



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: June 2018

Last month the Royal wedding was the event that captured the world's attention. Millions watched this event and many were talking about the address given by a US preacher, who among other things said, "We must discover the power of **love**. And when we discover that, we will be able to make of this old world a new world. A world where there is justice, peace, equality and where poverty will be history."

But what is love? Without a proper concept of love this search for the "power of love" is simply utopian rhetoric. Perhaps one of the problems in our society is that we do not have role models of love for us to discover the power of love.

This month we will be celebrating Father's Day. Maybe your father is with you and you will be meeting him for lunch/dinner or maybe you will be sending him a card, or just a phone call because of the distance. Some people may have wonderful memories of a *loving father*, while others remember a cold, indifferent dad or perhaps even an abusive, hurtful man.

The fact is that none of us have had perfect fathers. Even the best father has his flaws, and many have grown with a distorted image of a loving father figure. However, we have a Perfect Father, our Heavenly Father who is the role model we are to follow. The word *Father* is mentioned more than a hundred times in the Gospels.

Jesus spoke of our Heavenly Father whose love is perfect (see Matthew 5:45). He loves the righteous and unrighteous, "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good". He wants us to be perfect because He is perfect.

Our Heavenly Father is available at all times. He is never absent (see Matthew 6:6). We know while on this earth our lives can be disturbed, but our Heavenly Father offers us protection. All we need to do is to call Him.

Our Heavenly Father disciplines His children. In Hebrews 12:6-13 the writer encourages his readers not to give up under the persecution they were experiencing. One scholar wrote, "God uses hardship and affliction as a means of discipline, a means of training His children, of helping them mature in their spiritual lives".

Our Heavenly Father forgives sins. When there is sin in our lives, it will affect our fellowship with our Heavenly Father and others. Our peace is taken away, our service is hindered and it deprives us of His blessings. We cannot have fellowship with Him until our sins are forgiven because He is holy. He wants to grant His forgiveness and cleansing.

Our Heavenly Father gives good gifts; His gifts are always good, always suitable, and always perfect. In Matthew 6:33 God promises to provide the things we need if we will seek first His kingdom. Like a good loving Father, He might not supply every need in the way we want, but He will take care of His children because He is a loving Father.

Sadly, there is a gloomy reality in our society today which is "Absent Fathers". According to the U.S. census bureau, 24 million children, 1 out of 3, live without their biological father in the home. In the UK, statistics say that millions of children are growing up without a father in their lives. The Centre for Social Justice Report says lone parent families are increasing by more than 20,000 a year.

It seems to me that, as a result of this, many children/young people grow up having a distorted image of love because they do not have good examples at home. They end up being content with having the "friendship" that they have with friends, or "kindness" that they find in some people. They learn to be "nice" because they have been inspired when they have met "nice" people. Love is not about submission, commitment, obedience, service and sacrifice, which is what Jesus taught. No! These words are alien, because for most people in our society the words that resonate more are: independence, kindness, charity, niceness, inclusivity and friendship.

Are you searching for the "power of love"?

The source of love is God Himself. We will only be able to find the power of love when we surrender our lives to Jesus, for He is the only way to our Heavenly Father. How can we demonstrate that we love Jesus? By keeping/obeying His commandments. It is only then that we can "love God with all our hearts and love our neighbour". It is only then that we will have a different society and a new world; a world where there is justice, peace, equality, and where poverty will be history.

Freddy

Services This Month

Our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, will be the speaker at all services except where otherwise noted below. Deb Stammers is a church member and is currently training to become a Baptist minister. Elfed Godding is the national director of Evangelical Alliance Wales.

3rd June

- 10:30am Experiencing God #1: *John 14:6, 12, 17:3*
Jesus is your way *Genesis 12:1–5*
Sunday school theme: Power with you (Joshua 1)
- 6:00pm Communion Service
Lessons from Psalms #1: *Psalms 8*
King David's encounter with God

10th June

- 10:30am Experiencing God #2: *John 5:17, 19–20;*
Jesus is your model *Matthew 4:18–22*
Sunday school theme: Help for the spies (Joshua 2)
- 6:00pm Lessons from Psalms #2: *Psalms 23*
King David's description of life

17th June

- 10:30am **Our Heavenly Father** *Matthew 6:6–15,*
7:1–11
Sunday school theme: Across the barrier (Joshua 3:1–4:9)
- 6:00pm Lessons from Psalms #2: *Psalms 46:1–3*
Our source of security

24th June

- 10:30am Communion Service
Speaker: Deb Stammers *Acts 2:36–47*
The promise is for you
Sunday school theme: Breaking the walls (Joshua 6)
- 6:00pm Speaker: Elfed Godding *Matthew 18:15–20*
The power of authority, alignment and authenticity

Dates for Your Diary

Saturdays	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Sunday 3	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre residential home in Llangoed (nr. Beaumaris).
Wednesday 6	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Tuesday 12	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
Monday 18	10:30am	Church Walk at Traeth Lligwy.
Tuesday 26	7:30pm	Experiencing God course continues (also on Thursday 28 th at 10am and 7:30pm).
Saturday 23	11am–3pm	Cake & Coffee Extravaganza in the Canolfan to raise funds for cancer units at Ysbyty Gwynedd and Ysbyty Glan Clwyd.

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

News of People

Eileen McKenna is due to be having hip surgery this month. We hold her in our prayers.

Children's Birthdays in June

17th: Thomas Howie 20th: Bradley Jones
27th: Harvey Lemon, Ben Warnock

Christian Aid Week

Huge thanks to everyone who participated in any way with the activities for this year's Christian Aid Week.

