



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: August 2015

From the Minister:

It was the sound of weeping that drew me to the living room. To my amazement I discovered Lady Wisdom sitting on the edge of our sofa, tears pouring down her beautiful cheeks. Even more astonishing was to observe she'd abandoned her normal casual look for a sassy black dress with a chrome choker necklace, matching bangle and ankle-strap high heels. She was barely recognisable as the billion year old wisdom which created this world and filled it with everything which is good.

"Why are you crying?" I enquired, concerned by her obvious distress.

"Oh, sweetheart, haven't you seen this?" she asked, pointing at the TV.

"The Jeremy Kyle programme, you mean? Most people just get angry at it. I've never seen anyone cry over it before."

"But you should, dear man, you should. These people are destroying themselves and everyone around them for lack of wisdom."

"Well, yes. Maybe you should go and give them a piece of your mind." I suggested.

Since then, I've silently blamed myself for the mayhem which overtook the Jeremy Kyle programme that morning, as Lady Wisdom vanished from my living room and appeared on the stage alongside Jeremy and a family in meltdown.

Hands on hips and her head at a slight angle giving her a look of quiet authority she addressed the husband and wife who were standing toe to toe pointing accusing fingers at each other.

"You know, darlings, *a gentle response defuses anger, but a sharp tongue kindles a furor.*"

"What? Who the **** are you?" demanded the red-faced husband.

"I, son, am the wisdom of God *whom he made when the earth was formed*, and I'm trying to explain to you that *kind words heal and help; cutting words wound and maim*. You're hurting her when you should be healing."

"But she's a lying . . ." he choked back another swearword.

"If you walked through a bonfire you'd scorch your feet wouldn't you? And if you slept with another woman you'd burn your own conscience and character to the core."

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"But I only snogged her!" he shouted, clearly offended by the slur on his dubious character.

"But you thought about betraying your partner."

"No harm in thinking."

"Thoughts count too. You've got to understand that *God can be disgusted by the thoughts of folk who've gone astray, but he loves to walk hand in hand with those who've focused themselves on him.*"

"God???"

"Have you got a problem with God?"

But before he could answer his partner piped in with a shrill anxious babble:

"Don't listen to 'im. I'm going to see he gets what 'e deserves!"

Lady Wisdom sighed and lowered her shoulders.

"Child, *stop saying you'll pay him back for what he did! Wait for the Lord, and he'll see you through this crisis.*"

"The Lord???"

"Yes, him, tillymint.¹ You've got to understand that *wise women build their family up carefully, foolish women tear theirs down a piece at a time.* Don't throw this relationship away yet, honey. *Work on it with wisdom, understand what's going on and it'll be strong enough to last a lifetime.*"

Jeremy Kyle had been standing bemused, flashing interrogatory looks to the wings and desperately trying to fathom out who it was had gate-crashed his show. In the end he could stand it no more.

"Whoever you are wait over there in the corner while we bring up the results of the lie detector."

Of course, Lady Wisdom was having none of that nonsense.

"Listen, currant bun, I'm just trying to explain to you *there's real abundant life in doing things God's way. In fact it's like life eternal to do what he tells you.* God's the best deal in town, my friend. Live life his way and you'll have all you need. *Hostility is like bursting a dam. Once you set it off you're suddenly drowning in it.*"

"Don't talk to me about hostility," griped the husband, slumping down into his chair. 's all I get."

"God made the two of you to work together as a team," said Lady W. with a sigh. "A *good woman is hard to find, and worth far more than diamonds. You'd trust her completely and never have reason to regret it. She'd stop criticizing you and treat you generously all her life long.* You've just got to try to value and appreciate her. *Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*"

Just then the sister of the woman who was sitting in the third row of the audience finally decided she'd heard enough. Leaping to her feet and shaking her head so hard that her earrings cracked like a whip she let fly a stream of abuse at the back of Lady Wisdom.

"Stop defending the ****! He's a total ****! And she's a stupid **** for bowvering with 'im."²

Lady Wisdom pivoted on the sole of her smart leather shoe and looked fiercely at the audience.

"Fools find no pleasure in understanding what's going on, they find it's much more fun to air their own opinions."

It was at this point the booing began. Jeremy Kyle turned to the figures in the control box with arms outstretched in total confusion while two hefty security men appeared hastily on stage, hustling the elegant Lady in her black dress out of camera shot. As they called in the adverts her voice was heard hanging in the air:

*"Start with God! The first step in learning is bowing down to him. Only fools thumb their noses at such wisdom and learning."*³

God bless,

Peter

¹ We're not sure how Lady Wisdom learnt to speak Scouse, but apparently she does.

² There was more, but I'm running out of asterisks.

