



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: June 2015

From the Minister:

BBC Radio Wales had burst into life at 7am, reporting about child obesity on Anglesey when I stretched out my hand and turned it off. Unusually, I followed the motion by swinging both legs out of bed and planting them lightly on the bedroom floor.

"Well, that's the first one today" said a voice from the chest of drawers.

Startled, I cast a bleary eye in its direction to find a strange mechanical object hovering six inches above my hairbrush.

"Who are you?" I enquired with a worried tone.

"Not 'who' but 'what';" replied the voice. "I'm your recorder."

"Recorder? Recorder of what?"

"Of miracles in your life. It's my mission to note down all the miracles that happen in your life."

"Why?"

"Because you're going to preach on Joshua 12 about itemizing God's miracles, aren't you?"

"Yes," I replied with a suspicious edge to my voice, "and so?"

"You're rubbish at it."

"That's a bit judgmental for a machine." I protested.

"Just recording the truth. You pray for loads of things and never note down when God answers. Miracles happen that you didn't even ask for. You don't notice those at all. You take God for granted."

I sighed. "And how does being nagged by a machine help?"

"I'm not nagging, just . . ."

". . . Stating the obvious. I know. But how are you going to help?"

"Well you've made a good start."

"I have?"

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"Oh yes. You believe in miracles."

"Strongly. You know that. Some many prayers made, so many answers. And even when the final answer hasn't been what I'd hoped, I find loads of smaller miracles along the way which tell me that God was in the process. I guess he knows more than I do, and that some of my requests just wouldn't have fitted the bigger picture, or even been the best for me."

"So, I'm going to increase your faith even more."

"How?"

"By marking up the miracles on my miracles-in-Peter's-life-ometer here."

"Is that what you meant by 'first one today'? What miracle was that?"

"That you put the alarm off and got out of bed in one go. Total miracle."

"And if I pray for you to disappear and you go, will that be another one?"

There was flickering flash like a match striking and being extinguished. I blinked and when I looked again all that was left hanging in the air was a number. '2'

As I wandered down to the breakfast I decided that the machine was taking the mickey. Probably the miracles I experience would be flashing up on the counter quicker than I could spot them. Most I take for granted. Like the miracle of existence. I just assume that the universe will be here tomorrow. In fact most people don't even contemplate the wonder that the world exists. Many other miracles I don't even spot. And some turn into miracles the moment God and I start working together on them.

Maybe we don't need a miracle-ometer. We can live without machines to pester us, but even chapters like Joshua, which are hardly our favourite scripture passages, can remind us of simple spiritual exercises like 'make note of the miracles God grants you and be very grateful.'

God bless,

Peter

Our Speakers in June

Rev. **Jenni Entrican** is a Scot who has lived in England since 1988. A former teacher, she was ordained in 2004 following theological study at Bristol Baptist College. Having been a minister-in-training at Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church, she led a church plant with the object of connecting with spiritual seekers who would be unlikely to engage with mainstream church. Jacob's Well is now a small group of Christians engaging with people through a community garden and community activities. She is the President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. She will be visiting Penrallt with her husband John, a GP. **Andrew and Susie Smith** are friends of Penrallt who work in Ethiopia; Andrew is the son of Eunice and Paul. **Delvin Varghese** is this year's Student Coordinator who will be leaving us in September to pursue a PhD in Newcastle. **Geoff Birch** is a retired Baptist minister, a member of Penrallt. **Andrew March** is one of our deacons.

Services This Month:

Remember that the evening services in June, July and August will begin at 7pm.

7 June

10:30am **How to find God in the middle of your distress**

Mark 6:45-56

7:00pm Communion Service.

Itemizing God's Miracles

Joshua 12:1-24

14 June

10:30am Speaker: Geoff Birch.

Jesus Chooses His Team: Matthew the Taxman

Matthew 9:9-13

7:00pm Speaker: Andrew March.

"It will be from the outcome of our conduct"

Matthew 6:1-18

21 June

10:30am Speaker: Jenni Entrican.

Daring Greatly

John 5:1-16

7:00pm Speaker: Delvin Varghese.

The underwhelming God: when God fails to meet our expectations

2 Kings 5

28 June

10:30am Communion Service with Andrew and Susie Smith. Speaker: Peter Cousins.

O Land, land, land, hear the word of the Lord

Jeremiah 22:29

7:00pm Andrew and Susie Smith.

