



# Penrallt Baptist Church

**Newsletter: September 2017**

September-October is a significant time for university students and parents. Statistics show that many first-year students experience similar **fears** or challenges as they make their transition to their new life on campus.

Parents are not exempt from having **fears** about this new stage in their lives. Some universities and colleges have support activities for parents where they discuss transitioning from home, and how parents can let their children go. In 2015 research led by the Baker Dearing Educational Trust showed that "for two thirds (66%) of parents their biggest **fear** is that their child will not find a job when they leave education".

Sometimes we have to face challenges and unexpected events in our lives. Moving to a new town, losing our job, facing an illness or whatever other reason can produce fear. How can we overcome our fears?

Fear is the opposite of Faith. When we fear we are denying that God can take care of us, so Fear is lacking in Faith. In Matthew 8:5-13 we read about "The **Faith** of the Centurion". It is interesting that the centurion was not a religious person, he was not a Jew, he was a gentile, and he did not have Jesus culture because he was a Roman. However, Jesus was able to perform a miracle because of the Centurion's humility and **Faith**. On the other hand we have the sad account in Matthew 13:58 when Jesus was in Nazareth, his hometown, among people who had the same religion and culture. This verse says that "...he did not do many miracles there because their lack of **Faith**."

There are three aspects to consider about this passage:

First, Jesus was not moved by pity or because of the centurion's request. He was moved because of the centurion's **Faith** and humility. Verse 8 says, "The centurion replied, 'Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the **word**, and my servant will be healed'". God wants to see our **Faith**; He wants to see if we are going to trust Him when we are facing challenges in our lives.

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Secondly, our text says that by the **Word** of Jesus, the Centurion's servant was healed. The centurion understood Jesus' authority. Even though Roman soldiers thought themselves to be superior to those whom they had conquered, he submitted to Jesus. The outcome: "When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, 'I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such **great Faith.**'"

His **Faith** was great because he did not ask for any sign; he just believed in Jesus' word, he saw Jesus' power.

Thirdly, verse 13 says, "Then Jesus said to the centurion, 'Go! It will be done just as **you believed** it would.' And his servant was healed at that very hour."

Sometimes we believe what someone says, we believe what is on the news, we believe what our culture dictates, but are we willing to overcome our challenges and fears by believing in God?

Jesus is no longer physically present as He was with the centurion, but we have the Bible which is the word of God and in it we have Jesus' teachings, his miracles his commands. When we believe **The Word of God**, even when we find things we do not fully understand, then something will happen in our lives because, like the Centurion, we have **Faith** and we show humility.

Perhaps for some of you this is your first time away from home. Homesickness will be a challenge because you have to face the daunting reality of living in a different city, a different culture or another country. Or maybe this is your last year in university and you are facing the challenge of finding a job after finishing your studies.

May the Roman centurion's example help us to have **Faith** in God when facing challenges in our lives (family, workplaces, studies, etc...) that will produce fear. Let's trust and obey, whatever our circumstances may be.

Welcome to Penrallt Baptist Church, whether you are visiting or just moved to North Wales to work or to study. "May God give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." *Psalm 20:4.*

Remember, with God everything is possible and His hand is upon the lives of those who trust and obey His word. A hymn writer penned these words:- "*Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey*".

God bless,

*Freddy*

## ***Services This Month***

The speaker throughout September will be our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, except for one evening service when Deb Stammers, one of our church members, is preaching. Freddy will be concluding his morning sermon series on the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. In the evening services there will be a series of evangelistic sermons based on passages from the gospels.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> September**

10:30am **The Fruit of the Holy Spirit #6: GOODNESS** *Galatians 5:22;  
Matthew 19:16–17, 25:21–23*

6:00pm Communion Service  
**The Challenge of Christianity** *Mark 10:26–27*

### **10<sup>th</sup> September**

10:30am **The Fruit of the Holy Spirit #7: FAITHFULNESS** *Galatians 5:22;  
Hebrews 3:1–2; Revelation 2:10*

6:00pm **The Saviour of the World** *John 4:41–42*

### **17<sup>th</sup> September**

10:30am **The Fruit of the Holy Spirit #8: GENTLENESS** *Galatians 5:22;  
John 8:2–11*

**6:00pm** Speaker: Deb Stammers  
**The Narrow Door** *Luke 13:23–24*

### **24<sup>th</sup> September**

10:30am Communion Service  
**The Fruit of the Holy Spirit #9: SELF-CONTROL** *Galatians 5:22;  
Titus 2:1–3; 11–14*

6:00pm **So how can we believe?** *John 5:44*

## **Sunday Schools**

During the morning services, our Sunday school classes this month will be looking at Matthew 8. On the first Sunday of the month they will all be together in the hall, while for the rest of the month they will be dividing into their usual classes.

