



# Penrallt Baptist Church

## Newsletter for July 2011

The reporter from *Women in Babylonia* magazine inched herself gingerly onto the wooden bench as if it would bite her, raised her mascara-laden eyes in the direction of her host and explained, "So you see, Mrs. Ezekiel, we thought that a monthly feature on how well the immigrants from ethnic minorities are settling down in Babylonia would be of interest to our readers. A change from the big mansions and royal palaces, that kind of thing."

Mrs. Ezekiel (sadly, Scripture does not record her name ) sat immobile with legs crossed, arms folded and a challenging glare in her beautiful brown eyes. She said nothing.

"So how is life then?" asked the reporter with a smiley bubble in her voice, "and is there any chance, maybe, of a typically Jewish recipe to accompany the article?"

"Like, how to starve in an ethnically interesting way while all the locals avoid you?" snapped her host.

"No, no what I meant was . . ."

"You don't think I want to be here do you? You take us captive, force us to march for four months, drop us like a fig stone into the dust, and then expect us to *settle down*?"

"But this is the capital of the world. Think of the opportunities for your children."

"Look," and Mrs. Ezekiel sighed, " Do you know how few of our children survived to enjoy these opportunities?"

"Let me try another question. What have you learnt to appreciate here?"

A long stare.

"Our art, our music, our religion?"

" We had our own art and music, 'tho we can't bring ourselves to sing anything here. And I'll stick to my own religion thank you."

"Even after your god let you be taken captive?"

"God knows what's best in the long run. But here's what's caught me by surprise..."

The reporter leaned forward to listen.

"He's here. We've met him. He's spoken to my husband and he's spoken to us all."

"And what does your god say?"

"He's says we're to settle down and pray for our neighbours. Pray for the peace of Babylon. He wants everyone to turn to him and trust him." And Mrs. E. stared hard at the reporter, "You too."

The reporter hesitated for only a second, before adding "Oh, that's sweet. But we don't really do religion in our magazine. Apart from the horoscopes of course. And the occasional "I was a famous princess in a former life" kind of story."

"And there's your problem. Your religion is all centred around hoping to make your life comfortable. Ours is centred around making our God's name known in all the earth. So if you're asking me how I'm settling, I'll tell you. Settling well enough to preach his salvation to the world. Yes, your world too. Because, and I really don't understand why, he wants you to receive his salvation."

The reporter blinked. "Maybe we could just do a recipe then? Mmm?"

The Book of Ezekiel talks us through tragedy and exile, through grief and bewilderment, and shows us how to stand firm amidst the worst of trials in a sometimes hostile world. It never loses sight of God's ultimate purpose for us, or his love for all peoples. It's a hard book, but we invite you to join us in our morning services as we share Ezekiel's ministry together. You can listen to previous sermons in the series on line via our website.

God bless,  
**Peter**

## ***SERVICES IN JULY***

(In the evening services we are taking a different type of Psalm every week)

### **July 3**

10.30am Deb Stammers ***Ezekiel the Adviser***  
2.15pm Service at Bontnewydd  
7.00pm Communion Service: Bryan Collis

***A Psalm of Personal Lamentation***

### **July 10**

10.30am Colm Ó Brolcháin: Our link missionary with OM in Ireland.  
7.00pm A-Team lead the service

### **July 17**

10.30am Geoff Birch ***Ezekiel the Bereaved Prophet***  
7.00pm Peter Cousins ***A Psalm of Community Lamentation -  
The Derelict Vineyard*** *Psalm 80*

### **July 24**

10.30am Peter Cousins ***Ezekiel the Overseas Correspondent***  
*Ezekiel 28:1-19*  
7.00pm Peter Cousins ***A Royal Psalm - The Battle of the Kings***  
*Psalm 2*

## July 31

10.30am	Peter Cousins	Communion Service <b><i>Ezekiel the Evangelist.</i></b> <i>Ezekiel 36:24-38</i>
7.00pm	Peter Cousins	<b><i>A Psalm of Wisdom - God wants to give you the desire of your heart.</i></b> <i>Psalm 37</i>

## **CHURCH LUNCH**      **July 3**

Please bring enough buffet style food for yourself and one or two others.

