



# Penrallt Baptist Church

**Newsletter: February 2014**

## ***From the Minister:***

For a moment it had seemed like an enticing idea. Build an alternative internet persona for myself. Yes, yes, I hear what you're saying, that God loves me as I am, but be honest: have you never wished for superpowers?

So I began with 'Name:'

*"Bond, James Bond"* said my alter ego with studied conviction in a voice an octave lower than mine.

"Don't be daft," I retorted. "No one will believe that."

*"And are they going to believe anything else you make me?"*

"Well, people are more gullible than you might think. How about sticking to just one name? Like 'Sting' or 'Will.i.am' or 'Edge.'"

*"And you accuse me of being daft."*

"Alright, alright. But I'm still just going to have one name. I'll be 'Felix' after the early church author Minucius Felix.

*"Ah, we're going to be academic are we?"*

"And you expected to be anything else?"

*"Well, we could pretend to be sporty. Sporty is good. Rugby player. Ski jumper. Synchronized swimmer. Well, maybe not a synchronized swimmer."*

"As you mention it, yes. Let me be Felix, ace soccer player, virtuoso guitarist, and champion leek grower."

*"Oh, I suppose so. If you insist. Can I be a connoisseur of fine wines too?"*

"And what wine goes with leeks, may I ask?"

*"Try a Chardonnay. Its lean crisp acidity and light body..."*

"Oh shut up. You googled that while I was answering the doorbell."

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*"Well, you don't expect our internet personality to be authentic do you?"*

"Hardly. Have you seen this avatar I've chosen? What a hulk!"

There was a moment's pause.

"Oh stop laughing," I snapped.

*"Look", my internet persona said, with tears of mirth still dribbling from the corner of its virtual eyes, "Just stop this will you."*

"Why?"

*"Let's be brutally realistic. What do you have going for you? A Fortune?"*

"No."

*"Friends in high places?"*

"None."

*"Physical strength? Blunt force? Bodyguards? What do you take into any difficult situation?"*

I thought for a long time while my internet persona waited patiently.

"Well, into any situation I guess all I can take is my character, my honesty, my integrity, my sincerity. And my prayers. And my friends."

*"So if you've got integrity of character, God's presence and good friends what exactly are you complaining about? Didn't Jesus say 'Blessed are the pure in heart'?"*

"You think that's enough?"

But the screen timed out and my online identity vanished into the aether.

Psalm 139:23-24

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

God bless,

*Peter*

## ***Services This Month:***

### **2 February**

10:30am **God's priorities: people and character.** *Acts 11:19-30*

2:15pm Service at Bontnewydd.

6:00pm Communion Service. **It's not the show, it's not the formula, so what does God look for in prayer?** *Matt. 6:5-8*

### **9 February**

10:30am Speaker: Geoff Birch. *Acts 12:1-19*

6:00pm **Prevailing prayer and wrestling with God.**  
*Exodus 17:8-13 and Genesis 32:22-32*

### **16 February**

10:30am **The Word of God released to the world.** *Acts 13:1-12*

6:00pm Speaker: Roger Borlace. **Prayer Busters: things that stand in the way of our prayer life.** *Matt. 17:19,20*

### **23 February**

10:30am Communion Service. Speaker: Deb Stammers.

6:00pm Speaker: Neil Rymer.

## ***Our Speakers***

**Peter Cousins** is the minister of the church. **Roger Borlace** and **Geoff Birch** are retired Baptist Ministers and members of Penrallt.

## ***Church Lunch***

We will host a church lunch on **Sunday February 2**. Please bring enough buffet style "finger food" for yourselves and one or two others.

## ***Faith Café***

After church on Sunday evenings we host Faith Café for students, teenagers and other young adults. Starting around 7:15 pm it is an evening of chat, interviews, music and discussions. There is a short programme at around 7:40 after which you are free to leave or stay and chat.

