



Newsletter: July 2024

People want to know about Jesus — if only we would tell them!

Research has recently been undertaken into what people in the UK think of Jesus, Christians and evangelism. This was sponsored by 6 partners including Alpha, the Evangelical Alliance, and 'Hope together'. This was called 'Talking Jesus'. It is available free online. This research was carried out in 2015 and was repeated in 2023. 4,000 UK adults took part in a 10 minute online survey. The number of Christian responses included was representative of those selected by chance in this randomly selected sample.

In one question about Jesus, 20% of people think that Jesus is 'God in human form who lived among people in the 1st century'. In another question, 45% of people think that Jesus rose from the dead (16% believe the word-for-word account described in the Bible, 29% believe in the resurrection, but think the Bible account contains some things that should not be taken literally). For some people in our pluralistic society, they will 'believe' in other religions or spirituality as well. But it certainly means that introducing these topics into a conversation are not likely to be a conversation stopper.

In terms of what they think about Christians, the results are not too bad. Looking at the percentage of Non-Christians who know a practising Christian, 62% describe them as friendly. 50% describe them as caring. However, the same cannot be said about the church which gets 22% for being friendly and 20% for being caring. We have to do better. Penrallt has to be a radical community that expresses love.

But the most interesting statistic is that people want to know more about Jesus. 1 in 3 people who are not Christians who had a conversation with a practising Christian about their faith wanted to know more about Jesus. The same question in 2015 had a response of 1 in 5.

So if you speak to three people about Jesus, probably one of them will want to know more. That's awesome. And challenging.

I wonder what could happen if Penrallt was also a missional community that expresses love?

Blessings,

John

Penrallt Baptist Church, Holyhead Road, Bangor LL57 2EU
www.penrallt.org

Minister: Revd. John Thompson; 07931 150697; minister@penrallt.org

Secretary: Jan Ablett; 07703 188632; secretary@penrallt.org

Treasurer: Cathy Fooks; 07729 892303; treasurer@penrallt.org

Administrator: Magnus Forrester-Barker; 07934 231788; office@penrallt.org (office hours: Mon – Fri, 10am – 4pm)

Morning Services

Sunday morning services start at 10:30am with an option to join on Zoom if you are unable to join us in the building (link on website). 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); a crèche is also available for younger children. The children and young people stay in for all-age services; the crèche is still available. During the school summer holiday (21st July – 1st September) we will alternate between all-age services and ones where the young people aged 11+ stay in for the whole service and the younger children go out part-way through for videos and activities; both formats are aimed to fit within one hour.

Sunday 7th July

A radical and missional community characterised by Goodness & Faithfulness

Preacher: John Thompson.

After this service will be our fellowship event (see below; N.B. no church lunch!).

Sunday 14th July

A radical and missional community characterised by Gentleness and Self-Control

Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 21st July

All-age summer celebration service led by Becca Jackman, with communion.

Sunday 28th July

Preacher: Mark Young.

Mark is the minister of the Light House Community in Llandudno, and a former member of Penrallt's congregation. See the *Focus* article at the back of this newsletter for more information.

Service Videos

Recordings of sermons from morning services are available on our [YouTube channel](#) and our own [website](#). Please contact the church office if you would like a link to recordings of full services.

Children's Birthdays in July

5th: Odhran Patton

9th: Daniel Goldsmith

6th: Elvis Oluwamayomikun

16th: Juanita Hulengine

Evening Services

Except where otherwise noted, evening services begin at 6pm on Sundays (not usually broadcast or recorded). There is no evening service on the first Sunday of the month; instead we have our fellowship event in the afternoon as well as the Cytûn *Praise at the Pier* event (see following pages). We will also be taking a break from evening services over the school summer holiday to give the team a rest. There is, therefore, only one evening service in July:

Sunday 14th July

Communion service led by Abi Penney.

Homegroups / Contact Care & Prayer

We encourage you to join a homegroup if you are not already in one, as they are invaluable in helping us to deepen our relationships with the Lord and with one another. There are groups on Monday to Thursday evenings and on Tuesday and Friday mornings, meeting weekly or fortnightly in person, online or as a combination of the two.

We also have “contact, care & prayer” to enable people to stay connected even if not in a homegroup. A member of the pastoral care team (see below) would contact you every few weeks to ask how you are and if you’d like to receive prayer support. Please get in touch with the church office if you are not part of contact, care & prayer or a homegroup and would like to be.