There will be a new consent form to cover all of Penrallt's children's and youth activities. Wendy Lemon will be contacting parents during September to fill this in.

## ***Dates for Your Diary***

<b>Saturdays</b>	8:30–9:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
<b>Saturday 2</b>	10am–3pm	Working party to clean up grounds (see weekly news sheet for 27 <sup>th</sup> August).
<b>Sunday 3</b>	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre residential home near Beaumaris.
<b>Monday 4</b>	7:30pm	Deacons' meeting
<b>Wednesday 6</b>	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
<b>Monday 11</b>	2pm	Pastoral Care Team meeting.
<b>Wednesday 13</b>	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
<b>Saturday 16</b>	12–3pm	Student Café.
<b>Monday 18</b>	10:30am	Church Walk at Rhosneigr.
<b>Wednesday 20</b>	12–3pm	Student Café.
<b>Thursday 21</b>	12–3pm	Student Café.
<b>Saturday 30</b>	5–11pm	Half Night of Prayer.

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

## ***News of People***

Our prayers are with Tony Mason, who at the time of writing was in hospital with pneumonia.

Congratulations to Judy Stammers on winning a chair at the National Eisteddfod for her poem (in Welsh) about the Easter morning service on Roman Camp.

Congratulations to Pauline and Mike Pearson who celebrate their golden wedding anniversary this month.

## ***Children's Birthdays in September***

11<sup>th</sup>: Shannon Omarly      16<sup>th</sup>: Reuben Stevens  
17<sup>th</sup>: Amy Harmens      24<sup>th</sup>: Elin Gwilliam      25<sup>th</sup>: Ned Allen

***Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September.***

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

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

## ***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 not all these groups meet weekly – please check with the contact people to find out when and where they are meeting this month.*

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Contacts</b>
<b>Tue</b>	7:30pm	Nilgiri	Joan Beer (353874)
<b>Tue</b>	7:30pm	Tyddyn Isaf (Menai Bridge)	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
<b>Wed</b>	2:00pm	Carers	Carol Morris (208407)
<b>Wed</b>	7:30pm	Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
<b>Wed</b>	7:30pm	Bryn Eithinog	Freddy Farias-Palacios (07506 710694)
<b>Thu</b>	10:30am	Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Thu</b>	7:30pm	Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Thu</b>	7:30pm	Ogwen Valley	Brian & Kate Wheatcroft (602516)
<b>Fri</b>	10:30am–12:30pm	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316) Lesley Jackson (680330)

## ***Noticeboard:***

### **◇ Church Lunch**

*Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September*

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.

### **◇ Church Walk**

*Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 10:30am*

This month's walk will start and finish at Rhosneigr and will take an easy flat route along Crigyll and Cymeran beaches, returning to Rhosneigr via an inland route. Meet by 10:30am on Station Road at the corner of Warren Road, where the Coastal Footpath sign can be found, (on the village side of the caravan parks). There is parking along the road. If you need toilets you will have to stop in Rhosneigr village. As usual suitable footwear and a packed lunch needed. Any queries, contact Mari and Ian Kelso (07443 038183).

### **◇ Experiencing God**

This is a course designed to help us deepen our relationship with God. We will be running it on midweek evenings (times and dates to be confirmed) from October and all are encouraged to participate. Further details will follow soon, but we need to get an idea of numbers so we can order copies of the course handbook. If you are interested, please sign the list you will find in the church porch.

◇ **Faith Café**

Faith Café for this academic year is due to start on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September (to be confirmed). This is an informal time of fellowship, mainly for students, after the evening service in which we provide soup, bread, cheese, cakes etc. It runs during university term time. If you are able and willing to provide any refreshments for Faith Café, please speak to Julia Morgan or Monica Morris.

◇ **Half-Night of Prayer** *Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 5–11pm*

As part of the National Prayer Weekend (<http://www.national-prayer-weekend.com/>) we will be holding a half-night of prayer for our local community (fueled by prayer requests from the community), starting early enough that children can join us for the start of the evening if they want to. There will be focused prayers every hour on the hour, and the rest of the time will be spent in open prayer seeking God's will. You can pop in for a short while or stay for the whole event. If you have ideas for how we could effectively gather prayer requests or if you would like to know more about the event, please speak to Jon Stammers (602868; [jon.stammers@gmail.com](mailto:jon.stammers@gmail.com)).

