will buy vouchers which are distributed by the Cathedral to the homeless.

➤ **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
Susan Cousins 353878 Helen Thomas 600174

Deadline for next month's newsletter Sunday 19 May

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

FOCUS ON...

Bangor Street Pastors

The goal of Bangor Street Pastors is to demonstrate God's love to people in practical ways on the streets of Bangor at night time. Much of our time is spent walking around the town with our eyes open for people who might need assistance – perhaps a pair of flip-flops to protect their feet, a bottle of water or a friendly listening ear. We also pick up bottles and glasses that we find lying around on the streets and dispose of them to prevent them being used as weapons in a fight, as well as clearing up broken glass that may injure people (or animals) out walking.



We have now been running for two and a half years (since November 2010) and have successfully managed to send out at least one patrol every week (usually on Fridays, although this summer we are planning to go out on Saturdays when the town is expected to be much busier), in all weathers. We sometimes help at other events too – you can certainly expect to see a few street pastors on the field at this year's Bangor Carnival.

To date, we have picked up over 4500 bottles/glasses, given out 30 space blankets, 650 pairs of flip-flops, 450 lollipops and 100 bottles of water and had 2300 conversations. We have helped several people to get home safely and provided encouragement and comfort to many others. It is not uncommon for people to approach us in the street to thank us for help we have given them on previous occasions (rather than just praising our work in general terms) and we know of at least one person who became a Christian as a direct result of meeting street pastors here in Bangor – on that occasion we offered very simple, practical help and barely, if at all, mentioned that we were Christians (let alone any attempt at deep theological discourse); it was reminiscent of St Francis of Assisi's injunction to "preach the gospel at all times; when necessary, use words".

We would greatly value your prayers. You can subscribe to our fortnightly email prayer diary in order to get information to help you pray for us. We also have a team of Prayer Pastors that support the SP team with prayer, food and friendship on Friday nights, and there is space for more people on that team.

To sign up for one or both of these means of prayer support, for more information about any SP-related things or to arrange to come out as an observer on one of our patrols and see for yourself what we do, please speak to Magnus (tel: 07580 607186, email: bangor@streetpastors.org.uk or drop into the Penrallt office one morning).