



# Penrallt Baptist Church

**Newsletter: November 2015**

So, I am no Peter!

I have no angels to talk to. Indeed they studiously avoid me!

But...

I was sitting in my car in the middle of Anglesey (I do a lot of that these days, sitting in my car that is, in between events) after visiting a young person who had been through tough times, in a very dark place indeed. I wondered if I did any good at all in lifting this kid out the pure despair the youngster had sunk to; such pain, sense of rejection and hopelessness in someone so young. It reminded me of an occasion a long time back, on a mission trip, in the middle of Africa. One of the members read a quotation from the Song of Songs, 'The voice of my Beloved! Behold, He cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills' (Song of Solomon 2:8, KJV). Someone said with an angelic smile on his face, 'It means that there is nothing, no problems which our Saviour's love cannot resolve; to Him mountains of obstacles are as easy as a mount to a gazelle'. I might have expressed a similar sentiment to this young person: how easy it is to say this but when one is in the depth of despair does any of it ring true? How deeply those of us who love our Lord and wish to follow Him long for the strength to conquer the struggles and temptations of this broken world with ease and conviction! We would give anything to learn the secret of 'triumphant living', 'to run a good race', 'to gain the crown of glory' that Paul describes. But we fall upon the thorns of life...

Living through each day when we are suffering is a different matter altogether; we question, we struggle, we give up – like this child I have spent hours with.

Now the gazelles, have you seen them bounding up the mountains, jumping from rock to rock with such grace? Their motion is a picture of agility; the conquest of surrounding obstacles totally effortless.

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As Christians we know, in theory at least, that in the life of a Child of God injustice and pointless sufferings are permitted by God; they are opportunities to glorify Him; through such suffering He is able to refine us to reflect His true nature. So unlike the gazelles we are often in the 'Low Places', the valley of humiliation, rejection and sorrow – like the kid I just left.

Wouldn't we love to be the gazelles sprinting up the mountain of life? Wouldn't we love to live in such 'High Places' of love, care, success here on this earth; transform evil, sorrow and pain into something glorious and live in the Light of our Lord for ever? The Song of Songs expresses our desire to be in communion with our Beloved Saviour. But the 'High Places' of victory and oneness with our Lord can only be achieved by learning to accept the will of God – self-will at the altar of sacrifice. Thus we become acquainted with grief and pain, learn through glad surrender to know the Lord of Love himself in a new way and to experience the unbroken union with Him; a New Beginning. Perhaps then the Lord will speak to comfort some of His loved ones who are stuck in the pit of sorrow or who walk in the darkness and have no light or who find themselves tossed in the storms of life. They may then understand a new meaning to what is happening; in time they may come to know the High Place which made David and Habakkuk cry out in exaltation, 'The Lord God maketh my feet like hinds' feet and setteth me upon mine High Places' (Psalm 18:33 and Habakkuk 3:19, KJV).

Like my young friend and many in similar situations.

I had sat in my car weeping for this young person for nearly an hour! The angel was not there but an overwhelming sense of the presence of my Lord! Like the gazelles I was at the very edge of the High Place looking down on the Low Place below and watch the Light wiping out the darkness from the valleys. So... I am comforted that this child is firmly in our Saviour's palm, held there by the prayers of many.

We will enter the Advent season this month – a time of hope, of anticipation, of the awesome reality that Christmas says, amongst many things, that God cares for the world; that He has become one with the human race; that He intends to redeem us. In the deepest darkness Christmas shouts out that God has brought light and hope into our world. Understanding Advent and Christmas might transform our lives. Let us, people of Penrallt, celebrate the Advent season with a new understanding. Take time out to reflect and rest on this awesome event because God is prepared to stand alongside us and carry us through the very worst that life can throw at us.

