



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: May 2016

There are two important dates in the Christian calendar this month, Ascension Day on May 5th and Pentecost on May 15th.

They're not like Christmas, which everyone celebrates with cards and presents, even if they're not Christians. And most people realise when it's Easter, because of the hot cross buns and Easter eggs, and the Bank Holiday Monday the day after. But Ascension Day isn't a public holiday, and although BBC Radio 4 has an Ascension Day service, only a minority of the population will notice.

Pentecost used to have a Bank Holiday attached to it – Whit Monday. But in 1978 the UK government decided to replace it with a new holiday – the Spring Bank Holiday – which would always be on the last Monday in May. This made it less likely that the general public would realise when Pentecost takes place.

So Ascension Day and Pentecost are festivals observed mostly by Christians, with the rest of the population hardly noticing. But they both mark important events in the story of Jesus, and his saving work for us.

The Ascension brings to an end the 40 day period during which the disciples met with the risen Christ on a number of occasions. It underlines the fact that Jesus is Lord ("God exalted him to the highest place" – Phil. 2:9). It helps us to recognise that he is now "our great High Priest in heaven" (Heb. 4:14-16). And it prepares us to wait expectantly for his return ("This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way as you have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:11).

Also, the Ascension is connected with the coming of the Holy Spirit, which we celebrate on the day of Pentecost. After the first Christians had received the Holy Spirit, the apostle Peter explained this connection in his sermon recorded in Acts 2. "Exalted to the right hand of God, he (Jesus) has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear" (verse 33).

On the day of Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit in power on the first Christians. Before that they weren't really Christians in the full sense of the word. They were disciples, they were believers, but the full experience of being a Christian includes the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

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The Holy Spirit does a number of important things for us:

He seals our relationship with God. "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." (Rom. 8:16)

He helps us to behave like Christians. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Gal. 5:22,23)

He gives us the confidence to tell others about Jesus. Jesus promised: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

He gives us various abilities, to enable us to play our part in the life and the mission of the church. "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work." (1 Cor. 12:4-6)

There's plenty for us to celebrate. Don't let Ascension Day and Pentecost go past without saying a big thank you to God for all that he has done for us through Jesus Christ and through his Spirit.

God bless,

Roger Borlace

Our Speakers This Month:

Joe Moreno is a native of Texas who worked in Australia for a number of years before moving to Anglesey, where he now works with Gobaith Môn as a Christian youth worker. The other speakers are all members of Penrallt.

Evening Service Times:

Please remember that in June, July and August we move our evening services an hour later (i.e. to start at 7pm) so that we can enjoy the beautiful summer weather for an extra hour on a Sunday afternoon. Services will return to a 6pm start in September.

Services This Month:

In May we will be finishing our evening service series on the "I am" sayings of Jesus in John's gospel. The morning sermons are mostly stand-alone but Geoff will be preaching the first of a two-part series on the Holy Spirit at the end of the month (the second part will be the following week).

1st May

10:30am Speaker: Roger Borlace *Acts 1:1–11*
What's the significance of the Ascension?

6:00pm Communion Service
Speaker: Diane Holmes *"I Am" #4: John 10:11–21*
I am the Good Shepherd

8th May

10:30am Speaker: Joe Moreno *Ephesians 3:14–4:6*
The God who inhabits

6:00pm Speaker: Joe Moreno *"I Am" #5: John 11:1–44*
I am the Resurrection

15th May (Pentecost Sunday)

10:30am Speaker: Neil Rymer *Acts 2:1–4; Exodus 3:1–4, 13–14*
What's in a name?

6:00pm *Pentecost Praise* at Bangor Cathedral with the other members of Cyûn (Churches Together in Bangor). Weather-permitting there will be a picnic (bring your own food!) on the Cathedral lawn at 5pm followed by the service at 6, lasting about an hour. NB there will be no service at Penrallt (or Faith Café) this evening.

22nd May

10:30am Speaker: Deb Stammers *Luke 10:38–42*
The only thing you need

6:00pm Speaker: Roger Malone *"I Am" #6: John 14:1–27*
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life

29th May

10:30am Communion Service
Speaker: Geoff Birch *Acts 2:1–13; Romans 5:5*
When the Spirit Comes – Liquid Love

6:00pm Speaker: Roger Borlace *"I Am" #7: John 15:1–27*
I am the True Vine

Dates for Your Diary:

Sunday 1	2:45pm	Service at Plas Garnedd residential home in Llanberis.
Tuesday 3	7:30pm	Deacons' meeting.
Wednesday 4	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Saturday 14	9:30am–1pm	<i>Bible Unzipped</i> in Rhos-on-Sea.
	7:30pm	<i>Connect</i> prayer & worship event at Penrallt.
Monday 16	10:30am	Church walk at Llyn Gwynant.
Saturday 21		Deacons' away-day.
Saturday 21	7:30pm (TBC)	Quiz Aid at Penrallt (<i>NB see the Focus article on the back page for details of the rest of the Christian Aid Week programme</i>).
Monday 23	2pm	Pastoral Care Team meeting.

