



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter for June 2011

In one of her poems, Jude Simpson takes a swipe at those who want easy answers to life's great questions.

*I want a Roman road map to instant glory
a happy-ending-ever-after chick lit story
and you just tell me another foggy allegory
featuring corn and sheep and wine and clay pots.
What are you like? Do you want followers or not?
Far be it from me to tell you what's what,
but if you did make it easier I'm sure you'd get a lot
more believers, Jesus.*

The point she is making, of course, is that if God doesn't fit my idea of what I want to do, then I'll probably shrug and move on to something else. Over these coming weeks we are studying the book of Ezekiel. He made his message clear to his listeners through drama, stories and straight down the line preaching. They still didn't like it. They were hoping for nice easy solutions to the predicament they were in. When, after five years, his predictions proved true he began to receive new respect among the Jewish Exiles in Babylon. His ministry was very important for the nation and also for us, because he paved the way for Jesus. It's story of faith in the darkest hours, but also about the triumph of hope.

I know that this book is one of the hardest in the Old Testament to follow and understand, but hopefully we can make it accessible to you. There will be nine themed sermons on different sections of the book, based on the Bible commentary by Christopher Wright in The Bible Speaks Today series. *Notes for Theology Students* are available free in the porch and also online from the church website. There are background notes available in the porch, and optional questions if any home group wishes to follow the series as part of their study programme. Ezekiel believed that God can change hearts. Join us on our journey into this book.

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you" (ch.36:26).

God bless,
Peter

SERVICES IN JUNE

PLEASE REMEMBER that our evening services will begin at 7.00pm until September.

June 5

10.30am ***Ezekiel The Prophetic Actor - The Theatre of the Doomed***
2.15pm Service in Bontnewydd *Ezekiel 3:15-5:17*
7.00pm Communion Service. Roger Borlace
Where did he go? *Acts 1:1-11*

June 12

Pentecost Sunday
10.30am Geoff Birch ***The Spirit Gives Life*** *Ezekiel 47:1-14; Acts 2:1-13*
7.00pm James Goodman

June 19

10.30am ***Ezekiel the Protestor*** *Ezekiel 8:1-11:25*
7.00pm Roger Borlace ***The LORD is worthy of praise*** *Psalms 8*

June 26

10.30am Roger Borlace ***Ezekiel the History Teacher*** *Ezekiel 20:1-49*
7.00pm ***Psalms: A Psalm of Thanksgiving***

CHURCH LUNCH June 5

Please bring enough buffet style food for yourself and one or two others.

SPECIAL DATES IN JUNE

Wednesday 1 10.30 am Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee in Options
Saturday 11 Bangor Carnival
Monday 6 7.30pm Deacons' meeting at the Rymer's
Friday 10 7.30pm Prayer for Prodigals (in the chapel)
Tuesday 14 10.30am Walking Group
Monday 20 2.00pm Pastoral Care Team
Wednesday 22 7.30pm CYTUN Meeting at Penuel
Thursday 30 7.30pm Sanctuary (in the chapel)

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Jenny Mathers will be marrying **Lawrence** on May 28th.

One of our neighbouring (we are its closest denominational neighbour!) English Baptist Churches in Tywyn is celebrating the induction of their new minister, **Rev. Suzanne Roberts**. Suzanne was a medical doctor with BMS for many years in Asia and Africa.

Paul Jones and Fiona Hendley: Monday Evening July 11th

We are looking forward to this event featuring husband and wife team Paul Jones and Fiona Hendley. Paul came to fame as the lead singer with Manfred Mann back in the sixties (after nearly becoming the lead singer with the Rolling Stones). A career in theatre followed, where he met Fiona as they were co-starring in a West End musical. Paul continues in the spotlight through his Radio 2 Blues programme on Monday evenings and his performing with The Blues Band who have been playing together for thirty years. The story of how God came into his and Fiona's lives is heart-warming and they will share it with us, while also singing some of their own gospel songs. The evening will be free, but a contribution to the expenses will be appreciated. More details to follow.

