



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: March 2018

A few weeks ago I read on the news that the world-renowned evangelist Luis Palau had announced that he has lung cancer.

He said the first thing he did when he heard the news was cry. "I think, 'Oh wow. I could be gone in a few months,' " he said. "You cry a lot. You cry when you think about your sons, about your ministry, about your friends, about your wife." However, Luis Palau said he has peace that surpasses all understanding. "I'm ready, I know it sounds crazy to say, 'I can't wait to go to heaven,'" he shared. "Now, it's a reality for me."

As I write this page, I read in a newspaper; "Pastor Billy Graham dies aged 99 after a lifetime serving as a spiritual leader to millions of people and multiple US presidents". "My home is in Heaven," Billy Graham usually said. "I'm just travelling through this world."

Billy Graham and Luis Palau would use key Bible verses for their different evangelistic rallies and Bible conferences. One verse that resonates is Romans 10:9 :-

'That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.' (NIV)

Their ministries encouraged me to get closer to my Lord Jesus Christ, and I know they have been a blessing to millions around the world.

This month, as we go around shops and supermarkets, we can tell by their window displays and offers that they are preparing themselves for Easter. But is Easter just about the Easter bunny, decorating eggs, dressing up in your best Sunday outfit and going to church?

Easter should be more than just another holiday for us as Christians. It's a time when we remember what God did for humanity through our Lord Jesus Christ; so let's prepare ourselves to celebrate Easter. Let's pray for our families, friends, country and society. Let's be prepared to share with them God's wonderful plan of salvation.

In Ephesians 1:3-11 the Apostle Paul set forth God's great plan of salvation. Paul outlined the plan of salvation that began in the mind of God (the Father) even before the creation of the world. The plan was to send His Son, Jesus, to purchase our salvation by his life, death, burial, and resurrection. And then to send the Holy Spirit to teach us who Jesus really is, and to give us help and strength in our fight against sin.

How does God's plan work?

Paul explains in Ephesians 1:13 *"And when you heard the word of truth (the gospel of your salvation)—when you believed in Christ—you were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit,"*

People need to hear that Jesus was crucified, nailing all our sins to the cross, covering them with his precious blood. If we believe in him, and accept his free gift of salvation, then we will have hope that is found in the promises that God has given us in His Word (The Bible). And like Billy Graham and Luis Palau, no matter what trials, temptations or pain we may suffer, we can receive mercy, love, peace and hope from God.

Christianity is about what God has done (His wonderful plan of salvation in Jesus). Religion is about what you can do to try to earn salvation (by doing good deeds, performing certain liturgy or rituals, not doing evil, etc...). Christianity says that all we need to do is believe in Jesus Christ for He can change everything. On one occasion Luis Palau said, 'One encounter with Jesus Christ is enough to change you, instantly, forever.'

Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?

Remember, 'That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'

Our victory, as Christians, is in the Resurrected Christ!

Let's be prepared to celebrate God's marvellous plan of redemption at Easter: the resurrected life that we live in the power of the Holy Spirit when we surrender our lives to Jesus, and the glorious hope we have in Christ, our Living Saviour!

Happy Easter.

Freddy

Services This Month

Our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, will be the speaker at all services except where otherwise noted below. The other speakers, Deb Stammers and Donald Poirot, are both church members.

4th March

- 10:30am Lent Series #3: *Philippians 3:10–11*
The challenge of knowing Christ and being like Him
- 6:00pm Communion Service
Our Lord's memorial *Luke 22:19*

11th March (Mothering Sunday)

- 10:30am **The Ideal Woman** *Proverbs 31:10–31*
- 6:00pm Essentials to grow in the spiritual life #2:
A life of prayer *Psalm 32*

18th March

- 10:30am Speaker: Deb Stammers
The hour has come *John 12:20–33*
- 6:00pm Essentials to grow in the spiritual life #3:
A daily communion with God *Psalm 25:1–15*

25th March (Palm Sunday)

- 10:30am Family Communion Service
The Lord needs you *Matthew 21:1–11*
- 6:00pm Speaker Donald Poirot
Hope *Hebrews 6:13–20*

Dates for Your Diary

Saturdays	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Friday 2	1:30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer service at Our Lady & St. James. All welcome - including men!
Saturday 3	10am–4:30pm	Walk Through The New Testament.
Sunday 4	7:30pm	Modern Worship Celebration at Pontio (<i>NB booking for places has now closed; at the time of going to press it had not been confirmed whether this event will go ahead</i>).
Wednesday 7	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Monday 19	10:30am	Church Walk at Dinas Dinlle.
Wednesday 28	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
Friday 30	11am	Cyûn Good Friday Walk of Witness, starting at St. John's Methodist.

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

News of People

Our condolences and prayers are with Carol Morris, who lost her son last month, and with Magnus Forrester-Barker, who lost his father.

Please continue to hold both Eve Malone and Lesley Jackson in your prayers.

Tony Mason has now moved permanently to Plas Garnedd (Pentraeth).

Please pray for both Tony and Joan.

Children's Birthdays in March

8th: Molly Wheatcroft

12th: Nicola Wheatcroft

18th: Hannah Gao

26th: Michael Hughes

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 18th March.

