



# Penrallt Baptist Church

**Newsletter: May 2017**

As I am writing this, it's been fifteen days since my induction at Penrallt Baptist Church. I would like to say a very big "Thank You" to everyone who assisted with the Induction Service, and to all the congregation for such a warm welcome. It was a very special day when we made promises, worshipped our God and had fellowship with one another (people from Eastern Avenue Baptist Church, guests and Penrallt Baptist Church). It was a 'busy' time for many, particularly those in charge of the preparations, it was noisy, and it was a blessing.

At some point during the Induction Service, in the middle of the laughter and conversations, I tried to grasp the moment and some verses came into my mind: "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life forevermore." *Psalm 133:1-3 (NIV)*

The first words of this Psalm reveal the main theme: "*unity*". It is not about looking and behaving alike, it is not about uniformity or agreeing in everything. Someone described it like this: "The bond that exists between one person and another in which they know that the things that unite them are deeper and more important than the things that might separate them."

The Psalmist uses two images to describe the blessings of *unity*, Oil and Dew. First, he describes the ordination of Aaron and his sons (oil running down over Aaron's beard), an oil that has sweet-smelling spices that will produce a pleasant fragrance. Oil is used in the Scriptures as a symbol of the Holy Spirit. This pouring of oil marks that person out as a priest. Therefore, as someone put it: "*Dwelling together in unity means seeing our brothers and sisters as priests.*"

The second image is "Dew". In the Bible the dew portrays a morning freshness, a picture of being cleansed to start a new day, the dew descending from Hermon's slopes and extending into the regions beyond.

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The best place to find *unity* is in the Church, when its members are born again by the Spirit of God. That allows them to serve Him and one another regardless of their backgrounds and differences. *Unity* that produces a sweet fragrance (oil) that rises to God's nostrils, and that reaches out (with its dew) to refresh those who are feeling lonely, discouraged or broken hearted.

As I said in the Induction Service, please pray for Penrallt Baptist Church. Let's not give up meeting together, and remember that our communion with one another consists exclusively in what Jesus has done for each of us. He loved us, therefore we are called to love one another, for Jesus said: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." *John 13:35 (NIV)*

The true people of God are a family. May the Lord help us to show everyone that we live in *unity*, and that it is good and pleasant to be part of Penrallt Baptist Church.

God bless

*Freddy*

***Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May.***

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

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

*Please note that Magnus will be out of the office until Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Although both Freddy and Roshni will be around, the office is not likely to be open between 10am and 3pm every day as it normally is. If you are planning to call in, it would be as well to check first that someone will be there, especially if you are travelling a long way to get there. Also, please exercise patience when waiting for responses to emails or phone calls. In case of emergency please contact Freddy or Roshni directly (see bottom of front page for contact details).*

## ***Services This Month***

Except where noted, the sermons this month will be from our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, continuing the series on *Fruitfulness on the Front Line* (morning services) and *Lessons from Luke* (evening services). The other speakers, Geoff Birch and Roger Borlace, are both retired Baptist ministers and members of Penrallt.

### **7<sup>th</sup> May**

10:30am **Fruitfulness on the front line #2: Modelling godly character**  
*Galatians 5:13–26*

6:00pm Communion Service.  
**Lessons from Luke #5: The Lord's Supper** *Luke 9:23–26*

### **14<sup>th</sup> May**

10:30am **Fruitfulness on the front line #3: Principles for those working for Christ**  
*Colossians 3:17– 4:1*

6:00pm **Lessons from Luke #6: Living free from the deadly trap of offense**  
*Luke 17:1, Matthew 24:10–13*

### **21<sup>st</sup> May**

10:30am Speaker: Geoff Birch  
**James #9: The Finale** *James 5*

6:00pm Speaker: Roger Borlace  
**Dying and Rising** *Matthew 28*

### **28<sup>th</sup> May**

10:30am Communion Service.  
**Fruitfulness on the front line #4: Growing in Christ to minister grace and love**  
*Colossians 1:3–8*

6:00pm **Lessons from Luke #7: All things that can be shaken will be shaken**  
*Luke 22:21–23; Hebrews 12:26–27*

## ***Dates for Your Diary***

<b>Saturdays</b>	8:30–9:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
<b>Wednesday 3</b>	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
<b>Thursday 4</b>	all day	<i>Please note that the Twrgwyn Room will be used as a polling station in the local government elections.</i>
<b>Sunday 7</b>	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre residential home in Llangoed (near Beaumaris).
<b>Monday 8</b>	7:30pm	Deacons' meeting.
<b>Saturday 13</b>	7:30pm	Christian Aid quiz at Penrallt (marking the start of this year's Christian Aid week). Teams of 4-6, £2 per person.
<b>Monday 15</b>	12:30pm	Opening service and Frugal Lunch for Christian Aid Week at Berea Newydd.
<b>Thursday 18</b>	9am–3pm	"Big Brekkie" for Christian Aid Week in the Christian Aid Office on Bangor High Street.
<b>Friday 19</b>	<i>time TBC</i>	Christian Aid Coffee Morning at the Quaker Meeting House on Dean Street.
<b>Monday 22</b>	10:30am	Church walk at Llyn Idwal / Llyn Ogwen.

