



# Penrallt Baptist Church

**Newsletter: February 2020**

## ***Giving Jesus Christ a 5-star rating***

I bought various items online for Christmas presents, and have now received emails from retailers requesting a review of the product purchased. Was I satisfied with this item? Would I recommend this product to others? Would I participate in a short survey? Retailers hope that positive customer reviews will help increase online traffic, boost sales and generate greater profit. All this effort to get our money! And in all honesty, most of the products that I bought weren't amazing. They were good enough, but hardly worth a gushing recommendation.

I have had a couple of jobs where I needed to promote something. I once managed international sales for a Chinese animation studio and worked at trade shows trying to shift cartoons with characters named Uncle Luo and Ka Ka. I was very familiar with the content but simply didn't like them and therefore couldn't promote them with conviction. It was a half-hearted effort at best. There was an inconsistency between what I said – endlessly promoting – and my secret disdain for those cartoons.

Thinking about recommendations set me thinking: would I wholeheartedly recommend my Lord Jesus Christ? Can I in all honesty give him a 5-star rating? Is he the person I love introducing to others? Is his Gospel all that he has promised? As I reflect over my Christian life, I am again amazed at the "deal": full and complete forgiveness, peace with God and peace with others; joy "overflowing and on the house", guidance and comfort. Wow!

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Penrallt Baptist Church, Holyhead Road, Bangor LL57 2EU  
*Tel:* 01248 353355; *Email:* office@penrallt.org; *Website:* www.penrallt.org  
Office open Mon–Fri 10am - 3pm; *Administrator:* Magnus Forrester-Barker  
*Secretary:* Neil Rymer; 01248 713003; secretary@penrallt.org  
*Treasurer:* Averil Francis; 01248 421744; treasurer@penrallt.org

In Matthew 12, Jesus says: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest... you will find rest for your souls." The angel Gabriel had prophesied that his name would be Jesus – God Saves and Immanuel – God With Us. We can spend our life with a kind and merciful God who has already sorted out the sin problem for us. As a recent worship song states, "this is the art of celebration/Knowing we're free from condemnation."

Just as we can have faith in who Jesus is and what he promises, we can also be assured that he will sort out the practical elements of our lives: what we will eat, what we will wear (Matthew 6 – even flowers get clothes!); how to get on with people (Matthew 5: love your enemies and get more like God who loves everyone!).

Sometimes our reticence to recommend Jesus ("witness" is the Christian jargon for it) is due to hurt, resentment, lack of faith, general weariness or boredom. Rather than rejecting us as "faulty goods", Jesus issues his gracious invitation again. Yes, to his home which has a hospital and health farm attached. We get a splendid meal (generous portions!) spiritual exfoliation to slough off our grime, surgery to remove our squinting and warped view of ourselves and others, plus a sun bed to be transformed as we gaze on his glorious radiance.

Is Penrallt recommending Jesus? Looking down the road, I am attracted by the refurbished health-food shop: beautiful colours and fresh, attractive layout. I also like the look of the corner café: good coffee and frying smells, cheerful young people visible through the windows. Penrallt displays some of this incredible treasure in many beautiful works of love, faith and service. But couldn't we display so much more? We, the people of Penrallt *are* precious treasure and *have* priceless treasure: the Great News. We are sitting on gold bullion. God's church is "where the action is". Businesses come and go, hemlines go up and down, food fads go from grapefruit through paleo to carb-free, but the Church of Jesus Christ will be in business by God's Spirit until it greets Jesus as a glorious bride – radiant and lovely. So the business of Penrallt – as part of the global church – is vitally important to all people in Bangor. May we wholeheartedly let Jesus into Penrallt to transform us and go out with him into the community of Bangor, with love, service and faithful witness - that 5-star recommendation of our dedicated lives.

