



# Penrallt Baptist Church

**Newsletter: December 2017**

As we head into the Christmas season of bright lights, pressure to shop and buy, making plans and decorating our homes, we are also challenged by the knowledge that there is hardship, illness, loss and one cannot avoid the media stories of abuse of power, money and privilege.

Our God's love is constant and unfailing and Christmas is the time when we remember He gave the greatest gift of His Son for us all. Jesus was born without privilege and without a home. He grew to embark on a short but powerful ministry which still gives guidance and hope to us all. He gave us the parables (stories to help us understand), the Beatitudes (a message of tolerance and blessing especially for the hurting) and He also made it clear in His ministry that He had no tolerance for disrespect or abuse of power.

Sometimes (actually often), one can get confused by the different demands of life and even interpretation of the Bible, but Jesus summarised it so well when asked "What is the most important commandment?" Jesus answered "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength. And love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22:36–37).

This leaves no room for abuse in any form and demands that in all our dealings with others in our daily life, we treat them with the respect and dignity we would like for ourselves. Jesus also recognised how hard this will be for us all when He challenged the young man who addressed Him as 'Good teacher'. "Why do you call me good?" He asked. "Who is truly good except God alone?" (Mark 10:18).

**LOVE – it's as simple and as difficult as that!**

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Jesus came into the world with nothing but the Father's love (and parents Mary and Joseph carefully chosen by God). His life was a gift to us all and the true message of Christmas.

Wishing you all a blessed one.

*Julia Morgan*



## **Community Carols by Candlelight** **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm**

With singing led by our music ensemble and participation of the community groups who share the Canolfan Penrallt Centre with us, we hope to make our Carol Service the highlight of Upper Bangor's Christmas. It is quite different from a standard carol service! Join us for a very special evening (and bring your friends too).

One of the characteristics of our carol service each year is the industrial quantity of mince pies (and other festive delicacies) that we serve afterwards. If you would like to contribute some mince pies to this year's effort, please bring them along to the morning service on the day or drop them in to the church office a few days beforehand.

***Deadline for next month's newsletter: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December.***

*Please send information to Magnus (office@penrallt.org; 01248 353355). All notices should be submitted in writing (preferably by email) as early as possible. **NB the church office will be closed from 21<sup>st</sup> December until the New Year.***

## ***Services This Month***

In our morning services this month, we will conclude our series of sermons based on the latter part of Isaiah. Peter Cousins is the previous Minister of Penrallt, who retired two years ago. The other speakers / service leaders are all church members.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> December**

- 10:30am Speaker: Jon Stammers  
**Cyrus my servant** *Isaiah 41:1–7, 45:1–7*
- 6:00pm Communion Service  
Speaker: Peter Cousins *1 Corinthians 1:18–31*  
**Christ is the Power of God and the Wisdom of God**

### **10<sup>th</sup> December**

- 10:30am Speaker: Geoff Birch *Isaiah 40:1–11*  
**Saved and Secure**
- 6:00pm Community Carol Service led by Deb Stammers

### **17<sup>th</sup> December**

- 10:30am Sunday School Nativity Service led by Wendy Lemon
- 6:00pm Speaker: Roger Borlace  
**The Lord is Coming** *2 Peter 3:3–13*

### **24<sup>th</sup> December** (Christmas Eve)

- 10:30am Family Service led by Jon & Deb Stammers

### **25<sup>th</sup> December** (Christmas Day)

- 10:30am **Jesus, the Light of the World**  
Come and join us in a family service of celebration of our Saviour's Birth.

### **31<sup>st</sup> December** (New Year's Eve)

- 10:30pm Family Communion Service led by Roger Borlace  
**Jesus' naming and presentation** *Luke 2:21–40*

*NB there will be no evening services on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or New Year's Eve.*

## ***Dates for Your Diary***

<b>Saturdays</b>	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
<b>Friday 1</b>		Pastoral Care Team away-day.
<b>Sunday 3</b>	2:15pm	Carol Service at Haulfre residential home in Llangoed.
<b>Monday 4</b>	7:30pm	Deacons' meeting.
<b>Tuesday 5</b>	2:30pm	Carol Service at Plas Garnedd residential home in Llanberis.
<b>Wednesday 6</b>	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
<b>Wednesday 13</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.</b>
<b>Friday 15</b>	6pm	Cytûn carol singing at Morrisons.
<b>Monday 18</b>	10:30am	Church Walk in (or out of) the Llanberis Pass.

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

## ***News of People***

Our Minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, is still in London awaiting surgery soon. His daughter, Allison, has now been declared clear of all cancer, for which we praise the Lord.

Elaine Green has been approved for the award of an MA in Contextual Theology from the University of Manchester and will be graduating on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Many of us were there when Elaine started on this journey five years ago and we offer her our congratulations.

We were delighted to witness the baptism of Ioan Kettle, Maddy Bailey, Wendy Broadbent Ball and Yvonne Gallienne-Williams last month and pray for God's continued blessing on all of them.

