



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: April 2022

Living in the hope of the resurrection

We approach Easter with mixed emotions. There is joy in our hearts as we think about all that God has done for us and all that God is doing. God is at work in our lives, in our church and in our community as opportunities appear and we step out in faith. There is also anguish as we look at our world. Where do we put our hope?

Our hearts break watching the images of the conflict in Ukraine and seeing the harm caused to millions of people there. We pray for them and that the hostilities of Putin's government and military would cease. We pray for justice and peace. We continue to pray for wisdom and for courage for our world leaders as they consider what our response should be at each stage. We pray for the continuation of sanctions and that they would be effective. We continue to pray for the millions of refugees. We are inspired with hope as we see the response of the Baptist churches in Eastern Europe and of other Christians and of the whole community in Eastern Europe. We're inspired by those in Russia bravely speaking out against Putin's actions. We consider what we can do to help.

We continue to have concerns about coronavirus. We thank God that the vaccinations appear to limit the current virus strains and we continue to pray for healing for those who catch covid. We pray for those involved in the daily continued struggle against the virus and those affected by it. We pray for the vulnerable and the poor in our society and for wisdom for our leaders to ensure that they are not left behind and for wisdom as they address the economic impact of both coronavirus and geopolitical events.

And in the midst of this, we approach Easter. We remember that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him

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shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3v16). The fact that God loves our world gives us great hope. Hope that there is an opportunity for every person in our world to have an eternal future reconciled to God. Hope for a better future for humanity.

We pray for a breakthrough today. We pray for a miracle. We pray for the resurrection power of Jesus to transform our world and to transform humanity. To transform us and to transform our society. On the cross God took upon himself an act of evil and an act of unjust and undeserved violence. God in his power converted it into the eternal defeat of the power of sin. Jesus triumphed over death and Jesus promises us his resurrection power too. We place our hope in God and in his eternal plans for ourselves, for humanity and for our world.

Please pray for the outreach of the church this Easter and join in where you can. Please also pray for each one of us as we celebrate Easter and share the good news and as we live in the hope of the resurrection on our own Front Lines in our homes, work and leisure time. Let’s pray and spread the good news and the hope that Jesus brings through God’s love empowered by his Holy Spirit to the glory of his name.

Blessings,

John

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: Magnus Forrester-Barker (07890 109645); Geoff Moore (01248 410582); Gwen Hicks (01248 353648); Monica Morris (01407 840439), Abi Penney (01766 890624); John Thompson (07931 150697).

Church Office

The church administrator, Magnus, can be contacted on office@penrallt.org or 07934 231788 during the church office opening hours (10am – 4pm Monday to Friday, except Bank Holidays). *NB Magnus is still working largely from home at the moment, but the office hours still apply.*

Deadline for next month’s newsletter: Sunday 24th April

Please send information to Magnus (office@penrallt.org). All items should be submitted by email as early as possible.

Services This Month

Our services at the moment are all in a hybrid format, with a congregation in the building and others joining us on Zoom, except where otherwise noted. Please see the website for up to date information about services and any Covid regulations which may be in force. The link for the Zoom meeting and recordings of past services, where available, are also on the website.

Sunday services start at 10:30am. Children and young people go out part way through the service for Sunday school (Primary school / up to 11) or *Deeper* (Secondary school / 11 – 17); there are also crèche facilities available if you have very young children.

Sunday 3rd April

The Last Chapter

John 14:2. Preacher: Donald Poirot.

Sunday 10th April (Palm Sunday)

The Hinge of History — Before

John 12:12–36. Preacher: Lesley Jackson.

Sunday 17th April (Easter Sunday; All-age service)

What Cracked at Easter?

Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 27th March (Communion service)

The Hinge of History — After

Luke 24:13–39. Preacher: Lesley Jackson.

Communion will be served in a Covid-safe manner to those in the building. Those on Zoom will need bread and wine (or equivalent) to fully participate.

BMS Ukraine Appeal

If anyone would like to donate to the BMS Ukraine Appeal, you can either send money to the church account (please mark the transfer as “Ukraine”), or place it in an envelope marked Ukraine Appeal (there are labelled ones in the church building, or you can just write it clearly on a regular envelope) and place it in the Offering box at the rear of the chapel. For further details, especially of how to make a bank transfer, please speak to Averil (treasurer@penrallt.org).