◇ **Harvest Service** *Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 10:30am*

We will be celebrating harvest with an all-age morning service at the start of October. Donations of non-perishable food items are welcomed to form a display in the service and then to be given to the Cathedral foodbank. If you would like to help arrange the display, please speak to Freddy.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting** *Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 7:30pm*

For the benefit of those who struggle to make Tuesday or Thursday evenings, we are now going to include Wednesday nights in the rotation for our monthly mid-week evening prayer meetings. These are for the whole congregation and all are warmly encouraged to attend. The meetings usually take place in the chapel, rotating between the second Tuesday, second Wednesday and second Thursday of the month, and lasting about an hour. On the week when the prayer meeting is on, our homegroups will not meet. We also have a weekly prayer meeting on Saturday mornings at 8:30am, which usually lasts slightly less than one hour.

◇ **Pastoral Help**

If you have issues of concern about your own or someone else's welfare, please contact either our minister, Freddy ([minister@penrallt.org](mailto:minister@penrallt.org); 07506 710694), or a member of the Pastoral Care team: Adrienne Ferrada; Gwen Hicks; Geoff Moore (410582); Lawrence Moss (713793); Helen Thomas (600174).

◇ **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 (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. Be reminded that they could, at times, be aggressive towards others. 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; this certainly would be a more meaningful form of help.

#### ◇ **Student Cafés**                      *16<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September*                      *12–3pm*

We are planning to have the chapel or Canolfan open for the new students and parents who will be exploring Bangor and looking for a church to attend. We shall provide light refreshments and a very warm welcome to all who come in. Please pray that those who are involved will serve with humility and radiate the love of Christ.

#### ◇ **Sunday Afternoon Services**

We visit residential homes in the area once a month on a Sunday afternoon, alternating between Haulfre (in Llangoed, near Beaumaris, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> September** but please check with the church office or see that week's news sheet to confirm that this is going ahead.

*Focus on...*

## **Proclaiming Jesus in the Valley of Kings**

### ***News from Peter and Rachel Calvert in Blois***

The Loire Valley in central France is well known for its chateaux and beautiful gardens. It was the favoured playground of the French monarchy back in Renaissance times. Five hundred years ago, the Reformation also had a significant impact here. But the Wars of Religion and later persecution of protestants left the region scarred, and today there is a crying need for more Christians to witness to the grace and love of King Jesus.

For the last two years, we have had the privilege of living and working in the town of Blois. Working alongside an established evangelical church on a council estate in the north of town, we have been working to plant a new community in the historic town centre of Blois.

The new plant is very much at « toddler » stage, and we would really appreciate your prayers :

- That we would be faithful, winsome and determined in proclaiming the gospel. Whether that's through events and exhibitions at the art gallery we run, through Sunday services in a local hotel, through small groups and one to one Bible studies, or through conversations with neighbours and friends in day to day life.
- That God would grant new birth to people who don't know him yet, and that we would see whole families committing to following King Jesus and taking their place in his Kingdom.
- That as a church community we would be a blessing to our neighbourhood and that our acts of love and service would give glory to Jesus.

Here are a few prayer requests for our core team for this coming school year:

**Annecilia:** for the right nursing jobs (she is temping as a nurse and it would be great to have something more stable) and for a good balance between work and church commitments.

**Anneline:** for her work and witness as a school teacher and for friendships with more locals who aren't yet disciples of Jesus.

**Marcio:** praise God for the friendships and opportunities for witness God has been opening up... please pray for Marcio's continued progress in French (he is from Brazil).

**Eliza:** (British student spending a semester with us from September) that her time in Blois would be a good learning experience, that God would provide the right accommodation for her and help her to find her place in the ministry here quickly.

**Peter:** for God's wisdom, empowering and protection as he leads the team and carries the main responsibility for teaching and strategy.

**Rachel:** for God's help in witnessing and discipleship, particularly with families at school. We would also appreciate prayers for our daughters, Anna, Sophie and Inès... that they would experience their parents' job as church-planters mostly as a privilege rather than mostly as a burden!

For all of us: that we would grow more like Jesus and take time to feed on God's Word! And that we would grow in love and holiness.

Thank you so much for the way you support us as a church and for your prayers... we look forward to sharing more news with you soon.

*Rachel and Peter Calvert*

with Anna (10), Sophie, (8) and Inès (6).