



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter for July 2013

At the end of June the cross-party Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards presented its latest report on banking in the UK. Looking back on the collapse of the industry it complains:

"Senior executives were aware that they would not be punished for what they could not see and promptly donned the blindfolds.

"Where they could not claim ignorance, they fell back on the claim that everyone was party to a decision, so that no individual could be held squarely to blame - the Murder on the Orient Express defence."

Oh yes, the blindfold defence and the Murder on the Orient Express defence. It isn't just the bankers who are guilty of these dangerous and doomed manoeuvres. They're common to humankind.

Take the blindfold defence. It's better known as 'wilful blindness'. We cannot cope with worrying about everything, so we deliberately shut out much bad news. The "Hello, how are you?" that oils our daily relationships is never meant to be answered in a full technical, blow by blow account of all our aches and pains, our fears and anxieties, our failures and flops. We live by a social accord in which we all agree that such a question does not demand a full answer unless seeking help. Airplanes when they are taking off are programmed not to show all the technical information to the pilots. Instead a cut down version of essential detail only is displayed to them. They need to concentrate on the matter at hand, not monitor every system. So wilful blindness is OK sometimes.

The trouble with wilful blindness is that we don't know when to turn it off. Margaret Heffernan in her book *Wilful Blindness: Why we ignore the obvious at our peril* claims "we may think being blind makes us safer, when in fact it leaves us crippled, vulnerable, and powerless." Whether it be banking, global warming, badly-run Health Trusts, or violent pornography on the internet, matters can slide into the danger zone because most of us never bother to check the facts in case they become too uncomfortable.

Minister: Revd Peter J. Cousins, 135 Penchwintan Road, Bangor LL57 2YG (01248 353878)

Secretary: Neil Rymer, 20 Brynteg, Llandegfan, Menai Bridge LL59 5TY (01248 713003)

Treasurer: Stephen Burrows, 39 Cil y Graig, Llanfairpwll, LL61 5NZ (01248 714048)

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You can be guilty of wilful blindness in the spiritual realm also, of course. The Bible exhorts us to “seek the Lord and live”, but most people don’t. We only like God-talk if it brings us good news, not bad. Don’t get me wrong, the message which Jesus brought us is overwhelmingly good news. God loves us. But when you draw close to him all your faults seem to be highlighted. Humans shrink from God’s light like woodlice running for cover when you lift a stone. Be honest, be real about what bothers you and draw near to God. He’ll draw near to you.

As for the Murder on the Orient Express defence, look around. We justify our production of greenhouse gases by pointing out that the superpowers cough far more into the atmosphere than we do. Heffernan has something to say on this too: “. . . unanimous decisions are intrinsically suspicious. Were there no opinions? No alternatives?” Follow the crowd and you may end up somewhere you didn’t want to go. If everyone does it, be afraid. The majority of young folk think that the Christian Faith is boring, irrelevant and untrue. Cutting through that prejudice is our hardest task. We’re a minority in a society that largely displays antipathy or apathy to Christian beliefs. If you’re thinking of becoming a committed Christian, be prepared to stand out from the crowd and challenge the status quo. Someone needs to.

Maybe the banking crisis is a warning to our Western world on spiritual matters as well as financial ones.

God bless,
Peter

SERVICES IN JULY

Our Speakers in July

Peter Cousins is the minister of the church. **Billy Elliott** is a nurse. **Roger Borlace** is a retired Baptist minister, **James Goodman** is Deputy Director of

the Pontio project at the University. **Bryan Collis** is senior researcher with the WCVA. They are members of Penrallt. We are pleased to welcome **Martin Williams** to Penrallt for the first time. He is a Maths teacher in Ysgol John Bright, and studied Theology at the London School of Theology. He and Mari and Lydia have recently moved to the area, and are members of the Caersalem Welsh Baptist Church in Caernarfon.

Evening Services in July

A reminder that we hold our evening services at 7pm in June, July and August to allow you to enjoy the summer light and weather.

July 7

10.30am Speaker: Billy Elliott
2.15pm Service at Bontnewydd
7.00pm Communion Service. Speaker: Roger Borlace.

Instructions for Disciples

Luke 10:1-17

July 14

10.30am Speaker: James Goodman
7.00pm Speaker: Martin Williams

July 21

10.30am Healing Service with a prayer ministry time.