Dates For Your Diary:

Monday 1	7:30pm	Deacons' meeting
Wednesday 3	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee in Options.
Saturday 6	2pm	Wedding of Nichola and Neil at Penrallt.
Sunday 7	2:45pm	Service at Plas Garnedd Residential Home in Llanberis.
Monday 8	7:30pm	Worship Committee
Saturday 13	9:30am-1pm	<i>Bible Unzipped</i> at Rhos-on-Sea URC.
Monday 15	10:30am	Church walk at Sarn Helen.
Saturday 20	10:30-3:30	Women's Meeting with Jenni Entrican in the Coach House, Anglesey (pre-booking essential; see below).
	<i>time TBC</i>	Anglesey Prayer Walk.
Sunday 21	12:30pm	Informal lunch with Jenni Entrican in the Belle Vue (pre-booking essential; see below).
Wednesday 24	7:30pm	Penrallt Railway Group meeting at Lawrence's house (speak to Lawrence or Andrew for more information).

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

News of People:

Our condolences to **Bari Gwilliam** and family on the sudden death of his mother, Ruth, while she was abroad on holiday. Also our condolences to **Ellen and Jack Wilson** on the death of Ellen's mother in Plas Garnedd, Llanberis.

Dave and Jean O'Brien have moved to the Chester region. **Cliff Plum** is now a permanent resident of Glyn Menai. **Mel Worsnip** is home from hospital. **Delyth Pierce** in Springholme has been unwell. Remember **Tony Mason** in your prayers; he has had a number of falls recently. **Ian Kelso** will begin radiotherapy soon.

Mandy Shanks continues to battle with her various problems and values our prayers.

Jean Browne continues to be very handicapped by her latest stroke, and is still in hospital.

Children's Birthdays in June:

17th: Thomas Howie

20th: Bradley Jones

Weekday Events:

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	2:00pm	HG, Carers	Carol Morris (208407)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Bethesda	Jon & Deb Stammers (602868)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Nomads	Susan Cousins (353878)
Wed	7:00pm	HG, Students	Delvin Varghese (07528 958150)
Thu	10:30am	HG, Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7:30pm	HG, Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Fri	10:30am-12pm	Cheeky Monkeys (parent/toddler group)	Joan Rymer (713003)
Fri	10:30am-12:30pm	HG, Maes y Dref (am)	Anne Collis (353173)
Sat	8:30am	Prayer Meeting	

Noticeboard:

◇ **Anglesey Prayer Walk 2015 Taith Weddi Môn**

Saturday 20th June

This year's Anglesey Prayer Walk is planned for Saturday 20th June. There will be organised prayer walks in Menai Bridge, Llangefni and Amlwch. Contact details and information about the walks will be circulated in due course. Any queries in the meantime, please e-mail angleseyprayerwalk@hotmail.co.uk. In the evening there will be a meeting at the Town Hall in Llangefni, with refreshments from 5:00pm and a Celebration starting at 6:00pm.

◇ **Bible Unzipped**

Saturday 13th June

9:30am

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. We meet monthly on the second Saturday morning at Rhos-on-Sea URC from 9:30am to 1pm. Each morning includes three sessions. The course is free. This month: *Learning to Love Proverbs* (by Peter Cousins), *Preaching in the modern world (part 2)* by Rob Beamish and *The Bible Text* (by Julia Bartholomew).

◇ **Car Parking**

Free parking is available on Sundays in Fron Heulog (the School of Healthcare Sciences) behind the Catholic church. The car park next door to Penrallt is now pay & display with no special rates for the disabled. Morrisons are happy for you to park in their car park on Sunday mornings and do your shopping after the service provided you register your car registration number at their information desk beforehand. Morrisons say they switch the cameras off to make the car park available to us on Sunday/weekday evenings after 6pm.

◇ **Christian Aid Week:** Thank you to all who worked and contributed to Christian Aid Week. Penrallt collected £1,586.17. Thank you all.

◇ **Church Lunch:** We will host a church lunch on **Sunday 7th June**. Please bring enough buffet style 'finger food' for yourselves and one or two others.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 15th June

10:30am

Along ancient "Sarn Helen" into a hidden valley and over the hills to medieval Castell Dolwyddelan.