*Melanie Brown*

## ***Services This Month***

### **2<sup>nd</sup> February**

10:30am **The Armour of God**

Family service led by Wendy Lemon

6:00pm Communion Service

**Inspired by God**

*2 Timothy 3:14–17*

Preacher: Roger Borlace

### **9<sup>th</sup> February**

10:30am **How is the culture of the Kingdom of God  
different to the culture of our time?**

*Luke 6:17–26*

Preacher: Arwel Jones

6:00pm **FaithWorks**

*Hebrews 13*

Preacher: James Goodman

### **16<sup>th</sup> February**

10:30am **Rivers of Living Water**

*John 7:25–52*

Preacher: John Thompson

6:00pm **Love is all around**

Café church service in the rear hall.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> February**

10:30am Communion Service

**Reminded, Remembered and Refreshed**

Preacher: Geoff Birch

*2 Peter 1:1–21*

6:00pm **For all have sinned**

Preacher: Neil Rymer

*Matthew 7:4–5;*

*John 8:7; Rom. 3:23*

Arwel Jones is a member of the leadership team at Caersalem in Caernarfon. John Thompson is the pastor of Llanelwy Community Church and is our moderator during our current pastoral vacancy. Geoff Birch and Roger Borlace are retired Baptist ministers. The other speakers and service leaders are all members of Penrallt.

## ***Dates for Your Diary in February***

<b>Mondays</b>	7pm	Alpha Course.
<b>Saturdays</b>	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
<b>Sunday 2</b>	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre.
<b>Wednesday 5</b>	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
<b>Tuesday 11</b>	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
<b>Wednesday 12</b>	7:30pm	Cytûn AGM at Emaus. Guest speaker: Kay Polley (Together Creating Communities, Wrexham).
<b>Saturday 18</b>	9:30am	<i>Bible Unzipped</i> at Princes Drive Baptist Church, Colwyn Bay.
<b>Monday 24</b>	10:30am	Church walk at the Great Orme.

*Please see later in this newsletter for more about some of these events.*

## ***Children's Birthdays in February***

- 7<sup>th</sup>: Afan Hedd Whitton
- 8<sup>th</sup>: Sophie Toplis
- 10<sup>th</sup>: Rosa Tough
- 21<sup>st</sup>: Harmony Wilson
- 23<sup>rd</sup>: Tommy Capper
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Siôn Davies

### ***Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February***

*Please send information to Magnus (office@penrallt.org; 01248 353355). All notices (including alterations to standing information) 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 groups do not meet every week – please check with the named contact. All landline numbers below have the 01248 area code.*

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Contacts</b>
<b>Mon</b>	7:00pm	Delta	Brian Wheatcroft (602516) Pat MacKenzie (670948)
<b>Mon</b>	7:45 – 9pm	Rhiwlas	Wendy & Andy Lemon (353743)
<b>Tue</b>	10am	Nilgiri	Joan Beer (353874)
<b>Tue</b>	7:30pm	Penlon	Sarah Jackson (714799)
<b>Tue</b>	7:30pm	Tyddyn Isaf (Menai Bridge)	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
<b>Wed</b>	7:30pm	Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
<b>Fri</b>	10:30am	Llwyn Onn	Pat MacKenzie (670948)
<b>Fri</b>	10:30am	The Lydias	Ellie Jones (602289) Lesley Jackson (680330)

## **Alpha**

Our Alpha course is running on Monday nights, weekly until just before Easter. Sessions begin (with a meal) at 7pm and last around two hours. The course is free and all people and questions are welcome; it is designed both for those exploring faith for the first time and those wanting to establish a firmer foundation for their Christian faith. Guests can sign up any time in the first few weeks (it started on 27<sup>th</sup> January), and can come along to check it out without committing to do the whole course (though naturally we hope that they will decide to stay). If you have not yet invited somebody, why not do so now?



◇ **Bible Unzipped**

*Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February*

This is a theological learning community that meets monthly, usually at Rhos-on-Sea URC Church. Bible Unzipped is entirely free though donations towards costs are welcome. This month it will be at **Prince's Drive Baptist Church**, Colwyn Bay, with sessions led by Dr Jon Stammers and Revd Dr Rob Beamish on various difficult OT passages. For more information, please speak to Roger Malone or Magnus Forrester-Barker.

◇ **Church Lunch**

*Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February*

As usual, there will be a (free) bring and share lunch after the morning service on the first Sunday of the month. Please bring enough buffet-style food for yourself and one or two others. Visitors are very welcome (and are not expected to bring food).

