



# Penrallt Baptist Church

**Newsletter: November 2016**

*Under the apple tree I roused you (Song of Songs 8:5)*

2016 has been the year of the apple in our garden. At the time of writing, industrial quantities of Russets, Bardseys, Bramleys and lesser known cooking apples are turning bright red or green in one gigantic "look at me" plea to be picked before they fall.

By the time of reading I will no doubt have repetitive peeling strain injury, and tin foil cartons with labels saying "stewed apples September/October/November" will have taken over our freezer. Neighbours, friends and possibly even complete strangers will be politely saying "thank you very much for the many apples you have already given us, but no, we couldn't possibly..." And I will be wondering just how many times I can offer apple crumble to our retreat visitors, and how much apple chutney anybody really needs in their life, and just how many apples I could wrap up and store for winter vitamins without them going rotten. One year I'll get it right.

And I wouldn't have it any other way. I love making apple crumbles, especially for my mum who is suffering from vascular dementia and for whom puddings have become very important. I love the apple trees in my garden, the way, this time every year, they remind me of God's ridiculously (to us) abundant generosity – not just through providing for our daily needs, but, through Jesus, his gifts of grace and mercy.

*Oh the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God.*

*How unsearchable his judgements,*

*and his paths beyond tracing out...*

*For from him and through him and to him are all things*

*to him be the glory forever!:* waxed Paul lyrically when he thought about the saving power of God in *Romans 11:33*

God saying, I give you everything you need, and more, more than you can share, more than you can give away, more than you can ever understand or imagine, I give you myself.

But this year particularly those heavy fruited trees have drawn me to be thoughtful as well as thankful.

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Their 'look at me' beauty has turned my mind to that first garden, those first trees and those first hands reaching out and grasping for what was not theirs to have – the wisdom and knowledge of God; and the sound of God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the beginning of the world's darkness and confusion.

These days my mum finds the cool of the day a particularly confusing time. It is the time of the day, when she is most unsettled – the medical term for it I think, is sun-downing. The time just before dark.

And I can sort of understand that, for this is the time of year when the apples have fallen and the days are cooler and the darkness comes earlier. This is the time of year when we wrap up against winter, trying not to rot! This is the time when many people suffer from seasonal affective deficiency, when we crave and search for warmth and light, when hope is harder to find in the dark.

And perhaps we are all, in terms of salvation history, living in the sun-downing time. There is so much in our world to be confused and anxious about, from our own lives and relationships through to the vast world stage of the US elections, migrant crisis and endless wars. In Ephesians 6:12 Paul describes our struggle as being, among other things, *against this dark world*, and that has makes me thoughtful as well as thankful among the many apples this year.

But this year I also remembered a song by folk artist Jean Ritchie which goes:

*My Lord he said unto me  
Do you like my garden so fair  
you may live in this garden if you'll keep the grasses green  
and I'll return in the cool of the day*

*Now is the cool of the day  
Now is the cool of the day  
This earth is a garden, the garden of my Lord  
and he walks in his garden  
in the cool of the day*

And this makes me thankful all over again. Even in, especially in, the cool of the day, God still walks with us. Even in, especially in, the sun down, the darkness, the confusion, the anxiety, the hopelessness, God himself still walks with us. And he doesn't see us a load of rotting apples. His scarred hands are full of the harvest of his heart, which is ours to have – his grace and mercy in abundance, with enough light for us to see our way to walk alongside him.

November blessings

*Diane Holmes*

***Deadline for next month's newsletter:*** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November.  
*Please sent information to Magnus (office@penrallt.org; 01248 353355).*  
*All notices should be submitted in writing (preferably by email) as early as possible.*

## ***Services This Month:***

We begin our preparations for Advent and Christmas with a series of sermons in the evening services on Advent Prophecies, starting on 6<sup>th</sup> November, and a series in the morning services on Advent Characters, starting on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

### **6<sup>th</sup> November**

10:30am Speaker: Christopher Penney.

**Building a house for God**

*2 Samuel 7:1–17*

6:00pm Communion Service Speaker: Neil Rymer

**Advent Prophecies: Immanuel**

*Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:21–23*

### **13<sup>th</sup> November (Remembrance Sunday)**

10:30am Thanksgiving & Remembrance Service. Speaker: Geoff Birch.

**Remember this and Give Thanks**

*Psalm 105:1–11; 2 Corinthians 9:5–15*

During this service there will be an act of remembrance at 11am. As part of our thanksgiving, you are invited to bring non-perishable food items which will be donated to the Cathedral Food Bank.

6:00pm Speaker: Jon Stammers.

**Advent Prophecies: Christ Child**

*Isaiah 9:1–7; Luke 1:31*

### **20<sup>th</sup> November**

10:30am Speaker: Peter Stevenson

**Advent: Zachariah**

*Luke 1*

6:00pm Speaker: Roger Borlace

**Advent Prophecies: David's Line**

*2 Samuel 7:16, 29; Matt. 2:2*

### **27<sup>th</sup> November (Advent Sunday)**

10:30am Communion Service Speaker: Freddy Farias-Palacios

**"God never forgets, He is always on time" (Advent: Elizabeth)**

*Luke 1:5–25*

6:00pm Speaker: Freddy Farias-Palacios

**Advent prophecies: Bethlehem – A place of Hope and Challenge**

*Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4, 15*

## ***Our Speakers This Month:***

**Christopher Penney** is a Baptist Minister who is currently taking a sabbatical researching for a degree with the University of Wales through Spurgeon's College London. Peter Stevenson is Principal of the South Wales Baptist College. **Freddy Farias-Palacios** is the Minister of Eastern Avenue Baptist Church in Romford (Essex). The other speakers are all members of Penrallt.