From Betws y Coed take the A470 to Dolwyddelan and at the crossroads turn left. Meet at 10:30am opposite Dolwyddelan church, a short distance from the crossroads. The walk is 6 miles and follows the Sarn Helen Roman Road along Cwm Penamnen before climbing out of the valley up a steep wooded hillside (in places 1 in 3 - we'll take our time over this section!). The woodland ends at the top of the climb where there is a panoramic view across open moorland to Moel Siabod, the Glyderau and the Snowdon group. The walk continues gently down to Roman Bridge returning to Dolwyddelan on well defined paths and tracks passing Castell Dolwyddelan on our way. Please bring a picnic lunch, and wear waterproof walking boots as, after rain, some sections could be quite wet underfoot. Toilets are available in Dolwyddelan and Betws y Coed. There are cafes in Betws y Coed for post-walk refreshments. Contact Sue & Lawrence for further details (01248 713793 or 07933217087).

◇ **Cytûn (Churches Together) at Bangor Carnival: Saturday 6th June**

This year we will be offering craft for children, a prayer space and a baby change facility, plus Open the Book/Agor y Llyfr will be presenting Bible stories through drama at intervals during the afternoon. (No tea and coffee this year.) Lots of helpers are required, please:

1. Erecting the tent and packing it away, 5-7pm on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th June
 - a. Someone with a robust 8ft trailer to bring the tent down from Moelyci to the Carnival field on Beach Road for 5pm on Friday and take it back at around 7pm on Saturday.
 - b. Six able-bodied persons to erect the tent 5-7pm on Friday.
 - c. Six able-bodied persons to dismantle the tent 5-7pm on Saturday.

2. Helping with activities in the tent on Saturday: Please can each church provide at least 2 people for one hour between noon and 5pm, to help either with the prayer corner or with the crafts. Everyone should be prepared to engage passers-by in conversation and hand out Cytûn leaflets as required. If you want to volunteer please contact Sarah Jackson ASAP.

◇ **Men's Prayer Meeting** *Wednesday 3rd June* *10:30am*

Time spent in prayer will be followed by coffee in Options. All are welcome to join us.

◇ **Pastoral Help**

If you have pastoral concerns please contact Peter or one of the other members of the Pastoral Care team: Pat Borlace 713146; Adrienne Ferrada; Geoff Moore 410582; Judy Stammers 364394; Helen Thomas 600174. Peter will be on holiday between 11th and 18th June.

◇ **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**

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 by emailing the office now and requesting to be put on the list. And for more immediate sharing and response in prayer why not search on Facebook for *Penrallt Prayer Point* and send a request to join our group dedicated to prayer.

◇ **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 7th June** (please see weekly news sheets or check with the church office for confirmation).

◇ **Rough Sleepers**

The church's policy is not to give money directly to the rough sleepers in Upper Bangor. Be warned that some of them can be aggressive. 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. So far Penrallt has contributed £5,455 to this scheme.

◇ **Spring Harvest 2016** *Easter Monday 28th March – Saturday 2nd April*

There is a group going to Spring Harvest in Minehead next year from Penrallt. Sharing 4 people in a chalet in one twin and one double room with a shower. Includes breakfast and evening meal as well as full access to the Spring Harvest programme. Costs: Adult £259; Child 6-14 £194; Child 2-5 £172.75; Child under 2 £25 (Deposit: Adult £35; Child 2-14 £20). If you would like to join the group please contact Sarah Swallow (on 01407 720237, 07712729043, or sarah_swallow@hotmail.co.uk) with your contact details and deposit before Monday 22nd June (the deadline for group bookings. Further information available from Sarah or the Spring Harvest website springharvest.org

◇ **Thanks to Penrallt:** We recently hosted a memorial service for Declan Meirion Owen. His mother Marian McGovern (who lives in America) wishes to thank Penrallt for the help and kindness shown to her and her family at this time.

◇ **Visit of Jenni Entrican, President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain**

Jenni's theme as President is "Daring Greatly." On Saturday 20th June 10:00-3:30 at the Coach House she will be leading a day of reflection for all women, not only those in leadership situations. The day will be facilitated by Diane Holmes and the topic is "Love yourself...actually". It is free and includes a simple lunch, with tea, coffee etc. Places are limited to 30, so please sign up on the list.

After the Sunday morning service on 21st June 12:30-2:00 in the Belle Vue Pub next door to the church we will have an informal time with Jenni. Seated around tables she will lead us to reflect and respond to the theme "*Daring Greatly*". There will be a meal provided (chilli con carne/vegetarian curry) at £7.50 a head. There is a children's option of chicken nuggets, chips and beans at £3.50. Places are limited to 40, so please sign up on the list. Please pay when you sign up. Don't leave it until the day.