Over £500 was collected in Penrallt's door-to-door collection (with 2 areas still to come in at the time of going to press) and the Christian Aid Quiz, hosted by Penrallt and attended by representatives of many of the churches in Bangor Cytûn raised £250. The total amount raised in Bangor has not yet been established.

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 groups generally do not meet on the week of the monthly prayer meeting or the Experiencing God course and may not meet all other weeks – please check with the named contact. All landline numbers below have the 01248 area code.*

Day	Time	Group Name	Contacts
Mon	7:00pm	Delta	Lawrence Moss (713793) Brian Wheatcroft (602516)
Tue	7:30pm	Nilgiri	Joan Beer (353874)
Tue	7:30pm	Tyddyn Isaf (Menai Bridge)	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
Wed	2:00pm	Carers	Carol Morris (208407)
Wed	7:30pm	Bryn Eithinog	Freddy Farias-Palacios (07506 710694)
Wed	7:30pm	Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
Thu	10:30am	Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7:30pm	Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7:30pm	Ogwen Valley	Brian & Kate Wheatcroft (602516)
Fri	10:30:00	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316) Lesley Jackson (680330)

Noticeboard:

◇ **Church Lunch**

Sunday 3rd June

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.

◇ **Cake & Coffee Extravaganza** *Saturday 23rd June 11am–3pm*

Eve Malone is holding a fundraising event in the Canolfan by way of saying thanks for her recent cancer treatment to the Alaw Unit, Ysbyty Gwynedd and the Glan Clywd Radiotherapy Unit. If you can help by doing a shift in the kitchen, baking a cake, or contributing any new unwanted gifts, please

Speak to Eve (017522 120000) or Sue Moss (07597 373005). Stalls to include: Home Baked Cakes, Guess the Weight of the Cake, "Everyone Gets a Gift", Face Painting, Name the Teddy, Book Stall and a Craft Stall. All proceeds to the Cancer Charitable Fund in aid of Awyr Las, Registered Charity no. 1138976.

◇ **Church Walk** *Monday 18th June 10:30am*

Meet in the car park at the north west end of Traeth Lligwy Beach at 10:30am. Take the A5025 from Menai Bridge to Amlwch. At Bryn Refail just over 2 miles from the roundabout above Moelfre, turn right (opposite the Anglesey Good Gifts Shop & Tea Room – plan to visit this at the end of the walk). Immediately turn onto a narrow lane marked "to the beach" signed cul-de-sac. About $\frac{3}{4}$ mile further on at a T Junction, turn right and continue to the beach car park. There is a parking charge of £2.50. Various creatures were encountered on the path, including pigs, sheep, cattle, horses, ponies, llamas, ostriches, geese and dogs but none was hostile! The circular route is just under 7 miles long and takes in part of the Anglesey Coastal Path, before turning inland on the Cadog Trail. The highest point reached is Mynydd Bodafon from where on a clear day you can see panoramic views of Anglesey and the North Wales coast. The path in 2 places was very muddy and waterproof/walking boots are necessary. There is one short but fairly steep climb (approximately 150 metres), and an easier climb for a shorter distance to the summit of Mynydd Bodafon. Walking poles may be helpful. Contact Sue & Lawrence for further information on 01248 713793, or 07933 217087.

◇ **Experiencing God** *Tuesday 26th June 7:30pm*

Our course, postponed from last Autumn, has now begun. It is designed to help us deepen our relationship with God. There will be monthly sessions in the chapel on the fourth Tuesday evening of the month, with some groups meeting on the Thursday morning (10am) or Thursday evening (7:30pm) of the same week. If you have not yet joined, there is still time this month but afterwards it will be too late.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting** *Tuesday 12th June 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 next two meetings after this one will be on Wednesday 11th July and Thursday 9th August.

◇ **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 (353648); 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) 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. You will find labelled envelopes in the porch for a gift that will buy meal vouchers which are distributed to the homeless 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) and Plas Garnedd (in Llanberis), usually on the first Sunday. The services (now including those at Plas Garnedd) start at 2:15pm and last roughly half an hour. This month we will be going to **Haulfre** on 3rd June.

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 17th 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.

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Focus on...

Mark & Susanna Barrell

Serving with BMS in Mozambique

Having previously working with BMS in Uganda from 2002 to 2006, Mark and Susanna returned to Africa in early 2018. This time they are serving in Mozambique, where Mark is working alongside the Mozambique Association of Christian Lawyers to help build its capacity. He reports that at this point the desire of the AMAC leadership is to consider carefully how to develop and make sustainable the future vision of this hugely valuable justice ministry.



Susanna is currently investigating some potential ministry opportunities to use her small business and handicrafts skills to expand the Baptist convention's community development work in the south of the country.

Whilst in Suffolk in the UK, Mark was a lawyer and the Executive Director of the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship (UK) and Susanna ran a small sewing business.

Mark and Susanna are currently learning Portuguese. They are accompanied in Maputo by their daughter Lizzie (13) who is attending Maputo International School. It runs on the English i-gcse system, and has children from over 40 different countries.

Mark and Susanna also have two other children, Jacob (22) and Anna (20) who are at university in Oxford and Sheffield respectively.

Mark and Susanna have highlighted these praise and prayer points:

Thanks: For our work visas, our home in Maputo and health and continuing connections locally.

Lizzie: She is missing UK friends and family. Pray especially for good school and church friends to be with outside of the school day.

Language: We have started to grasp the basics, but the hard work now begins. Please pray for perseverance.

Wisdom: As we start to work out what life might look like in the future for our local church involvement and AMAC we will need bucket loads of Godly wisdom to make the right choices.

Jake and Annie: We miss them. Pray that they will be able to focus well on their studies in the coming months.

www.bmsworldmission.org/people/mark-and-susanna-barrell/