



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: February 2018

A few weeks ago after many tests, scans and appointments, I was told by a consultant that I had a tumour on my left kidney. He recommended that it was in my best interest to remove both the kidney and the tumour. On the day of surgery I noticed that everyone arrived on time. We saw a particular nurse to receive instructions, vital signs were taken, and after that, we had to complete questionnaires and fill out consent forms. Then we were asked to change into fashionable hospital gowns and wear nice surgical stockings! It was interesting for me seeing how everyone followed instructions, and did as they were asked to do.

The time came when I was taken into the operating theatre. Just before I entered it a doctor came and introduced himself saying, "Hi, my name is John. I am your anaesthesiologist, and this is my team". He explained what they were going to do and at some point I said, "I am in your hands, you don't have to explain everything to me. I take it that you know what you are doing, so only make sure I wake up after the operation". They all laughed after my comment. It was 2:20pm when they put me to sleep and 6:40pm when I woke up, and everyone was smiling and saying that my surgery went well.

I love the book of Psalms, for as someone once said, "Psalms gives examples of ordinary people struggling mightily to align what they believe about God with what they actually experience". Therefore, when we read the Psalms we can have stories and images that resonate with our lives. On the first Sunday of 2018 I preached on Psalm 73 and my text was verse 28.

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This psalm was written by Asaph, a worship leader under King David. He was a godly and gifted man who wrote 12 psalms. In this personal psalm he reveals his struggle. He is struggling with the things he is experiencing or seeing (injustice/unfairness) and with what he believes (God is good). He has witnessed the prosperity of the wicked and the misery of the righteous so he wonders why? What is the point of honouring God, when those who do not care about Him seem to have a better life than those who fear Him?

Asaph realized that his struggle was the result of envy. He saw the wicked, and the things they had, and he coveted their life. Therefore, he is troubled by having questions about God's goodness. However, at some point he recognizes his sin of not giving God the place He deserves. Asaph repents and begins to understand the final destiny of the wicked. He realizes that God can guide him and sustain him regardless of his circumstances, and that his duty is to be faithful and to enjoy an eternal future when God will receive him in glory.

Most people do everything they are supposed to do to get a good education, good jobs, or as I said above, they will follow all the instructions to get good health. But sadly when it comes to spiritual matters, which are the most important, we tend to have questions and we do not yield to the power and authority of our God. Surrendered people simply obey the Word of God, even when it doesn't make sense. The psalmist decided to draw near to God and stay close to Him for he said, *"But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds."* But what about us? As we go into a New Year, can we make this resolution too?

2017 was an 'eventful' year for our family (new church, new city, our daughter's illness and mine), but as a family we know that our God is in control of everything, even when we have to experience things we do not understand. Therefore, we join the psalmist and say, "But as for us, it is good to be near to God, we have made the Sovereign Lord our refuge; we will tell of all His deeds".

What about you? Happy and blessed 2018.

Freddy

Services This Month

We hope to have our minister, Freddy, back with us by early February and, all being well, he will be beginning a series of studies for Lent in our morning services and starting an evening service series on "Essentials to grow in the spiritual life" by the end of the month. Freddy is due to be the speaker at all services except where otherwise noted below; the other speakers are all church members. In the evening services when Freddy is not preaching, we will be continuing our series on the book of 1 Timothy.

4th February

10:30am Speaker: Deb Stammers
Jesus' priorities

Mark 1:29–39

6:00pm Communion Service
Speaker: Neil Rymer
Christ Jesus my Saviour

1 Timothy 1:12–17

11th February

10:30am **A resolution for the New Year**

Psalms 119:105–112

6:00pm Speaker: Billy Elliott
Holding the faith

1 Timothy 1:18–20

18th February

10:30am Lent Series #1: **The challenge to grow**

1 Peter 2:1–10

6:00pm Speaker: James Goodman
There is one mediator

1 Timothy 2:1–7

25th February

10:30pm Communion Service
Lent Series #2: **Our call to be faithful**

Mark 8:31–38

6:00pm Essentials to grow in the spiritual life #1:
A life of praise

Psalms 22:1–19

Dates for Your Diary

Saturdays	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Wednesday 7	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Thursday 8	7:30pm	Cytûn AGM at Penrallt.
Tuesday 13	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
Monday 19	10:30am	Church Walk at Dolwyddelan.
Saturday 24	9:30am–4pm	Visit of BUGB President Dianne Tidball to Princes Drive Baptist Church, Colwyn Bay.

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

News of People

Our Minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, had surgery on 9th January. At the time of writing, he is still in London but we are hoping and praying that he will be back with us by early February.

Lesley Jackson is recovering from surgery and Eve Malone is still going through chemotherapy. Please continue to hold them both in your prayers.

Tony Mason has moved to Plas Garnedd, Pentraeth for a month of Respite Care. Visitors are welcome.

