



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: June 2017

For most university students, particularly those in their final year, some weeks in May are crucial to accomplish their goals. Arriving in their third or fourth year they have more essays to write, a dissertation or final project to prepare; and the scary prospect that if they don't do well they could end up living with their parents until they are 50!

In order to finish their degree courses well their social life changes, club nights and time with friends is not a priority anymore. The most precious time is the time spent in the library, and sleepless nights wrestling with books and articles become their everyday food and pleasure.

This month the UK will have a general election on June 8th. The political leaders are trying to convince people to vote for them. They will be using different resources (leaflets, slogans, polls and promises) to achieve their goal.

The Christian life is a journey, and our goal, or final destination, is to be with our Father in heaven. Jesus is our Way to the Father, He is our Good Shepherd who will guide us and protect us all the way. However, while travelling we are going to find *detours* (personal circumstances, illnesses, challenging teaching, and doubts) that will try to prevent us from achieving our goal.

In the Epistle to the Galatians, chapter 5, Paul is dealing with some false teachers who tried to introduce circumcision as something required. He says in verse 1 "Do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery..."

Perhaps the Galatians' goal was to get closer to God. They wanted to serve Him but Paul's concern for them was that they would not allow themselves to get diverted from their faith in Jesus. These teachers suggested that Jesus' teaching was great and His death and resurrection were important, but they had to include Jewish practice of the law as well. Paul reminded these believers that Jesus is enough.

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We can have a personal relationship with God because of all that Jesus has done. Our only duty is to surrender our lives to Him, for God will give His Holy Spirit to those who live in obedience to Him (see Acts 5:32) to produce fruits that will bring glory to Him.

The apostle Paul warns the Galatians of the danger of being trapped in religion and points out what is the most important:

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. *The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*” Galatians 5:6 (NIV)

As we seek to serve the Lord in our church, let’s be reminded that what is most important when we are in Christ is not liturgy, or what we do or don’t do as part of religious rituals. It is not how much knowledge we have...what counts, Paul said, is faith (our daily surrender to God) expressing itself through LOVE.

Theologian William Barclay once said, “More people have been brought into the church by the kindness of real Christian love than by all theological arguments in the world.”

God bless you and welcome to Penrallt Baptist Church.

Freddy

Deadline for next month’s newsletter: Sunday 18th June.

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

All notices should be submitted in writing (preferably by email) as early as possible.

Website Updates

In addition to recordings of sermons (with an almost complete collection dating back nearly 10 years), you can now find copies of the powerpoint slides from recent sermons on our website at www.penrallt.org/sermons/index.php

Don’t forget that copies of our newsletters (dating back as far as May 2011) are also available on the website (at www.penrallt.org/news/index.php), along with the current week’s news sheet.

Services This Month

All the sermons at Penrallt this month will be from our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios. In the mornings, we will continue our series on *Fruitfulness on the Front Line* and in the evenings we will begin a new series on *When God calls us to do His will*.

Note that because there is no evening service at Penrallt on the first Sunday of June, the evening communion service will be the following week.

4th June

- 10:30am **Pentecost** *Acts 1:8*
All-age Worship Service led by Freddy Farias-Palacios, Wendy Lemon and Jon Stammers.
- 6:00pm Pentecost Praise service at Bangor Cathedral with the other churches of Cytûn; Rev. Aled Edwards (Chief Executive of Cytûn Cymru) will be preaching, with a focus on refugees. There will (weather-permitting) be a picnic on the Cathedral green at 5pm. *NB there is no service at Penrallt this evening.*

11th June

- 10:30am **Fruitfulness on the front line #5:
Being Changed by Christ to Mould Culture** *Colossians 3:1–11*
- 6:00pm Communion Service
**When God calls us to do His will #1:
The Call of Ezekiel** *Ezekiel 1:3
(also chapters 2 & 3)*

18th June

- 10:30am **A Father's Faith** *Genesis 17:15–19; 22:1–2*
- 6:00pm **When God calls us to do His will #2:
Jesus did His Father's will** *Matthew 26:36–46*

