



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: February 2017

There were no clocks or calendars in early New Testament times. Around Christmas we often try to fit the birth, the visit of the Magi, the flight to Egypt etc in a sequence dictated by our modern understanding of time and the sequence that might dictate. One of those events is the so called 'massacre of the innocents' but it may well have been some time later; you will recall Herod ordered the slaughter of male children two years or less to be sure of killing the chosen one (Matt. 2:13–18). I wonder what it might have been like...

Mary was talking with Joseph; as they readied themselves to sleep.

"What was he like?"

"What was who like?"

"That angel that came to you in your dreams."

"He was very tall, it seemed as if he was standing in the air about a cubit above the ground. He was dressed in a long sort of golden coat which shone like the brightest sun. He spoke as soon as he arrived so I listened rather than looked at him if you know what I mean."

"Not really".

"He was the shape of a man I think; but the face was more like that of a beautiful woman..."

"Like me Joseph?" Mary smiled mischievously.

"No, Mary not like you, older than you and not as nice as you; he didn't look mischievous like you and he didn't have your lovely smile. *As I was saying...* I couldn't tell whether it was man or woman: it was the voice which seemed to demand my attention. He said I was to take you home as my wife because the baby inside you was from God. I was shocked, I can tell you; but that's what you'd told me at first and I confess I did *not* believe you immediately. He sounded a bit like a Roman centurion giving an order but in a kind sort of way, the angel spoke, as if I should pay attention. I didn't want to divorce you, Mary; God forbid! So when he said I should marry you completely I was glad."

"Why?"

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"Because I love you, Mary. I can't imagine life without you, I didn't want to divorce you as the rabbi would have demanded so I was very willing to marry you."

"That's nice, I'm glad you agreed to marry me; because after I went to visit my aunt Elizabeth and she was so glad to see me it was easier to believe what my angel had said. Now we have Jesus; isn't he just *perfect*, the birth was painful but the moment he was born all that was forgotten when Jesus smiled at me."

"I'm sure that was wind."

"No it wasn't darling; he smiled and then fell asleep."

The couple snuggle together with Jesus by Mary's side. They kiss then quickly fall asleep.

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"Joseph... Joseph!"

Joseph struggles to wake up, "Er yes, who's there..." but his words fail him as before him stands the same angel as before.

"You must leave this place tonight", the angel declared, "Herod is looking for the boy child; his men have orders to kill every boy under two; they will be here tomorrow morning early. You must leave quickly. ...Now, Joseph!"

"Mary, wake up Mary, we have to leave". Mary struggles to wake up.

"What did you say, Joseph; leave, why?"

"That angel we were talking about just before we went to sleep; he came to me again, we have to leave here now; Herod's men are coming to kill Jesus and every other boy-child under two. We have to go now!"

"In the morning, Joseph. I'm so tired we'll go in the morning." Mary turns away from Joseph and hugs Jesus.

"I'm sorry Mary but we must go now; the angel was right before and he's probably right this time too, come on... if we leave now while it's still dark it will be cooler and we can put some distance between us and this place while it's still dark. Come on, Mary, please!"

"Oh very well Joseph my love, but where shall we go? Herod's people are everywhere; how will we escape them?"

"We'll head down the Jordan valley to Jericho and then take the road to Egypt it's the only place he won't bother to look."

"But Joseph dear that is so far it will take us days and days to get to Egypt."

"We'll go to Jericho first, buy what we need there with some of those gold coins that wise foreigner gave us, I wonder if God sent him with his friends; we shall have enough to buy what we need for the journey, come on..."

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Mary, Joseph and Jesus journeyed down to Egypt following the major trade route all the way. It might have taken them a week with much uncertainty along the route. They would be carrying water and food for the journey not knowing what lay ahead or how long they would have to stay either. Life would be a real challenge for them. Herod lived until 4AD so the trip to Egypt may well have been a long one.

