



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: September 2018

In June this year a couple from our congregation (Andrew and Jalia) brought their son Jeffrey to be dedicated to the Lord. We had a time of thanksgiving for Jeffrey's life, prayers and worship to our God.

Later in July we had a wedding. Matt and Rebecca made their vows before God and His people, and we had a time of thanksgiving for this couple. We prayed for them and we worshipped. Last month we had the sad news that Tony passed away after a long illness. Again we came before the presence of God to give thanks for Tony's life, to pray for his family, and we had the opportunity to worship our God.

In our journey of life we experience happiness and joy, but the very true and troubling fact is that we will all also face hardship and heartbreak. We may face much heartbreak from various things: relationships, family, grief, or adversities that affect our hearts. Yet, as followers of God, we have an advantage: God's comforting hand, and His many promises in His Word.

We are pilgrims in this world and those around us are spectators, witnesses of our faith. In the Old Testament we have a small book, 'Ruth', which is considered a love story. But this book is not just a love story. It is a story about how God restores those who look to Him in hope.

The first chapter describes Naomi's misery. She and her husband and two sons had moved to Moab because there was a famine in Judah. However, Naomi lost her entire family, for her husband and her two sons died.

Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of His people in Judah by providing food for them. She prepared for her return home from there. The future looked gloomy since the widows (Naomi, Ruth and Orpah)

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would have been forced to sell their possessions just to survive; a life of poverty was imminent. Therefore Naomi encouraged her daughters-in-law to find new husbands.

Orpah saw this as a new beginning so she kissed her mother-in-law goodbye and decided to walk away to pursue happiness elsewhere. On the other hand Ruth, who it seems to me had been watching Naomi's faith, decided to stay with her. Verse 14 says, "... but Ruth cleaved unto her."

Ruth had witnessed Naomi's attitude towards life and she herself made a statement of faith. In Ruth 1:16 we read, *'But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and **your God my God.**"*

This is a powerful testimony about how we can influence people. Yes! There was adversity, hardship and sadness, but our faithful God was there all the time; for He is faithful in His business of loving and providentially caring for His people. Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David (see Ruth 4:17).

Sometimes we do not understand our circumstances. Maybe you are going through a challenging time in your life (an illness, a new city, a new job, broken relationships, etc...). When we trust God we recognize that, here on earth, we may never fully understand His purposes with our limited minds. We don't need to understand, but rather to trust.

Struggles, uncertainty and tragedy may come, but by faith we learn that our Lord is at work at all times; when we rejoice, when we are hopeful, happy and when we are sad, for as William Cowper said, 'Behind a frowning providence, he hides a smiling face'.

Perhaps you are about to start a new job this month, or take up a degree course, or embark on a new venture in your business or church. Let's remember that people are watching us as we face our everyday challenges in life. May the Lord help us to be a good influence as Naomi was, so our friends, fellow workers or relatives, as a result of our testimonies, can say, 'Your people will be my people and **your God will be my God**'.

Freddy

Services This Month

Our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, will be the speaker at all services except where otherwise noted below. Donald Poirot is a church member. Amy Burrows works with Gobaith Môn, taking the gospel into secondary schools on Anglesey.

2nd September

- 10:30am **God works through His servants** *Exodus 2:23–25,*
(Experiencing God #4) *3:7–10;*
1 Cor. 1:26–31
- 6:00pm Communion Service
God's blessings to the righteous *Psalm 92:10–15*
(Lessons from Psalms #9)

9th September

- 10:30am Speaker: Donald Poirot
What think ye of Christ? *Matthew 16:13,*
27:11–26
- 6:00pm Speaker: Amy Burrows
Identity in being a child of God *Galatians 4*

16th September

- 10:30am **Looking to God** *Psalm 20:7;*
(Experiencing God #5) *John 12:23–25*
- 6:00pm **Where is God?** *Psalm 115:1–8*
(Lessons from Psalms #10)

23rd September

- 10:30am **God pursues a love relationship (part 1)** *Matthew 22:37–38*
(Experiencing God #6)
- 6:00pm **A call to faith** *Psalm 115:9–11*
(Lessons from Psalms #11)

30th September

- 10:30am Communion Service
God pursues a love relationship (part 2) *Luke 19:10*
(Experiencing God #7)
- 6:00pm **A call to thanksgiving** *Psalm 116*
(Lessons from Psalms #12)

Dates for Your Diary

Saturdays	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Sunday 2	2:15pm	Service at Plas Garnedd residential home in Llanberis.

Please note that Freddy will be away from 4th to 10th September.

Wednesday 5	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Saturday 8	2:30pm	Singing group rehearsal for carol service (to be followed by further weekly rehearsals).
Tuesday 11	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
Saturday 15	5pm	Café Church in Canolfan Penrallt, with visiting speaker Dave Garlick.
Monday 17	10:30am	Church Walk at Llyn Gwynant.
Tuesday 25	7:30pm	Experiencing God course continues (also on Thursday 27 th at 10am and 7:30pm).
Saturday 29	10:30am–2pm	Autumn Fair in Canolfan Penrallt, with Chris & Anna Hembury.

