



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter for October 2012

Ever since early humans buried their dead on a bed of scattered petals we have been searching for spirituality. The human condition endows us with a curiosity to look beyond the material. We instinctively believe in another level of existence, unseen yet ever present. Believing in it is one thing, finding it is another. History is littered with the weird, wonderful, scary or just plain fruitless attempts that the human race has invented to touch the numinous. Other attempts have been plain evil or manipulative. Others are sublime. So how do you know what "works" and what doesn't? The diamond prospectors in Mato Grosso where I used to live would sweat in the 40 degree sun all day to collect a pile of gravel which they would then sieve carefully in the hope of finding the gem which would make them rich. They had a saying "When you're looking for a diamond every stone looks like a diamond. When you find a diamond, no other stone in the world is like it." When you are searching for God every form of spirituality offers hope.

There are so many suggestions out there for ways which their authors swear will help you find God or express your spirituality. Nil points for the author of the Twitter comment on the Ship of Fools website who cheerfully recommends "Isn't it time you took a vuvuzela to church, to continually praise the Lord during the sermon?"

The German reformer Martin Luther spent years of his life seeking, in his medieval notion of spirituality to get onto "God's good side". He went on a trip to Rome and joined in a pilgrimage which involved climbing the so-called "Pilate's Staircase" on his knees in the hope of a blessing. He gave up half way, murmuring something like "Who knows if it's true?" He eventually found what he was looking for through the pages of the Bible when preparing a lecture series on the book of Romans.

Can I make a suggestion? All forms of spirituality may seem to offer hope of finding God. In Penrallt we have discovered that when you discover Jesus as the Saviour of the world no one else in history is like him. If you are looking for God, why not find yourself a Bible and start reading one of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke or John? Whichever one takes your fancy. Get to the heart of who Jesus was and what he did. Then find a quiet place and ask him to come into your life and bring you to God like he brought those in the New Testament.

It is a spirituality which works

God bless,

Peter

Students

We welcome all students to Penrallt. Please make sure you pick up a welcome pack from the porch. David McCormack is our student coordinator for this year and we encourage you to say "hi" to him and find out what is happening in our church over the coming months. You can contact him by email to students@penrallt.org or by phone on 07725 028074.

SERVICES IN OCTOBER

October 7

10.30am *Worth More Than Gold . . . 1 Peter 1:3-9*
2.15pm Service at Bontnewydd.
6.00pm Communion Service. Roger Borlace: *Jesus before Pilate.*
Matthew 27:11-26

October 14

10.30am Healing Service. *Salvation, Wholeness and Healing. Paralympics, Athletes' Foot, Unanswered Prayer, Miracles and the Power of God.*
1 Peter 3:9
6.00pm *The King Who Saves.* *Matthew 27:27-54*

October 21

10.30am Peter Gordon-Roberts.
6.00pm Peter Gordon-Roberts.

October 28 *(Don't forget to put your clocks back!)*

10.30am Communion Service.
Secrets that even the angels longed to see. 1 Peter 1:10-12
6.00pm *Why trying to hold back Jesus is like trying to hold back the tide.* *Matthew 27:57-68*

Our Preaching Team for October

Peter Cousins is Penrallt's minister and is the preacher at all services except where otherwise noted. *Revd. Roger Borlace* is a retired minister, a member of Penrallt. *Revd. Peter Gordon-Roberts* is a retired minister who lives on Anglesey.

Faith Café

After church on Sunday evening we host Faith Café for students, teenagers and other young adults. Starting around 7:15 pm it is an evening of chat, interviews, music and discussions. There is a short programme at around 7:40 after which you are free to leave or stay and chat.

Church Lunch

We will host a church lunch on Sunday October 7th. Please bring enough buffet style "finger food" for yourselves and one or two others.

SPECIAL DATES FOR OCTOBER

Monday 1 7:30pm Church Members' Meeting.
Tuesday 2 7:00pm Alpha Supper.
Wednesday 3 10:30am Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee in Options.

