



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter for November 2012

I'll tell you one of the reasons why I believe in God. It's because I believe in justice. Every human culture on the planet believes in justice and lives by its ethical code. Every human being on the planet gets irate at what they deem to be an injustice. It's one of the marks of a human being, and something which differentiates us from animals. The God I encounter in scripture promotes and executes justice: nearly always on the side of the poor. He's portrayed as getting angry when the poor are oppressed or cheated. I want to worship a God who gets angry at human injustice. A God who turned a blind eye to atrocities, abuse and the whole catalogue of crimes against humanity would not be worthy of praise.

But there is a flip side to that. I was reading recently of a family's campaign for justice concerning the much-disputed death of one of their members at the hands of the police. What they don't dispute is that their loved-one was a gangster in his lifetime whose lifestyle of violence, threat and crime impacted innocent people. I cannot help but notice that they were not calling for justice while he was alive. If justice had been applied in his lifetime he would have been in prison. It wasn't justice he needed, but a change of heart and mercy.

But then my attention was drawn to a few newspaper articles today (it's mid-October as I write this). We need to thank Co-operative Funeralcare for their survey of more than 30,000 funerals over the past 12 months which has revealed that once again, for the seventh year running, *My Way* by Frank Sinatra was the most requested music at UK funerals. And there's the problem. It's when the human race does it *our* way that the trouble starts.

Perhaps I'm extra sensitive to that kind of thing today because all the headlines are of Jimmy Savile who did things *his* way for six decades, and when his life was put under close scrutiny it turns out to have been a mixture of the good (probably over £50 million raised for charity) and the bad (you don't need me to spell that one out). He got away with it all his life. Most people do. But when we call out to God for justice, we can't help but place our own lives under the spotlight. It isn't justice we need. It's a change of heart and mercy.

The other newspaper article today which caught my attention as I was thinking about all of this was new research carried out by hygiene experts from the University of London and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Apparently we are very bad at washing our hands in the UK. 26% of British hands carry, well let's just say, "lots of germs." In fact 11% of British hands carry more germs than a dirty toilet bowl. Yet we all claim to wash our hands regularly. 99% of people interviewed at motorway service stations toilets claimed they had washed their hands after going to the toilet. Electronic recording devices revealed only 32%

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of men and 64% of women actually did. What if one's immortal soul were to turn out to be as dirty as our hands?

There's something wonderfully appealing about a God who makes justice happen, even if we have to wait until Judgement Day for the final decision. There's something disturbing about a human race that kids itself into thinking that its soul is as clean as its hands.

And it all leads me to the conclusion that I don't just need a God of justice. I need a saviour who can forgive my dark secrets and crass moral failures. I need a God who confronts me with the truth of who I really am, and offers hope of salvation for me. In other words, I need Jesus to carry my sins and change my heart.

God bless,
Peter

Students

We welcome all students to Penrallt. Please make sure you pick up a welcome pack from the porch. David McCormack is our student coordinator for this year and we encourage you to say "hi" to him and find out what is happening in our church over the coming months.

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Nov 4

10.30am	Rhys Llwyd	
2.15pm	Service at Bontnewydd	
6.00pm	Iona Celtic Communion Service:	<i>Psalm 22</i>

Nov 11

10.30am	<i>Your Mind Matters</i>	<i>1 Peter 1:13-16</i>
6.00pm	Baptismal Service Roger Borlace <i>Born Again</i>	<i>John 3:1-16</i>

Nov 18

10.30am	Michael Straker <i>"Welcome Home"</i>	<i>Galatians 4:1-6</i>
6.00pm	Neil Rymer	<i>Matthew 28: 1-15</i>

Nov 25

10.30am	Communion Service <i>You were redeemed . . .</i>	<i>1 Peter 1:17-21</i>
6.00pm	<i>If God became Man, what would you expect?</i>	

Our Preaching Team for November:

Peter Cousins is Penrallt's minister. *Rev. Dr. Rhys Llwyd* is a minister of several Welsh-language Baptist churches in the area. *Revd. Roger Borlace* is a retired minister, a member of Penrallt. *Dr. Neil Rymer* is the Church Secretary. *Michael Straker* is an ex-Penrallt student and UCCF Relay Worker, now doing teacher training in Chester

November 4

We welcome back Rhys Llwyd. Today he and Peter will be exchanging pulpits again, as Peter and a band from Penrallt lead worship in Caersalem (Welsh-speaking) Baptist Church, Caernarfon.