As you look into your own short term future are you prepared to trust our heavenly Father with the outcome, trusting Him for the future as Mary Joseph and the young Jesus had to?

Every blessing.

Andrew March

Come and Celebrate!

We are delighted to invite you to the Induction Service of
Rev. Freddy Farías-Palacios as the Minister of Penrallt
at **3pm on Saturday 1st April 2017**
and a light supper afterwards.

RSVP by 15th March to the church office (office@penrallt.org)

Gift Day for Manse - February 5th

We look forward to the arrival of Rev. Freddy Farias-Palacios as our new minister this year. As part of this we are currently in process of buying a new house as a manse, our offer of £190,000 has been accepted and we are going through the surveys and legal process. We are using the proceeds from the sale of the old manse, £87,000 as the main deposit and currently applying to the Baptist Union for a loan. We are also looking to use some of our reserves towards the cost. In addition some people have already given, or said they would like to give additional donations specifically for the manse purchase. We therefore intend to have a gift day for the manse on Sunday 5th February and would ask if you prayerfully consider if you are able to make an additional donation. Any amount given will help to reduce the amount of the loan and be less of a future commitment. We would also ask if you could gift aid any donations if eligible to do so as this will add a further 25% to the value of the gift. We will have envelopes available on the day which will also allow you to gift aid if applicable. If you would prefer to make a bank transfer please annotate with 'manse'. Thank you for your continued support as we enter this next chapter in the life of the fellowship here in Penrallt.

Stephen Burrows

Services This Month

In February we start a series of sermons in the morning services on the book of James, with titles taken from the commentary by Dr. Raymond Brown. In the evening services there will be a series of three sermons on Matthew chapter 23.

5th February

10:30am Family Service led by Jon & Deb Stammers.

Following Jesus

Luke 5:1–11

6:00pm Communion Service. Speaker: Rob Beamish.

The superhero always wears a mask

Matthew 23:1–12

12th February

10:30am Speaker: Roger Borlace

Resilient Faith

James 1:2–11

6:00pm Speaker: Trevor Casey

Matthew 23:13–24

19th February

10:30am Speaker: Neil Rymer

Loving Endurance

James 1:12–20

6:00pm Speaker: Phil Seabrook.

26th February

10:30am Communion Service. Speaker: Geoff Birch

Continual Obedience

James 1:21–27

6:00pm Speaker: Jon Stammers

Whose side am I *really* on?

Mathew 23:25–39

Our Speakers This Month

Rob Beamish is the Minister of Prince's Drive Baptist Church, Colwyn Bay.

Trevor Casey is the Minister of Sussex Street Christian Centre, Rhyl. **Phil**

Seabrook is a youth worker with Gobaith Môn, working in schools on Anglesey.

The remaining speakers are all members of Penrallt.

Dates for Your Diary

Saturdays	8:30–9:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Wednesday 1	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Sunday 5	2:15pm	Service at Plas Garnedd residential home in Llanberis.
Tuesday 7	7:30pm	Deacons' meeting.
Saturday 11	9:30am–1pm	<i>Mission-Shaped Ministry</i> course at Rhos-on-Sea URC.
Monday 13	2pm	Pastoral Care Team meeting.
Saturday 18	10am	Canolfan maintenance day.
Monday 20	10am	Canolfan maintenance day.
	10:30am	Church walk at Capel Curig.
Monday 27	7:30pm	Church members' special meeting.

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

News of People

We were saddened by the death of Christopher Penney on Christmas Day, following a brief struggle with cancer. Abi is very grateful for the love, prayer and practical support we have shown her during this time.

Jean Browne passed away peacefully at her home in Lincoln shortly before Christmas. A memorial service for her and her husband Andrew (who died several years ago) will be held at Penrallt on Saturday 4th March at 2pm, led by Peter Cousins.