◇ **Wedding:** Nichola and Neil would love you to join us in Penrallt for their wedding on Saturday 6th June at 2pm.

From the Secretary's Desk:

Just a short note to ensure that all Penrallt folk have by now got the news that Peter, our Minister, will be taking early retirement at the end of September. We will lose both Peter and Susan then as they will relinquish their membership of Penrallt and move on to a new church of their choice but carry on living in Bangor till a final decision is made regarding Peter's treatment and their place of choice to settle down. Please will you hold both of them and their children in your prayers? In a way it is so sad that after seventeen or so years of selfless service, Peter is leaving in such a manner but we have to rely on God's promise that it all works for the good of those who love Him and are called for His purpose. I am comforted that our Father is going to forsake none of us.

Plans for the future of our church are already under discussion; the deacons are meeting with Phil Jump our Regional minister early in June; once a plan of action is finalised we will let the church members know and you will be fully involved in the selection of a new minister. Please will you remember the deacons too in your prayers as they will need wisdom and humility as they set out on the long and tedious route to find a replacement for Peter?

As a church, we need to pull together in unity, harmony and prayer; the departure of Susan and Peter will leave a huge gap; Peter held the leadership of the church, as you know, with enormous capability and blessing. We will also be entering the busiest quarter of the church calendar. Therefore please be prepared to come out and do whatever is needed, according to your gifts and skills; Penrallt is not short of such people, in fact we are very blessed indeed.

If you have any comments, worries, suggestions to make or questions to ask please get in touch with any of the other deacons or myself.

We also need to make sure that Peter and Susan are sent off with a loud bang! We will get there once Peter's plans for his treatment are decided upon.

God bless.

Roshni

Focus on...

The Ó Brolcháin Family

Serving with Operation Mobilisation, Ireland

Many folk have joined Penrallt Church since we left Wales in 2000! So we thought we should give you some background intel on us!

We are an Irish family with three grown children; Ciara (who worshipped with you from 2008-2011), Sinéad and Ruairí. Only Ruairí remains living with us at home, he sits his final school exams in June this year, in fact we have him strapped down in front of his desk until his last exam on 17th June!

We worshipped with you all the way back in 1991 to 2000 and we try and visit every year because by God's grace you have been faithfully supporting us for many years. We hope to visit again in the Autumn when Ruairí will be settled into college...dates to be finalised! The Lord led us to join the work of Operation Mobilisation (OM) in Ireland in September 2008, that meant a move of 80 miles and new schools, church and friends. Our plan was to serve Him for one year but we soon realised that the Lord wanted us to remain serving Him indefinitely. Colm began and continues to serve as the mechanic for our car fleet - over 30 vehicles now! He is also one of the drivers of our 'Big Red Bus'. When he goes out with teams that are sharing the Gospel, Colm has discovered that the Lord has given him the desire and ability to share his faith. He has grown in confidence about how to bring everyday conversations around to debating and sharing about God.

Catherine has had lots of different jobs over the seven years, but has handed them on to new team members as our team has grown - from 15 in 2008 to 48 in 2015. Her main role is pastoral now as we have established a 'People Care' ministry; which means practical, spiritual and emotional support for our team.

The areas where God is presently using our team include: Faith programmes to primary and secondary schools, support for youth clubs, general street evangelism, use of drama and the arts in various ways, small teams to live and serve at 4/5 churches around Ireland. We are joined by teams from churches outside Ireland who come on tailor-made outreaches and we have repeating outreaches: Impact Ireland (July), the music festival in Sligo (August), the Horse Fair (September), the National Ploughing Championship (October) and of course St Patrick's challenge (March). Our challenge to you is... will you come to serve for a few days or a week with us in Ireland?

- You speak English, and so do we (after a fashion!)
- We are only across the water.
- You will never be the same again; God will teach you so about himself as you step out in faith.

Just come for a week, we are sure it can be organised if you are willing, as individuals or as a group; you'll be encouraged and so will we!!

Looking forward to seeing you this Autumn.

Love, Colm & Catherine (email: colm.obrolchain@om.org; catherine.obrolchain@om.org)

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 21 June.

Please send information to Magnus (office@penrallt.org; 01248 353355)

All notices should be submitted in writing (preferably by email) as early as possible.