



# Penrallt Baptist Church

**Newsletter: November 2018**

The second Sunday of this month, in our Sunday morning service, we will have a two minute silence to remember the sacrifices of those who laid down their lives for their country.

Our remembrance is not just of the two world wars, or of the countless other conflicts that have gone on around the world. Our remembrance goes beyond that, as we also remember emergency services (fire brigades, police, ambulance staff), support services, and not least the millions of civilians who died as a result of war and terrorism.

Sadly, many people misunderstand what Remembrance Sunday is about. We will not be here to glorify war or the supremacy of this or any other country. We will not be here to defend the cruelty and the agony of warfare and terrorism.

We will be here to remember all those people, of whatever country, who have died in the pursuit of freedom and good. We will be here to give thanks to God for their lives given for the freedom of many countries around the world.

The Spanish philosopher George Santayana wrote, *"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it"*. It is important to look back and reflect on what happened in the past so we can learn from it. However, we might add that those who hold onto history *for too long* are bound to repeat whatever they are holding onto.

It is one thing to learn from a past mistake, that's what George Santayana *says* to do – but quite another to linger over past unpleasant experiences.

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When do we do that? When we obsess, when we always return to our past, and particularly when it was an emotional "trauma" (such as a broken relationship) we carry a heavy baggage. We look backward and stumble forward. This is unhealthy. It's also dangerous. Each time we think of something negative in our past we are reigniting it. And this has effects we cannot imagine.

Perhaps we are aware of a painful past and we long for a new beginning that seems to be far away.

There is a poem by Louisa Fletcher that goes:

"I wish that there were some wonderful place  
Called the Land of Beginning Again.  
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches  
And all of our poor selfish grief  
Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door,  
And never put on again...

For what had been hardest we'd know had been best  
And, what had seemed lost would be gain;  
For there isn't a sting that would not take a wing  
When we've faced it and laughed it away;  
And I think that the laughter is most what we're after  
In the Land of Beginning Again."

Do you desire a new beginning? A place, as the poem says, 'where all our mistakes and all our heartaches, and all of our poor selfish grief could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door'?

The good news is that with God there is always the opportunity for new beginnings. The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"*

By faith we can receive this new life by receiving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, by confessing with our mouth that Jesus is Lord. Jesus offers us a brand new creation in God; our change comes when we change our thoughts about the things and people around us.

Instead of dwelling on our anger and bitterness God instructs us to dwell on love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and self-control.

In Jesus we have a new beginning; a new life, with the old habits, the old failings, the old fruitless ways of living all gone.

We are born-again to a joyful present regardless of our circumstances, and to an eternal future.

*Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?*

*Freddy*

## **Services This Month**

Our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, will be the speaker at all services except where otherwise noted below. Siôn Meredith is former Tearfund Regional Director for Wales. Donald Poirot is a church member. Colm and Catherine Ó Brolcháin are former members of Penrallt who now serve with OM (Operation Mobilisation) Ireland.

### **4<sup>th</sup> November**

- 10:30am **The Crisis of Belief** *Hebrews 11:6;*  
(Experiencing God #10) *Mark 4:35–41*
- 6:00pm Communion Service  
**The blessings that obedience brings** *Psalm 119:1–8*  
(Lessons from Psalms #15)

### **11<sup>th</sup> November** (Remembrance Sunday)

- 10:30am **When our faith is on trial in this world** *Acts 26:19–20*  
*This service will include a 2-minute silence at 11am.*
- 6:00pm **How can a young man cleanse his way?** *Psalm 119:9–16*  
(Lessons from Psalms #16)

### **18<sup>th</sup> November**

- 10:30am Service with Siôn Meredith from Tearfund. *Luke 4*
- 6:00pm Café Church Service: Movie night.

### **25<sup>th</sup> November**

- 10:30am Communion Service  
Speaker: Donald Poirot  
**Your Alabaster Box** *Matthew 26:6–13*
- 6:00pm Service with Colm & Catherine Ó Brolcháin from OM Ireland.