## ***SPECIAL DATES IN JULY***

<b>Monday 4</b>	7.30pm	Church Members' Meeting
<b>Wednesday 6</b>	10.30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee in Options
<b>Saturday 9</b>	10.30am	CYTÛN (Churches Together) meeting with Rhian Linecar (see below)
<b>Monday 11</b>	7.30pm	Paul Jones and Fiona Hendley (see below)
<b>Friday 15</b>	7.30pm	Prayer for Prodigals
<b>Sunday 17</b>	2.30pm	CYTÛN Praise on the Pier service (see below)
<b>Monday 18</b>	7.30pm	Missions Group at the Borlases
<b>Tuesday 19</b>	10.30am	Walking Group
<b>Thursday 28</b>	7.30pm	Sanctuary (in the chapel)

### **CYTÛN (Churches Together in Bangor) Events**

- 1) **Praise on the Pier. Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July** at 2:30 pm. This is a fun event, which witnesses to our unity in Christ and announces God's love to visitors and local folk on the pier. Join us for a good sing.
- 2) **Moving Forward From Firm Foundations** to be led by Rhian Linecar, of the Faith Worship, Witness and Order group, CYTÛN Cymru, on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July** at Penrallt. Coffee at 10:15am for 10:30 start; finish at 2:30pm. Please bring sandwiches for lunch, coffee will be provided. We hope to have more details in a week or two.

### **Paul Jones and Fiona Hendley: Monday Evening July 11<sup>th</sup>**

We are looking forward to this event featuring husband and wife team Paul Jones and Fiona Hendley. Paul came to fame as the lead singer with Manfred Mann back in the sixties. A career in theatre followed, where he met Fiona as they were co-starring in a West End musical. Paul continues in the spotlight through his Radio 2 Blues programme on Monday evenings and his performing with The Blues Band who have been playing together for thirty years. The story of how God came into his and Fiona's lives is heart-warming and they will share it with us, while also singing some of their own gospel songs. The evening will be free, but a contribution to the expenses will be appreciated. More details to follow.

## ***WEEKDAYS***

***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, Farrar Road	Magnus Forrester-Barker (371366)
<b>Wed</b>	10.30am	Men's Prayer Meeting	Peter Cousins (353878)
<b>Wed</b>	2.00pm	Carers' Home Group	Carol Morris (716953)
<b>Wed</b>	7.30pm	HG, The Nomads	Jess & Seamus Adams (421185) Susan Cousins (353878)
<b>Wed</b>	8.00pm	HG, Grŵp Cymraeg	Owen & Nia Lloyd Evans (352634)
<b>Thu</b>	10.30am - noon	HG, 76, Ffordd Cynan	Jenny Powley (364292)
<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>Thu</b>	7.30pm	HG, Bangor	Ciara Ní Bhrolcháin (07900 220496)
<b>Thu</b>	7.30pm	HG, A-Team	Freya Bushill (07792 080766)
<b>Thu</b>	7.45pm	HG, Lon-y-Deri	Gill Goodman (355256) Billy Elliott (372568)
<b>Fri</b>	10.30am - noon	Cheeky Monkeys	Joan Rymer (713003)
<b>Sat</b>	8.30am	Prayer Meeting	

## ***NEWS OF PEOPLE***

**John Fox** has moved to the centre of Exeter: 33 Meyer Court, Butts Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 5PW. 01392 430908 [johnfox447@btinternet.com](mailto:johnfox447@btinternet.com). We wish him God's blessing. We are still hearing of exam results, but special congratulations to **Sandra Till** and **Katherine Bale** who both obtained firsts from Bangor Uni. We are looking forward to a visit this month from **Jon Williams** who is preparing to go out for two years on the Logos Hope ship with OM. Jon was one of our Penrallt students.

### ***Children's Birthdays in July***

**5<sup>th</sup>**: Cadi Gwyn Evans; **7<sup>th</sup>**: Charis Gordon-Roberts; **19<sup>th</sup>**: Katherine Adams

## **NOTICEBOARD**

➤ **Missions Group Co-ordinator in Penrallt**

We are having to repeat this job advert because so far we do not have anyone to take over from Marilyn when she steps down in the summer.

➤ **Prayer for Prodigals**                      **Friday 15 July**                      **7.30pm**

We warmly welcome all women who would like to join us in the chapel for an evening of worship, prayer and intercession. For more details contact Nancy Brook on 01248 422272.

➤ **Walking Group**                                      **Tuesday 19 July**                      **10.30am**

Circular Walk                      Meet in Capel Curig at the Car Park (free) situated about 100yds along an unclassified road behind the Pinnacle Shop/Café (at the junction of the A5 and A4086). The walk starts from a stile opposite Pinnacle, generally rising some 300ft. For most of its length the path is on firm ground but there is a stretch to traverse (approx 750yds) which may well be soft and wet. The path then enters the forest and follows undulating forestry tracks with some open vistas for about 1¾ miles, continuing onto Llyn Crafnant. We return by way of the head of the valley climbing some 400ft in 2600ft and then the path is generally downhill back to the car park in Capel Curig. Length of walk is some 7½ miles. Sue & Lawrence are leading the walk — any queries phone 713793 or email lemos@btinternet.com or contact Paul and Ruth Hebblethwaite.