## ***Children's Birthdays in December***

8<sup>th</sup>: Euan Young      14<sup>th</sup>: Lowri Brook  
23<sup>rd</sup>: Finley Lemon    29<sup>th</sup>: Anna Walker

**Christmas Cards:** For your cards to the rest of the Penrallt fellowship, please consider sending just one card to the entire church instead of giving individual cards (and risk missing someone!) and giving the money saved to BMS World Mission. There will be space on the board for your cards and a place to make a donation from Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

## ***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.*

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Contacts</b>
<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>	2:00pm	Carers	Carol Morris (208407)
<b>Wed</b>	7:30pm	Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
<b>Thu</b>	10:30am	Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Thu</b>	7:30pm	Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Thu</b>	7:30pm	Ogwen Valley	Brian & Kate Wheatcroft (602516)
<b>Fri</b>	10:30am– 12:30pm	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316) Lesley Jackson (680330)

## ***Noticeboard:***

### **◇ Church Lunch**

*Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December*

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 18<sup>th</sup> December*

*10:30am*

This month's walk will be led by Andrew March. It is a bit of a mystery tour! Meet at the Pen-y-Gwryd at 10:30 – it's at the end of the Llanberis pass (park on the other side of the road where some hard standing has been created for the purpose). Bring a packed lunch, boots and waterproofs and we'll see where we go from there. If you need directions to the start point or an idea of how demanding the walk is likely to be, etc. please speak to Andrew (01286 871630).

◇ **Faith Café** *Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 4–5:45pm*

Faith Café, aimed principally at students, has a slightly different format this year and now runs *before* the evening service. 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). The final Faith Café of this term will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting** *Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 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 first two of the new year are due to be on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February. We also have a weekly prayer meeting on Saturday mornings at 8:30am, which usually lasts slightly less than one hour.

◇ **Movember**

Magnus would like once again to thank everyone who contributed to his Movember fundraising – a total of £900 was raised towards men's health issues and Magnus survived the trauma of shaving off his beloved beard.

◇ **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; 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; NB there will be no prayer diary over Christmas) 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 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 both homes to celebrate Christmas with them: **Haulfre on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** (at the usual time) and **Plas Garnedd on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December** (at 2:30pm). Please check with the church office or see that week's news sheet to confirm that these services are going ahead.

### ◇ **Used stamps for Baptist Missionary Society**

BMS World Mission can raise funds from the sale of used postage stamps (as well as coins, medals, & other collectibles). PLEASE trim stamps leaving about a ¼ inch border. Packets of stamps may be left in the church office, clearly marked "Stamps for BMS".

*Focus on...*



## **Gobaith Môn**

***Serving the young people of Anglesey***

Gobaith Môn aims to bring together Christians from all denominations to bring hope to the youth of the Island, by encouraging and developing youth work in schools, churches and communities. At the moment there are three frontline workers; Keren Coney, Josh Montali and myself (Amy Burrows).

### ***Schools***

Holyhead – Our main responsibilities in Holyhead are the assemblies, collective worship and vulnerable breakfast club. Whilst in Holyhead we work out of an office giving the opportunity for the students to interact with us on a personal level. From this they are able to approach us about issues raised in the assemblies and collective worship.

Amlwch – At the moment we are working in Syr Thomas Jones doing a music club and music with the year 7's. After Christmas Gobaith Môn will also be doing PSE lessons. We also teamed up with the Gideons and did an assembly where we gave out Bibles at the end.

Menai Bridge – We have recently started going into David Hughes to do assemblies. We also did a Gideons assembly with the year 7's at David Hughes.

### ***Churches***

Divergent – This is a monthly youth event held in Llangefni Football Club, aimed at inspiring young Christians to deepen their relationship with God whilst building relationships with other Christians.

Youth work in church – As part of serving the local church I contribute to the Elim youth group in Holyhead, where we have a lot of non-church kids coming.

### ***Additional work***

Videos – Every week we make different videos for various reasons. Our video series "Schools Live" is used in tutor groups as a form of collective worship, these tie into the assemblies. The series "One minute take on the Top 10" is where we discuss recent music in the charts and speak about how they can relate to the message of Jesus.

One-to-one discipleship – This allows a greater investment for youth exploring Christianity. Personally, I mentor four girls on the Island.

Encouragement – After the Holyhead Estyn inspection we have been encouraged to share more testimonies and pray at the end of our assemblies. We are becoming more established as a beneficial addition to the schools. Therefore, doors are opening in more areas, so we need to pray for more workers!

God bless,

*Amy Burrows*

Note: Amy is due to be leaving Gobaith Môn at the end of December and is currently looking for Christian youth work positions elsewhere in the UK. Give thanks for her work over the past 18 months or so and pray that the Lord will lead her in the next steps of His plan for her and will raise up other workers to serve on the Island.