Children's Birthdays in June

20th: Bradley Jones

WEEKDAYS

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, Farrar Road	Magnus Forrester-Barker (371366)
Wed	10.30am	Men's Prayer Meeting	Peter Cousins (353878)
Wed	2.00pm	Carers' Home Group	Carol Morris (716953)
Wed	7.30pm	HG, The Nomads	Jess & Seamus Adams (421185) Susan Cousins (353878)
Wed	8.00pm	HG, Grŵp Cymraeg	Owen & Nia Lloyd Evans (352634)
Thu	10.30am - noon	HG, 76, Ffordd Cynan	Jenny Powley (364292)
Thu	10.30am	Post-Alpha Bible Study	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7.30pm	HG, Llanfairpwll	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7.30pm	HG, Bangor	Ciara Ní Bhrolcháin (07900 220496)
Thu	7.30pm	HG, A-Team	Freya Bushill (07792 080766)
Thu	7.45pm	HG, Lon-y-Deri	Gill Goodman (355256) Billy Elliott (372568)
Fri	10.30am - noon	Cheeky Monkeys	Joan Rymer (713003)
Sat	8.30am	Prayer Meeting	

NOTICEBOARD

➤ ***Missions Group Co-ordinator in Penrallt***

We are having to repeat this job advert because so far we do not have anyone to take over from Marilyn when she steps down in the summer. There is some administration involved and a little bit of creativity goes a long way, but you will be surrounded by people in the Missions Group who are very committed to our missionary links and very keen to work with you. This is a great opportunity for someone in Penrallt to step up into ministry.

Our support of our link missionaries is a vital part of Penrallt's ministry, taking attention away from ourselves and focusing us on the wider world. We are blessed with an outstanding group of missionaries on four continents whom we are privileged to serve and support. To ensure that this support does not concentrate on money, but, rather, centres on prayer and personal contact, we have a Missions Group. This is an enthusiastic group which is open to anyone and meets three or four times a year for prayer.

We ask the coordinator to:

- Arrange and lead the Missions' Group prayer meeting once a quarter.
- Collect the prayer letters etc that come from our mission partners. You should be copied into these by e-mail by those in the home groups who are maintaining contact with the missionaries.
- Look after the Missions board in the porch of the church.
- Put regular prayer requests for missionaries onto the weekly prayer diary and arrange a "Missions' slot" in the morning service, *occasionally*.
- Send our link missionaries Christmas cards from the church.
- As part of the final Missions Group meeting of the year, the budget will be agreed. You will pass the details of this over to the Church Treasurer, together with the addresses of where to send the money (most of this is carried forward automatically from one year to the next).

The lead deacon for this area is currently Sarah Jackson, who will be on hand to talk to you about any questions you may have.

➤ ***Prayer for Prodigals*** ***Friday 10 June*** ***7.30pm***

We warmly welcome all women who would like to join us in the chapel for an evening of worship, prayer and intercession. For more details contact Nancy Brook on 01248 422272.

➤ ***Walking Group*** ***Tuesday 14 June*** ***10.30am***

Circular walk:

Rhyd Ddu - Beddgelert Forest - Bwlch y Ddwy Elor - Rhyd Ddu (5½ miles)
Meet in Rhyd Ddu (Take A4085 from Caernarfon towards Beddgelert, at Rhyd Ddu turn right onto B4418 (Nantlle). Free Parking in 2 lay-bys, first 200 yards on right and second 50 yards further on left (Meet here).

The walk starts uphill (350ft) on the Rhyd Ddu path towards Snowdon, then down to Beddgelert Forest and up again through the woods. A final short

climb (350ft) takes us to Bwlch y Ddwy Elor with fine views into Cwm Pennant and lots of interesting industrial relics. Then it's downhill all the way back to Rhyd Ddu, where there is a café with Dutch cakes!

Mari and Ian Kelso are leading the walk, any queries phone 421783 or email marikelso@yahoo.co.uk or contact Paul and Ruth Hebblethwaite.

➤ ***Homeless in Bangor***

We do not recommend giving money to the homeless. Instead, £5 in one of the brown envelopes from the table in the porch of the church (placed in the offering) will buy a hot meal for them through the St. Mary's Hostel scheme. So far Penrallt has contributed £2342 to the fund.