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

News of People

We were saddened by the death of Tony Mason last month, but give thanks for his life and faith. We continue to hold Joan in our prayers.

Phil McKenna had surgery on his ankle in late August. Please pray for both Phil and Eileen.

As many of you will know, Peter Cousins, will be undergoing surgery in late September. Please pray for a successful outcome and a speedy recovery.

Ruth Bevan is heading to Chad in September to revisit the Guinebor II hospital where she spent some time working last year (and where our mission partner Claire Bedford is based). Please pray for a safe and productive trip.

A note from Joan Mason

“Thank you” is a very inadequate word for the wonderful support you have given me through cards, telephone calls and above all being present at Tony's thanksgiving service on 16th August. Once again, thank you and God bless you all.

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.*

Day	Time	Group Name	Contacts
Mon	7:00pm	Delta	Brian Wheatcroft (602516) Pat MacKenzie (670948)
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	Bryn Eithinog	Freddy Farias-Palacios (07506 710694)
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	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316) Lesley Jackson (680330)

Children's Birthdays in September

16th: Graham Bendall Jones; 17th: Amy Harmens;
19th: Jessica Blair; 22nd: Shannon O'Malley; 24th: Elin Gwilliam;
25th: Ned Allen; 29th: Naomi Burton

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 23rd September.

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

Noticeboard

◇ **Autumn Fair**

Saturday 29th September 10:30am–2pm

Janet Smith and Joan Mason will be holding an Autumn Fair in support of Chris and Anna Hembury and their work with Hull Youth For Christ. Chris and Anna will be joining us for the day so it will be a good chance to meet them as well as to support their work (they are also the subject of the *Focus* article at the end of this newsletter). Janet and Joan will be looking for volunteers to help with stalls, as well as articles for the stalls. Please speak to them if you would like to help them in any way. Please pray for the event, too.

◇ **Café Church**

Saturday 15th September 5pm

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!! Normally these events will be on Sundays but the first one is on Saturday 15th September at 5pm; our guests will be **Ana & Dave Garlick**. They have worked in Ecuador for about 12 years in a foundation called Mano & Mano, working with children, young people and families trying to reflect the love of Christ in word and deed. They write "We are also keen to try and encourage and help churches in the UK when we visit back here through speaking and writing. We look forward to meeting folk in the church in Bangor on Saturday 15th. God bless, Dave y Ana"

◇ **Carol Service singing group**

In preparation for the carols by candlelight service that we are planning to hold on Sunday 16th December, John Jackson is putting together a singing group to participate in the service. It appears that the least bad time for rehearsals is Saturday afternoon, so there will be weekly rehearsals starting on 8th September, at 2:30pm in Penrallt. All are welcome to join, and prior experience of singing in a choir or ability to read music is not required.

◇ **Church Lunch**

Sunday 2nd September

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 17th September

September's church walk will be in the region of Llyn Gwynant and the Watkin Path. Park alongside the lake (Llyn Gwynant) then process around the lake and up the Watkin Path as far as the falls and old quarries. Good photo opportunities! Quite how far along the WP will depend on time and weather. Meet at 10:30 alongside the lake; bring packed lunch and something to sit on as the ground may be wet. Walking poles, staff or stick may be helpful too. The walk will be led by Andrew March.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

Tuesday 11th September 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 Wednesday 10th October and Thursday 8th November.

◇ **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 (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 2nd September.

Focus on...

Chris & Anna Hembury

serving Hull Youth for Christ, through the Church Mission Society

"It was a bright and early start to head down the street to Breakfast Club, one of the most consistent parts of the Hemburys' work in Hull, having been running every Monday to Friday in the local Baptist church since 1999. Indeed, some of the parents who now bring their children along actually came to Breakfast Club when they were children. The idea is a simple one – each morning, children and their parents can come to eat breakfast, share life and perhaps play some games...

The Mission plays host to a range of activities to engage those on the margins throughout the week – this is a place where those who are vulnerable, perhaps facing challenges around mental health or addictions, can come and share community...

Overall this place, as with the other ministries I had visited, spoke of not giving up, even in the face of huge challenges – bringing light in the darkness, and planting seeds of hope while also sharing times of mourning and lament.

As we walked around the local streets it was immediately apparent that Anna and Chris are a key part of the community – so many people just pause and say hello on their way past.

For Anna and Chris, people are central, and particularly those on the margins – they comment that "God is at the margins", and as they work with people on the margins they are "experiencing something of God that you don't get anywhere else".

Through the many activities and groups that they are involved in, Anna and Chris see a real cross section of their community – and so part of what they do is build bridges, be that between women from different backgrounds, between the City of Culture events and a community that could be quite detached from them, or, most centrally, between God and a community that feels forgotten.

Their contribution in this community is highly valued. Alison White, Bishop of Hull, commented, 'Anna and Chris do all kinds of things and make a difference, but I think what really matters is who they are and the relationships that grow from that.'

There are all kinds of words people use about them – generous, gentle, clear and passionate, courageous, fun, loving, Christlike."

Extract from *Life to the full in Hull* written by **Jenny Muscat, Church Mission Society**.
Reproduced with permission. Full article can be read here:

<https://churchmissionsociety.org/our-stories/life-full-hull>