◇ **Church Walk**

*Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 10:30am*

This month's walk, led by Roshni Verghese, will be around the Great Orme, following a not too strenuous route of about 5 miles, mostly on road; sturdy trainers will do. Bring a packed lunch and meet near the Gatekeeper's Lodge at West Shore, Llanduno. Contact Roshni on 07967 320048 for more information.

◇ **Interim Moderator**

During our current pastoral vacancy, Revd John Thompson, the Minister of Llanelwy Community Church, is serving as our Moderator. In addition to chairing members' and deacons' meetings, John will be preaching at Penrallt roughly once a month and will be in the office at times during the week. The day and time will vary, so please contact John ([moderator@penrallt.org](mailto:moderator@penrallt.org), 07931 150697) or Magnus ([office@penrallt.org](mailto:office@penrallt.org), 01248 353355) in advance if you would like to arrange a meeting. Please avoid contacting John on Saturdays, except in case of serious emergency, as this is his day off.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

*Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 7:30pm*

Our monthly mid-week prayer meetings, for the whole congregation, usually take place in the chapel and last about an hour. This month's meeting is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February and the following one is due to be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

There is also a men's prayer meeting on the first Wednesday morning of the month, at 10:30am in the Twrgwyn Room and lasting about an hour. It is usually followed by coffee at a local hostelry. This month it is on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February.

## ◇ **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: Adrienne Ferrada; Magnus Forrester-Barker (07890 109645 – or contact at the church office on 01248 353355); Gwen Hicks (353648); Geoff Moore (410582); Roshni Verghese (07967 320048).

## ◇ **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](mailto: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 later in the week) 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**

We do not recommend giving money directly to the rough sleepers in Upper Bangor. You will find labelled envelopes in the porch for a gift that will buy meal vouchers which are distributed to the homeless by the Cathedral; this certainly would be a more meaningful form of help.

## ◇ **Sunday Afternoon Services** *Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2:15pm*

On the first Sunday afternoon of the month we usually take a short service at the Haulfre residential home in Llangoed (near Beaumaris). The service starts at 2:15pm and lasts roughly half an hour. It is worth checking with the church office for confirmation that the service is going ahead as scheduled.

## ◇ **World Day of Prayer** *Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March*

The World Day of Prayer (formerly known as Women's World Day of Prayer, though it is open to anyone) is an ecumenical prayer event taking place annually in March. This year's program is written by Christians in Zimbabwe and the service in Bangor is due to take place at Penrallt. The time is yet to be confirmed but it will be sometime during the middle of the day.

*Focus on...*



## **Claire Bedford** **Serving with BMS in Chad**

Claire Bedford relocated to N'Djamena in Chad, West Africa in January 2016, following a year of French language study in France. Claire is working for BMS at Guinebor II hospital.

Claire is a pharmacist, originally from North Devon. She trained at the University of Bath and Torbay Hospital. In the UK Claire worked as a hospital pharmacist and more recently as a prescribing advisor for GP practices.



Claire's role in Chad is to continue the development of the pharmacy service at Guinebor II hospital, which is primarily a maternity hospital. As well as having supervisory oversight of the pharmacy and the lab, Claire undertakes some administrative tasks alongside the Chadian administrator. Claire has also been involved in overseeing building projects. Recently she helped a solar energy technician, trying to figure out why the hospital power keeps cutting out.

Guinebor II hospital recently received a grant from a Swiss organisation, and so Claire was able to work with the head lab technician to order three new pieces of equipment that have enhanced the hospital's lab capabilities, resulting in less patients travelling into N'Djamena for tests (16-mile round trip!). The hospital has also purchased new x-ray equipment and is eagerly awaiting its arrival.

Claire asks us to pray:

- For the safe arrival of the x-ray equipment, coming from Austria.
- For Paul and Celine (a French family), and Spears and Shrubsole families, (working with BMS), who have all moved to Guinebor II in the last few months. Pray for them all as they make the transition to Chad, get used to working life, home life and school life here and that they'd quickly feel part of the team.
- For Claire's health.

For more information:

<https://www.bmsworldmission.org/people/claire-bedford/>