



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: March 2019

Dear Friend,

We live in interesting times.

Just when you think everything is sorted and you can have a bit of a rest; just when you are comfortable and, like the man in the Bible (Luke 12:18,19), you feel you can put your feet up, build bigger barns to store all your stuff and take your ease, then everything changes. Firms in North Wales shut with increasing frequency; Universities run out of students and Hospitals run out of staff and both run out of money; Leaders lose all sense of leadership; even the weather loses all sense of decorum. Where is our guide, our focus?

And where do I, as Secretary of Penrallt, turn to when I learn that I cannot relax and take it easy. Our Pastor, Freddy Farias-Palacios, is leaving us at the end of April to preach God's word and minister to a church in Kent.

My old friend Tony Mason used to say "keep checking your compass" or as the chorus goes "Turn your eyes upon Jesus". In these interesting times I so need you all to keep prompting me and nudging me back on the right path; and what goes for me goes for each of us. We are like sheep who will lose their earthly shepherd and to save us from running around in circles we need to keep our eyes fixed on The Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.

Who is going to help us keep focused on our Lord and Saviour during this time? We need a minister and until we find one, we need a group of deacons. But who? Who should we look to?

Our Home Group has been studying 1 Samuel and I am impressed by the similarity between us now in the UK and the Israelites so many centuries ago. What a mess they got themselves into. We must make every effort *not* to follow their example. *The word of the Lord was rare* says 1 Samuel 3:1. God's Light had dimmed, *but the Lamp of God had not yet gone out* says 1 Samuel 3:3.

We must beware of relying on the past. Eli was the priest and had demonstrated a knowledge of God in the past, but he was now weak and feeble.

We must not trust to background and pedigree. It means nothing to God. Hophni and Phineas, Eli's sons, would be judged for their wickedness (1 Samuel 2:34, 1 Samuel 3:12).

We must beware of putting too much power in one man. The Israelites demanded a King (1 Samuel 8:5) but the power went to Saul's head. He thought he was the only one who mattered (1 Samuel 13:9,10) and demonstrated he was no longer a Man of God.

I have suggested that during this period while we will be without a minister we should have more deacons and the offer is out for the membership to nominate people for us to choose at the AGM on April 1st. But who should we choose and why? What does it mean to be a deacon? What should we look for? What should we expect? Hopefully these comments will help you decide who if anyone to nominate and more importantly whether to vote for them.

Firstly, a deacon is a trustee. Penrallt is a charity and as such is governed by a constitution which is lodged with the Charity Commissioners. That says that the deacons, as the trustees, are collectively responsible for the safe and legal running of the church as a building open to the public. So like any other charity we must choose deacons who are upright citizens who are not in trouble with the law.

Secondly, a deacon must be a person who is of "Good Report". The Bible, in 1 Timothy, speaks of all in authority within a church being of "good reputation" with those outside the church. Paul goes on to say in 1 Timothy that leaders must be "above reproach", "faithful to their wives", "temperate", "self-controlled", "hospitable", "calm and not quarrelsome", "not a lover of money or dishonest".

And finally, any deacon must be a faithful believer in Christ and desire to serve God through the church, through Penrallt. They must be committed. I heard recently of a minister who had just retired but was continuing to "serve in an advisory capacity". We do not want advisors. I will have too many people giving me advice. What we need are people who are committed to hearing the word of God and serving him here, in Penrallt.

I am sure all the current deacons and all who are asked to allow their names to go forward will say "I cannot possibly live up to that". But remember the boy Samuel. When he heard God's voice and when Eli had explained Who it was said "Speak Lord for your servant hears" or more colloquially "instruct Lord and your slave will heed and obey".

So, let us search for such people and appoint them as our deacons.

Neil

Services This Month

Our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, will be the preacher at all services except where otherwise noted below. Roger Borlace and Donald Poirot are both members of Penrallt. Siân Rees is the Director of Evangelical Alliance Wales.

3rd March

10:30am **The Mountain Top of Glory** *Luke 9:28–36*

6:00pm Communion Service
The Salvation of Your Souls *1 Peter 1*
Preacher: Roger Borlace

10th March

10:30am **The Temptation of Jesus** *Luke 4:1–13*

6:00pm **The Goodness of God's Word** *Psalms 119:65–72*
(Lessons from Psalms #23)

17th March

10:30am **Jesus' Sorrow for Jerusalem** *Luke 13:31–35*

6:00pm Café Church Service. Chinese Evening.

24th March

10:30am **The Parable of the Loving Father** *Luke 15:11–24*

6:00pm **What is at your feet?** *Acts 7:58*
Preacher: Donald Poirot

31st March (Mothering Sunday)

10:30am Communion Service *Matthew 20:20–21*
A Mother's Prayer

6:00pm Preacher: Siân Rees

Dates for Your Diary

Saturdays	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Friday 1	11am	World Day of Prayer service at Eglwys y Groes, Maesgeirchen.
Sunday 3	2:15pm	Service at Plas Garnedd residential home in Llanberis.
Wednesday 6	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Wednesday 13	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
Saturday 16	9:30am	Bible Unzipped at Rhos on Sea URC.
Monday 18	10:30am	Church Walk (details to follow).
Tuesday 26/Thursday 28		Experiencing God course continues.

Please see later in this newsletter for more about many of these events.