Saturday 6	10:30am	Upper Bangor Society Coffee Morning in Canolfan Penrallt.
Wednesday 10	7:30pm	Cytûn (Churches Together) meeting at Penuel.
Saturday 13	9:30am	Bible Unzipped course begins in Rhos-on-Sea (see notice below).
Saturday 20	10am-noon	Bangor Street Pastors coffee morning at Penuel.
Monday 29	7:30pm	Missions Prayer Group at Sarah Jackson's house.
Wednesday 31	6-7:15pm	Light Party. A fun, 'non-scary' alternative celebration to Halloween parties. Games, singing, party food etc. All children / parents and youth welcome. Come along in really interesting bright coloured clothing. Please NO Halloween-style costumes.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

Eunice Smith has retired from the Pastoral Care Team after many years of stalwart service. Thank you Eunice.

Our congratulations to **Danielle Fifield** and **Andrew Herbert** on their engagement. **Andrew Browne** is facing surgery at the beginning of the month.

Children's Birthdays in October

5th: Evangeline Goodwin; **7th**: Anna Warnock; **20th**: Micah Adams;

23rd: Scott Jones; **26th**: Claire Donnely, Hannah Howick; **31st**: Catrin Gwilliam

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, Tyddyn Isaf, Menai Bridge	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
Wed	10.30am	Men's Prayer Meeting	Peter Cousins (353878)
Wed	2.00pm	Carers' Home Group	Carol Morris (208407)
Wed	7.30pm	HG, The Nomads	Jess & Seamus Adams (421185) Susan Cousins (353878)
Wed	7.30pm	HG, Bethesda	Jon & Deb Stammers (602868)
Wed	7:30pm	HG, Penchwintan Road	David McCormack (07725 028074)
Wed	8.00pm	HG, Grŵp Cymraeg	Owen & Nia Lloyd Evans (352634)
Thu	10.30am	Post-Alpha Bible Study	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7.30pm	HG, Llanfairpwll	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7.45pm	HG, Talwrn	Gill & James Goodman (751074)
Fri	10.30am	Cheeky Monkeys	Joan Rymer (713003)
Fri	10.30am	HG, 6 Maes y Dref	Anne Collis (353173) anne@collis66.freeseve.co.uk
Sat	8.30am	Prayer Meeting	

NOTICEBOARD

➤ ***Alpha***

The Alpha course is open to anyone interested in discovering what Christian life is all about. It's where people can come, relax, share a meal and thoughts; anyone can come and everyone is encouraged to ask questions delving into the meaning of life. Alpha in Penrallt is run over a period of 11 consecutive Tuesdays starting with the Celebration Supper on the 2nd of October at 7pm. There is an Away Day on Saturday the 17th of November which will be at Noddfa Retreat Centre, Penmaenmawr. People attend Alpha for a wide variety of reasons. Some want to investigate whether God exists, others may have attended church occasionally but feel they have never really understood the basics of the Christian faith. If you are a non-believer and are full of doubts about the Christian faith, come and find out what it's all about. If you question and wonder if there is a God at all, great, come with an open mind. Whatever your reasons, you will be most welcome to come on the course.

➤ ***Men's Prayer Meeting Wednesday 3 October 10:30am***

The men will meet for prayer as usual, followed by coffee in Options.

➤ ***Walking Group Tuesday 16 October 10.30am***

Meeting in Brynrefail (A5025 Anglesey), in the small car park just past the Craft Shop and Chapel. It could be a bit muddy, (so boots essential) and there are a few stiles. The walk is about 6 miles and goes from the coast to the top of Bodafon 'Mountain' (504ft!). For more details contact Mari and Ian Kelso. (01248 421783 or marikelso@yahoo.co.uk).