25th June

- 10:30am Communion Service
**Fruitfulness on the front line #6:
A Christian life that pleases God** (Mouthpiece for Truth and Justice) *Colossians 1:9–14*
- 6:00pm **When God calls us to do His will #3:
The cost of our calling** *Matthew 16:24–26*

Dates for Your Diary

Saturdays	8:30–9:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Saturday 3	10:30am–4pm	Roy Godwin conference in Llangefni.
	7:45pm	Cytun general election hustings at Penrhyn Hall (for Arfon constituency), rescheduled from Tuesday 23 rd May.
Sunday 4	2:45pm	Service at Plas Garnedd residential home in Llanberis.
Sunday 4 – Saturday 10		Anglesey Prayer Walk.
Monday 5	7:30pm	Deacons' meeting.
Wednesday 7	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Thursday 8	all day	<i>Please note that the Twrgwyn Room will be used as a polling station in the general election.</i>
	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
Tuesday 13	7:30pm	Baptism / membership class at the Manse.
Monday 19	10:30am	Church walk at Beddgelert.
Tuesday 20	7:30pm	Baptism / membership class at the Manse.
Monday 26	2pm	Pastoral Care Team meeting.
	7:30pm	Deacons' meeting.

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

News of People

Congratulations to Crystal and Simon Patton on the birth of their son, Oisín Daniel, last month.

Pauline Pearson has recently been diagnosed with intestinal cancer. Please hold her and Mike in your prayers.

Children's Birthdays in June

17th: Thomas Howie 20th: Bradley Jones
27th: Harvey Lemon & Ben Warnock

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 weekly. 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	Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
Wed	7:30pm (<i>TBC</i>)	Bryn Eithinog	Freddy Farias-Palacios (07506 710694)
Thu	10:30am	Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7:30pm	Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7:30pm	Ogwen Valley	Brian & Kate Wheatcroft (602516)
Fri	10:30am–12:30pm	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316)

Noticeboard:

◇ **Anglesey Prayer Walk**

4th – 10th June

Since 2013 groups of Christians from many denominations have come together in June to prayer-walk Anglesey to show our unity as the body of Christ and to enhance the spiritual atmosphere, praying a blessing on Anglesey's communities. This year, we are joining with Emyr Mathias and Lyndsay Hamon who will be carrying a cross as they travel. Leaflets in foyer and for further information/coordinators: www.angleseyprayerwalk.org.uk/home/contact-us or contact James Goodman (01248 741074; email: gillandjames@btopenworld.com) for more details.

◇ **Baptism & Membership Classes**

If you are interested in getting baptised or becoming a church member please contact the church office or speak to Freddy as we are planning to run baptism and membership classes on Tuesday 13th and Tuesday 20th June (in the evening).

◇ **Church Lunch**

We will, as usual, have a church lunch on the first Sunday of the month, 4th June. Please bring enough buffet-style food for yourself and a few others.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 19th June

10:30am

This month's walk will be led by Andrew March. It will be a circular walk to Llyn Edno, above Beddgelert, including some other smaller 'puddles' too; exactly how far will depend on the projected weather on the day. It will begin from the car park at the bottom of the 'Watkin Path' (map ref: Sheet OL17 627 506), returning to that location. If the weather is glorious we may extend the walk to Beddgelert to partake of some of the 'Best Ice Cream in Britain'. More precise details the Sunday before.

Note that the July walk will take place on Saturday 8th July. Further details to follow in next month's newsletter.

◇ **Consultation on Children's and Youth Work**

We will be running a consultation event on the weekend 16th–18th June to gain the views of parents and children and young people on the children and youth provision in Penrallt. Parents will have the opportunity to complete questionnaires during Jammy Panad and after church on the Sunday. Children will take part in activities to assist with the consultation during JAM, Revolution and Sunday school.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

Thursday 8th June

7:30pm

In addition to our regular weekly Saturday morning prayer meetings, we are starting a monthly mid-week evening prayer meeting for the whole congregation. All are warmly encouraged to attend. The meetings will usually take place in the chapel during the second week of the month and will alternate between Tuesdays and Thursdays. On the week when the prayer meeting is on, our homegroups will not meet.