➤ **Holiday Club**

St John's Methodist Church is holding a Holiday Club for 5s to 11s from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July, 9.30 to 12 noon. Book with Sue on 01248 671163.

➤ **Homeless in Bangor**

We do not recommend giving money to the homeless. Instead, £5 in one of the brown envelopes from the table in the porch of the church (placed in the offering) will buy a hot meal for them through the St. Mary's Hostel scheme. So far Penrallt has contributed £2342 to the fund.

➤ **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.

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.

➤ **Pastoral Help**

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

Geoff Birch 01286 870944, Pat Borlace 713146, Eunice Smith 713296,  
Judy Stammers 364394, Geoff Moore 410582, Jenny Powley  
364292

**Deadline for next month's newsletter** Sunday 17 July

Please send information to Gwyneth  
([gwyneth@brindley-wales.com](mailto:gwyneth@brindley-wales.com) or 352682)

## ***FOCUS ON...***

### **Clwyd Valley Missioner Project**

(Glyn is supported from Penrallt's Misions Budget)

It's Saturday afternoon and the rumble of wheels on St. Asaph's half pipe turns people's heads to watch the skilful moves of Glyn Watson, the Vale of Clwyd Missioner. As he stops, local skaters gather round him for tips on how to execute the fakie 540. Funded by the Baptist Home Mission Fund, Glyn divides his time between youth work in the town of St. Asaph and wider work in the Vale of Clwyd. He says he is unable to decide whether skating is a pastime or work, but the local youngsters are more than happy to talk to him and receive his tuition. It is the end of another week for the 23-year-old worker who is also studying part time for a Master's degree in Youth Work.

Wednesday had found him dressed far more formally, kneeling beside a child in the local Ysgol Esgob Morgan primary school named after the famous Elizabethan bishop who translated the Bible into Welsh. Amy's dyslexia would make it hard for her to read it, but as a volunteer classroom assistant Glyn is on hand to encourage her literacy skills. Come lunchtime and Glyn is out in the playground where the usual tug of war ensues, with the girls wanting to talk to him and boys wanting him to play football with them. The head teacher is delighted to have a young male role model on the premises for a day and a half a week. Living, as he does, in the town, Glyn is now accustomed to greetings shouted across the street from children out with their parents at weekends.

Friday is the high stress day of his week, as Glyn musters his volunteer helpers and they open the doors of the small ex-shop which currently houses Glyn's home church, the Llanelwy Christian Fellowship, a member of BUGB. With twenty-five children under eleven years of age on the books and fifty-three over-elevens the clubs are packed to their limit. Glyn sees training youth leaders as his

main priority because he is already eyeing up the possibility of beginning other clubs in the Vale of Clwyd.

And it is the Vale of Clwyd itself which inspired the birth of the project six years ago. From the Llantysilio Mountain to the seaside town of Rhyl, the Clwyd river flows through achingly beautiful countryside, past busy farms and bustling towns and villages. The picture postcard scenery, however, disguises how far the Christian Faith has slipped in people's affections since the days when the great church planting Celtic saints like Saint Dyfnog preached and baptised in the valley. Because they were concerned at the decline of church life, Baptists across the north of Wales decided to create a project to replant the church with an emphasis on youth in the area. It has drawn in support from other denominations and the five thousand pounds a year Home Mission Fund grant has secured its financial basis.

Glyn's latest project is the establishing of The Gathering which draws in young adults between 18 and 30 from the Vale, some of whom are not connected with any other church. The meetings are informal, centred around activities and coffee, and its direction is being worked out a month at a time. Glyn is hopeful to see this seed of outreach grow, because young adults are in short supply in the established churches.

Although it was a busy week, on Sunday night Glyn will be heading up the Youth Celebration, drawing in young people from different churches and denominations. With his skills as a worship leader and his fluent Welsh, he is able to blend together a mix of modern worship that is bilingual and exciting. In this area where 30% of the population are Welsh speakers, the project is pleased to belong to a network of churches that encourage and develop bilingual worship styles.

Talking of styles, Sunday morning will be a change as Glyn dons a jacket and tie and heads off to a local Methodist church with an elderly congregation where he will preach and lead worship in Welsh. It is all part of the project's aims to encourage and connect with Christians in the area. Glyn is wondering about beginning a family event to promote a greater sense of unity and interchurch cooperation.

Asked if he has any unrealised plans yet, he confesses that having been brought up in the Vale of Clwyd he is still trying to get into his old school, Ysgol Glan Clwyd and organize a Christian Union. He admits to having been a difficult pupil before he became a Christian, and feels that it would be good to put something positive back into the Welsh language school where he was educated. He feels that his sometimes mis-spent school days still served to equip him with some of the attributes that form part of his ministry. Not least the skating skills. He is already looking forward to later this week when he will be training his under-12s inline hockey team.

(extract from the Baptist Times)