



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: August 2018

I am writing this two days after the World Cup final. Football is considered to be the most popular sport in the world, therefore millions of fans worldwide tuned in to watch the games, and particularly the final.

I love the World Cup because it doesn't just bring football; it delivers spectacle, passion, drama and tears. I have been watching it since I was a child, but I must confess this one has been unpredictable, and perhaps there are some lessons to be learned from the World Cup, lessons that can be applied to our lives.

First, this World Cup was not about big names. Teams that in the past were considered favourites, such as Germany, Spain, Argentina, Portugal and Brazil were knocked out in the early stages. Equally, some of the most expensive footballers (Messi, Ronaldo and Neymar) had to say 'Goodbye' to the competition.

Second, it had the drama of Neymar's diving antics "which did not help his team, but gave entertainment," the display of bizarre tattoos, and the elegant style of Gareth Southgate's waistcoat!

There were some who got more attention than those who scored goals, such as the Croatian President and Lionel Messi, who looked stressed and unhappy, perhaps because some of his 'friends' were not part of his team.

Third, it was about team work. Teams like Belgium, Croatia and France showed us some lessons about team work. In one of the local papers I read this headline, "*France won the world Cup by mastering the concept of teamwork*". Yes! They had good players that may have been able to do more individually, but they complemented each other perfectly.

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In our last church members' meeting I shared Psalm 133 that says, "*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!*". This Psalm not only displays the unity of the Jewish pilgrims when Israelite families came together to worship their Lord, it is also a genuine expression of the desired unity of the church which the Lord loves to see today.

Why? Because it is good; it is good and pleasant for it reflects God's character. He is three persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and yet in perfect unity and harmony. Jesus prayed that we would display unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ (John 17:21), because this displays the unity of the godhead. A united church displays a powerful witness in that it points to the saving power of our Lord Jesus which draws all people together.

If we are followers of Christ we are members of His church who have decided to accept His calling to be part of His divine plan of salvation for humankind. One of the things that we might consider from the last World Cup is that the church of Christ is not about great names, important roles or important people.

It is about a common goal; which is to demonstrate our love for God through our obedience to His word and commandments, to proclaim who Jesus is and what He has done, and what he is doing in the everyday lives of ordinary people.

Yes, we are all different and unique, but we must not allow this to be a hindrance to our mission. We have been reminded by the French national football team about the importance of teamwork, the importance of being united, and the importance of having a common goal. It's not about us or, like Messi, about being happy only when we have our 'friends' in church.

We all have gift and talents that can be used for the glory of God. Perhaps some are able to do more individually, but if we have humility, as we saw in the French national team, we will complement each other perfectly and we will be able to achieve more.

It is good and pleasant when God's people live together in unity... For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Have a blessed summer.

Freddy

Services This Month

Our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, will be the speaker at all services except where otherwise noted below. The other speakers are all church members.

Note that the morning services this month will be all-age worship services, with no Sunday schools. During the latter part of the service, activities will be available in the prayer room for children.

5th August

- 10:30am **Shining like stars** *Philippians 2:14–16;
1 Kings 19:9–15*
- 6:00pm Communion Service
Lessons from Psalms #7:
Seeking communion with God *Psalm 63*

12th August

- 10:30am **An encounter with Jesus can transform life** *Matthew 9:18–26;
Genesis 50:15–21*
For this service we will be joined by the congregation of Hope church.
- 6:00pm Lessons from Psalms #8:
Approaching God *Psalm 65*

19th August

- 10:30am Speaker: Deb Stammers
God's healing (Elisha, part 1) *2 Kings 4:8–37;
Luke 17:11–19*
- 6:00pm Speaker: Magnus Forrester-Barker
My strong tower *Proverbs 18:10–11*

26th August

- 10:30am Communion Service
God calls us to follow and serve Him (Elisha, part 2) *2 Kings 2:1–18;
Matthew 4:18–21*
- 6:00pm Speaker: Donald Poirot
"But Daniel purposed in his heart" *Daniel 1:1–21*

Dates for Your Diary

Saturdays	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Wednesday 1	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Sunday 5	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre residential home in Llangoed.
Thursday 9	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
<i>Thursday 9 – Friday 10</i>		<i>The church office will be closed.</i>
Saturday 18	10:30am	Church Walk on Anglesey (<i>venue to be determined</i>).
Tuesday 28	7:30pm	Experiencing God course continues (also on Thursday 30 th at 10am and 7:30pm).

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

News of People

Following her hip surgery in June, Eileen McKenna had a brief return to hospital but is now recovering well. Our prayers are with her and also with Sarah Swallow, who is struggling with long-term illness.

