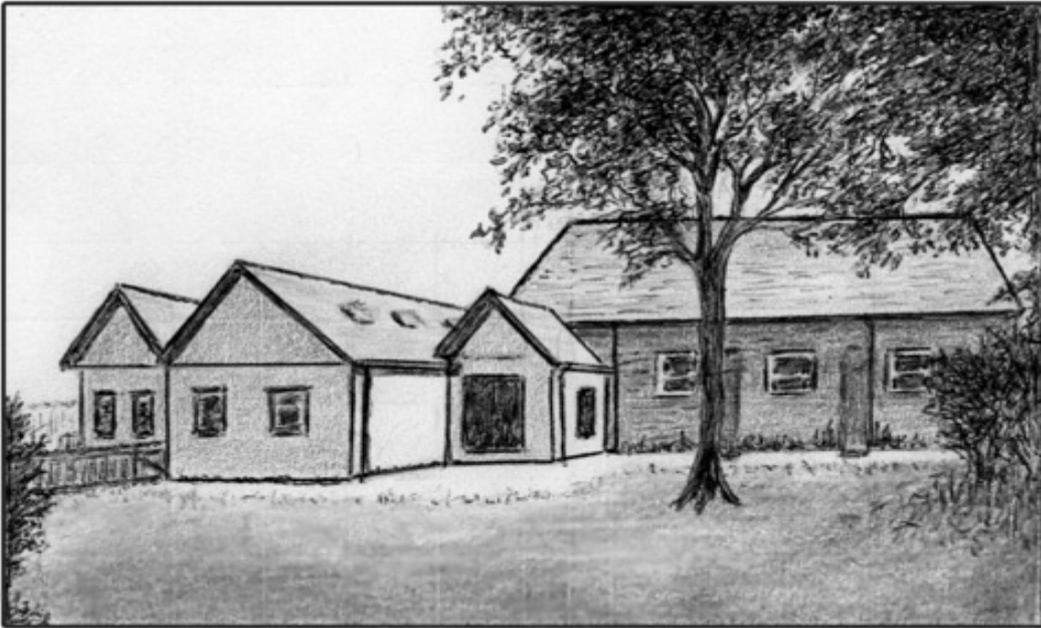


Grapevine

Newsletter of
Ebenezer Evangelical Church



“Salvation and glory and power
belong to our God, for true and just
are his judgments”

Revelation 19:1 (NIV)

June/July
2017

EBENEZER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Doctrinal Statement.

The church believes the fundamental truths of Christianity, as revealed in Holy Scripture, including the following:

- 1 The unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.
- 2 The sovereignty of God in creation, providence, revelation, redemption and final judgment.
- 3 The divine inspiration, infallibility and inerrancy of Holy Scripture as originally given, and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- 4 The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall, rendering man subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
- 5 The full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ the incarnate Son of God, His virgin birth and His real and sinless humanity; His death on the cross; His bodily resurrection; His ascension; His present reign in heaven and on earth; and His intercession on behalf of the church.
- 6 Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial and atoning death, once and for all time, of our representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only mediator between God and man.
- 7 Justification as God's act of undeserved mercy, in which the sinner is pardoned all his sins and accepted as righteous in God's sight, only because of the righteousness of Christ imputed to him, this justification being received by faith alone.
- 8 The need for the Holy Spirit to make the work of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.
- 9 The church as the body of Christ, both locally and worldwide, its members consisting of those only to have been born again through the work of the Holy Spirit.
- 10 The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in all those thus regenerated, producing in them an increasing likeness to Christ in character and behaviour, and empowering them for their witness in the world.
- 11 The future personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge all men, executing God's final just condemnation on the impenitent and receiving the redeemed to eternal glory.

(A further explanation of the things we believe is set out in the 1646 Westminster Confession of Faith)

A LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

Dear friends,

A General Election is one of those occasions when people throughout the country have to try and crystalize their political thoughts and come to some conclusions concerning their political views, their preferred political party and their choice of a local politician. The rest of the time we can afford to sit on the fence or resort to criticizing what other people think on political issues. But on the day of the election, the question is not what others think, but what do you think? The time has come for a conclusion to be reached.