## ***Dates for Your Diary***

<b>Saturdays</b>	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
<b>Sunday 4</b>	2:15pm	Service at Plas Garnedd residential home in Llanberis.
<b>Monday 5</b>	7:30pm	Deacons' meeting.
<b>Wednesday 7</b>	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
<b>Thursday 8</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.</b>
<b>Saturday 17</b>	7pm	Tearfund Big Quiz.
<b>Monday 19</b>	11am	Church Walk at Bethesda.
<b>Monday 26</b>	7pm ( <i>TBC</i> )	Recording of services for BBC Radio Wales.
<b>Tuesday 27</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Experiencing God</b> course continues (also on Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> at 10am and 7:30pm).

*Please see below for more about many of these events.*

## ***Children's Birthdays in November***

2<sup>nd</sup>: Alex Gallagher      4<sup>th</sup>: Rio Penny      8<sup>th</sup>: Leah Rene Ngoga  
24<sup>th</sup>: Mika Owen      27<sup>th</sup>: Laura Campanelle Pletsch

***Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November.***

*Please send information to Magnus ([office@penrallt.org](mailto:office@penrallt.org); 01248 353355). All notices should be submitted in writing (preferably by email) as early as possible.*

## ***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 groups generally do not meet on the week of the monthly prayer meeting or the Experiencing God course and may not meet all other weeks – please check with the named contact. All landline numbers below have the 01248 area code.*

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Contacts</b>
<b>Mon</b>	7:00pm	Delta	Brian Wheatcroft (602516) Pat MacKenzie (670948)
<b>Tue</b>	<b>10am</b>	Nilgiri	Joan Beer (353874)
<b>Tue</b>	7:30pm	Tyddyn Isaf (Menai Bridge)	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
<b>Wed</b>	2:00pm	Carers	Carol Morris (208407)
<b>Wed</b>	7:30pm	Bryn Eithinog	Freddy Farias-Palacios (07506 710694)
<b>Wed</b>	7:30pm	Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
<b>Thu</b>	10:30am	Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Thu</b>	7:30pm	Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Thu</b>	7:30pm	Ogwen Valley	Brian & Kate Wheatcroft (602516)
<b>Fri</b>	10:30am	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316) Lesley Jackson (680330)

### ◇ **Advance Notice: Christmas Ceilidh**

Get your dancing shoes out, as we are having a ceilidh (aka twmpath, barn dance, hoedown etc.) on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December** at Penrallt. Music will be provided by Haley's Ceilidhs (aka Magnus Forrester-Barker, James Goodman and Owen Lloyd-Evans, with Rob Haley calling), back by popular demand after the recent wedding of Mr and Mrs Dawson. This event is for the whole Penrallt family and our friends (i.e. invite who you want!). Entry will be £4 (or £2 for concessions) and all proceeds will go to the charity Compassion (<https://www.compassionuk.org/>). The evening will include plenty of dancing, as well as tea, coffee, biscuits and maybe even some cake. Doors open at 7pm; dancing to start at 7:30pm and go on until late.

◇ **BBC Recording**

*Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 7pm*

We have been invited by the BBC to record two programmes for BBC Radio Wales, one to be broadcast early in the new year and the other on Easter Sunday. This is a wonderful opportunity to share with thousands of people across Wales and beyond. The recording for both services is due to take place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Individual items (such as the sermon, prayers and readings) will be recorded during the afternoon and the congregational parts will be recorded in the evening (probably from 7pm though the exact time is to be confirmed). Please come along and lend your voice - the bigger and more enthusiastic the congregation, the better.

◇ **Café Church**

*Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 6pm*

This is a time when we can meet together in fellowship in our church, but instead of sitting in rows we have a café. You can enjoy relaxing with your friends and chatting about God and related issues. It's a time for everyone from all walks of life, and we welcome you in. Our programme will vary from month to month with live musicians, games, storytelling, video... You name it, we'll try it!! This month we are planning to watch a movie – most likely the film *God's Not Dead*.