CHURCH LUNCH

We will host a church lunch on **Sunday November 4**. Please bring enough buffet style "finger food" for yourselves and one or two others.

Faith Café

After church on Sunday evening we host Faith Café for students, teenagers and other young adults. Starting around 7:15 pm it is an evening of chat, interviews, music and discussions. There is a short programme at around 7:40 after which you are free to leave or stay and chat.

Hospitality Sunday: November 25

This is an opportunity for Penrallt families to give Sunday lunch to our students. There is no need for the students to sign up in advance unless you have special dietary needs. In this case there will be a list circulating for the two weeks beforehand for you to sign. All other students just need to turn up on the day, be allocated to a house and eat. Our host families will be requested to sign a list which will be circulating for a fortnight beforehand.

SPECIAL DATES

Monday 5	7.30pm	Deacons' Meeting
Tuesday 6	7.00pm	Alpha Course (and all subsequent Tuesdays)
Wednesday 7	10.30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee in Options.
Saturday 10	9.30am	Bible Unzipped course continues in Rhos-on-Sea (see notice below)
Saturday 17	North Wales	English Baptist Union in Llandudno (see below)
Saturday 24	10.30 – 2.00pm	Penrallt's Christmas Fair
Saturday 1 December	10.30am - 2.30pm	Women's Advent Retreat

Christmas in Penrallt

Saturday November 24	The Penrallt Christmas Fair
Sunday December 2	Our evening service will be taken over by The Bethlehem Experience in the main chapel. This will be integrated as part of the People of Bangor Community Group's Christmas Celebration.
Sunday December 16, am	Sunday School Christmas Service
Sunday December 16, pm	Upper Bangor Community Carols by Candlelight Service in Penrallt.
Sunday December 23	No evening service
Tuesday December 25	Christmas Service at 10:30 am.
Sunday December 30	Family Communion Service.
Tuesday 1st January, 1pm	New Year's Day Walk if there is interest in it.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

We offer our condolences to **Andrew and Kim** on the death of Andrew's mother, holding the family in our prayers. At the time of writing several people are awaiting surgery, notably **Andrew Browne** and **Joyce**.

Children's Birthdays in November

4th: Rio Davies; **8th:** Rebekah Collis; **24th:** Mika Owen

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)
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.freerve.co.uk
Sat	8.30am	Prayer Meeting	

NOTICEBOARD

- ***Men's Prayer Meeting*** ***Wednesday 7 November*** ***10.30am***
The men will meet for prayer as usual, followed by coffee in Options.

- **Bible Unzipped.** Second Session: **Saturday 10th November 9:30am - 1pm**
Bible Unzipped is run by a group of local ministers who have a passion for Biblical Theology. Its aim is 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. The histories of the texts themselves, the different ways they have been interpreted and their use for contemporary life and personal devotion will be considered.

Bible Unzipped meets monthly on a Saturday morning at Rhos-on-Sea URC from 9:30am to 1pm. Each morning includes three one-hour sessions which develop a theme through the term. The themes for this term are: 'Genesis: a story that will make you believe in God', 'The audience and purpose of Paul's letter to the Romans' and 'Meeting God in Scripture'. No previous experience of Bible Study is required. The course is free. The first session was very successful and you may join the course at any time. Ask Peter for more details.

- **North Wales Baptists' Autumn Gathering: Saturday 17 November 2pm**
This will take place on Saturday afternoon 17th November from 2pm to approx 4.30pm in Llandudno Baptist Church. If you wish you may join the gathering slightly earlier from 12.30pm onwards, bringing a packed lunch.

- **Walking Group** **Tuesday 20 November 10.30am**
Meet at 10.30am at the layby on the road between Llandygai and Junction 12 on the A55. The layby is just after the turn off to the Nature Reserve (Spinnies) at Aber Ogwen.

It is a circular walk (5 miles, 500 feet ascent) through Tal y Bont along the North Wales Path to Bronydd Isaf, which should take about 3 hours (although there is an option of extending it down to Aber Ogwen, depending on time and the weather!). As usual, suitable footwear for muddy paths should be worn!

Further details from Ian and Mari Kelso (421783) or marikelso@yahoo.co.uk.

