



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: August 2017

"What would Jesus do?" is a question that most of us are familiar with since the 1990s. This question has been taken seriously by millions of Christian teenagers, as a reminder to live their lives in the way that would please God and demonstrate the love of Jesus in their lives. But increasingly the same question has been used by many when dealing with social issues such as the protesters outside London's St Paul's Cathedral threatened with eviction in 2011; with moral issues; with worldwide issues such as global warming, lack of economic opportunities and unemployment, government accountability and transparency, corruption, poverty. What would Jesus do?

In the Gospel of John, chapter 6:1–15, we read about Jesus Christ's miracle of feeding the five thousand, using only "five small barley loaves and two small fish" borrowed from a boy. After this miracle people began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world", and they were ready to crown Jesus as king because He was providing their needs. But in verses 25 to 59 Jesus started teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum about who He was, the *Bread of Life*, the Messiah who had come to save sinners. He started to teach that the spiritual was more important than their physical needs; that faith in Christ was the way to the Father; that faith was centred in Him; that faith is not compared with tasting, or admiring, but with eating.

One scholar said, "The eating of his flesh and drinking of his blood would appear a vivid, even shocking illustration of what 'believing' in him implies." The popular, good, nice and loving Jesus was at His worst. This was a hard teaching because these followers, or disciples, were basically materialists; they were interested in Jesus because He was feeding their bellies, so they would no longer have to work, and Jesus was nice because He was giving them what they wanted. The outcome is described in verses 60 and 66, "On hearing it, many of his disciples said, 'This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?'... From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him".

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What did Jesus do?

He could have chosen to please people to give them what they wanted but the Scriptures (John 8:28, John 12:49, John 14:31, Hebrews 5:8) tell us that He lived a life of complete obedience to His Father. He chose to offer His life; the Son of the living God who deserved all the glory became a servant and "dwelt among us". He took up His cross and did His Father's will. Jesus came to save people from their sins, as the angel announced to Joseph in Matthew 1:21, "...He will save his people from their sins". Therefore, Jesus taught His disciples that a true believer will mean to follow Him faithfully even when His teaching is hard to understand, and even harder to apply.

A few days ago I read a newspaper article based on a major report that says, "Brits are now more liberal on sex and abortion". It goes on to give details about the percentage of Christians from various denominations for whom some moral attitudes, that were considered wrong according to the Bible, are not wrong now. Also the report suggested that those who uphold "Biblical Principles" are now a shrinking minority.

Jesus' teachings are still tests of faith. They are still producing predicaments in the lives of His followers. His invitation is the same, *"Whoever wants to be my disciples must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me"*. Matthew 16:24 (NIV).

The choice is ours. We can follow the crowd, we can hear the voices of our culture, we can please people; or as Jesus did, we can choose to be obedient to God.

What would you do?

God bless,

Freddy

Services This Month

The speaker throughout August will be our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, except for the last Sunday evening of the month, when Deb Stammers, one of our church members, is preaching. Freddy will be continuing with his morning sermon series on the Fruit of the Holy Spirit and concluding his evening series on "When God calls us to do His will". There will be no Sunday schools this month but the children will be going out to the rear hall during the latter part of morning services to do activities led by Joan Rymer and others; further details will be given in the weekly news sheets.

6th August

10:30am **The Fruit of the Holy Spirit #2: JOY**

Galatians 5:22;
Psalm 32:1-5, 11

6:00pm Communion Service

**When God calls us to do His will #7:
Being living letters of Jesus Christ**

2 Corinthians 2:2-3

13th August

10:30am **The Fruit of the Holy Spirit #3: PEACE**

Galatians 5:22;
Ephesians 2:14-17

6:00pm **When God calls us to do His will #8:
Principles and advice to overcome fear**

1 Timothy 1:6-7

20th August

10:30am **The Fruit of the Holy Spirit #4: PATIENCE**

Galatians 5:22;
Ephesians 4:1-2

6:00pm **When God calls us to do His will #9:
Learning to be content**

Philippians 4:6-7,
10-13

27th August

10:30am Communion Service

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit #5: KINDNESS

Galatians 5:22;
Titus 3:4-7

6:00pm Speaker: Deb Stammers.
He is coming

Psalm 96

Dates for Your Diary

Saturdays	8:30–9:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Wednesday 2	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Sunday 6	2:45pm	Service at Plas Garnedd residential home in Llanberis.
Monday 7	2pm	Pastoral Care Team meeting.
Thursday 10	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
Monday 14-Friday 18		<i>Please note the Canolfan will be closed and the hall and corridor are strictly out of bounds as the floor is being resurfaced this week.</i>
Monday 21	10am	Church Walk on Conwy Mountain.

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

News of People

Congratulations to Tony Mason, who will be turning 80 on Friday 4th August. We pray that he would experience God's peace and joy.

Congratulations to Jan Jones on the birth of her second grandson, Cai, born to Kim and Tom last month.

Condolences to Nancy Brook on the death of her sister, Helen, after a long struggle with cancer.

Children's Birthdays in August

16th: Bethan Stammers

23rd: Ioan Stammers

26th: Reuben Tough

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 20th August.