We look forward to celebrating the wedding of Beth Elliott and Matt on Saturday 8th April. All are welcome to the service at Penrallt, starting at 12:30pm, and also to a barn dance in the evening at Plas Gwynant. If you are able to help with catering, please speak to Billy.

Children's Birthdays in February

1st: Morgan Goodman 7th: Afan Hedd Whitton 8th: Sophie Toplis
10th: Rosa Tough 11th: Amelie Goodwin, Max Osborne
25th: Inge Snyman 27th: Siôn Davies

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 19th February.

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

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

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.

Day	Time	Group Name	Contacts
Tue	7:30pm	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	Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
Thu	10:30am	Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7:30pm	Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Fri	10:30am–12:30pm	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316)

Noticeboard:

◇ **Alpha**

This year we are running two Alpha courses, one on Monday mornings at 10:30am and the other on Monday evenings at 7pm. Both courses started on 23rd January and will run for 10 weeks. If you wish to join one of the courses or invite a friend to do so, it is not yet too late. Please speak to Lawrence Moss (713793).

◇ **Canolfan Maintenance**

We are planning to sort out the storage cupboard (Upper Room) and repaint the Canolfan and kitchen on Saturday 18th and Monday 20th February. If you like clearing out clutter, splashing some paint around or are happy to donate some of your time then please speak to Andy Lemon (353743).

◇ **Church Lunch**

This month's Church Lunch will be on **Sunday 5th February**, after the morning service. Please bring enough buffet-style food for yourself and one or two others.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 20th February

This is a second attempt at the walk that was cancelled last November due to the weather! The church walking group will be meeting at 10:30am at Tŷ Hyll (The Ugly House), 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).

◇ **Mission-Shaped Ministry**

Saturday 11th February

This is a year-long programme to help equip us for sharing the Good News of Jesus with those around us. The sessions will take place on the second Saturday of the month at Rhos-on-Sea URC, in 3-month blocks with a month off in between, and run from 9:30am to 1pm. The course started in January but it is not too late to join in. There is a cost of £45 to cover materials for the year, payable by 11th March, but you are welcome to try a session for free. For more information please visit missionshapedministry.org/northwales17

◇ **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 (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 5th February** but please check with the church office or see that week's news sheet to confirm that this is going ahead.

◇ **Used postage stamps for BMS**

The Baptist Missionary Society raises extra funds by selling used postage stamps (also coins, medals, old postcards and pre-1950 greetings cards). Please trim stamps leaving 3mm (1/8inch) of envelope all round. Labelled packets may be left in the Church office.

Focus on...



Kathy Russell

Serving with BMS in Mozambique



Kathy previously practised as a lawyer in Australia and then England with a focus on family law and child protection. She is now working with the Baptist Convention of Mozambique and the Association of Mozambican Christian Lawyers (advogados) – ‘AMAC’, using her skills to help develop justice and advocacy ministries. Kathy is part of a small BMS team there, including others with legal backgrounds and experience.

The AMAC has two legal offices. Kathy is based in the capital city Maputo, with a part-time lawyer and two law students. The rest of the team is based in Beira.

In Mozambique more than half the population is below the age of 18 and the law relating to child protection is relatively new, having commenced in 2008. The challenge is how to make it known and beyond that – to make a positive impact.

Kathy and her team do legal educations in churches during their Sunday morning services. Services in Mozambique typically go on for about 3-4 hours and some Pastors have asked the AMAC to use 40 minutes of that to discuss family law and domestic violence, which they do from both a Biblical and legal perspective.

The AMAC also do legal educations with Pepe, the Preschool education program run by some Baptist Churches. They are able to speak with the teachers about child protection and discuss many practical issues,

One outcome of the legal educations is that people learn that they or their family or neighbours are able to do something about the injustices they are facing and turn to the AMAC for individual practical advice or even legal representation.

Kathy says "We really thank God as AMAC has come a long way, we rely on a small staff and volunteers but God always provides the right people to meet the right needs."