God bless

*Roshni*

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

### **1 November**

10:30am Speaker: Diane Holmes *New Beginnings #4: Acts 16:6-18*

#### **The Colour Purple**

6:00pm Communion Service Speaker: Neil Rymer  
**Who'd be a prophet?** *Gifts of the Spirit #4: 1 Corinthians 14:1-12*

### **8 November (Remembrance Sunday)**

10:30am Speaker: Andrew March *Jeremiah 51:14-32 & Matthew 24:1-35*

#### **Why War?**

6:00pm Speaker: Bryan Collis *Gifts of the Spirit #5: 1 Corinthians 14:13-25*  
**Using spiritual gifts when we come together**

### **15 November**

10:30am Speaker: Julia Bartholomew  
**Who needs a Sabbath?** *Psalms 92*

6:00pm Speaker: Deb Stammers  
**Doing Worship Well** *Gifts of the Spirit #6: 1 Corinthians 14:26-40*

### **22 November**

10:30am Speaker: Jon Stammers *New Beginnings #5: Matthew 1:1-17*  
**Deep, deep roots** *(Christ's Genealogy)*

6:00pm Speaker: Delvin Varghese *Gifts of the Spirit #7: Galatians 5:1-15*  
**Choosing to be free: It's harder than it sounds**

### **29 November**

10:30am Communion Service. Speaker: Roger Borlace.  
**Joseph accepts his mission** *New Beginnings #6: Matthew 1:18-25*

6:00pm ***Explore Together: Galatians 5:16-26***

This service will be led by Jon Stammers using the Explore Together format, in which we use a variety of different zones (Colour, Listening, Chat, Word, Busy, Quiet) to provide different ways to engage with the passage, enabling us to hear from God and learn from each other. The format is intended to be totally inclusive and to break down barriers. See [exploretogether.org](http://exploretogether.org) for more information.

### ***Our Speakers in November:***

**Julia Bartholomew** is the minister of Rhos On Sea United Reform Church (which usually hosts Bible Unzipped). **Delvin Varghese** was our student co-ordinator last year and has recently left Bangor to start a PhD in Newcastle. The other speakers are all members of Penrallt.

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

<b>Wednesday 4</b>	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee in Options.
<b>Saturday 7</b>	all day	Penrallt Railway Group Construction Day.
<b>Sunday 8</b>	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre Residential Home in Llangoed.
<b>Saturday 14</b>	9:30am-1pm	<i>Bible Unzipped</i> at Penrallt.
<b>Monday 16</b>	10:30am	Church walk at Penmon.
<b>Friday 20</b>	6:30pm	St Andrew's Night Dinner & Twmpath at Rhos on Sea URC.
<b>Saturday 21</b>	10:30am-2pm	Penrallt Christmas Fair.

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

## ***Advance Notice:***

This year's Sunday School Christmas Service (10:30am) and Community Carols By Candlelight (6pm) will both take place on Sunday 13th December.

Instead of sending Christmas cards to everyone at Penrallt, why not send one to the whole church & make a donation to BMS? There will be a board up in the hall in December to display cards to the church.

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

Both **Tony Mason** and **Phil McKenna** are quite unwell at the moment. **Eileen McKenna** is looking after Phil and may also require surgery on her hip.

**Marion Massey** is now at home and continuing to recover, while **Pat MacKenzie** is almost fully recovered after her fall last month.

**Steve Willis** is getting baptised in Reus (in Spain) on Sunday 1st November and several others from Penrallt are attending this event.

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

4<sup>th</sup>: Rio Penny      8<sup>th</sup>: Rebekah Collis      24<sup>th</sup>: Mika Owen

## ***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>	7:30pm	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>	7:30pm	HG, Bethesda	Jon & Deb Stammers (602868)
<b>Wed</b>	7:30pm	HG, Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
<b>Thu</b>	10:30am	HG, Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Thu</b>	7:30pm	HG, Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Fri</b>	10:30am-12pm	Cheeky Monkeys (parent/toddler group)	Ceri Walker (07581 452098)
<b>Fri</b>	10:30am-12:30pm	HG, Maes y Dref	Anne Collis (353173)
<b>Sat</b>	8:30am	Prayer Meeting	

## ***Noticeboard:***

### ◇ **Bible Unzipped**

*Saturday 14th November*

*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, usually at Rhos-on-Sea URC on the second Saturday morning from 9:30am to 1pm but **this month we are coming to Penrallt** instead, so this is an ideal opportunity for you to check it out. The course is free and each morning includes three sessions. This month: *Old Testament Theology* (Peter Cousins); *Hard Texts in the Old Testament* (Jon Stammers); *Philippians* (Julia Bartholomew). Please note that Bible Unzipped will be taking a break for Christmas and restarting in January.