And that's how it was for a group of men in Jesus' day. Having followed Jesus around the countryside for months, and possibly years, these men were well aware of what others thought about Jesus. They had chatted with people and overheard conversations and consequently knew that some people thought that Jesus was John the Baptist or Elijah or one of the prophets. But having heard what other people had to say about him, Jesus asked those men this question, "But what about **you**. Who do **you** say I am?" The time for conducting an opinion poll had come to an end and now it was time for them to say what their own conclusions were concerning Jesus. And the challenge which those men were faced with that day is the very same challenge that you face as you meet with us in Ebenezer Evangelical Church.

It may be that up until now you have evaded that issue and avoided thinking about it too much. But as you meet with us in Ebenezer and hear about Jesus, you will be encouraged to give some serious thought to that very same question that Jesus asked back then, "But what about **you**? Who do **you** say I am?" (Mark 8: 29). And our prayer as a church is that you might come to the same conclusion that Peter came to on that occasion when he said, "You are the Christ". That is our prayer, because a correct understanding of who Jesus is, is absolutely vital if we are going to know this Jesus as the deliverer and king who can rescue us from the eternal punishment that we deserve.

Yours sincerely,
David.

Amongst Ourselves

Our minister David Finnie supported by his wife Kyung-Ju has now been with us for twenty years since this April. We do give thanks to the Lord for David's faithful ministry from the pulpit and pastoral visitation, also to Kyung-Ju for her work behind the scenes. David has now completed his sermons on the final chapters of Revelation.

JP Earnest has been taking school assemblies in local schools helped on occasion by Paul Kennedy. We have welcomed some new faces to our pulpit: Simon Facer from Penrhyndeudraeth and Deiniol Williams from Wrexham.

This Easter saw the church once again back in Benllech to hold a Good Friday service. It was encouraging to see so many folks there; many of them were family and friends staying in the area. After lunch Gillian led a group of us on a ramble around Benllech getting us back to our cars just as it was starting to rain! Talk about good timing!

Fiona Earnest and Hannah French took the opportunity to visit the church that we support in Memaliaj in Albania. Their purpose was to teach English to some of the folks there, to encourage the Ladies and young people and to meet the pastor Geni, his wife Niki and church worker Alma. At our May missionary meeting Fiona and Hannah shared something about their adventures.

We were encouraged at our recent baptismal service held again at Capel Penuel to see Valerie Jones and Kelvin Riley being baptised. Both had recently come to saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; Valerie as a result of experiencing bereavements and Kelvin, a first year student who knew the gospel but had never accepted it until he was helped by a fellow student to see his need of personally trusting in Jesus.

Let's continue to uphold in prayer those who are going through difficult times especially Lyn, Catherine and Huw Davies. Let's pray too for our students, some are due back next year but others are leaving us for pastures new. We are grateful to the Lord for the way they have contributed to church life and enriched our fellowship here at Ebenezer.

John P Gough

Prayer Points

“seek first his kingdom and righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well” Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

Sunday: O Lord, we commune with thee every day, but week-days are worldly days, and secular concerns reduce heavenly impressions. We bless thee therefore for the day sacred to our souls when we can wait upon thee and be refreshed....We rejoice in another Lord’s Day.

Monday: O God All-Sufficient, let us bless thee at all times and forget not how thou hast forgiven our iniquities, healed our diseases, redeemed our lives from destruction, crowned us with lovingkindness and tender mercies, satisfied our mouth with good things, renewed our youth like the eagle’s.

Tuesday: Most High God, may we patiently and cheerfully submit to those afflictions which are necessary. When we are tempted to wander, hedge our way; excite in us an abhorrence of sin; wean us from the present evil world; assure us that we shall at last enter Immanuel’s land.

Wednesday: Lord of Heaven, give us a religion that is both real and progressive, that holds on its way and grows stronger, that lives and works in the Spirit, that profits from every correction, and is injured by no carnal indulgence.

Thursday: King of Glory, teach us to place our happiness in thee, the blessed God, never seeking life among the dead things of earth, or asking for that which satisfies the deluded; but may we prize the light of thy smile, implore the joy of thy salvation, find our heaven in thee. Blessed be thy name!