How to Survive in the Lion's Cage

1 Peter 5:8-13

7.00pm Psalm 63. ***What it's Like to Want God More than Anything***

July 28

10.30am Family Communion Service

How to Live as an Undercover Priest

1 Peter 2: 9-12

7.00pm Speaker: Bryan Collis

CHURCH LUNCH

We will host a church lunch on **Sunday July 7**. Please bring enough buffet style "finger food" for yourselves and one or two others.

SPECIAL DATES

Monday 1st	7.30pm	Church Members' Meeting
Wednesday 3rd	10.30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee in Options.
Monday 8th	7.30pm	Cytun Meeting at St. Mary's
Monday 15th	7.30pm	Missions Group Meeting
Sunday 21st	3.00pm	Cytun (Churches Together) Praise on the Pier

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Bangor Christian Union has written a card to say "thank you for all your help in the past year, in particular, donations, prayer, building use, student support, providing accommodation and your support in Saltmine."

Children's Birthdays in July:

2nd: Tim Mitchell and Andrew Mitchell; **5th**: Cadi Evans;

7th: Charis Gordon-Roberts; **19th**: Katherine Adams

WEEKDAYS

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

HG = Home Group

Day	Time	Details	Contacts
Tue	8.00pm	HG, Nilgiri	Joan Beer (353874)
Tue	7.30pm	HG, Tyddyn Isaf, Menai Bridge	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
Wed	10.30am	Men's Prayer Meeting	Peter Cousins (353878)
Wed	2.00pm	Carers' Home Group	Carol Morris (208407)
Wed	7.30pm	HG, The Nomads	Jess & Seamus Adams (421185) Susan Cousins (353878)
Wed	7.30pm	HG, Bethesda	Jon & Deb Stammers (602868)
Wed	7.30pm	HG, Penchwintan Road	David McCormack (07725 028074)
Wed	8.00pm	HG, Grŵp Cymraeg	Owen & Nia Lloyd Evans (352634)
Thu	10.30am	Post-Alpha Bible Study	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7.30pm	HG, Llanfairpwll	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Fri	10.30am - noon	Cheeky Monkeys	Joan Rymer (713003)
Fri	10.30 – 12.30pm	HG, 6 Maes y Dref	Anne Collis (353173) anne@collis66.freeseve.co.uk
Sat	8.30am	Prayer Meeting	

NOTICEBOARD

➤ **BUILDING WORK**

1 July – end of August

We have arranged for some necessary building maintenance work to be carried out (starting 1st July to the end of August) to the right hand side of the chapel walls, both internally and externally, and to the minister's room. We propose to continue the use of the chapel on Sundays but please be aware that some areas will be restricted and that there will be scaffolding erected over the footpath. Three of our six car parking spaces will also be used by the Builders. We would be grateful for your patience and co-operation whilst this work is being undertaken.

Volunteers required:

As a consequence of the building works we need teams of about 4-6 people to help clean and moving furniture etc. as follows:

- Clear the Chapel after each Sunday evening service – starting 14th July for about 4-5 weeks

- Clean and Set up the Chapel – Saturday mornings starting 20th July for about 4 weeks.
- If you are able to help on one or more occasion it would be much appreciated. Please can you inform Stephen Burrows.

➤ **Men's Prayer Meeting** **Wednesday 3 July 10.30am**
The men will meet for prayer as usual, followed by coffee in Options.

➤ **Race For Life** **Sunday 7 July**
Marilyn Birch writes: I am taking part in the Cancer Research Race for Life event at Sefton Park, Liverpool on Sunday 7th July and I am part of a team which includes my two granddaughters, Esther and Abigail. Our team is called, "Helen's Harriers", as we are doing this to support their mum, our daughter-in-law, Helen, who is going through treatment for Breast Cancer at the moment. The 'Harriers' bit is because Abigail is a member of Liverpool Harriers Athletic Club. If anyone feels they would like to sponsor me and the team, please log onto the website below, where you can read all about us and make a donation. If anyone would like to donate to me personally, I do have a sponsor form. Many thanks.
<https://www.raceforlifesporsorme.org/helens-harriers4>