◇ **Church Lunch**

*Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November*

We will, as usual, have a church lunch on the first Sunday of the month. Please bring enough buffet-style food for yourself and a few others.

◇ **Church Walk**

*Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 11am*

Some of us are not ramblers but amblers and are unable to do longer walks now. This month we are doing a 3 ½ mile walk with options for the 'keenites' to launch out half way round to a 4 ½ or even a 6 mile option. We begin at the **later time of 11 a.m.** on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November from Bethesda upper free car park. Entering Bethesda from Bangor, turn left at the 'P' sign. We shall follow the slate trail along the Ogwen river, through woods and returning by back roads. Some parts are up and down but manageable in fine weather. Boots are advisable and don't forget your picnic lunch. Contact Geoff and Marilyn (01286 879944) for more details if required.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

*Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 7:30pm*

Our monthly mid-week prayer meetings are for the whole congregation and all are warmly encouraged to attend. The meetings usually take place in the chapel, and last about an hour. The next two meetings after this one will be on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

### ◇ **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: Adrienne Ferrada; Gwen Hicks (353648); Geoff Moore (410582); Lawrence Moss (713793); Helen Thomas (600174); Roshni Verghese (07967 320048).

### ◇ **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](mailto: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**

We do not recommend giving money directly to the rough sleepers in Upper Bangor. You will find labelled envelopes in the porch for a gift that will buy meal vouchers which are distributed to the homeless by the Cathedral; this certainly would be a more meaningful form of help.

### ◇ **Sunday Afternoon Services**

We usually visit local residential homes on the first Sunday afternoon of the month, alternating between Haulfre (in Llangoed, near Beaumaris) and Plas Garnedd (in Llanberis). The services start at 2:15pm and last roughly half an hour. This month we will be going to **Plas Garnedd** on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

### ◇ **Tearfund Big Quiz**

*Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 7pm*

Penrallt Baptist Church will be taking part in the biggest multi-venue, nationwide quiz ever. Come and join us for an epic evening of poverty-fighting fun. Entry fee £5 per person (includes a panad and cake). Teams of 4 – 6.

*Focus on...*



## **Home Mission**

### **Supporting Baptist ministries across the UK**

Home Mission is all about helping Baptist churches and individuals to reach their mission potential and bring the love of God to their communities. Penrallt gives a portion of our mission budget each year to Home Mission and this money is used to support a variety of Baptist churches and projects around the UK. We also support them in prayer.

Until recently, Holyhead Baptist\* was supported by a Home Mission grant. At present, the nearest project to us is probably the one in Ellesmere Port, where Home Mission enables the work of Community Minister Rose Uitterdijk. Amongst other ways of engaging with the unchurched and dechurched members of her local community, Rose hosts a monthly community meal, which brings people together to share food and to chat and play games. Many of the people attending are not to be found in church on a Sunday morning but each are, in their own way, on a faith journey and this ministry is helping them bit by bit to find their way into God's kingdom.

Another church supported by Home Mission is Emmanuel Baptist Church in Netherton, on the outskirts of Liverpool. This is an area that is in the top 1% on some of the National Indices of Deprivation and the church community are committed to seeing the love of God transform the area. They seek to shine the light of Jesus in Netherton through a variety of ministries and community programmes, such as a kids' club, parent and toddler groups and discipleship groups. A team from the church are committed to living intentionally on the local housing estate to reach the people there.

As well as praying for these and other Home Mission projects (the stories of which can be found on the Baptist Union website ([www.baptist.org.uk](http://www.baptist.org.uk)), why not spend some time this month considering how we could connect with our local community and provide opportunities for people to connect with church life (and most importantly with Jesus)? Maybe there is something we could do as a church, or something that you could do as an individual.

*Magnus Forrester-Barker has recently been appointed as Penrallt's Home Mission rep and would be delighted to talk to you about the subject.*

\* Officially: New Park Street English Baptist Church, Holyhead