## ***Dates For Your Diary:***

<b>Monday 3</b>	7:30pm	Deacons Meeting
<i>Every Tuesday</i>	7pm	Pastoral Care Course (open to all: see below)
<b>Wednesday 5</b>	10:30am	Men's Prayer Meeting followed by coffee in Options
<b>Saturday 8</b>	9:30-1:00	Bible Unzipped in Rhos on Sea URC Church (see below)
<b>Wednesday 12</b>		Cytun AGM
<b>Saturday 15</b>	9:15-1pm	Safeguarding Refresher Course (see below)

*Further details of the events noted can be found in the Noticeboard section later in this newsletter.*

## ***News of People:***

We congratulate **Bethany Burrows** on her engagement to Matt. We also congratulate **Adrienne Ferrada** on her significant birthday last month. **Colin and Monica** are away again in Goa for a couple of months working as volunteers in an orphanage. We pray for **Ellie and Brian** as his illness is assessed. We are sad to report the death of **Joy Holland** on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Our condolences go to her children Emma, Kate and Christian, and their families. Our condolences also go to **Giselle Burrows** and family on the death of her brother-in-law Mike in Canada. Giselle was able to be there with them when it happened. We offer our sympathies to her sister, Odette and the boys.

## ***Children's Birthdays in February:***

**1<sup>st</sup>**: Morgan Goodman; **11<sup>th</sup>**: Amelie Goodwin; **25<sup>th</sup>**: Inge Snyman

## ***Weekday Events:***

*Please check with the contact people when there are meetings this month.*

HG = Home Group

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Contacts</b>
<b>Tue</b>	8.00pm	HG, Nilgiri	Joan Beer (353874)
<b>Tue</b>	7.30pm	HG, Tyddyn Isaf (Menai Bridge)	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
<b>Wed</b>	2.00pm	HG, Carers	Carol Morris (208407)
<b>Wed</b>	7:00pm	HG, Students	Ben Bowden-Pickstock (07872 531601)
<b>Wed</b>	7.30pm	HG, The Nomads	Jess & Seamus Adams (421185) Susan Cousins (353878)
<b>Wed</b>	7.30pm	HG, Bethesda	Jon & Deb Stammers (602868)
<b>Wed</b>	7.30pm	HG, Maes y Dref	Bryan & Anne Collis (353173)
<b>Wed</b>	8.00pm	HG, Grŵp Cymraeg	Owen & Nia Lloyd Evans (352634)
<b>Thu</b>	10.30am	Post-Alpha Bible Study	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Thu</b>	7.30pm	HG, Llanfairpwll	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Fri</b>	10.30am - noon	Cheeky Monkeys	Joan Rymer (713003)
<b>Fri</b>	10.30 – 12.30pm	HG, 6 Maes y Dref	Anne Collis (353173)
<b>Sat</b>	8.30am	Prayer Meeting	

## ***Noticeboard:***

### **➤ Bible Unzipped.**

*Saturday 8 February 9:30am-1pm*

Bible Unzipped aims to unpack Scripture with those interested in learning more than can be offered in a Sunday sermon. It also equips those leading in the church with some tools for studying and teaching from the Bible. It meets monthly on a Saturday morning at Rhos-on-Sea URC from 9:30am to 1pm, usually on the second Saturday. Each morning includes three sessions which develop a theme through the term. The themes for this term are: Marks Gospel, Bible Translation and The Time Traveller's Guide to the Reformation. The course is free and we may be able to offer you a lift. Talk to Peter if you are interested.

### **➤ Men's Prayer Meeting**

*Wednesday 5 February 10:30am*

The men will meet for prayer as usual this month. Time spent in prayer will be followed by coffee in Options. All are welcome to join us. Please talk to Peter if you want to know more about this prayer meeting.

➤ **Pastoral Care Course**

God wants us all to care for each other pastorally. We are running a short course on Tuesday evenings in February from 7-9pm aimed at helping us improve our pastoral skills. The course is free and open to anyone. It is organized by the Pastoral Care Team and the various facilitators are all members of Penrallt. A programme is available on the church website or there are hardcopies in the porch. You don't need to book a place, but it would be useful if you could let us know that you hope to attend. Feel free to invite people from other churches who might benefit from it.