➤ **Walking Group** **Tuesday 16 July 10.30am**
Tre'r Ceiri and Nant Gwrtheyrn (arranged by Roger and Pat Borlace)
From the A499 Pwllheli road turn right at the roundabout at Llanaelhaearn, then continue for 2 miles to Llithfaen. Turn right where it's sign-posted to Nant Gwrtheyrn. After less than a mile (before you go down the hill) meet at the car park (353 440). Allow an hour from Bangor.
We'll be walking to Tre'r Ceiri ('Town of the Giants') a hillfort occupied between the first and fifth centuries AD. Stone ramparts, some over 10 feet high, enclose an area equal to several football pitches. Inside are the remains of about 150 dwellings.
The site occupies one of the peaks of the Rivals (Yr Eifl), so there are wonderful views in every direction. The ascent is about 300 metres. You'll need good boots, as some of the stones are loose. After returning to the cars we can drive down to the National Language Centre, where there's an excellent café.

➤ **Unwanted Items**
Elie and Helen are supporting a young Christian lady who attends Penrallt. Due to her marital breakdown she had to find a place to live, and found a flat in Bangor. Soon her daughter, who is also a Christian, will join her from the Philippines. The flat is sparse with only bare essentials, and she is in need of two kitchen chairs, two rugs, a television & a microwave. Helen is making this request on her behalf hoping that someone might have these needed items that they can spare. Contact Helen on 01248 600174.

➤ ***Guitar Lessons and Music Shop***

Si and Nadine, the Christian couple who run the Sŵn Llawen music shop over the road from the church are starting beginners' guitar lessons from July 31st. Pop into the shop or ring on 01248 355455 for more information and to reserve your place. They sell violins and guitars etc. They have an awesome range of guitars in stock at the moment. Check them out.

➤ ***Autumn Alpha Course***

An Alpha Course is planned for this Autumn at Penrallt, starting on Tuesday 1st October and running through to 10th December. Publicity material such as posters, invitations and small handouts will be available soon. Please remember to pray for those involved in preparing for the course (details of the team will be given in due course). If you feel that you would like to be involved in this year's course, either as a helper, or as a guest on the course, please contact either Lawrence Moss on 01248 713793 (or email lemoss@btinternet.com) or Roshni Verghese on 01492 871444 (or email vergheseroshni@hotmail.com).



Alpha

➤ ***Penrallt on Facebook***

Do you know there is now a Penrallt Page? Go to Penrallt Baptist Church. If you 'like' it, then you will be updated with any events/news etc. 120 people are signed up to it. Join us.

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 vouchers which are distributed to the homeless by the Cathedral via St Mary's Shelter. The total given to the scheme up to now is £4253.

➤ ***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 one of the other members of the Pastoral Care team.

Pat Borlace 713146, Judy Stammers 364394 Geoff Moore
410582 Helen Thomas 600174

- **Peter and Susan** will be on holiday from July 4th to 18th. If you have any enquiries please contact the church office or one of the pastoral care team.

Deadline for next month's newsletter Sunday 21 July
Please send information to Gwyneth (gwyneth@brindley-wales.com or
352682)

See next page for this month's FOCUS.



FOCUS ON...

Catherine and Colm O'Brolchain, OM Ireland



Greetings from Ireland!

Our partnership with Penrallt Church is special to us and we thank you for your prayers for us.

We have been working since our last newsletter with four teams who came from many parts of the world, they shared their faith with children in primary schools, teens in secondary schools and one team carried a six foot cross from Dublin to Athlone. The Lord faithfully brought many people to listen and discuss their faith with all the teams

and we are sure that **"It is my word, I send it out and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it" Isaiah 55:11**

You can read reports on these outreaches at www.ie.om.org

Colm is no longer the only driver for all the larger vehicles as David and Wendy Johnston have joined us. David is now driving the new 'Big Red Bus' as this month it is travelling with our drama team to 20 primary schools with a Gospel drama presentation. Colm will share the driving and the original Big Red Bus will still be used by us for the next couple of months. He is also fixing shower blocks, old cars and helping with the laying out of our new car park here at Lacken house. Catherine was catering for all of some of the teams and partially for the other teams!!

We lovingly ask you to consider joining an outreach through OM as so many of those who come on our outreaches comment on how it deepens their faith as they see God's power at work...have a look at the UK site:www.uk.om.org

We look forward to seeing you all on the weekend of the 7/8th of September; we will be over for Katie and Stevie's wedding!