◇ **Christmas Fair** *Saturday 21st November 10:30am-2pm*

There will be a variety of stalls (cakes, fudge, various crafts, bric a brac, etc.), also fairly traded gifts, Christmas cards and activities for children. The Penrallt Railway Group will be displaying their model railway (under construction).

Refreshments will be on sale. No entrance fee but all profits from the sales will be divided between two of our missionary couples, Chris and Anna Hembury (who work in inner city Hull with Youth for Christ) and Duncan and Trudie Tough (who work in Papua New Guinea with Wycliffe Translators - see the *Focus* on the back page of this newsletter for more about them). We need volunteers to help in the kitchen and to make cakes to sell. If you have any bric a brac please bring it to the church before the 21st (no large items, please). Contact Janet Jones or Mari Kelso if you can help in anyway. Please come and support our missionaries whilst enjoying fellowship and a panad together.

◇ **Church Lunch**

We will host a church lunch on **Sunday 1st November**. Please bring enough buffet style "finger food" for yourselves and one or two others.

◇ **Church Walk** *Monday 16th November*

Meet at 10:30 in the free car park in Llangoed adjacent to the small masonry bridge just downhill from the Post Office. The walk follows the Seiriol path in the Penmon part of NE Anglesey, including Penmon Point and Castell Aberlleiniog. It is about 6 miles long over fairly moderate terrain. Although there are no public toilets in Llangoed these are available in nearby Beaumaris. Walking boots desirable. Bring picnic lunch. Cafe in Beaumaris at end of walk. For more information, please speak to Sue and Lawrence Moss - 01248713793 or 07933217087.

◇ **Men's Prayer Meeting** *Wednesday 4th November 10:30am*

In the Twrgwyn Room. 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 a member of the Pastoral Care team: Pat Borlace (713146); Adrienne Ferrada; Gwen Hicks; Geoff Moore (410582); Lawrence Moss (713793); Judy Stammers (364394); Helen Thomas (600174).

◇ **Peter's Retirement Collection**

The total gift donation for Peter and Susan was £4,600 (plus the photobook and chocolate). Thanks to all who contributed to this.

◇ **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](mailto: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. 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. 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 £5,950 to this scheme.

◇ **St. Andrew's Dinner & Twmpath**      *Friday 20 November 6:30pm*

To celebrate St Andrew's Day (a few days early!) Rhos on Sea are hosting a Scottish themed evening of dinner - with (optional) haggis and homemade puddings - and dancing (to live music from a band that you may just recognise). Booking is essential and tickets cost £7 (or £3 for children. Ask at the Penrallt office for more information.

◇ **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 Haulfre on **Sunday 8th November** (NB a week later than usual); please see that week's news sheet or check with the church office for confirmation.

***Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 22nd November.***  
*Please sent information to Magnus ([office@penrallt.org](mailto:office@penrallt.org); 01248 353355).*  
*All notices should be submitted in writing (preferably by email) as early as possible.*

*Focus on...*



## **The Toughs in Papua New Guinea**

Duncan, Trudie and Reuben Tough work with Wycliffe Bible Translators supporting the work of Bible translation in Papua New Guinea. There are still 269 people groups in PNG who have no Scripture in their language, so there is plenty to do! Duncan supports the effort through his work as a helicopter pilot and Trudie is currently teaching English to 11th and 12th graders (children of translation families, support workers and Papua New Guineans who work here) at Ukarumpa International High School.

Duncan flies translation teams around the country, as well as flying for other missions and charities. He also does some commercial flying which raises much needed funds to support translation work. Trudie teaches one class a day at the High School, as well as looking after their rambunctious toddler, Reuben. They live in a busy community of missionaries based at Ukarumpa in the Eastern Highlands Province of PNG.

They will be returning to Wales at Christmas to take a nine month furlough and have their second child. They are excited about reconnecting with their Penrallt family and updating you in more detail about the work of Bible Translation in PNG, as well as sharing some of the highs and lows of their first term on the mission field.



### Prayer requests

#### **PRAISES:**

Thanks to God for His presence and care through many new experiences

Thanks to all of you for your faithful prayers, words of encouragements, parcels and letters – they are so much appreciated!

#### **REQUESTS:**

That they will finish well

For patience and energy as they travel back to the UK with a toddler

General transition – they have been away for two years and Reuben doesn't remember anything other than PNG...