➤ **Penrallt Walking Group** *Monday 17 February 10.30am*

Roger Malone will be leading the walk. Meet at the RSPB car park at South Stack, Holyhead. Car sharing would be a good idea. The walk is about 5 miles, and takes in Holyhead mountain, and several other coastal landmarks. Tea at the RSPB cafe afterwards. Contact Roger ([roger.eve@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.eve@btinternet.com); 01248 431296) for further information.

➤ **Safeguarding** *Saturday 15 February 9:15am – 1pm*

Following her much appreciated training session six years ago, we have invited Sandra Crawford back to give another updated training session on safeguarding in the local church.

We are opening this up free to all churches. It will take place on Saturday morning 15 February, from 9:15am until 1pm. It is for ministers, deacons, and all those who work with children and young people. Sandra is a highly competent and engaging trainer who allows ample space for questions. This will be a great refresher course, as well as essential training for those who are new to work with children and young people. Please invite people from other churches who might benefit from it.

Topics to be covered include: signs and symptoms of abuse and abusers; What to do if abuse is disclosed/suspected; Good practice: Risk assessments, electronic communication, safe recruitment; Abuse of trust.

➤ **Advance Notice: Worship Works** *Saturday 15 March 10am-4:30pm*

On Saturday 15th March we will be having a day of teaching and workshops at Penrallt on the theme of worship. This will be led by Roger Jones and his team from Christian Music Ministries in Birmingham. The day will be from 10am to 4:30pm and will cost £5.00; please bring a packed lunch. This should be a very inspiring and encouraging day — please spread the word to friends in other churches.

Roger's team will also be leading our services on Sunday 16 March.

WANTED: People who would be willing to host members of the team for 3 nights from Friday 14 to Monday 17 March. Speak to Deb Stammers if you can help.

### ➤ **Homeless in Bangor**

Please do not give money directly to the homeless in Upper Bangor. We have found in the past that it has encouraged aggressive begging on the church premises by people who have a history of violence. You will find brown envelopes in the porch to put your gift in. This will buy meal vouchers which are distributed to the homeless by the Cathedral.

### ➤ **The Prayer Room...**

...is open before and after the service for quiet prayer. Penrallt is a place of prayer, so make use of this sacred space.

### ➤ **Pray for Penrallt Every Day**

Sign up to receive our prayer diary by e-mail every Monday morning by sending your request to: [office@penrallt.org](mailto:office@penrallt.org).

If you have some subject for prayer, either send it in by e-mail, or fill in one of the pink cards, which are available in the porch, and place it in the visitors' cards box or give it to Peter or Magnus. Please note that in addition to the pink prayer request cards, there are also blue testimony/thanksgiving cards and yellow "Listening to God" cards that can also be filled in and submitted for the prayer diary.

### ➤ **Pastoral Help**

If you have pastoral concerns please contact Peter or else one of the other members of the Pastoral Care team.

Pat Borlace 713146;

Geoff Moore 410582

Judy Stammers 364394;

Helen Thomas 600174

Peter and Susan will be away on holiday from 20 to 27 February. During this week if you have any pastoral concerns would you please contact any member of the Pastoral Care Team.

## ***From the Church Office: Advance Notices***

Further details of these events will follow. Please note the dates in your diary:

### ➤ **Half-Night of Prayer**      *Friday 14 March*

There will be a half-night of prayer at Penrallt on Friday 14 March, from 7pm to midnight.

### ➤ **Passover Meal**      *Thursday 17 April*

We are planning to hold a passover meal in Canolfan Penrallt on Maundy Thursday evening.

***Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 16 February.***

*Please send information to Magnus ([office@penrallt.org](mailto:office@penrallt.org); 01248 353355)*

*NB email is the preferred way to submit information for the newsletter, if possible!*