



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: July 2014

From the Minister:

Satan doesn't carry a gun. In fact he's never owned a gun. Never fired a shot. You won't find him peering out from the bushes on any battlefield, weapon in hand. He's never worn uniform, trained on an assault course or marched with an army. But he's not a pacifist. He believes in war, one hundred percent. He loves war. But you won't see him in combat on the plains of Iraq, the jungles of the Congo or amidst the battle scarred ruins of Syria. He won't suddenly materialise and photobomb a journalist doing her piece to camera as tanks roll by. As a matter of fact Satan doesn't even launch bombs. Nor does he fire missiles or lob grenades.

Satan starts fights. But he leaves it to humans to do the actual fighting. His battlefield is the human mind. He drops ideas into susceptible brains. He whispers brutality to bullies and aggression to the aggrieved. He comes to anxious people and assures them that it's the other tribe who is the cause of all their failure. He insists that it's those beyond the boundary who are the threat, they who threaten the future, they who are "always out to get you." It's they who are lying; they who are defrauding you. He'll point minds in the direction of the people next door, but it's always humans who point the guns. He'll pull back quietly into the shadows and leave a human finger to pull the trigger.

Indeed, there are many things Satan has never done. He's never abused a child, trafficked a slave or raped a woman. But he's persuaded plenty of people to do those things. He slips quietly into vulnerable minds and begins his brain washing. He's the whispering corrupter, the consummate rabble-rouser, and the hidden assassin. And no one, not one person in the troubled history of our planet has ever seen him.

This web of lethal intrigue and blood-stained history, this matrix of deceit and minefield of lies is what the New Testament calls the kingdom of darkness. It means we're ruled by the standards, insinuations and suggestions of the prince of liars. And we've all been fooled sometimes. We've all as the Apostle Paul wrote "followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."

Our minds are the true warzone. Win the battle of the human mind and Satan is rendered powerless. "Put on the helmet of salvation" urges the Apostle Paul, and with that protection you can go on to develop "the mind of Christ."

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Treasurer: Stephen Burrows, 39 Cil y Graig, Llanfairpwll LL61 5NZ; *Tel:* 01248 714048

Jesus overcame Satan. The Bible says that he "disarmed the powers and authorities and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross." Now Jesus want to clear our minds out and fill them with his thoughts. He wants to turn us from violence to gentleness, from cynicism to trust, from racism to tolerance, from hatred to love, from tolerance of evil to promotion of justice. He wants to use our change of heart to expose the lies which still enslave individuals, families, communities, tribes and nations. He wants to carry on his campaign of liberation in the minds of the next generation, and the hearts of our neighbours.

When you stop and think of it like that, there is nowhere neutral to hide. There cannot be any non-combatants. You either go with Satan or with Jesus. You either give in to the satanic insurgency in your head, or bow the knee to Jesus and follow him as your Lord and saviour. And the best time to make that decision? Today.

God bless,

Peter

Services This Month:

6 July

10:30am Speaker: Rob Beamish. **Counting the cost.** Mark 8:22-9:1
2:15pm Service at Bontnewydd.
7:00pm Communion Service.

The power of prayer, planning and politics. *Nehemiah 2:1-10*

13 July

10:30am **Going deep and going long.** *Acts 18:18-28*
7:00pm **Investigate before you initiate.** *Nehemiah 2:11-20*

20 July

10:30am **Nearly Christians, fake Christians and committed Christians.**
Acts 19:1-20
7:00pm **Satan can't win, but he can persuade you to stop.** *Nehemiah 4:1-23*

27 June

10:30am Communion Service.
Steel in your faith. *Acts 20:1-12*
7:00pm Speaker: Diane Holmes.
A gap in the proceedings. *Nehemiah 5*

Our Speakers in July:

Peter Cousins is the minister of Penrallt and is our speaker except when otherwise noted. **Rev. Rob Beamish** is the minister of Princes Drive Baptist Church in Colwyn Bay and a teacher on the Bible Unzipped course. **Rev. Dr. Diane Holmes** is a Baptist minister who has recently come to live near Brynsiencyn with her husband Nigel.

Church Lunch

We will host a church lunch on **Sunday July 6th**. Please bring enough buffet style 'finger food' for yourselves and one or two others.

Dates For Your Diary:

Wednesday 2	10:30am	Men's Prayer Meeting followed by coffee in Options.
Monday 7	7:30pm	Church Members' Meeting.
Saturday 12	9:30am-1pm	Bible Unzipped in Rhos on Sea.
Sunday 13	3pm	Retirement event for Rev. Alf Williams in St. John's Methodist Church.
Monday 14	7pm	Sticky Faith training session at St Mary's, Menai Bridge.
Saturday 19	10am	Mega Messy Day in Trearddur Bay.
Monday 21	10:30am	Church walk from Porth Eilean.
Sunday 27	3pm	Praise on the Pier with the churches of Bangor.

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

News of People:

As we went to press, **Wendy Lemon** was still waiting to give birth.

Ronnie Winter continues his treatment. **Jan Owen** and **Chloe Walker** are recovering from surgery. **Barbara Thomas** is recovering and thanks everyone for our prayers. She has been given the all clear and is thankful to God. Congratulations to **Pat MacKenzie** on a significant birthday.

Children's Birthdays in July:

5th: Cadi Evans 19th: Katherine Adams 22nd: Llinos Davies

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:

◇ **Bangor Street Pastors need You!**

The training of the next batch of new Street Pastors is due to start this autumn so if you are interested in joining the team, now is the time to do it - otherwise you may have to wait more than a year for the next opportunity. If you are interested, or want to go out as an observer to see for yourself what Street Pastors do, please speak to Magnus. There is also a need for more Prayer Pastors (again, please talk to Magnus about this).

