



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: September 2014

From the Minister:

"Simon Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life.'" John chapter 6, verse 68.

It's years after the demise of the CSI franchise and Lt. Horatio Caine meets Detective Mac Taylor somewhere in forensic-crime-series Neverland.

"So it's come to this," sighs Horatio, carefully removing his sunglasses and polishing them.

"Yeah," sympathises Mac. "Is this crime-series heaven or hell?"

"Who knows if they even exist?" ponders Lt. Caine. "Or is it purgatory?"

"No," assures Detective Taylor. "Purgatory exists alright. It's better known as 'Dave'."

Horatio spends an eternity polishing his shades then speaks up.

"We solved them all didn't we? Banged to rights. Beyond all reasonable doubt."

"Just like real life."

Long laughter ensues.

"And the bad guys always fess up."

"Two minutes thirty seconds before the credits to give time for the final shot of the team walking off heroically into the sunset."

Horatio Caine heroically slips his shades back onto his nose.

"Don't do that, H, it's creepy."

"Sorry," says the Miami super sleuth.

Tough former Marine Taylor turns to H with a philosophical look:

"Shame we couldn't prove the existence of God on CSI."

"Plenty of circumstantial though isn't there?" and the Miami-tanned face breaks into a smile.

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"Such as?"

"The fact is there's something here. There shouldn't be anything should there? You can't deny existence."

"I agree. I can't see why there'd be any kind of existence if it weren't for God. It can't be a stroke of luck. "

"And our series were based on shared moral beliefs. Where do our moral standards come from?"

"Simplistic, but real enough."

"And the fact that we're asking these questions. Why would the universe ask these questions?"

"Indeed, and the more people deny the existence of God the more they seem obsessed with proving that what they don't believe in doesn't exist."

"And all those witness statements from people who've met him"

"Those too."

"Yeah, but suppose, just suppose" insists H, "that God wanted to speak to us?"

"He'd leave clues?"

"Now you're making the Almighty sound like a serial killer."

"Sorry, sorry. What's your solution?"

"He could send his son couldn't he?" and Horatio removes his shades again giving one of his enigmatic looks to camera. Except there's no camera.

"It would make for a great plot."

"You'd need to look at the evidence very carefully."

"And that, surely" says the New York detective "is the strength of CSI. Always persuade people to sift through the material. No jumping to quick conclusions. Ask good questions and see what the answers are."

"That's how you we'd look for God in Miami."

They walk off into the sunset. "Stop fiddling with those sunglasses." Says Mac.

If you're going to look for God, start looking in the right place. The Bible is an obvious starting point. But why not consider joining our Alpha Course too? It's a gentle stroll over a dozen weeks through the foundations of the Christian Faith with group discussion and room for doubts and questions. See details below.

God bless,

Peter

Welcome to Students:

If you're a student we welcome you to Penrallt. Please collect a student pack from the door, and join in our activities, especially Faith Café on Sunday nights from the 28th. Delvin Varghese is our Student Coordinator and he would be happy to tell you what's happening and to invite you to our student home group.

Services This Month:

Please remember that our Sunday evening services revert to 6pm on September 7th.

7 September

10:30am Speaker: Deb Stammers.

David and Goliath: Size Isn't Everything

1 Samuel 17

6:00pm Communion Service. Speaker: Bob Woods.

What lies beneath? Can hope survive?

Isaiah 40:6-31

14 September

10:30am **"Tell me what you know": Ministering in Chaos** *Acts 22-25*

2:15pm Service at Bontnewydd (see Noticeboard, below).

6:00pm **People made for praise in a city made for praise.** *Nehemiah 12:27-47*

21 September

10:30am Speaker: Phil Jump.

6:00pm Speaker: Geoff Birch.

28 September

10:30am Communion Service. **Reasons to Believe.**

Acts 26

6:00pm **Where's God's Love in a Graceless Society?**

Nehemiah 13:1-30

Our Speakers in September

Peter Cousins is the minister of Penrallt and is our speaker except when otherwise noted. **Deb Stammers** is a social worker and one of Penrallt's deacons. **Bob Woods** is Professor of Gerontology at Bangor University, a prolific author and a Penrallt church member. **Phil Jump** is Regional Minister of the North Western Baptist Association and a longstanding friend of Penrallt. **Geoff Birch** is a retired minister and a member of Penrallt.