Friday: Creator, upholder and proprietor of all things, make us willing to be saved in thy own way, perceiving nothing in ourselves but all in Jesus. Help us not only to receive him, but walk in him, depend on him, commune with him, follow him as dear children, imperfect, but pressing forward, not complaining of labour, but valuing rest; not murmuring under trials, but thankful for our state. And by so doing let us silence the ignorance of foolish men.

Saturday: O Lord our God, help us to be in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, to enter upon the Sabbath mindful of its solemnities, duties, privileges; setting all things worldly aside while we worship Thee.

(Adapted from the Valley of Vision – a collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions)

Missionary Prayer Points

Sunday: Johnny and Ann McClean Thailand – Give thanks for Johnny's encouraging visit to the UK in March. Several people are considering going to work with them for short periods. Others are applying to join their UFM Summer Team, July 31st – August 15th.

Monday: Richard & Barbara Davies, EMF France – They continue to have opportunities to tell Bible stories in some homes. Pray that there will be a greater understanding of the truth among the listeners.

Tuesday: EMW – Pray for preparations for the summer camps conferences and the outreach at the National Eisteddfod in Anglesey. Uphold Steffan Job in all the work involved in this. Pray also for a new General Secretary for the Movement.

Wednesday: IFES, Slovakia – Bäska asks for prayer for herself at a very stressful time with her exams and the student work in difficulties because her two co-workers will have left.

Thursday: Emmanuel and Esther Durand, France – Emmanuel has been asked to speak at the Reformation in the Family conference this summer. Pray also for their involvement with their own church in Cognin.

Friday: UCCF – Pray for the students while they will be separated from their friends over the summer; may they be enabled to stand firm in the faith and prove the Lord's keeping power.

Saturday: Pray for Gareth Thomas's outreach with the van (Siop-y-Gair) as the work faces considerable changes in the near future, with an urgent need for new personnel.

Idwen Morgan

Farewell to the Perrys

"...Indeed in the whole world [the gospel] is bearing fruit and increasing - as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth..." Colossians 1:6



It is nearly five years since we moved to Bangor to work with the students here. What a privilege it has been to see gospel growth in that time! It has been wonderful to see students grow in maturity and love for the Lord and one another. Seeing the CU increase in boldness and creativity in

Evangelism has been thrilling as they organize ambitious mission events and work on a culture of witnessing naturally with friends and peers. It has been especially sweet to taste the fruit of that labour in students coming to faith!

One particular highlight was an international student event in the University's Powys Hall. We planned for 90-100 to attend an evening of foods from around the world, and by the end of the night I had taken three extra trips to Morrisons to supply the 300 who came!

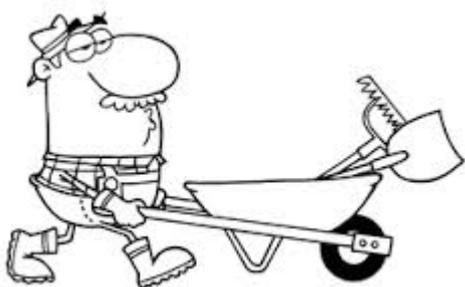
Aside from the big splash of events, we have enjoyed the great blessing of walking with individuals in discipleship, although that often comes with a bittersweet aftertaste as they move on into the workplace and wider world. It is hard to see them go (and hard for us to move now too) but reminds us that we are only 'camping' in this world as it is. We look forward to dwelling with Christ and one another in the true heavenly city. Goodbyes between Christian family are never more than temporary.

Over the last five years, our own physical family has grown too - we arrived as two, and depart as four! We thank the Lord for new life in the shape of Ioan and Miriam, and are reminded of the corresponding delight of spiritual New Life in those who have come to faith. How good it is to know the giver of life Himself!

