



# Penrallt Baptist Church

**Newsletter: September 2019**

Have you ever felt paralysed by choice? I was recently standing in front of the myriad of options at Morrison's sandwich and snack deal – I usually make a sandwich. So much choice. Should I make a decision based on taste, nutritional information or novelty? We also face choices in our Christian lives. There can sometimes be lots of options which all seem ok, but we're wondering which one is best. Which one is God's will.

When we are about to make significant decisions, it's worth reflecting on guidance again. Penrallt are seeking guidance in the process of searching for a minister. So now feels like a good time to explore again how we seek guidance as individuals. Perhaps there are then lessons to be learned for corporate discernment too. I remember going to seminars and looking at books on guidance in my teens. The guidance on guidance was to prayerfully look at four things: The Bible, my own feelings, the advice of others, circumstances.

If the Bible (correctly interpreted) give us a strong steer, then that should take precedence. And of course God isn't going to guide us in opposition to his word. But we can also learn from those who sought God in the Bible. They prayed or even fasted. Patience and listening was often required. Discerning our own feelings includes whether we have a peace from God, a sense of his Spirit guiding us. Whether we have a gut feeling. Lists of Pros and Cons, whether we have experiences that we can learn from. Advice from others sharpens our reasoning as we explain and articulate options. We can learn from the experiences of others. Other people can also pray for us as we make decisions. God often speaks through others. He calls us to journey in community together.

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Circumstances are also interesting to bear in mind. God sometimes does speak through circumstances. God may well be at work in bringing things together at a particular time, but sometimes they are a distraction. Care is required here in interpreting which is which – but it's worth bearing in mind.

But the strongest thing we can do is to get to know the voice of Jesus. Some of the most beautiful words of Jesus about this topic are John 10v27: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." We get to know Jesus by regularly spending time with Him – particularly in Prayer, in Studying the Bible and in Worship. Corporately and individually. Then, when we find ourselves in those times of needing guidance, we stand a better chance of hearing his voice.

And by the way, in case you are wondering ... Coronation chicken. The fresh coriander was great!

Blessings,

*John Thompson*

### ***Pastoral Care Training***

There is an opportunity to attend a brief Pastoral Care training session led by Andy Peck from Waverly Abby House, on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September from 12:30 to 3:30pm

This will be in the chapel. The event is open to deacons, home group leaders, Prayer & Care team and any others interested in getting to know the basics of pastoral care. If anyone is interested please contact Roshni (07967320048). **Places must be booked in advance – you may still be able to get one if you are quick.**

There is a cost of £10 per head; the church will underwrite this for Penrallt people but any donations from those who are able to give will be really appreciated.

## ***Services This Month***

Revd. Dafydd Job is the minister of Capel y Ffynnon. Revd. Chris Gray is a retired Methodist minister (and the father of Deb Stammers). Revd. John Thompson is the pastor of Llanelwy Community Church and is our moderator during our current pastoral vacancy. Chris and Anna Hembury are missionaries working with Hull YFC. The other speakers are all members of Penrallt.

### **1<sup>st</sup> September**

- 10:30am **He is Altogether Lovely** *Song of Solomon*  
Preacher: Donald Poirot *5:10–16*
- 6:00pm Communion Service  
**First loves & lampstands** *Revelation 2:1–7*  
Preacher: Lesley Jackson

### **8<sup>th</sup> September**

- 10:30am Family service led by Wendy Lemon
- 6:00pm **The Soldier, the Slave Girl and the Prophet - How God works in our hearts** *2 Kings 5:1–16*  
Preacher: Dafydd Job

### **15<sup>th</sup> September**

- 10:30am **Love in action: service in the body of Christ** *Romans 12:1–18*  
Preacher: Chris Gray
- 6:00pm **The Lost and Found** *Luke 15:1–10*  
Preacher: Magnus Forrester-Barker

### **22<sup>nd</sup> September**

- 10:30am Communion Service  
**Jesus heals** *John 4:43–5:15*  
Preacher: John Thompson
- 6:00pm Café Church Service: A New Term

### **29<sup>th</sup> September**

- 10:30am Service led by the Hemburys
- 6:00pm **Clothe yourselves with humility** *1 Peter 5*  
Preacher: Roger Borlace

## ***Dates for Your Diary in September***

<b>Saturdays</b>	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
<b>Monday 2</b>		<i>Church office closed.</i>
<b>Tuesday 3</b>	12:30pm	Pastoral Care Course (NB it is necessary to book a place on this course).
<b>Wednesday 4</b>	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
<b>Saturday 7</b>		Wedding of Alun Thomas & Gwawr Edwards.
<b>Sunday 8</b>	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre.
<b>Wednesday 11</b>	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
<b>Monday 16</b>	10:30am	Church Walk at Borth y Gest.
<b>Saturday 21</b>	9:30am	Bible Unzipped at Princes Drive Baptist Church, Colwyn Bay.

Please see later in this newsletter for more about many of these events.

## ***Children's Birthdays in September***

16<sup>th</sup>: Graham Bendall Jones

19<sup>th</sup>: Jessica Blair

22<sup>nd</sup>: Shannon O'Malley

24<sup>th</sup>: Elin Gwilliam

25<sup>th</sup>: Ned Allen

29<sup>th</sup>: Naomi Burton

### ***Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September***

*Please send information to Magnus (office@penrallt.org; 01248 353355). All notices (including alterations to standing information) 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 groups do not meet every week – please check with the named contact. All landline numbers below have the 01248 area code.*

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Contacts</b>
<b>Mon</b>	7:00pm	Delta	Brian Wheatcroft (602516) Pat MacKenzie (670948)
<b>Tue</b>	7:30pm	Nilgiri	Joan Beer (353874)
<b>Tue</b>	7:30pm	Tyddyn Isaf (Menai Bridge)	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
<b>Wed</b>	7:30pm	Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
<b>Fri</b>	10:30am	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316) Lesley Jackson (680330)

### ◇ **Baptism Preparation**

We are intending to run a course on “Christian basics as preparation for baptism” in the autumn. If you are interested, please speak to John Thompson ([moderator@penrallt.org](mailto:moderator@penrallt.org)) soon.

