

# Pensarn Cottage



Pensarn Cottage is the home of Russ and Lesley Howell and is situated in Pantymwyn, about 2 miles from the market town of

Mold, the leading town in Flintshire, North Wales. It is set in the Clwydian Hills above the snow line and has 17 walks (of differing lengths and difficulties) into the surrounding countryside. It provides those who come here the opportunity to enjoy the picturesque countryside, relax and unwind. They have a lovely garden for those who come, in which to rest or paint or do photography.

The Christian ministry they exercise together in Christ's name, both here and elsewhere, is first and foremost to Church Leaders. They have helped Leaders in denominations and organizations at home and abroad including Baptist, Anglican, Elim, Assemblies of God, Scripture Union, Iccthus, New Wine, Independents, Springs, (and many others) both in their own Churches and here. Russ has also supervised and directed a number of sabbaticals there for Leaders.

'Pensarn', a Welsh word, can mean 'a Causeway' or 'Paved Way' and they see that because of who they are in Christ, an open heaven is created here. A way is cleared so that those who visit can follow the path laid out before them by the Holy Spirit.



They believe God uses them here as a Bridgehead to advance His Kingdom. (In a military sense a Bridgehead is 'a significant step forward or a position of advantage gained, from which major progress can be made'), the purpose of which is to facilitate Leaders in their desire for expansion into new territories whether personally or for their Church or organisation.

They have been in Christian Ministry for nearly 42 years. They met when Russ was training at South Wales Baptist College and Cardiff University and Lesley was studying music at Cardiff University and the Royal Welsh School



of Music and Drama. She has taught piano, singing and other instruments. Ministry began when he was Ordained as a Baptist Minister in 1972 in Mountain Ash, S Wales. He was called to Hoole Baptist Church in Chester in 1977 and during their 13 years they also worked with Leaders and Churches throughout the city. They know that the Lord can bring transformation to cities and communities as they saw this happen in Chester in ways that the city had not experienced previously and they carry this belief into their present day ministry. Lesley worked alongside him leading Prayer Ministry and Worship Teams. In 1986 they began a wider ministry working with Churches in Hungary and then traveling in East and Western Europe and Sierra Leone. They were released from the pastoral ministry at Hoole Baptist



Church in 1990 to exercise an Apostolic Ministry at home and abroad. They are still members of HBC and in regular touch with the Leaders of the Church. They also give input into their home Church as requested.

They have been involved in In-Service training for Clergy, and full-time Christian workers through the Centre for Contemporary Ministry and pastored prophetic teams for Prophetic Word Ministries under the leadership of Rev Dr Clifford Hill and his wife Monica. During the 1980's they were involved in learning about and practicing the healing ministry through Paul and Gretel Haglin (Resurrection Christian Ministries) and John and Paula Sandford (Elijah House ministries).



They moved to Pensarn Cottage in 1994 and extended it in 1998. For 5 years they regularly ran Prophetic residential weekends there, sometimes with other colleagues.

Lesley served for 10 years as an Asda Chaplain in the large Superstore in Queensferry. She is the Staff Member for Acorn Christian Listeners covering N W England and N Wales and has tutored Listening Courses in Wales, England, France as well as at Pensarn Cottage. She has been involved in training Listeners to be available to Church Leaders and in helping Churches to better understand the demands and expectations placed on their Ministers.

They have spent a lot of time over the last 25 years developing, encouraging and pastoring people to help them understand the prophetic. While they are still committed to that, God is now developing a ministry of encouraging, pastoring and mentoring the Apostolic. Some years ago Russ was one of 4 Apostolic Leaders (the other 3 being Faith Forster, John Houghton and Nick Cuthbert) invited to give input and advice at an



Apostolic Consultation exploring the title and role of an Apostle. This was organised by the Baptist Mainstream Network. They understand and believe that Apostles are not for Church life only but can also be found in the workplace – whatever shape or form that takes.

First and foremost they lead the ministry there, (but are willing from time to time to offer Pensarn Cottage for others to use).



**They exercise a faith ministry so they would ask that your gifts for their ministry reflect this.**

Generally ministry and training are done on a day to day basis, but residential stays can be arranged.

**If you would like further info...**

...for residential stays contact:  
Their Ministry Administrator, Mrs Hazel Gilbert: [hazel.gilbert@hbc.org.uk](mailto:hazel.gilbert@hbc.org.uk)  
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...for all other visits contact:  
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