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

<b>Saturdays</b>	8:30–9:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
<b>Wednesday 2</b>	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
<b>Sunday 6</b>	2:15pm	Service at Plas Garnedd residential home in Llanberis.
<b>Saturday 12</b>	9am–1pm	<i>Bible Unzipped</i> at Rhos on Sea URC.
	7:30pm	<i>Connect</i> event at Penrallt.
<b>Monday 14</b>	2:00pm	Pastoral Care Team meeting.
	7:30pm	Deacons' meeting.
<b>Sunday 20</b>		Hospitality Sunday (please speak to Matt Dawson, our student co-ordinator, for more information).
<b>Monday 21</b>	10:30am	Church walk at Capel Curig.
<b>Saturday 26</b>	10:30am–2pm	Penrallt Christmas Fair.

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

### ***Children's Birthdays in November***

4<sup>th</sup>: Rio Penny

24<sup>th</sup>: Mika Owen

**Christmas Cards:** Instead of sending everyone Christmas cards, please consider sending just one card to the entire church and giving the money saved to BMS World Mission. There will be space on the board for your cards and a place to make a donation from Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

*NB This year's Sunday School Christmas Service (10:30am) and Community Carols By Candlelight (6pm) will both take place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December.*

**Church Lunch** will take place after the morning service on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November** and also **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November** (the latter is the December church lunch brought forward a week for the visit of Freddy Farias-Palacios and his family). On each occasion, please bring enough buffet-style food for yourself and one or two others.

## ***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	Bethesda	Jon & Deb Stammers (602868)
<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:***

### **◇ Bible Unzipped**

*Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 9:30am–1pm*

*Bible Unzipped* aims to unpack Scripture with those interested in learning more than can be offered in a Sunday sermon. It also equips those leading in the church with some tools for studying and teaching from the Bible. We meet monthly on the second Saturday morning at Rhos-on-Sea URC from 9:30am to 1pm. Each morning includes three sessions. The course is free. This month, the whole morning will be led by Nigel Wright, former Principal of Spurgeon's College and President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

### **◇ Christmas Fair**

*Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 10:30am–2pm*

There will be a variety of stalls (cakes, fudge, various crafts, bric a brac, etc.), also fairly traded gifts, Christmas cards and activities for children. The Penrallt Railway Group will be displaying their model railway (under construction). Refreshments will be on sale. No entrance fee but all profits from the sales will be divided between two of our missionary couples, Chris and Anna Hembury (who work in inner city Hull with Youth for Christ) and Duncan and Trudie Tough (who work in Papua New Guinea with Wycliffe Translators). We need volunteers to help in the kitchen and to make cakes to sell. If you have any bric a brac please bring it to the church before the 26<sup>th</sup> (no large items, please). Contact Janet Jones or Mari Kelso if you can help in anyway. Please come and support our missionaries whilst enjoying fellowship, coffee and cake and/or lunch together.

◇ **Church Walk**

*Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November*

The church walking group will be meeting at 10:30am at Tŷ Hyll, Capel Curig, LL24 0DS. The walk of about 5 miles will include Llyn Bodgynydd. Please wear boots and bring a packed lunch. For more information, contact Roger & Pat Borlace (713146).

◇ **Connect**

*Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 7:30pm*

We will be gathering to seek God's face through worship and prayer in the Chapel. Doors open at 7pm; the event itself will start at 7:30pm. All are welcome.

◇ **Operation Christmas Child**

Help bring a gift of God's love and joy to a child this Christmas, as part of the annual scheme run by Samaritan's Purse (see [www.samaritanspurse.org.uk/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.org.uk/occ)). Shoeboxes are available for 50p from the church office (we also now have information leaflets to go with the boxes, so if you already have a box please ask Magnus for your leaflet). Filled boxes can be taken to Shoezone in Bangor (on the High Street, near the town clock) between 1<sup>st</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November.

◇ **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: 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 warned that some of them can be aggressive. 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.

◇ **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 Plas Garnedd on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November**.

Focus on...



## **Amy Burrows**

### **Serving with Gobaith Môn**

Gobaith Môn aims to bring together Christians from all denominations to bring hope to the youth of the Island, by encouraging and developing youth work in schools, churches and communities. At the moment there are three frontline workers; Joe Moreno, Phil Seabrook and myself (Amy Burrows). Phil and I are working as interns gaining experience in youth ministry.

#### **Schools**

Holyhead: Our main responsibilities in Holyhead are the assemblies, RE lessons, PSE lessons and facilitating the formation and running of the school ambassadors and council (who have recently begun generating a newsletter). In Holyhead we work out of an office giving the opportunity for the students to interact with us on a personal level. As a result of this contact they are able to approach us about issues raised in the assemblies, RE lessons and PSE lessons.

Amlwch: At the moment we are working in Ysgol Sir Thomas Hughes twice a week doing PSE lessons. We are hoping to expand our work here as we see great potential for development.

#### **Churches**

Divergent: *Divergent* is a monthly youth event held in Llangefni football club aimed at inspiring young Christians to deepen their relationship with God whilst building relationships with other Christians.

Youth work in church: As part of the internship Phil is working with 'The Barn' church in Amlwch. Eventually, I shall be involved in some youth work in Elim church in Holyhead.

#### **Additional work**

Videos: Every week we make different videos for various reasons. Our video series "Unpacked" is used to look at the gospel message more closely from the assemblies that we have done. The series "The gospel according to you" is where we discuss recent music in the charts and speak about how they can relate to the message of Jesus.

One to one discipleship: One on one discipleship allows a greater investment for young people exploring Christianity.

Quotes from School Staff: "Great message with a lot to go over with the students"  
"The way you guys communicate holds the attention and focus of the room. The students are engaged!"

"Positive start to the day – clear message. Interactive activity is great."