- **Penrallt Christmas Fair** **Saturday 24 November 10.30am**
The fair will be held from 10.30am-2pm in the Canolfan. There will be a variety of stalls (Crafts, Art, Jewellery, Cake, Fudge, Bric a Brac etc) and also refreshments including light lunches. All the proceeds will be divided between Chris and Anna Hembury (Hull Youth for Christ) and Duncan and Trudie Tough (Wycliffe). There will also be a fairly traded Created Gifts stall (Tearfund). Please come and support our missionaries and enjoy a chat and a panad together.

Help and contributions are needed. Please contact Jan Jones if you can help in the kitchen, Joan Rymer if you can make some cakes and Mari Kelso if you can help in any other way eg. by making any other crafts/things to sell.

- **Women's Advent Retreat** **Saturday 1 December 10.30am**
'The Yielded heart – Mary's Journey': a time for worship and reflection before the busy Christmas season. We will meet on Saturday 1st December from 10.30am to 2.30pm in the chapel, with crèche facilities and lunch in the Canolfan. A warm welcome is extended to all women, and especially to those with young children. Please complete the form on the invitation to book a place, or contact Nancy Brook (01248 422272). If you would like to help with the crèche, see Susan Cousins; food, see Anne Collis; worship, set-up etc, see Nancy Brook. Thank you!

- ***The Bethlehem Experience – Help Needed*** ***Sunday 2 December***
On Sunday 2nd December we will be reassembling *The Bethlehem Experience* in the afternoon and dismantling it in the evening. This involves a lot of light manual tasks, for which we need a team of people to help. If you are free to help would you tell Andrew March, Peter Cousins or David McCormack please?
- ***Evangelism Training Experience*** ***30 November – 1 December in Bala***
There is a notice in the church porch advertising this course which is led by the evangelist Roger Carswell and organised by Coleg y Bala/Souled Out Cymru. The cost including accommodation will be £35. You can get a booking form from our church office.
- ***Carparking***
Penrallt rents six spaces in the private car park next to the church. Please only park in the spaces marked "Penrallt". On Sundays we reserve our spaces for those with limited mobility on a first-come-first-served basis. The rest of us park in the Nursing School car park in the mornings and in Morrisons in the evening.
- ***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. The total so far collected at Penrallt comes to £3881.
- ***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, Judy Stammers 364394
Geoff Moore 410582

Deadline for next month's newsletter Sunday 18 November
Please send information to Gwyneth (gwyneth@brindley-wales.com or 352682)

FOCUS ON...

The final lap – Andy Wilson

I don't know about you, but for me sport is all about those final moments when I'm on the edge of my seat, not knowing who's going to win. That point in a race where things really get exciting.



Mo Farah leading in the 5000m men's final at the 2012 Summer Olympics.



Unearth the Truth campaigners hand in actions to the UK Treasury – October 2011

That's why I've loved watching Mo Farah this summer win his two gold medals. In both races I've been on the edge of my seat willing him on, not knowing what will happen, as he's put himself in the perfect position at the final bell to go on and win the race. In the same way, that's why recently I've been so excited coordinating Tearfund's anti-corruption campaign, *Unearth the Truth*. For nearly two years I've been campaigning, together with thousands of Tearfund supporters around the UK, to persuade politicians in Europe to pass new transparency laws - making it compulsory for oil, gas and mining companies to be open and honest about how much they pay developing countries for access to precious minerals.

But during that time I've not known if British politicians and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) really do want transparency or if their support would crumble away under the pressure of extractive industry lobbyists. September however was that final bell moment for our campaign. MEPs on a key negotiating committee gave a resounding 'yes' in support of pretty much all of the demands of Tearfund's *Unearth the Truth* campaign. These are demands which, if fully implemented, will contribute to poor communities being able to hold their leaders to account and release vital money to pay for things like schools and medicine.

This final lap moment is what excites me as a campaigner. It's one of the key things that motivates me to prepare campaign actions and emails, motivates me to organise MEPs meetings for Tearfund supporters, and motivates me to dress up as a miner and have my photo taken at 6am on Westminster Bridge. This race isn't over yet, but thanks to our prayers and actions, we are in a great position to win!

Every Blessing

Andy

Andy Wilson is Senior Campaigns Officer at Tearfund and was a regular member of the Penrallt congregation in 2007-08 while he was studying for a Masters in International Development. To find out more about the *Unearth the Truth* campaign visit www.tearfund.org/unearth