### ◇ **Bible Unzipped**

*Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 9:30am*

This is a theological learning community that meets monthly, usually at Rhos-on-Sea URC Church. Bible Unzipped is entirely free though donations towards costs are welcome. For more information, please speak to Roger Malone or Magnus Forrester-Barker. This month we look forward to a very special morning with our guest speaker Rosa Hunt, co-principal of South Wales Baptist College. Please note that this session will be at **Princes Drive Baptist Church**, Colwyn Bay.

### ◇ **Church Lunch**

*Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September*

As usual, there will be a (free) bring and share lunch after the morning service on the first Sunday of the month. Please bring enough buffet-style food for yourself and one or two others. Visitors are very welcome (and are not expected to bring food).

◇ **Church Walk**

*Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 10:30am*

We'll meet at Borth y Gest (LL49 9TT) on the prom (opposite the Seaview cafe); there is some parking, and also a Pay and Display car park. Directions: drive to Porthmadog High street (keep straight on at the roundabout near the big Portmeirion shop...was Kerfoots) and take the next right onto Bank Place and follow the signs for Borth y Gest. The walk is 4 miles approx and follows the Coastal Path westwards, eventually dropping down onto Black Rock Sands and returns via the Golf Course and a scenic caravan park (that's what the description says!). There is a bit of a climb towards the end of the walk and some steps (mostly with handrails down to one of the beaches. Further details from Mari and Ian Kelso, tel. 01248 421783, Mob. 07443038183

◇ **Interim Moderator**

During our current pastoral vacancy, Revd. John Thompson, the Minister of Llanelwy Community Church, is serving as our Moderator. In addition to chairing members' and deacons' meetings, John will be preaching at Penrallt roughly once a month and will be in the office at times during the week. Usually this will be on Wednesday mornings but the day and time will vary, so please contact either John (moderator@penrallt.org, 07931 150697) or Magnus (office@penrallt.org, 01248 353355) in advance if you would like to arrange a meeting. Please avoid contacting John on Saturdays, except in case of serious emergency, as this is his day off.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

*Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 7:30pm*

Our monthly mid-week prayer meetings, for the whole congregation, usually take place in the chapel and last about an hour. The next meeting after this one will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

◇ **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); 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](mailto: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 later in the week) 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**

On the first Sunday afternoon of the month we usually take a short service at the Haulfre residential home in Llangoed (near Beaumaris). The service starts at 2:15pm and lasts roughly half an hour. The next service will be on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September** (NB this is the second Sunday of the month!).

*Focus on...*

## **Chris and Anna Hembury**

### **Serving with Hull YFC, via the Church Mission Society**

Chris and Anna live in the Boulevard area of Hull where people are known for their no-nonsense attitude and honest vulnerability, an area suffering from high unemployment, child poverty, addiction, mental and physical health problems, prostitution and increasing racial tension. People feel a crippling lack of self-worth. But it's an area full of buried treasure, untapped potential and dormant creativity.

Chris and Anna are part of the Hull YFC team, supporting children, young people and families, through activities such as youth club, breakfast club, after school club, summer camp, mums group, baby group, 'natural

detached' (otherwise known as walking about in the neighbourhood so they can "bump into" people), assemblies, classroom support, school Governor, weekly community meal, Matt's House, community garden, one to one, support for the local Church and other charities, working with people in addiction and women involved in street prostitution, bible studies, discipleship. Not to mention the form-filling, court / housing / safe-guarding case conference / council office -accompanying and the incalculable "cuppa and a chat"s.

In particular, Chris and Anna support the group who are living in Matt's House, a house for mission and serving the local community. Anne also help run Orts, a sewing collective where women from all walks of life can support each other, learn and create together.

Local young people love coming to the summer camp and so when they turn 14 and can no longer come as campers, they are keen to come in any capacity to "help", rashly deciding they are up for a week of 7am prayers, hard graft, potato peeling and pot washing. Chris and Anna have a particular responsibility to nurture the young people who have the opportunity to come back as Crew - setting up, serving, washing up, general dogsbodying and being shining role models to the campers. Chris and Anna describe it as a privilege to be a part of that magical, convoluted, exasperating and exhilarating journey, watching often seemingly hopelessly self-absorbed, flatlining teenagers reboot over the years into caring, confident young adults enthusiastic about life and honestly exploring their journey with God. Many go on into other camp roles, apprenticed to those with more experience whilst they learn the ropes. In the last few years the two most prominent camp leader roles have been taken on by wonderfully capable young women in their early twenties who "grew up through camp".

As part of that nurturing process, Chris and Anna run an annual Young Leaders Development weekend, this year held in a Youth Hostel in the Yorkshire Dales. As a camp they realised they were victims of their own success, and were tasked with developing a growing cohort of young leaders from non-churched backgrounds into positions of responsibility in a Christ-centred endeavour. So they began these annual weekends as an opportunity, both to build community and have fun together as well as to develop the young people's God-given potential, set down some expectation around commitment to their role as volunteers and establish with clarity that Jesus is the context within which all their contribution to camp is carried out. An apprenticeship which hopefully will set the young people up for life.

For more information, please see <https://hullyfc.co.uk/>