- £11 provides a Hygiene Pack
- £30 provides a night’s shelter and food
- £99 can provide a mattress, pillow and blanket

Easter Events

As well as our own all-age Easter service at 10:30am on Easter Sunday (see previous page), we have the following events for Holy Week and Easter:

Wednesday 13th April, 7:30pm

Watch with me — a Holy Week vigil for prayer, reflection and communion led by Lesley Jackson and John Thompson. This will take the place of our regular monthly prayer meeting and is expected to last around an hour to an hour and a quarter.

Good Friday, 15th April, 11:30am

Cytûn Passion Play. Members of various churches in Bangor will be presenting a dramatic retelling of the Good Friday story, with scenes in several outdoor locations around Bangor, starting at the bus station.

Easter Saturday, 16th April, 2–4pm

Easter Cracked — A free family event that explores the story behind Easter. This will have activities aimed at primary school aged children, who will need to be accompanied by an adult. It will take place at Penrallt and booking is required — more information on the booking page:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/easter-cracked-tickets-300571255717>



Easter Sunday, 17th April, 7am

Cytûn Easter service at Roman Camp, followed by breakfast at Penrallt.

Easter QR Trail

Cytûn Bangor are once again running a children's Easter QR trail, which will be available from Thursday 14th April starting and finishing at the St Vincent De Paul shop (opposite the WHSmith bookshop on Bangor High Street), with an Easter display in the window. There will be a face to face event on Bangor High Street after the Passion Play on Good Friday to encourage people to engage with the trail, handing out Easter booklets in Welsh and English as well as Fairtrade chocolate eggs. Volunteers for this event are welcome.

◇ **AGM**

The Annual General Meeting for church members will take place at 7:30pm on Monday 4th April both in the church building and on Zoom.

◇ **Building**

In line with current Covid regulations you don't need to book places for our services, sign in or wear a mask, but please be aware of the needs of others and keep an eye on our website services page (www.penrallt.org/services/index.php) and notices around the building for updates to Covid regulations and recommendations. If you are coming to the church building during the week, please contact the office to check whether anyone is there.

◇ **Church Fellowship Walk**

This month's walk, on Sunday 3rd April at 1pm, will be to Castell Aberlleiniog (near Penmon) on Sunday 3rd April. See the booking page for more information: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/penrallt-fellowship-walk-april-2022-tickets-273862739827>

The May walk, on Sunday 1st May, will be at the Dingle in Llangefni: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/may-family-fellowship-walk-dingle-llangefni-tickets-311282744067>

◇ **Foodbank**

Bangor Cathedral Foodbank is open 2 – 3pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, operating from Tŷ Deiniol (the Diocesan Centre) next to Bangor Cathedral. A referral from another service is normally required to access the foodbank but they are able to give people up to two emergency food parcels without a referral. To find out more please visit www.bangorfoodbank.org

◇ **Giving**

At present we are not taking up an offering during our services but if you would like to give financially towards the work of Penrallt, our mission partners and other projects we support, there is now a donations box at the back of the chapel which you can use for that purpose. If you would like to explore other ways of giving to the work at Penrallt, please speak to Averil, our Treasurer, who will be able to advise (treasurer@penrallt.org).

◇ **Hardship Fund**

The church has a small fund overseen by the minister to help people in need. If you find yourself in financial difficulty or know someone else that is struggling, please speak with Sarah Jackson (sarah.jackson.home@gmail.com) or John Thompson (minister@penrallt.org) in confidence. And if you are in a position to add to the hardship fund, please speak to Averil Francis (treasurer@penrallt.org).

◇ **Homegroups / Contact, Care & Prayer**

We encourage you to join one of our homegroups if you are not already in one, as they are invaluable in helping us to deepen our relationship with the Lord and with one another. Many of the groups are now meeting in person again, though some still meet on Zoom and other online platforms or in a mixed format. There are groups on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Tuesday and Friday mornings (most groups meet weekly). Contact the church office to find out more or be put in touch with a group.

We also have contact, care and prayer groups to enable people to stay connected and receive prayer support even if they are not in a homegroup; these groups do not meet together but each one has a designated person to contact the other group members regularly. Once again, please contact the church office if you are not part of a contact, care & prayer group or a homegroup and would like to be.

◇ **Men's Fellowship**

Inspired by the newly started Women's Fellowship, we are having a meal and a chat for men at Table Table (on the edge of Parc Menai by the Britannia Bridge) from 7:30pm on Wednesday 6th April. All men are welcome. Please let Magnus know (office@penrallt.org) as soon as possible so we can book tables. If you like the idea but can't make the date, please also let us know. This may be a one-off event or may be the start of a regular monthly meeting.