Congratulations to Andrew and Jalia Packwood on the birth of their son, Jeffrey, on 7th January.

Children's Birthdays in February

7th: Afan Hedd Whitton 8th: Sophie Toplis 10th: Rosa Tough
11th: Max Osborne 16th: Emily Reid 21st: Harmony Wilson
23rd: Tommy Capper 27th: Siôn Davies

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 18th February.

Please send 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 homegroups generally do not meet on the week of the monthly prayer meeting and may not meet all other weeks – please check with the homegroup facilitator. All phone numbers below have the 01248 area code.

Day	Time	Group Name	Contacts
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	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– 12:30pm	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316) Lesley Jackson (680330)

Noticeboard:

◇ Church Lunch

Sunday 4th February

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 19th February 10:30am

This month's walk will start in the free signed car park near the railway station in Dolwyddelan. The circular walk will include a visit to the castle where Llywelyn the Great was born. For more information, please contact Pat and Roger Borlace (713146).

◇ **Cytûn AGM**

Thursday 8th February 7:30pm

We will be hosting this year's Cytûn (Churches Together in Bangor) AGM. Guest speaker: Rev. James Morgan, Chaplain of HM Prison Berwyn.

◇ **Faith Café**

Sundays

4:30–5:45pm

Faith Café, aimed principally at students, runs before the evening service during university term-time. It is a place to meet around free hot drinks, soup, bread and a variety of cheeses, to chat, play games and talk faith – a chilled out space that's perfect to bring your flatmates to. For more information about this and other student activities, please speak to Matt Dawson, our student co-ordinator (students@penrallt.org).

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

Tuesday 13th February

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. 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 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.

◇ **Presidential Visit** *Saturday 24th February 9:30am–4pm*

The President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, Rev. Dianne Tidball, will be visiting Princes Drive Baptist Church, Colwyn Bay and you are warmly invited to meet her. There will be 4 sessions throughout the day, led by Diane, on the theme "As in heaven...". This is a free event – bring your own lunch.

◇ **Rough Sleepers**

The church's policy is not to give money directly to the rough sleepers in Upper Bangor. 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.

◇ **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, starting at 2:15pm) and Plas Garnedd (in Llanberis, starting at 2:45pm), usually on the first Sunday. This month we will be going to **Haulfre** on 4th February.

◇ **Wanted: Christian Aid Organiser for Cytûn**

Bangor Cytûn (Churches Together In Bangor) are still looking for a Christian Aid Organiser to oversee the preparations for Christian Aid Week in May (the work needs to begin imminently!) and work with the individual churches' Christian Aid reps. Please speak to Deb or Judy Stammers for more information.

◇ **Walk through the Bible: New Testament** *Saturday 3rd March*

A journey from Matthew to Revelation, following on from the Old Testament session in January (though you don't need to have attended that one to benefit from this one). It will be led by Paul Keeys and will run from 10am to 4:30pm. Tickets are available from the Walk Through the Bible website (www.bible.org.uk) or at the door for £14, but you can get them for just £10 by booking (and paying) in advance through Penrallt; the ticket price includes a workbook. Please speak to Neil if you would like to book a place. Children aged 11–16 can attend for free if accompanied by an adult (but will not receive a workbook unless buying a ticket). The event is not suitable for younger children. Refreshments will be provided but bring your own lunch.

Focus on...

tearfund

50 Years of Tearfund

Tearfund work through local churches to unlock people's potential, helping them to discover that the answer to poverty is within themselves. And when disaster strikes, we respond quickly. We won't stop until poverty stops.

History

In our 50 years of following Jesus where the need is greatest, we've seen millions of lives transformed, with hope restored and potential released. We've been humbled and amazed by the dedicated prayer and financial support from churches... And we've been blown away by God's awe-inspiring faithfulness. We have so much to be thankful for.

From 1968...

The 1960s saw a surge in the number of people around the world being displaced by disaster and conflict, at a time when Christians across the nation were grappling with how to live out their faith more practically. In response to the compassion flowing from the UK Church, the Evangelical Alliance formed Tearfund – originally named the Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund – in 1968.

Tearfund's first official act was a £250 grant towards flood relief in Argentina, in October 1968. In the coming months and years this was followed by, among many others, funds for an orphanage in India, a clinic in Rwanda and the launch of 'Albarka', a floating operating theatre serving the people of Lake Chad.

Through to 2018

From these early days Tearfund has grown, reaching into more countries as God has opened doors. And we have responded to disasters all over the world, whether natural or man-made. As in the early days, we are astounded time and again by the phenomenal generosity of God's people.

Prayer Points

- The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Yemen, where peace and restoration is much needed after a prolonged conflict.
- People who have been forced to leave Myanmar and become refugees in Bangladesh. That they will be able to return home to rebuild their lives.
- Tearfund staff and our partners in South Asia who are involved in the response and recovery work following August's floods.