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.

Deadline for next month’s newsletter: Thursday 25th July. Please send information to Magnus at the church office. All items should be submitted in writing, preferably by email, as early as possible.

♦ Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for Penrallt members will take place on Wednesday 3rd July in the building and on Zoom at 7:30pm. Details have been circulated to members.

If you are not a church member and would like to be, or to learn more about what membership means in a Baptist church, please speak to John (minister@penrallt.org) or Jan (secretary@penrallt.org).

♦ Baptist Leaders' Fellowship

The next meeting of the Baptist Leaders' Fellowship (BLF) will be at Prince's Drive Baptist Church, Colwyn Bay, on Monday 15th July at 10:30am. The speaker will be Richard Littledale on "Contextual Communication — adapting your message to your listeners". There will be coffee on arrival (from 10am) and a soup, bread and cheese lunch afterwards. The BLF is open to anyone who has a church leadership role at any level.

♦ Church Lunch and Fellowship Events

Due to the Renew 57 prayer picnic at the end of June, we have no church lunch this month, but our monthly fellowship event will be on the first Sunday afternoon as usual, 7th July (weather permitting). This will be another trip to the beach at Rhosneigr. Please speak to Jenny (fellowship@penrallt.org), preferably by Wednesday 3rd July, to find out details of the starting time and location or to offer or request a lift.

♦ Flowers

Judith says: "If anyone would like to help me with the flowers they would be very welcome. Similarly, if anyone would like to do some for a special occasion just let me know." Contact Judith on judithmbousfield@gmail.com or 01248 490956.

♦ Foodbanks

Bangor Cathedral Foodbank (www.bangorfoodbank.org) is open 2 – 3pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, operating from Tŷ Deiniol (the Diocesan Centre) next to Bangor Cathedral. They are able to give people up to two emergency food parcels without a referral from another service.

Mosaic church have a Foodbank at Coed Mawr Community Centre, open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings, 9:30 – 11am. Contact Christine King on 07734 667011.

♦ Giving

We take up an offering during our morning services, or you can use the donations box at the back of the chapel if you would like to give financially towards the work of Penrallt, our mission partners and other projects we support. To explore other ways of giving, please speak to Cathy (treasurer@penrallt.org), who will be able to advise.

♦ Hardship Fund

The church has a small fund 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. If you are in a position to add to the hardship fund, please speak to Cathy Fooks (treasurer@penrallt.org).

♦ Kindle Kids' Club

Kindle is our fortnightly Friday night club (6 – 7pm) for primary school aged children. The final session this term will be on 5th July. To find out more about Kindle, please contact Becca (youth@penrallt.org).

♦ Meet our Mission Partners

Paul and Sarah Brown, our BMS mission partners based in Thailand (and the subject of last month's *Focus* article) are currently on home assignment in the UK. We were unable to secure a visit to Penrallt on this occasion but we are invited to join them for an online presentation on Wednesday 3rd July at 1:30pm or Thursday 4th July at 7:30pm. Connection details for both meetings are available from the church office.

♦ Men's Breakfast

Our men's fellowship group usually meet once a month on Saturday mornings for food and friendship at Ian Ablett's home in Caernarfon. All men are welcome. The next breakfast is due to be on 27th July. Please contact the church office or Ian (ian.ablett@open.ac.uk; 07759 718931) for more details or to offer or request a lift.

We have also been invited to join the Soul Sisters (our women's fellowship) for a barbecue on Saturday 13th July. See below for details.

♦ Open The Book

As invited guests in primary schools, storytelling teams use the Bible Society's *Open the Book* programme to prepare and present a 10 to 15-minute scripted Bible story to a school assembly, involving the children as much as possible. This is a fantastic opportunity to share Bible stories with children who would otherwise never hear them. For more information, speak to Sarah Jackson or Magnus and visit the OTB website: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/>.

♦ Pastoral Help

If you have concerns about your own or someone else's welfare, please contact a member of the Pastoral Care Team: Ian Ablett (07759 718931); Jan Ablett (07703 188632); Magnus Forrester-Barker (07890 109645); Geoff Moore (01248 410582); Monica Morris (07827 472637), Abi Penney (01766 890624), John Thompson (07931 150697). Please pray for the PCT as well.