Please sent 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 not all these groups meet weekly and some may be taking a summer break. Please check with the contact people to find out whether, 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	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:

◇ **Canolfan Closure August 2017**

Essential maintenance work is being done on the wooden floor in the hall and corridor, so ***the Canolfan will be closed for all activities during the week of 14th - 18th August.***

◇ **Care Worker Wanted**

Joan Mason is looking for a Care Worker for September 4th – 8th to work 8–9am and 4:15–5pm. If anyone would like weekend work on Saturdays and Sundays at the same times, please let her know (713279).

◇ **Church Lunch**

Please note that there will be no church lunch in August. We will resume in September.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 21st August 10am

This month's walk is on Conwy Mountain and will be led by Freda Birchall, who writes: "We will meet in Aberconwy School car park, by the main road into Conwy, and start the walk promptly at 10:00. Would those who need to use the facilities come earlier, as they're a 10 minute walk away. The first part of the walk proper (after 5 minutes back down the main road) is the most difficult part, involving a steep ascent up the mountain. After that it's a pleasant amble with lovely views, ponies if we're lucky, and opportunities for climbing if anyone is so inclined. We finish with a half hour saunter down the road into Conwy and on to the RSBP café across the river. Then, if anyone wants to, we'll take the coastal path to the Marina and back to the car park. It will take about 4 hours, depending how much you want to explore.

"If the weather is dry sandals will be fine. We do not have to pay for the Reserve to go in the café."

◇ **Job Vacancy**

Beth Eden Christian Guest House in Llandudno is looking for a housekeeper – a permanent part-time post for 24 hours per week. If you would like details, please contact Magnus (office@penrallt.org; 353355).

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

Thursday 10th August 7:30pm

In addition to our regular weekly Saturday morning prayer meetings, we now have a monthly mid-week evening prayer meeting for the whole congregation. All are warmly encouraged to attend. The meetings usually take place in the chapel, alternating between the second Tuesday and second Thursday of the month. 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: Adrienne Ferrada; Gwen Hicks; Geoff Moore (410582); Lawrence Moss (713793); 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.

◇ **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 6th August** but please check with the church office or see that week's news sheet to confirm that this is going ahead.

Focus on...



Bangor Street Pastors

We are fast approaching the 7th anniversary of the start of operations for Bangor Street Pastors, as our first ever patrol was on 5th November 2010 (quite a memorable date!). Most of the original team of 12 street pastors are still going, although some have moved on to pastures new. We have been joined by quite a few more volunteers and there are currently around 25 street pastors from almost a dozen churches. A drawback of the larger team is that it is now much harder to keep track of who is who or to get to know each other quite as well as the original team did, but it is good to have more people and more churches on board.

As with the team, so with the patrols, some things have changed over the years and other things have stayed more or less the same. We still send out a patrol in Bangor every Friday night (with rare exceptions when we are needed in other places or at other times for particular events) and some Saturdays, in all weathers. One thing that is absolutely constant is the Lord's love, along with His intimate knowledge of every single person and situation we will ever encounter on our patrols. Over and over again we have seen how He arranges for the team to be in the right place at the right time, with just the right people to have the necessary skills to deal with whatever we are encountering, whether that's one of our medics to provide treatment and reassurance for someone who is injured or me with a detailed knowledge of the one specific train route that a flustered foreign visitor needs for a journey the following morning.

This month sees a couple of departures from the usual routine. We will be sending teams to Maes B (described as “the official afterdark little brother of the Eisteddfod” and featuring live music and quite a lot of alcohol) for three evenings (10th–12th August) instead of having a patrol in Bangor that week. The following week there will be an extra patrol for A-level results day on Thursday 17th, when many young people will be out celebrating (or commiserating) their results. Next month we will also be doing some extra patrols during Freshers’ Week (17th–22nd September).

It is good to remember that Bangor Street Pastors is but one small part of an initiative that operates across the UK and beyond, taking God’s love onto the streets with practical demonstrations of listening, caring and helping in a wide range of different situations. We remember in particular the Street Pastors in Badagry, Nigeria – currently the only SP group in the whole of Africa (though some others may be in the pipeline) and a group particularly close to our heart as Roshni had the privilege of helping to train their first recruits a few years ago.

Prayer is a vital foundation for our work. We are immensely grateful both to and for the prayer pastors who join us on patrol nights to pray with us before the patrol, pray for us during the first half of our patrol, and provide food and friendly chat (and more prayer) during our break. **We also need your prayers. Here are some specific things you could pray for:**

- A renewed sense of cohesion among the team as we grow bigger and individuals have fewer opportunities to go out on patrols together.
- More prayer pastors to join us on patrol nights (at present we sometimes have patrols when no prayer pastor is available).
- The teams going to Maes B, especially those who are not first-language Welsh speakers (as that will be the main language spoken there).
- The Badagry Street Pastors, who remain somewhat isolated from the rest of the SP world and face unique challenges due to the very different culture in which they operate.

And some things to give thanks for:

- The strong witness provided by Christians from different churches working together.
- The continuing (and still growing) positive impact of Street Pastors around the world.
- The Lord’s unfailing love that enables us to serve him joyfully even at 3am on a wet Saturday morning!

God bless,

Magnus