➤ ***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***

Sign up to receive our prayer diary by e-mail every Monday morning by sending your request to: office@penrallt.org.

If you have some subject for prayer, either send it in by e-mail, or fill in one of the pink cards, which are available in the porch, and place it in the visitors' cards box or give it to Peter or Magnus.

➤ ***Pastoral Help***

If you have pastoral concerns please contact Peter or else one of the other members of the Pastoral Care team:

Geoff Birch 01286 870944, Pat Borlace 713146, Eunice Smith 713296,
Judy Stammers 364394, Geoff Moore 410582, Jenny Powley 364292

Deadline for next month's newsletter Sunday 19 June

Please send information to Gwyneth
(gwyneth@brindley-wales.com or 352682)

FOCUS ON...

Chris and Anna Hembury (Hull Youth for Christ)

A warm hello to all our friends, those we know and those we've yet to meet, at Penrallt. In many ways it remains our "home church", certainly the one we always feel we need to migrate back to for a top up from time to time.

update

Since we last visited you at Penrallt (before Christmas) we have had a busy few months. January saw us run the parenting course for the second time, with a new group of 5 mums from the Breakfast Club. This time Anna and another member of the team had one of last year's group co-leading it, whom we have been able to support in getting trained up as a Family Links parent group leader, as well as Chris and the rest of the team providing an equally challenging crèche facility in our house! Another one of our young people has joined our Tuesday meals and started coming with us regularly to church. One of the mums from breakfast club has started making porridge for the club once a week and two mums want to volunteer with us on this year's summer camps. In every area of our life here we see signs of hope, a growing mutuality of support in our relationships and openness to walking the journey of faith. So, whilst we have yet to see how our new Government will get the ball rolling on "the Big Society", we are quietly confident that the frayed strands of our community here are being carefully woven back together for God's Kingdom.

family

Elijah (10yrs) and Kavita (nearly 9yrs) are both thriving. School is still a happy place for them both and, whilst it doesn't particularly stretch them academically, it does provide them with a stable, caring environment in which to learn to rub alongside and be part of a diverse and often challenging community. Elijah is bright but more than happy to sail along with an easy workload, whilst Kavita tends to go the extra mile in her work without much need for pushing!

We watch and guide them prayerfully as best we can, but are so often surprised and humbled by their uncomplicated and yet deeply thoughtful faith. Thankfully too, they are just as at ease with discussing questions of faith as they are with messing around on a skateboard (Elijah) or exploring their own fashion style (Kavita)! Elijah's also taken up learning to play the drums and Kavita's trying her hand at the guitar - must have been all that hanging out at Owen and Nia's (although it was only the rugby-watching that ever rubbed off on us)!

prayer

- Give thanks with us for a year where relationships, faith and new ventures have been consolidated.
- Give thanks with us for Elijah and Kavita's solid and growing faith. Please pray for them as they readily wear their faith on their sleeves in a place that has little understanding of what it means to know God's love and what it means to follow Jesus.
- We would value your prayers for the three lads who were baptised in June, who have been meeting weekly with Rich (a member of the Hull YFC team) for bible study. They are seeking to live out their faith in the tough context of their lives; please pray for protection, endurance and growth.
- Thank God for the community He is weaving together through the Breakfast Club, for the growing (if fragile) confidence of some of the mums.
- Please pray that families would be able to manage their finances and make wise decisions for this next year, especially as welfare benefits are squeezed.
- We are in talks with our local Baptist church about a more solid partnership which would allow us to develop their building for our growing needs in terms of mission. We would very much value your prayers for every aspect of this, from the relationships involved and theological discussions around mission to issues to concerning the bricks and mortar.

Thank you so much for your prayerful support.

God bless,

Chris, Anna, Elijah & Kavita

P.S. You might like to check out a short film which was made recently about the work at www.cuf.org.uk. You may need to click on the link to Poverty Sunday.

We will be sending some copies of our next Stoppress magazine to Penrallt, when it come out at the beginning of July, which gives news about some of the work with which we are involved. If you would like to go on the mailing list to receive the magazine personally at home, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Hull YFC office (details on the back of Stoppress).