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

## ***Children's Birthdays in May***

16<sup>th</sup>: Mark Walker

## ***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 not all these groups meet every week. Please check with the contact people to find out when and where they are meeting this month.*

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Contacts</b>
<b>Tue</b>	7:30pm	Nilgiri	Joan Beer (353874)
<b>Tue</b>	7:30pm	Tyddyn Isaf (Menai Bridge)	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
<b>Wed</b>	2:00pm	Carers	Carol Morris (208407)
<b>Wed</b>	7:30pm	Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
<b>Thu</b>	10:30am	Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Thu</b>	7:30pm	Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Fri</b>	10:30am–12:30pm	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316)

## ***Noticeboard:***

### ◇ **Christian Aid Week**

This year's Christian Aid Week runs from Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May. Once again, Penrallt is hosting the QuizAid event, but this year it will be taking place on the eve of Christian Aid Week (Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>) instead of at the end. Other events are listed under *Dates for your Diary* earlier in this newsletter. See also the *Focus* article on the back page.

### ◇ **Church Lunch**

We will, as usual, have a church lunch on the first Sunday of the month, 7<sup>th</sup> May. Please bring enough buffet-style food for yourself and a few others.

### ◇ **Church Walk**

*Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 10:30am*

This month's walk will be led by Roger Malone. We will be walking around Llyn Idwal and Llyn Ogwen, about 6 miles (Ogwen Cottage and Ranger Base, grid ref: SH 650603). Car parking at the first layby on the right (A5 heading east) after passing the visitors centre on the right. Free! Llyn Idwal first, as its the more challenging, with a short climb up to the lake. The path is well made, and not too steep, so everyone should make it if we take our time. Lunch at the Visitors centre, and then on to Llyn Ogwen. At this stage, anyone who wants to drop out can elect to walk back to their car, the time should be around 1pm. We should arrive back at the car park around 2:30pm. Boots recommended, and bring a packed lunch. Contact Roger for more information (01248 431296).

### ◇ **News bulletins**

Don't forget that copies of our newsletters (dating back as far as May 2011) are available on the Penrallt website ([www.penrallt.org/news/index.php](http://www.penrallt.org/news/index.php)), along with the current week's news sheet.

### ◇ **Open the Book**

The *Open the Book* team at Glan Cegin School, Maesgeirchen, desperately needs at least one or two extra members (and teams working in other schools are often short of volunteers too). They perform (at Glan Cegin) on Mondays at 1pm at the beginning of afternoon school, after which they practice for the following week (other teams have different arrangement). Volunteers must be regular worshippers at a local church and have a DBS Certificate. If you or anyone you know is willing to help, please get in touch with Anne Jackson on 01248 810050.

### ◇ **Pastoral Help**

If you have issues of concern about your own or someone else's welfare, please contact either our minister, Freddy ([minister@penrallt](mailto:minister@penrallt); 07506 710694), or a member of the Pastoral Care team: Pat Borlace (713146); Adrienne Ferrada; Gwen Hicks; Geoff Moore (410582); Lawrence Moss (713793); Judy Stammers (364394); Helen Thomas (600174).

### ◇ **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](mailto: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. Be reminded that they could, at times, be aggressive towards others. 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 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 Haulfre on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May** but please check with the church office or see that week's news sheet to confirm that this is going ahead.

## ***From the Church Office***

This is just to let you know how we have managed to put a rough shape to the diaconate, for now. Needless to say as time moves on, as they settle as deacons, as Freddy's vision and direction for Penrallt's ministry unfold and above all as God reveals more of His plans for us, there will be further readjustments coming along. For the time being:

- Julia Morgan & Monica Morris – Deacons for Events & Hospitality (on a sharing basis)
- Wendy Lemon – Deacon for Sunday School & Children
- Sarah Plum – Deacon for Missions
- Jonathan Stammers – Deacon for Youth
- Jon Elliott – Deacon for Buildings and Fabric
- Owen Lloyd-Evans – Deacon for Sunday Services
- Stephen Burrows – Treasurer
- Roshni Verghese – Secretary

This should give you a broad idea of who does what; however the expectation is that as with the out-going diaconate, all of us will move outside any rigid boxes and pick up and do what is there to do especially as new ways of doing things and further ministries are developed. Please may I ask you to hold the entire diaconate in prayer as we get to know each other, as latent skills and gifts emerge and as we learn to work as part of a 'whole' under the minister's leadership and the Spirit's call?

God bless you all

*Roshni*

*Focus on...*



## **Christian Aid Week: 14–20 May 2017**

### **Standing with refugees**

Christian Aid was set up by British churches in 1945 to support the hundreds of thousands of refugees who had lost their homes and possessions in the Second World War. Christian Aid Week was launched in 1957 to raise funds for vital work like this that was still continuing in the long running aftermath of the war.

For 60 years, tens of thousands of dedicated volunteers have come together for Christian Aid Week each May to raise vital money for those most in need.

Nejebbar and her family have fled horrors in Afghanistan, where her husband was threatened with torture and death for being a government worker. But now they've arrived in Greece, all they have is a tent. They have no other protection against wind and rain. There's no school for their five children. And they have no certainty or clear idea of what will happen to them now. They thought they would stay here for 10 days, but it's already been six months and there's no end in sight.

Nejebbar's husband Noor describes their initial reaction to arriving in the camp in Greece: 'It was like suicide for us. But we took the decision that it is better to die here than to die there from war.'

Thanks to you, Christian Aid has been there for refugees like Nejebbar since 1945, providing essential food, shelter and legal assistance for people far from home. And they still believe in life before death.

This Christian Aid Week, 14–20 May, Penrallt is continuing to walk with refugees – by hosting the Christian Aid Quiz on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May, helping with the collection on Bangor High Street on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May and participating in the house-to-house collection during the week.

**We're not going to turn our backs on refugees now. Please speak to Sarah Jackson to get involved in Christian Aid Week activities. (e-mail [sarah.jackson.home@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.jackson.home@gmail.com) or phone 01248 714799)**