◇ **Bible Unzipped**

Saturday 12 July

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. 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 Acts* (taught by Rob); *The Book of Joel* (Peter); *Does God suffer?* (Rob). 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.

◇ **Calling all guitarists and drummers!**

If you play either guitar or drums and are interested in getting involved in any of our worship bands, please speak to Deb Stammers or email her on jonanddeborah@btinternet.com. We are hoping to arrange a try-out / workshop for anyone interested over the next few weeks.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 21 July

A circular walk starting at Porth Eilean, Anglesey. There is a free car park, almost at the end of the lane to Porth Eilean, on your right after passing Point Lynas Caravan Park (LL68 9LT). Grid Ref. 477 929 Ordnance Survey Explorer 263. (Toilets are situated 100 metres further down the road.) Meet at 10:30am. This is a fairly gentle walk along a quiet stretch of coastline, field paths and lanes. Initially we will walk to the lighthouse and the porpoise viewing point at Point Lynas, followed by a slight retrace of steps to join the coastal path to Porth Amlwch. We will return via Llaneilian Church. Approx 5½ miles. Please bring a packed lunch. Afterwards everyone is invited to the home of George & Anne for tea/coffee. For further information please contact George or Anne on 01248 852778 or hafan@gsacboyer.plus.com.

◇ **Great Training Days For You**

Sticky Faith, 14th July. Leader: Scripture Union Location: St Mary's, Menai Bridge. 2014, 7pm start. Free to attend but donations are welcomed. Sticky Faith (Faith that sticks) gives parents and leaders both a theological/philosophical framework and a host of practical ideas that develop long-term faith in children and teenagers.

Mega Messy Day. 19th July Leader: Jane Leadbetter (North West Regional Co-ordinator for Messy Church). Location: St Ffraid's, Trearddur Bay, Holyhead. Free to attend but donations are welcomed. Messy Church leaders and teams to spend quality time together exploring at a deeper level the various aspects of a Messy Church, including growing a team and discipleship. A mixture of formal, informal and social learning, with space for God, for people of all ages and abilities - suitable for young leaders too. 10am Start, Bring your own lunch, Option to stay for an evening meal and fellowship. Booking essential. kirstywilliams1983@gmail.com / 07971790669

◇ **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. To date, Penrallt has raised £4,853 for this scheme; please let us not rest on our laurels!

◇ **Men's Prayer Meeting**

Wednesday 2 July 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

◇ **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. Please note that in addition to the pink prayer request cards, there are also blue testimony/thanksgiving cards and yellow "Listening to God" cards that can also be filled in and submitted for the prayer diary.

We have just set up a new Facebook group, entitled **Penrallt Prayer Point**, intended as a space to share prayer requests and to encourage one another in prayer, through testimonies of answered prayer, Bible verses, prophetic words and pictures. It is a closed group, so prayer requests are only visible to members of the group. If you use Facebook and would like to join, simply enter the group name into the search box on the Facebook website, follow the link and click on "Join Group". Any constructive feedback on the group is welcome to Andrew March or to Magnus.

◇ **Recruits for August Sunday Morning services**

We like to give our Sunday School team a summer break in the month of August, but that means we rely on other volunteers stepping in to lead and help children's activities for about 45 minutes on the five Sunday mornings in August. If you can help with one, two or more Sundays please talk to Ceri as soon as possible. If we can spread the load between a dozen that would be great. The activities will include games, music and stories in the Canolfan.

◇ **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.

◇ **School of Worship**

24th-26th July

In Pontypridd, with Graham Kendrick, Noel Robinson, Su Rinaldi and others. See the church noticeboard for more details.

◇ **Volunteers wanted for study**

A team from the university psychology department is looking for volunteers to take part in a study. They are looking for healthy females who have not previously had a stroke, aged between 65-75. The study, which involves sitting in front of a computer and selecting images from the screen, is very simple and only lasts 20 minutes. Participants will receive £7 compensation. If you would like to take part, contact either Caiofa Madden (email:caoifamadden@live.com; phone: 07462 937902) or Michael Perrins (phone: 07525 331275).

From The Church Office:

Advance Notice - Church office closure:

Please note that the church office will be closed between 20th and 27th August as Magnus will be away. Because of this, the deadline for the September newsletter will be earlier than usual, on Thursday 14th August.

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 20 July.

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

NB all notices should be submitted in writing, preferably by email.

Focus on...



BMS World Mission

Penrallt is now a BMS World Mission Church Partner. We've signed up to partnering with BMS World Mission in **Africa**, helping the Church there to tackle poverty and injustice amongst some of the world's poorest people.

Penrallt has been partnered with the following mission personnel:

Kathy Russell has been in Mozambique for a year. Kathy is a solicitor specialising in child protection and family law. She is using her skills to help develop the justice and advocacy ministries being spearheaded by the Mozambique Christian lawyers and churches.

- www.bmsworldmission.org/krussell

Rebecca North has been in Chad since 2011. Rebecca is a nurse, working in a new hospital which she has helped establish in N'Djamena, the capital. Facilities in the hospital are relatively basic.

- <http://www.bmsworldmission.org/rnorth>

Brad and Ruth Biddulph, with baby son Ethan, are currently at language school in France, learning French. It is anticipated that they will be relocating to Guinea, West Africa in 2015. Previously, Brad and Ruth were based in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, where they used their skills in construction, fundraising and youth work, to serve with some local charities.

- <http://www.bmsworldmission.org/brbiddulph>

You can become a BMS 24:7 Partner:

24:7 Partners support the work of BMS World Mission by monthly Direct Debit and prayer, enabling either BMS ministries or the work of a specific BMS mission worker. For more information see the BMS website: www.bmsworldmission.org/partners

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