Please send information to Magnus (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 homegroups generally do not meet on the week of the monthly prayer meeting and may not meet all other weeks – please check with the homegroup facilitator. All phone numbers below have the 01248 area code.

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)
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) Lesley Jackson (680330)

Noticeboard:

◇ **Church Lunch** *Sunday 4th March*

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 19th March 10:30am*

We will meet at the first beach car park at Dinas Dinlle, near the toilets. We then walk over the dunes or along the beach, depending on the tide, to the entrance to the Straits and Fort Belan. We return by road and path to the Caernarfon Airport for refreshments at the airport café. Flat walk of approx. 4 ½ - 5 miles. Don't forget your packed lunch. Any questions, contact Geoff and Marilyn (01286 870944).

◇ **Faith Café**

Sundays

4:30–5:45pm

Faith Café, aimed principally at students, runs before the evening service during university term-time. It is a place to meet around free hot drinks, soup, bread and a variety of cheeses, to chat, play games and talk faith – a chilled out space that's perfect to bring your flatmates to. For more information about this and other student activities, please speak to Matt Dawson, our student co-ordinator (students@penrallt.org).

◇ **Family Camps**

Deb and Jon Stammers and family are planning on attending one of the Urban Saints / Diocese of Bangor family camps this summer, and would be thrilled if other families from church would like to join them! The camp is at Llanddwywe, near Harlech (near the beach), from 13th-17th August. Food is provided and you can either take your own tent or they will provide one for you. There is daily all-age Christian input and a full programme of activities which you are free to join in or do your own thing as you wish. Full details can be found online at <https://www.urbansaints.org/events/576>. Speak to Deb if you are interested - we may be able to arrange transport if needed.

◇ **News sheets:**

We have now ceased production of the printed weekly news sheets. News updates will be displayed in the rolling news powerpoints shown at various points during our services. Copies of these and of the monthly newsletters will be available to download from the website (www.penrallt.org/news). A sheet of basic information for newcomers about our church and its services etc. is available in the porch (and will soon also be on the website).

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

Wednesday 28th March 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 following one will be on Thursday 26th April. We also have a weekly prayer meeting on Saturday mornings at 8:30am, which usually lasts slightly less than one hour.

◇ **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); Judy Stammers (364394); 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 (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. You will find brown 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 residential homes in the area once a month on a Sunday afternoon, alternating between Haulfre (in Llangoed, near Beaumaris, starting at 2:15pm) and Plas Garnedd (in Llanberis, starting at 2:45pm), usually on the first Sunday. This month we will be going to **Plas Garnedd** on 11th March (a week later than usual).

◇ **Walk through the Bible: New Testament** *Saturday 3rd March*

A journey from Matthew to Revelation, following on from the Old Testament session in January (though you don't need to have attended that one to benefit from this one). It will be led by Paul Keeys and will run from 10am to 4:30pm. Tickets are available from the Walk Through the Bible website (www.bible.org.uk) or at the door for £14, but you can get them for just £10 by booking (and paying) in advance through Penrallt; the ticket price includes a workbook. Please speak to Neil if you would like to book a place. Children aged 11–16 can attend for free if accompanied by an adult (but will not receive a workbook unless buying a ticket). The event is not suitable for younger children. Refreshments will be provided but bring your own lunch.

◇ **TWAM**

TWAM (Tools With A Mission) is a Christian charity sending tools across the world. They take all sorts of tools, refurbish them and sort them into trade kits: builders, carpenters, electricians, gardeners, ground workers, plumbers, motor mechanics. etc. There is a more comprehensive list on the notice board in the church foyer. See Pete Basterfield for more specific information.

Focus on... **Colm & Catherine Ó Brolcháin**
Serving with OM Ireland

Former Penrallt members, Colm and Catherine Ó Brolcháin are part of a 25 strong OM Ireland team and are based at Lacken House in Roscommon, right in the heart of the nation. OM Ireland exists to reach the lost, equip and mobilise the church.

However, Catherine and Colm have literally embarked on a new 3-month OM adventure : the OM Riverboat, which is a ministry of OM Europe.



The geographical river network of Europe is a unique and beautiful way to travel through the heart of Europe, and OM wants to see the Gospel message travel these rivers as well. They hope to operate a river-going vessel to use this European pathway to share the Gospel and mobilise the Church to see vibrant communities of Jesus followers among the least reached. In order to achieve this vision, OM Europe has chartered a vessel for a 3 month trial.

The OM Riverboat, the much-loved Andante cruiser, set sail on 27th December from Arnhem, in the Netherlands. During its three-month voyage, it will berth at Dordrecht, Bonn, Mainz and Strasbourg before reaching its final destination of Mannheim. The Riverboat will partner with local churches for mission and outreach in port. There is also a café on board.

The Riverboat brings a special Escape Room: The Agency is designed to challenge the participants, as they use their brains against time itself to solve the clues on the mission leading to their ultimate release - or will it?

Many other activities are planned. For example, Riverboat community members participated in a homeless outreach event in downtown Bonn. Hot soup, bread, apples, hot drinks, goody bags and second-hand coats in good condition were given out to over 40 people. Some community members, new to ministering to the homeless, were emboldened by the experience to be able to share faith and pray for people who may not appear to be interested or open at first sight.

For more information see <https://www.facebook.com/omriverboats/>

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