As the academic year draws to a close, we will begin to pack our things, say our goodbyes and turn our eyes to the south and Ammanford Evangelical Church. John will be taking up a position as Assistant Pastor there, spending the next few years studying and learning the ropes of pastoral ministry. Please do pray for the practicalities of the move, the children settling, and for a fruitful contribution to the work of the gospel in that community.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your warm, generous and prayerful support of us over the past five years. We are deeply grateful to the Lord for your partnership in the gospel, and will be praying for much fruit as you continue to labour for Him in Bangor.

Yours in the Lord,
John, Bethan, Ioan and Miriam.



Diary Dates

Wednesday 7th June 7pm – Board Game evening at Benllech Community and Ex-Servicemen's Hall

Saturday 1st July – church cleaning/gardening work party.

Visit to Memaliaj, Albania, April 2017



At the end of April Hannah French and I were able to visit the believers in Memaliaj, Southern Albania.

The photo above shows (left to right) Niki, Geni, Hannah, myself and Alma. Geni is the Pastor of the church and Niki is his wife. Alma is the children's worker.

Each week is a busy one in the life of the church. The believers meet on Sunday mornings at 10.30am. There is a Bible study on Sunday afternoons for the young men in the church. Other meetings include the church Bible Study and prayer meeting, a Ladies meeting, two youth clubs and a children's meeting. Geni and Niki run a film night once a month for couples in the town. Niki runs student outreach in Gironkaster every Tuesday. Although there is no church in the town of Balsh, there is a Bible study there every other week and Geni goes to take this meeting once a month.

We were able to spend time helping out with the work of the church and teaching some English classes. The English lessons proved to be a lovely opportunity to get to know the husband of a believer who is usually antagonistic towards the church.

It was a joy to meet up, over coffee of course, with one of the ladies who comes to the Ladies meeting. This lady was most keen to find out who Jesus is and it was our privilege to talk with her about the Lord.

It seems that my most useful asset for the week was my driving licence. Geni was temporarily unable to drive so I was the driver for the week. This was both challenging and enjoyable for me while being useful for Geni and Niki.

It was a great encouragement to see, and briefly be a part of, the work of the gospel in Memaliaj and the surrounding area. Please continue in prayer for the church there.

Fiona Earnest



**Kelvin Riley and Valerie Jones were baptised on May 21st
at Capel Penuel Bangor**

Preachers in Ebenezer

June

- 4th David Finnie am, John Gough pm
- 11th David Finnie am & pm
- 18th David Finnie am & pm
- 25th David Finnie am & pm

July

- 2nd Peter Wilson am, John Gough pm
- 9th Philip Eveson (Wrexham)
- 16th Andrew Young (Fraserburgh) am & pm
- 23rd Irfon Parry (Llandudno) am & pm
- 30th David Finnie am & pm

August

- 6th David Finnie am & pm
- 13th Walter Johnstone (Chorlton)
- 20th David Finnie am & pm
- 27th David Finnie am & pm

EBENEZER EVANGELICAL CHURCH
ST. PAUL'S TERRACE, BANGOR LL57 1NS
www.ebenezerbangor.org.uk

.....

OFFICERS

Elders

David Finnie (Minister)	Dkjfinnie@aol.com	(01248) 362334
John Gough	jnlzgough99@btinternet.com	352433

Deacons

Gareth Thomas	garethjohnthomas@talktalk.com	362320
Wyn Thomas	w.thomas@bangor.ac.uk	351347

REGULAR MEETINGS

SUNDAY	10.10am 10.30am 5.40pm 6.00pm	Prayer Meeting in annex. Morning Service. Junior Church (ages 4-10) during sermon. Prayer Meeting in Library. Evening Service The Lord's Supper 1 st Sun. evening & 3 rd Sun. morning.
TUESDAY	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting / Fellowship Groups*
THURSDAY	10am	Ladies Bible Study*
FRIDAY	7.30pm	G.O.A.L Youth Club for ages 11-18.

*Meetings not always held in the church – please ask for details.

Treasurer: Michael Walters	mikewalters@hotmail.com	470681
Youth Club Leader: David Finnie	Dkjfinnie@aol.com	362334
Grapevine Editor: Michael Walters	mikewalters@hotmail.com	470681
Notice sheet Editor: Fiona Earnest	fionaearnest@yahoo.co.uk	