♦ Penrallt on Facebook, Instagram 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 to share prayer requests and encouragements
- * Penrallt Students (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 and an Instagram account:

- * www.youtube.com/@penralltbaptistchurch
- * www.facebook.com/penralltbc www.facebook.com/penralltyouth
- * www.instagram.com/penralltbaptistchurch/

♦ Praise at the Pier

We will (weather permitting) be joining with the other churches of Cytûn Bangor for an afternoon of praise on the grassy area at the entrance to Bangor Pier on **Sunday 7th July, 3:30pm**. This will include a short presentation from Open The Book.

♦ Prayer Resources

Send prayer requests, thanksgiving and testimonies to our weekly email prayer diary via office@penrallt.org — use this address, too, to subscribe to the prayer diary, which usually goes out on Mondays (provided any items for it have been received). We also have a more interactive Facebook prayer group ([Penrallt Prayer Point](https://www.facebook.com/penralltprayerpoint)). To pray with others, you are welcome to join our weekly Zoom prayer meetings on **Wednesdays at 11:30am** and on **Saturdays at 8:30am**; please contact the church office if you need the connection details for either meeting.

♦ **Renew 57 Weekly Drop-in**

Renew 57 is a space for the whole community, on **Thursday mornings, 10:30am to 12:30pm in Canolfan Penrallt** (our rear hall/community centre), where you can bring a hobby to share with someone else or simply sit and chat over a cup of tea or coffee and some toast. A separate prayer space is available throughout this time for quiet reflection, with optional opportunities to be led in short gentle contemplative prayer at the beginning and end of the session. This is a place where it is “OK not to be OK”, an opportunity to give some attention to our mental and spiritual well-being. To find out more, please speak to Adrienne (adrieferrada@hotmail.co.uk) or Magnus (office@penrallt.org), or drop in and see for yourself. Please pray for the team.

♦ **Soul Sisters (Women's Fellowship)**

On Saturday 13th July at 11:45 onwards Jan and Ian Ablett have kindly offered to host a barbeque at their home in Caernarfon. The men's fellowship have also been invited.

Please contact Averil (01248 421744 or francishac3@aol.com) for directions or further details.

♦ **Students**

We love to welcome students as part of our church family. We are hoping to appoint a new student co-ordinator soon but in the meantime you can still email students@penrallt.org as this address will be monitored by Magnus, our church administrator. Also, don't miss our Penrallt Students Facebook group.

♦ **Wedding**

Rachel McCabe and Simon James are getting married on Saturday 6th July at 10:30am in Penrallt. You are very welcome to attend.

♦ **Youth: Ignite and Deeper**

Ignite (usually meeting in the Canolfan at 7pm on Thursdays) is a social evening with games and activities, open to all youth (11–17). *Deeper* (during our Sunday morning service) provides opportunity to find out more about the Christian faith. For more information see our youth website, www.penralltyouth.org, as well as our Penrallt Youth Facebook page and Instagram group, or contact our youth worker, Becca Jackman (youth@penrallt.org).

Information in this newsletter is correct, as far as possible, at the time of publication. Please see the website for up to date information, as details are subject to change.

Focus on...

The Light House Community

West Shore, Llandudno

The Light House Community is a Baptist Home Mission church on the West Shore of Llandudno. Our calling is to go beyond the walls, reaching out to those who have no church background or who would never normally choose to step inside a place of worship. We are tuning in to our local communities and seek relevant ways to show Christ's love and share his gospel.

Rev Mark Young was called to this ministry in September 2022. He lives in Llanfairfechan with his wife Eve and two teenage boys, Luke and Euan.



Our main focus is engaging with the local community in several ways: We share space with and support Conwy Food Bank and Conwy Clothing Bank, both vital charities helping those in urgent need. Mark is Chaplain of Llandudno Football Club and is further embedded in the community as one of Llandudno Fire Station's on-call firefighters.

We are in possession of The Light House Church, a former church in Wales grade II listed building sited 100 metres from the beach. This building has not had a regular worshipping community since before the Covid pandemic. Our cafe church recently returned to the building from a local community centre and meets there on a Thursday evening. Currently the modern annex is undergoing work so that it can be restored as a place of meeting for the community and the church.

Llandudno may be one of the most affluent coastal towns on the North Wales Coast, but the residential areas close to the church are designated 10% most deprived in Wales. The Light House Community has a Vision to make disciples in this area. We are already having conversations daily which show how open our community is to the good news of Jesus Christ. We believe the fields are white for harvest. Pray for more people to respond to the gospel and for committed Christians to be called to join in the work.