◇ **Pastoral Help**

If you have issues of concern about your own or someone else's welfare, please contact either our minister, Freddy (minister@penrallt; 07506 710694), or 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).

◇ **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 reminded that they could, at times, be aggressive towards others. 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; this certainly would be a more meaningful form of help.

◇ **Roy Godwin Conference**

On Saturday June 3rd, 10:30am – 4:00pm, Roy Godwin of Ffald y Brenin Christian Retreat Centre will once again be coming to Llangefni Town Hall to share with us on the theme of *The Way of Blessing*. For those unfamiliar with the work of Ffald y Brenin, this is a rare opportunity to hear about the mighty work that God is doing in and through the centre, and be inspired that He can do the same here in North Wales! No need to book, but bring a packed lunch.

◇ **Songs of Praise**

The BBC are looking for people to join the congregation for a recording of Songs of Praise at St. Asaph Cathedral on Tuesday 13th June, from 6:30 to 9:30pm. To apply, please contact SOPcongregations@avantimedia.tv by Thursday 8th June.

◇ **Spring Harvest 2018**

Those of us who attended Spring Harvest during the Easter holidays were very blessed by the experience. We are hoping for a larger group of us to go in 2018, but will need to book early as places fill up fast. There are Bible studies, celebrations, seminars and activities for all ages. We are planning to attend Minehead week 1 (at Butlins, Minehead, Somerset. TA24 5SH), for 5 nights, Tuesday 3rd April – Sunday 8th April (NB Easter Sunday is 1st April). Prices based on a 'silver room' – a hotel type room with a shower, and half board dining package: Adult £288.75; Child (2-5) £194.75; Child (6-14) £221.50. Deposit – Adults £35, Children (2-14) £20. Cheques made payable to Sarah Swallow.

Booking forms and deposits to Sarah Swallow by Sunday 18th June.

Further information from springharvest.org or Sarah Swallow 01407 720237, 07712729043, sarah_swallow@hotmail.co.uk

◇ **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 4th June** but please check with the church office or see that week's news sheet to confirm that this is going ahead.

◇ **Volunteers wanted for children's and youth work**

If you feel the Lord may be calling you to work as part of our children's and youth team, please speak to either Wendy Lemon, Jon Stammers or Freddy.

Focus on...

Colm & Catherine Ó Brolcháin



Working with OM Ireland

Greetings to you all from Ireland!

The main change since we last wrote to you is that Colm moved from being the relief bus driver to become the full time Big Red Bus driver. He is totally delighted as he loves the bus and its varied ministry.

In August last year we were thrilled to have Magnus Forrester-Barker join us on our outreach to the Traditional Irish music festival the 'Fleadh Cheoil' in Ennis, Co Clare. We are hopeful that he will join us again as the church there is keen for us to join them in 2017.

We shared many stories in our Spring news of those people who come on the 'God' bus to talk about life and faith. It goes to a local town two afternoons a week to be on the street and our partner church there works on the bus with the OM Ireland team. It also goes one late night a month to the same town. Over the St Patrick's festival we trained and sent out 5 teams to churches in small towns for 4 days of evangelism. God was very faithful and many heard the Gospel and equally, the participants grew in faith too.

OM Ireland has seen the Lord send many more people to us who go out on a permanent basis to partner with a church. We call this our Philippian Project, and to date 5 families have been trained and settled into churches across Ireland. It is a huge boost to a church to have a fully funded family minister with them like this. We also see the Lord using the interns we have on our Gap year programme, this year we have 14 young adults out and serving in 5 churches. Catherine is amazed every year as she debriefs these interns to hear them explain that their faith and their view of God has grown so much

In June, Colm is touring with the bus to primary schools all over Ireland, they have a craft, games and puppet programme that explain the Good news of salvation. Colm is also going on an outreach to the Appleby horse fair in Cumbria the same month.

For up to the minute faith stories have a look at our youtube channel, type in *OM Ireland*.

Finally we want to thank you dear friends for your support through this past year and we hope to visit you in late September 2017.



Colm & Catherine