➤ ***Bible Unzipped First Session: Saturday 13 October 9:30am - 1pm***

Bible Unzipped is run by a group of local ministers who have a passion for Biblical Theology. Its aim is 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. The histories of the texts themselves, the different ways they have been interpreted and their use for contemporary life and personal devotion will be considered. Bible unzipped meets monthly on a Saturday morning at Rhos-on-Sea URC from 9:30am to 1pm. This term's dates are 13th October, 10th November, and 8th December. Each morning includes three one hour session which develop a theme through the term. The themes for this term are: 'Genesis: a story that will make you believe in God', 'The audience and purpose of Paul's letter to the Romans' and 'Meeting God in Scripture'. No previous experience of Bible Study is required. The course is free and Peter has room in his car for 4 others if you are interested.

➤ ***Jesus then and now - Healing and the Miraculous - A Doctor's Perspective - Dr Derek Munday***

22 October at 7:30pm in Princes Drive Baptist Church, Colwyn Bay LL29 8LA. This is a talk sponsored by the Cymru Institute of Contemporary Christianity. All are welcome. There is a charge of £6.

- **Street Pastors Coffee Morning Saturday 20 October 10am-noon**
Come to Penrallt and find out about the work of Bangor Street Pastors. Cakes and books will be sold and the proceeds put towards the work of the Street Pastors.
- **Hospitality for International Students**
The International Student Support Office at the University is looking for Church members who would be willing to offer Sunday afternoon tea to international students. The aim is to help international students feel less isolated in a strange culture, to give them a chance to get a taste of British life, and to practise their English. You would be asked to spend a couple of hours over a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake with two, or at most three, students about once a month. It could make a big difference to students' experience of living in Wales, as well as being an opportunity for us to offer Christian hospitality to those who feel strangers among us. The scheme depends on their being enough volunteer families to go ahead so if you are interested please tell Peter as soon as possible.
- **Penrallt Christmas Fair Saturday 24 November 10.30am**
This year's Penrallt Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday November 24th, 10.30am-2pm, in the Canolfan. The proceeds will be divided between Chris and Anna Hembury (Hull Youth for Christ) and Duncan and Trudie Tough (Wycliffe); there will also be a Created Gifts stall (Tearfund). If you would like to help or want more information, contact Jan Jones or Mari Kelso.
- **Penrallt on Facebook**
100 people are signed up to Penrallt's Facebook site. Join us.
- **Homeless in Bangor**
Please do not give money directly to the homeless in Upper Bangor. We have found in the past that it has encouraged aggressive begging on the church premises by people who have a history of violence. You will find brown envelopes in the porch to put your gift in.
- **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 one of the other members of the Pastoral Care team:

Geoff Birch 01286 870944	Pat Borlace 713146
Judy Stammers 364394	Geoff Moore 410582

Deadline for next month's newsletter Sunday 21 October
Please send information to Gwyneth (gwyneth@brindley-wales.com or 352682)

FOCUS ON...

The Calvert family in France

Peter and Rachel Calvert are living and working in St-Étienne in France (not too far from Lyon) with their three young daughters. They are working with *France Mission* and in 2005 they moved to St-Étienne with the vision of Church planting.

God has been good and they have recently purchased the building they were renting. They say "thank you to all those who have helped us and prayed for us. We pray that the building would be a tool we can use effectively for God's glory".

The Calverts, along with their church, do a lot of work with teenagers and other young people and have had many encouragements. They recently held a 'mini-camp' for the teenagers and say "despite arriving and leaving in pouring rain, it was a worthwhile time; we enjoyed opening the Bible together (2 Cor. 4) and relationships were strengthened too. Please pray for gospel growth in the lives of these young people".

As in the UK, it is that time of year when university students are arriving and Christian Unions are busy seeking to reach out with the Gospel to their fellow students. In the last week of September Peter and Rachel have been involved in training and helping the Christian Union in this outreach. Let's pray that the CU there, and here in Bangor, have many opportunities to share their faith.

Let us keep the Calverts in our prayers as they do so much for God's people, and seek to share with those around what Jesus did on the cross. One very important prayer, which they have asked for, is that they would not overdo it but would keep time for God and for themselves as a family.

Please ask Tim (the missions co-ordinator) or Magnus (whose homegroup has the Calverts as its link missionaries) if you would like to find out more about the Calvert family and their mission work.



St-Étienne in France, where the Calverts live and work.