³ Lady Wisdom is a poetic character invented by the writer of the Book of Proverbs in the Bible. She sees through our human stupidity and rebellion, pointing us towards a better way to live with God at the centre. All the words in italics above are quotes from her advice in the Book of Proverbs, although there are various translations, and some of the verses I have rewritten in my own words. If you want to check them out here they are: 15:1; 8:23; 15:4; 6:28-29; 15:26; 20:22; 14:1; 24:3; 12:28; 17:14; 31:10-12; 16:24; 18:2; 1:7.

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 23rd August.

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

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

Our Speakers in August

Bob Woods is Professor of Gerontology at Bangor University and a member of Penrallt. **Roger Borlace** is a retired Baptist minister and a member of Penrallt. **Ken Sykes** is a retired Baptist minister. He and Lorna have recently retired from Oswestry to Llanfairfechan where they are busy renovating their house. **Rachel Calvert** is the daughter of Gwen Hicks (one of our church members) and lives in France with her husband Peter and their 3 daughters; Peter and Rachel are church planters with *France Mission* and wrote this month's *Focus* article (see back page). **Jon Stammers** is a member of Penrallt. **Peter Cousins** is our minister and is the speaker except where otherwise noted.

Services This Month:

During August there will be no formal Sunday School. On the 2nd, 16th and 23rd the children will leave the service half way through for singing, a Bible Story and games in the hall with our team. The 9th and 30th will be all age family services.

2 August

10:30am **What you see when you get close to Heaven** *Mark 9:2-13*

7:00pm Communion Service.
When God's people fall out *Joshua 22:1-34*

9 August

10:30am All-age Service. Speaker: Prof. Bob Woods.

7:00pm *Explore Together* service led by Jon Stammers (*see below*).

16 August

10:30am Speaker: Roger Borlace.
Jesus' Teaching on Prayer *Luke 11:1-13*

7:00pm Speaker: Rachel Calvert.

23 August

10:30am **Top Disciple Award** *Mark 9:30-50*

7:00pm Speaker: Ken Sykes.

30 August

10:30am Family Communion Service. *Mark 10:17-31*
A desperate lack of faith where you'd most hope to find it

7:00pm **The Baffling Mystery of the Divine Contract** *Joshua 24:1-13*

Explore Together - Sunday evening, 9th August (7pm): We will be trying out Explore Together, a new Scripture Union tool for exploring the Scriptures together in ways that suit each of us best, so we can hear from God and learn from each other. There will be six zones around the church building: Colour (learning by seeing), Listening (hearing), Chat (interacting and thinking aloud), Word (reading and writing), Busy (hands-on, "doing") and Quiet (reflecting). Following an introduction (presenting a Bible passage and praying) we can each explore in one or more of these zones, seeking to answer some general questions and explore the text together. This time the passage will be Matt 5:13-16 (salt and light). At the end we will share what we've found and give thanks. The format is intended to be totally inclusive and to break down barriers. In this evening service we're testing it out and we may try it out in a morning service (or some other setting) soon. Consider bringing children along or anyone you know who might enjoy it. Jon Stammers would like to get a team together to prepare things and model involvement in each of the zones - it won't be as good if it's just him trying to do it all! Please talk to Jon (or Magnus) if you'd like to help, and find out more at <http://www.exploretogether.org/> .

Dates For Your Diary:

(Friday 31 July)	7:30pm	Half-night of prayer for Penrallt.
Sunday 2	2:45pm	Service at Plas Garnedd Residential Home in Llanberis.
Wednesday 5	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee in Options.
Monday 17	10:30am (TBC)	Church walk.
Saturday 22	9:30am	Penrallt Railway Group construction day (in Canolfan)
Friday 28	2:00pm	Pastoral Care Team meeting.
Monday 31	7:30pm	Half-night of prayer for Penrallt.

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

Saturday Morning Prayer Meetings

These will continue as normal throughout the month of August. Please join in at 8:30am on Saturdays as you are able.

News of People:

Neither **Mel Worsnip** nor **Tony Mason** are well enough to come to church. Remember them in your thoughts and prayers. **Ian Kelso** has finished radiotherapy and will have further tests in a few months' time. **Delvin** has secured a place on the PhD programme in Newcastle and will be leaving us in September.

Children's Birthdays in August:

16th: Bethan Stammers

23rd: Ioan Stammers

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	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
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:

◇ **Annual Beddgelert Songs of Praise 2015**

Snowdonia Christian Fellowship have advised that the 20th annual "Beddgelert Songs of Praise" will be on Sunday August 16th at 2.30pm on the Village Green, Beddgelert.

"Over the years, this has proved to be a very special event. There is something lovely about singing God's praises out in the open air in the centre of the village. There is also something particularly enjoyable about joining with people from many different places and different church backgrounds. This year the 'Songs of Praise' will be followed by a baptism in the river." For more info: Alan Lorrimer-Riley, 07765-607319.