Serving the people of God elsewhere:

The following members of Penrallt will be preaching or leading services at other churches this month. Please remember them in your prayers.

Sunday 21 Elaine Green preaching at Holyhead English Presbyterian.

Sunday 28 Deb Stammers preaching at Castle Square, Caernarfon;
Elaine Green preaching at Holyhead English Baptist.

If you will be ministering to other congregations and would like to be included in this list (and our weekly email prayer diary) in future months, please send details to Magnus in the church office.

Dates For Your Diary:

Monday 1	7:30pm	Deacons' Meeting.
Tuesday 2	7:30pm	Induction of Chrissie Howe as the new minister of St. John's Methodist Church.
Wednesday 3	10:30am	Men's Prayer Meeting followed by coffee in Options.
Saturday 13	9:30am	Bible Unzipped.
Tuesday 16	10:30am	Church walk in Amlwch.
Saturday 20	7pm	Official launch of the Gobaith Môn Project in Llangefni Town Hall (see this month's Focus).

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

News of People:

We are very sad to note the death of **Nancy Jones** at the beginning of last month in Bryn Llifon Nursing Home, Bangor. She loved Penrallt very much and it was our privilege to host the funeral service.

Barbara Thomas' postponed treatment will begin this month. **Phil McKenna** continues in treatment and therapy after his stroke. **Ronnie Winter** is coming to the end of his chemotherapy and will be starting radiotherapy soon.

Congratulations to **Kimberley Jones** and **Tom Davies** on their engagement.

Children's Birthdays in September:

5th: Rebecca Owen	16th: Jacob Alexandroy	17th: Amy Harmens
18th: Catrin Donnelly	24th: Elin Gwilliam	25th: Siân Thomas

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:

Autumn Alpha Course

An Alpha Course is planned for this Autumn at Penrallt, starting on Tuesday 30th September and running through to 9th December. Publicity material such as posters, invitations and small handouts will be available in September. However, a really good way to advertise the course is to talk about it with your family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues and anyone else not listed! **Pray for opportunities** to do just that and you'll be surprised at how God answers your prayers. **NOW** is a brilliant time to start getting alongside people and introduce them to the idea of Alpha. If you would like to chat about this, please see either Lawrence or Roshni.

If you feel that you would like to be involved in this year's course, either as a helper, or as a guest on the course, please contact either Lawrence Moss on 01248 713793 (or email lemoss@btinternet.com) or Roshni Verghese on 01492 871444 (or email vergheseroshni@hotmail.com).

◇ **Bible Unzipped**

Saturday 13 September

9:30am

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 Jonah* (by Peter), *Questions Christians Ask: What happens to me when I die?* (by Rob) and *Struggling with Difficult Bible Passages: 2 Kings 2:23-25* (by Peter). 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.

◇ **Bontnewydd**

Sunday 14 September (TBC)

2:15pm

Every month a team from Penrallt goes to lead a short service at the nursing home in Bontnewydd, near Caernarfon. Usually they go on the first Sunday afternoon of the month but this time they are expecting to go on the second Sunday, 14th September. New members are always welcome to join the team and there is a particular need for musicians and Welsh-speakers. If you would like to join, or to find out more, please speak to Joan Beer, Susan Cousins or Magnus.

◇ **Church Lunch**

We will host a church lunch after the morning service on **Sunday September 7th**. Please bring enough buffet style 'finger food' for yourselves and one or two others.

◇ **Church Walk**

Tuesday 16 September

10:30am

This month's walk will be led by Roger and Eve Malone. Start from the car park on Quay Street in Amlwch at 10:30am. Approximately 5 miles, going up to Parys Mountain. Bring a packed lunch. Car sharing advisable where possible, due to limited car park spaces. You are advised to wear boots and long trousers.

◇ **Drummers and Guitarists**

Sunday 14 September

Deb writes: "Thanks to those who spoke to me about getting involved with the worship bands on drums or guitar. There is still time if anyone else would like to consider joining us. We will be having a short, informal 'try-out' session after the morning service on Sunday 14th September for anyone who is interested."