Children's Birthdays in August

9th: Zachary Randall-Jeffries; 16th: Bethan Stammers;
23rd: Ioan Stammers; 26th: Reuben Tough; 28th: Rees Allen

A note from Eve Malone

The Coffee and Cake Extravaganza in June raised a total of £912.49 for the Alaw Unit at Ysbyty Gwynedd. Thanks again to everyone who took part, for their generosity and support in making the event a great success. The name of the Teddy was "Boo Boo", and there were 73 lollies in the jar. There were 2 winners of "guess the weight of the cake", with both Julia Morgan and Denise Mills guessing 5lb 1oz, nearest to the correct weight of 5lb 2 5/8 oz including the stand. Well done to both of them. We decided on this occasion not to follow Solomon's solution, and a second cake is in progress.

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	Brian Wheatcroft (602516) Pat MacKenzie (670948)
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	10:30am	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316) Lesley Jackson (680330)

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 19th August.

Please send information to Magnus (office@penrallt.org; 01248 353355). All notices should be submitted in writing (preferably by email) as early as possible.

Noticeboard

◇ **Autumn Fair**

Saturday 29th September

Janet Smith and Joan Mason will be holding an Autumn Fair in support of Chris and Anna Hembury and their work with Hull Youth For Christ. They will be looking for volunteers to help with stalls, as well as articles for the stalls. Please speak to them if you would like to help them in any way. Please pray for the event, too.

◇ **Church Lunch**

Please note that as a large proportion of the regular congregation are likely to be away there will be no church lunch in August. The next one will be on 2nd September.

◇ **Church Walk**

Saturday 18th August

This month's walk will be led by Penelope Williams and will take place on a Saturday rather than a Monday. It will be on Anglesey, most likely either up at Church Bay on the north coast or at Maelog Lake near Rhosneigr. Please contact Penelope, Roger Borlace or the church office if you would like more information in due course.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

Thursday 9th August

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 Tuesday 11th September and Wednesday 10th October.

◇ **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); 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 5th August.

Focus on...



Bangor Street Pastors

The first street pastors hit the streets of London about 15 years ago, and there are now street pastors in over 300 places in the UK as well as several groups overseas. By this November we will have been running in Bangor for 8 years.

During this time we have seen quite a few changes, both to the size and composition of the team (originally 12 street pastors from about 5 churches, now around 25 from at least 10 different churches) and to the nature of the streets. Over the first few years, we saw a definite decrease in the amount of aggression and antisocial behaviour on our streets, though it's difficult to know how much of this to attribute to the positive influence of street pastors and how much to other factors. Sadly, the pendulum now seems to be slowly swinging back in the other direction. There are reports from other parts of the country of increases in knife and gun crime and while these have not yet reached Bangor it may only be a matter of time.

Even amidst this deteriorating situation, there have still been at most a handful of incidents worldwide where street pastors have been injured in the course of duty. When you consider how many hours of service have been put in by street pastors over the years, often in considerably more dangerous places than Bangor, this is a testament to God's sovereign protection.

It is good constantly to remind ourselves that before we hit the streets the Lord is already there and when we leave at the end of the night he is still there; he also knows every member of the team and what we are capable of, as well as all the people and situations we will come across in any patrol. We trust that he will lead us each night to the people who particularly need a touch of his grace, and it is often surprising (though it shouldn't be) how often we seem to have just the right person on the team to handle whatever situation we find, whether that's a matter of having medical skills to treat someone who is ill or an appreciation of odd musical time signatures that opens the door to a long and fruitful conversation!

The keywords for street pastors are *listening*, *caring* and *helping*. These very much characterise what we do. Occasionally we may get an opportunity to explicitly talk about the gospel, but we trust that love is clear in our general speech and in our actions. Of course, no matter how much we may love and care for the people we come across, our love will never come close to matching that of our heavenly Father for them.

Our work is very much founded on prayer. We are supported by prayer pastors who join us at the start of most patrols to pray with us, then pray for us while we are out and finally to feed us, chat and pray with us again before we head back out onto the streets and they head home to bed. We also value your prayers at any time.

Here are some specific things you can pray for us:

- Pray that street pastors in Bangor and across the world will continue to stay safe even as the streets become more dangerous.
- Pray that our words and actions together would continue to speak clearly of the love of God and would help many people to take steps closer towards his Kingdom; pray that we would be able to trust that seeds are being sown even when we can't see them bearing fruit.
- Our co-ordinator, Paul Rowlinson, who has been doing the job since we started (sharing the role with me for the first 5 years or so) has announced that he intends to step down as soon as possible. Give thanks for his great dedication to the project and pray that a suitable replacement can be found (NB, before you ask, that definitely isn't me!)
- We currently have a bit of a shortage of prayer pastors. Please pray for more volunteers for this vitally important aspect of our work.

Magnus