◇ **Bible Unzipped** is taking a summer break in August. The next session is expected to be on Saturday 12th September.

◇ **Car Parking**

Free parking is available on Sundays in Fron Heulog (the School of Healthcare Sciences) behind the Catholic church. The car park next 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; they say they switch the cameras off to make the car park available to us on Sunday/weekday evenings after 6pm. *NB the private pay and display car park next to the church often shuts at 6pm.*

◇ **Christian Aid**

Anne Jackson (Cytûn's Christian Aid Coordinator) has sent her thanks to all the churches in Bangor for their hard work during Christian Aid Week in May. Together we raised £6576.80 (Penrallt raised £1586.17). We shall be looking for a new coordinator for Christian Aid for Penrallt. If you feel you could serve the church in this way, speak to Bryan Collis or Roshni for your name to be considered.

◇ **Church Lunch**

We will host a church lunch on **Sunday 2nd August**. Please bring enough buffet style 'finger food' for yourselves and one or two others.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 17th August

Further details will follow. For more information contact George & Anne Boyer (01248 852778, 07798 716464, hafan@gsacboyer.plus.com).

◇ **Half Nights of Prayer for Penrallt**

We are holding 3 half-nights of prayer to help us seek God's guidance for the future direction of Penrallt's ministry. The first was on Tuesday 30th June and the others will be on Friday 31st July and Monday 31st August, 7:30 - 11:30pm; please come for as long as you can but feel free to come and go as you need to.

◇ **Holiday Bible Club**

July 17-21st at St. John's

St John's are again holding a Holiday Club 17/8/15 -21/8/15. The Theme is "Cops and Robbers", based on the story of Joseph (Genesis 37- 45). Your children are welcome but booking is essential on 01248 671163.

◇ **Men's Prayer Meeting**

Wednesday 5th August

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. Please note that Peter will be away on holiday from August 6th to 20th. If you have any pastoral concerns in this time, please contact one of other members of the pastoral care team.

◇ **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.

◇ **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.

◇ **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 2nd August** (please see weekly news sheets or check with the church office for confirmation).

From the Church Office

As you are probably aware, Peter (our Minister) will be retiring at the end of September. As a result, we are in the process of assessing where we are now as a church and where we feel that God is leading us, so that we can look for a suitable person to become our new Minister.

To help us with this, Revd. Rob Beamish (the Minister of Prince's Drive Baptist Church in Colwyn Bay, who is acting as our Moderator to help us through this process) has prepared a short survey to gather your thoughts and experiences. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PenralltCongregationalSurvey1> and take a few minutes to go through the questions. Alternatively, if you have a smartphone you can scan this QR code, which will take you directly to the website.



This survey is one of several ways through which information is being gathered to aid us, eventually, in developing the church and ministerial profiles. It will automatically close down on the 20th of September; so you have until then to have a go at it if you wish.

Focus on...



France

(Peter & Rachel Calvert, France Mission)

Why plant churches in France? Aren't there already plenty?

It's true that the Catholic Church has a long history in France. And Calvin, the sixteenth century protestant reformer, was French by birth. But today the overwhelming majority of French people have never had the opportunity to hear the gospel in form which makes sense to them, or to see it lived out in a community of local believers. Recent efforts to bear witness to Christ in France have shown that one of the most effective ways to have a lasting impact is to plant new churches. New believers, born again by the power of the Holy Spirit, and functioning together locally as the body of Christ, make the gospel visible and comprehensible.

France has, on average, one evangelical church for every 30,000 people. (That's roughly the population of Bangor and Caernarfon added together). However, the churches are very unevenly spread. There are many regions where evangelical churches are few and far between, and many sub-cultures which are relatively unreached by the gospel. French evangelicals have prayerfully set the goal of one church for every 10,000 inhabitants... that means planting 4200 more churches!

But where do you fit in?

We're not French. But in our late teens / early twenties (before we were married), we were both challenged by the spiritual needs of this beautiful country. After training at All Nations Christian College in England, we joined a French Church planting network called *France Mission*. For the last ten years, we've been leading a church plant in the industrial town of Saint-Étienne, an hour from Lyons. This summer, we are moving to a town called Blois in the centre of France. The



France Mission church on the council estate in the North of Blois has plans for a new church plant in the town centre. We're not sure yet what form this will take, but we're excited about getting to know the Christians in the area, discerning the way forward with them and getting stuck in!

And where do we fit in?

We're really grateful to have had Penrallt as one of our partner churches over the last few years. Thank you to those who have prayed for us, and for your warm welcome whenever we come to visit. We also enjoy hearing how you are serving God and reaching out in your own community, which is in some ways a very different to ours, but in other ways quite similar. We'll be keeping you up to date with the new project in Blois, and who knows... maybe some of you will be able to come over some time and see for yourselves what God is doing in France!