◇ **Getting your prayer life into gear**

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 by emailing the office now and requesting to be put on the list. And for more immediate sharing and response in prayer why not search on Facebook for *Penrallt Prayer Point* and send a request to join our page dedicated to prayer.

◇ **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 3 September

10:30am

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.

◇ **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

Please note that Peter and Susan Cousins will be away on holiday from 4th to 11th of this month.

◇ **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.

◇ **Room to rent**

A room is available to rent in a cosy bungalow in Menai Bridge, with one friendly co-tenant. Please speak to Magnus (01248 717570; drmeffb@gmail.com) if you are interested.

◇ **Website**

The Penrallt website, www.penrallt.org, has recently undergone a facelift (largely with a view to making it work better on mobile devices but also check out the new *sermon series* page). Magnus would welcome constructive feedback, as well as pictures both of services and events at Penrallt and of local scenery - either have a chat with him in person or drop him an email to office@penrallt.org

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 21 September.

Please send information to Magnus (office@penrallt.org; 01248 353355)

Focus on...



Gobaith Môn

Gobaith Môn is an exciting new Christian youth initiative on Anglesey! Gobaith Môn aims to bring together Christians from all denominations to bring hope to the youth of the Island by encouraging and developing youth work in schools, churches and communities. We aim to value each young person, be inclusive in community and encourage the local church.

Joe Moreno who is originally from Texas, USA has come to Anglesey together with his wife Jules and three kids Ethan, Jade and Evelyn. Joe and Jules previously worked with Youth With A Mission in Perth, Australia where Joe pioneered a youth work that focused on Western Australia in secondary schools. Though the vision of Gobaith Môn is to work in all schools on the island the initial focus will be in secondary schools on Anglesey. Joe will begin working with Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones in Amlwch where he has been welcomed in by the school to teach Religious Education (RE) and Personal Social Education (PSE) classes (years 7 - 11). Joe, being a keen American footballer, will also be teaching American football in Syr Thomas Jones and David Hughes partnering with the Anglesey Sport Development team.

The aim of Gobaith Môn's work in secondary schools is to be able to provide a positive Christian influence, reaching out to young people who otherwise would have little to no knowledge of who Jesus is. Though there are guidelines that we must follow as we work in schools there is an incredible opportunity to build relationship with the youth and through this we pray that young people will be drawn into a relationship with God and make a response to the gospel.

Gobaith Môn desires to create more opportunity for young people to be involved in and recognise their gifts and to be encouraged and championed in them. Whether that is being part of a camp, going on a missions trip, being active in their community or participating in an event we hope to bring life, value and encouragement to the youth of Anglesey.

To follow what Gobaith Môn is doing log onto our website: www.gobaithmon.org.uk. Depending on your language preference go to the "Be Involved/Partneriaid" tab and more information on what we are doing and ways of being involved are listed there. Our website has been created to build credibility to youth, schools and communities and bring together efforts from the church to see Anglesey walk into its purposes with God. Please have a browse and sign up for our quarterly newsletters and information. We value your prayers and support as this vision is in the infancy of its pioneering stages. We are excited for what is ahead and value your contribution to see this vision come into maturity.

A date for your diary is the Gobaith Môn induction service which will be held in the Llangefni Town Hall September 20 starting at 7:00pm. Light refreshments will be available with corporate worship, inspirational word and prayer. We would love to invite you to be part of this time.

- - We have recently relocated from Amlwch to Llangefni and have moved into a rented space - which we are very grateful for
- - As of September Ethan and Jade both attend Ysgol y Graig in Llangefni.
- - Please pray for us as a family as we continue this work. In the past we have known the enemy to attack us as a family with sickness (specifically the kids) at key times of ministry. Please cover us in prayer
- - Pray for continuous open doors and breakthrough in the secondary schools
- - Pray for more workers to be called to work with Gobaith Môn
- - Pray for more financial release to come to the vision
- - Pray specifically for Syr Thomas Jones as Joe begins working there at the start of the first term
- - Pray for Jules as she continues her part-time work at Ysbyty Gwynedd as a junior doctor with family commitments to juggle.