◇ **Mission Prayer Meeting**

The Penrallt mission group will be meeting on Zoom at 7:30pm on Wednesday 27th April to hear updates from our mission partners around the world and to pray for them. Please contact the church office if you would like the Zoom details to join this meeting.

◇ **Penrallt on Facebook and YouTube**

We have three Facebook groups:

- *Penrallt* (www.facebook.com/groups/2402772192)
a general group for information and social interaction
- *Penrallt Prayer Point* (www.facebook.com/groups/302627593231755)
a private group (as defined by Facebook, i.e. request to join)
specifically to share prayer requests and encouragements
- *Penrallt Student Fellowship* (www.facebook.com/groups/195300234272943)

We also have a YouTube channel and a Facebook page (both called *Penrallt Baptist Church*), as well as another Facebook page for our young people:

- www.youtube.com/channel/UCwK0_IPqAVqGKwQREg6JhHg
- www.facebook.com/penralltbc
- www.facebook.com/penralltyouth

◇ **Prayer Resources**

Send prayer requests, thanksgivings and testimonies to our email prayer diary via office@penrallt.org – email this address, too, to subscribe to the prayer diary, which goes out every week (usually on Mondays). We also have a Facebook prayer group (see above), which allows more interactive sharing of prayer requests and updates. To meet and pray with others, you are welcome to join our weekly Zoom prayer meetings on **Wednesdays at 11:30am** and **Saturdays at 8:30am**; please contact the church office if you need the connection details for either meeting (which are also posted in the prayer diary every week). We also have a monthly prayer meeting in the church building. This month's meeting will be our Holy Week Vigil on **Wednesday 13th April** (see Easter Events on p4).

◇ **Students**

Students are encouraged to take part in church activities and join a homegroup. For more information about student activities, please contact our student co-ordinator, Becca on students@penrallt.org or see our [Penrallt Student Fellowship](#) Facebook group. There is a social group called SOYA, for Students Or Young Adults, who meet occasionally. Please email Becca if you are interested.

◇ **Women's Fellowship**

The next meeting of the Penrallt Women's Fellowship will be on Saturday 9th April, 10:30 – 12:00, in the Canolfan, where we will be learning various Easter crafts over a drink and hot cross buns. A warm welcome is extended to all women, including family and friends. Please speak to Averil, Ellie or Lesley for more information.

[For those who are new to Penrallt, the Canolfan is our community centre, based around the rear hall where we have tea and coffee after services.]

◇ **Youth: Ignite and Deeper**

Our youth activities are based around a Thursday night group called *Ignite* (usually meeting in the Canolfan at 7pm) and a Sunday morning group called *Deeper* (taking place during our morning services). Ignite is open to all, and is a social evening with games and activities; new invite flyers are now available — please take some to give to friends and family aged 11–18. Deeper, on Sundays, has opportunity to find out more about the Christian faith. Further details can be found on our youth website, www.penralltyouth.org, as well as our [Penrallt Youth Facebook page](#) and [Instagram group](#). Contact our youth worker, Becca (youth@penrallt.org), for more information.

Becca is looking for complete games in good condition to add to the youth / church board game collection for Ignite, work with students and other activities. Please email her at youth@penrallt.org if you have any you would like to donate. They already have a few games so it would be worth checking if they already have ones you are planning to donate.

Focus on...

Bible Society

including Open the Book



For over 200 years the Bible Society has been working to bring the Bible to life, to help people around the World engage with it, relate to it and make sense of it.

Closer to home, in Wales it focuses on advocacy effort, schools outreach and devotional resources.

The Bible Society are the main publishers of the Bible in Welsh and have a Visitor Centre 'Mary Jones World' in Bala.

Penrallt have used their resources for Nativity Plays over the years and they have excellent studies for Home Groups.

Open the Book (OTB) offers primary school children an opportunity to hear key Bible stories told by a Team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during assemblies. The children join in the presentation and enjoy the experience . Each presentation takes about 10–15 minutes

Some of our members assist in these groups and at present the schools evolved in our area are in Llandegfan, with three other neighbouring schools together doing OTB on Zoom. In a few weeks time a team intends to restart in Maesgeirchan school and would value prayer. All these use Welsh and English alternately. Those leading are very encouraged and positive about this outreach. Hirael and Cae Top in Bangor had groups going in before lockdown.

The Bible Society have developed a wide range of resources to help you bring the Bible to life in your own context. From Sermon support material, small discussion, ideas to personal devotional programmes and children's bedtime apps. Something for everyone — take a look at the website:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/>