Children's Birthdays in March

8 th : Molly Wheatcroft	12 th : Nicola Wheatcroft
18 th : Hannah Gao	26 th : Michael Hughes

Advance Notice

After two years at Penrallt, our Minister Freddy will regretfully be leaving us soon to serve at a church in Kent. His final service with us will be a Communion service on the morning of Sunday April 28th with a time for thanks for his ministry and prayer for his future. This to be followed by a Church Lunch (there will not be one at the beginning of May). There will be no evening service that day.

The week before is Easter Sunday and there will be a Baptism service in the morning.

Information for Church Members

Monday 1st April is the church's Annual General Meeting which will be in two parts. There will be a time to survey the past work of God within Penrallt, to express our thanks to Freddy and hear his farewell message to the membership. Then we will move on to consider the future, elect deacons to guide us, discuss the pastoral vacancy and also the process of finding a new minister.

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 do not meet every week – 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	10:00am	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)

Guess who has been serving God in Penrallt for the past 62 years?

Who has been faithful in that service week in, week out?

You need what played at what speed? No problem"

Name the person who has been doing that for 62 years with a wry sense of humour?

Every time she served she has understood that it is not about her, it is about Him.

The ones who are best are the ones who understand that it is about getting the job done no matter how they feel.

Thank you Gwyneth Brindley. There are all sorts of cogs in the machine. She is one of the heavy duty ones. Gwyneth has stepped down from serving as one of the keyboard players because she has decided it is time.

(In case you were wondering, 'th' is a single letter in the Welsh alphabet!)

◇ **Bible Unzipped** *Saturday 16th March 9:30am–12pm*

This is a theological learning community that meets monthly on the third Saturday morning at Rhos on Sea URC Church. Bible Unzipped is entirely free though donations towards costs are welcome. This month's programme is due to include a session led by Jon Stammers on Matthew's use of the Old Testament and one by Peter Cousins on the book of 2 Peter. For more information, please speak to Roger Malone or Magnus Forrester-Barker.

◇ **Church Lunch** *Sunday 3rd March*

As usual, there will be a (free) bring and share lunch after the morning service on the first Sunday of the month. Please bring enough buffet-style food for yourself and one or two others. Visitors are very welcome (and are not expected to bring food).

◇ **Church Office**

Please note that the office will be closed between Thursday 21st and Tuesday 26th March.

◇ **Church Walk** *Monday 18th March*

Details of this month's walk have not yet been determined. Please contact the church office (office@penrallt.org) if you would like to receive more information when it becomes available.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting** *Wednesday 13th March 7:30pm*

Our monthly mid-week prayer meetings, for the whole congregation, usually take place in the chapel and last about an hour. The next two meetings after this one will be on Thursday 11th April and Tuesday 14th May.

◇ **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**

We do not recommend giving 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 local residential homes on the first Sunday afternoon of the month, alternating between Haulfre (in Llangoed, near Beaumaris) and Plas Garnedd (in Llanberis). The services start at 2:15pm and last roughly half an hour. This month we will be going to **Plas Garnedd** on **3rd March**.

◇ **World Day of Prayer**

This year's World Day of Prayer** service in Bangor will take place on Friday March 1st at 11:00am at Eglwys-y-Groes, Maesgeirchen. The service this year has been written by Christian women in Slovenia and lasts for approximately one hour, and will be followed by refreshments with a Slovenian flavour. Come and be part of this amazing day, a great wave of prayer encircling the globe, sharing with people in over 120 countries and islands around the world. Collections taken on the day give significant sums to support a large number of charities. Everyone welcome. Anyone willing to take part (e.g. short readings) please contact Judith Stammers.

*** (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer, but member countries worldwide recently voted to change the name, though it is still women-led)*

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 24th March.

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

Focus on...



Dave Rose

Working with Yorkshire Camps

Yorkshire Camps is a charity that runs residential camps for 7-18-year-olds in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales. Based in an old country house, there is room for up to 60 odd campers plus leaders. The aim of the camps in relation to the campers is that they can "Enjoy an action-packed holiday", "Explore the Gospel" and to "Enlarge their faith". This is at the centre of what we seek to do here. All the camps, whether they be church groups, school groups, or open (where anyone can come), the aim is to teach the gospel faithfully in a way that helps to explain it to those that are non-Christians, and to enlarge the faith of those that are.

My role in this is as a member of the Training Team, this is Yorkshire Camps' gap year programme. This year there are eight of us on it. We help to run the activities on the camps, as well as to be involved in the small group Bible study sessions that are run for the campers. During the week, when we don't have camps, we spend time maintaining, and improving the house and grounds to make sure that they are in the best possible state for the camps.

Each week we go to a theological study course to help us improve our handling of the Bible and to develop a greater knowledge of it. This in turn helps us to faithfully teach those that come, what the Bible has to say about the myriad of questions that they ask us.

It is a great experience and it has very much helped me develop in my own faith, as well as allowing a great opportunity to share it with others in what is one of the most beautiful places in the UK.

Dave Rose

Penrallt Baptist Church, Holyhead Road, Bangor LL57 2EU
Tel: 01248 353355; *Email:* office@penrallt.org; *Website:* www.penrallt.org
Office open Mon–Fri 10am - 3pm; *Administrator:* Magnus Forrester-Barker

Minister: Rev. Freddy Farias-Palacios, 13 Bryn Eithinog, Bangor LL57 2LA; 07506 710694; minister@penrallt.org
Secretary: Neil Rymer, 20 Brynteg, Llandegfan LL59 5TY; 01248 713003; secretary@penrallt.org
Treasurer: Stephen Burrows, 39 Cil y Graig, Llanfairpwll LL61 5NZ; 01248 714048; treasurer@penrallt.org