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

Please note that the church office will be closed on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th May (as well as the two bank holiday Mondays, 2nd and 30th).

News of People:

Eileen McKenna has now had her hip operation and is recuperating well. Please hold her in your prayers.

Children's Birthdays in May

16th: Mark Walker

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 not all these groups meet every week. Please check with the contact people to find out when and where they are meeting this month.

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	Bethesda	Jon & Deb Stammers (602868)
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)
Fri	10:30am–12:30pm	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316)

Noticeboard:

◇ Bible Unzipped

Saturday 14th May 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. 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: *Book of Samuel, Part I* (Peter Cousins); *Christian Doctrine, Part I* (Rob Beamish); *Ephesians, Part I: Practice Resurrection – Growing Up in Christ* (Julia Bartholomew).

◇ Cheeky Monkeys

Fridays, 10:30am – 12:00pm

Our parent / toddler group, every Friday morning during (school) term-time. It is free and is open to parents (or grandparents etc.) with young children whether or not they attend Penrallt. Contact Ceri Walker (07581 452098) for more information.

◇ Church Lunch

Sunday 1st May

Please bring enough buffet style food for yourselves and one or two others.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 16th May

The walk is approximately 5½ miles around Llyn Gwynant. Meet at 10:30am at the car park for the Watkin Path approach to Snowdon at Pont Bethania between Llyn Dinas and Llyn Gwynant on the A498 to Beddgelert (map ref: SH628 507). Boots and picnic lunch as usual. Loos at car park. Further details from Geoff and Marilyn (01286 870944).

◇ **Connect**

Saturday 14th May 7:30pm

We will be hosting an evening of worship and prayer ministry in the Chapel. Doors open at 7pm and the event itself will start at 7:30pm. There will be a short talk from James Goodman. All are welcome.

◇ **Llandudno-Keswick Bible Week**

3-6 May

At Llandudno Baptist Church, LL30 2AR. The keynote speaker will be Jonathan Lamb (CEO of Keswick Ministries). Sessions daily from 10:30am (Wed – Fri) and 7:30pm (Tue – Thu in English; Fri in Welsh). There is no charge. For more information, see www.gloddaeth.com/keswick.htm

◇ **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: Pat Borlace (713146); Adrienne Ferrada; Gwen Hicks; Geoff Moore (410582); Lawrence Moss (713793); Judy Stammers (364394); Helen Thomas (600174).

◇ **Penrallt on Facebook**

Did you know that we have a Facebook page? Search for "Penrallt Baptist Church". We also have a general group (search for "Penrallt", though note that this will also bring up several other pages and groups, many of which are not related to us) as well as our prayer-specific *Penrallt Prayer Point* group; unlike the page, you need to join the groups before you can use them.

◇ **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. 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.

◇ **Saturday Morning Prayer Meeting**

Every Saturday morning at 8:30am there is a prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room to pray for the Penrallt family, our wider community and any other concerns that the Lord lays on your heart. All are welcome.

◇ **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 Plas Garnedd on **Sunday 1st May**.

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



Christian Aid

Christian Aid has a network of partners around the world. They work with local communities to reduce the risk of disaster and build resilience.

When disasters and emergencies strike, they are ready to respond and help save lives and rebuild communities after earthquakes, floods, famine and other disasters. One of the emergency areas Christian Aid is helping at the moment is the drought in Ethiopia.



There are more than 10 million people in Ethiopia urgently needing access to food supplies and water as the country faces its worst drought in 30 years. The farmers haven't been able to harvest any crops for two consecutive planting seasons, and supplies are dwindling.

In the hardest-hit communities, families are going hungry as they struggle to find enough food to eat, and more than 400,000 children are experiencing severe malnutrition. Without urgent funding to address the food shortages, the humanitarian situation will deteriorate even further.

Earlier this year Christian Aid released £50,000 of emergency funds to help. This money has been used to provide school meals for more than 4,000 children whose families do not have enough food, and also to make sure that 700 children in two schools have access to safe drinking water.

Much more needs to be done, and Christian Aid are currently doing further assessments to plan the next steps in their emergency response. During Christian Aid Week we can help donate to this emergency situation.

Christian Aid Week 2016: 15th – 21st May

House to House Collection Monday 15th to Saturday 21st May.

Monday 16th May at Berea Newydd:

- 12:30pm Introductory Service
- 1:00pm Bread and Cheese Lunch

Friday 20th May:

- 9:30am – 4:00pm Street Collection in Bangor City Centre
- 10:30am – 12 noon Coffee Morning at the Quaker Meeting House

Saturday 21st May:

- 7:30pm (TBC) Quiz Night at Penrallt Baptist Church