



Newsletter: July 2025

Why did Jesus talk so much about the Kingdom of God? ... and what is it anyway? ... and what difference does it make?

Jesus said enigmatic, mysterious and surprising things about the Kingdom of God. They were attractive and intriguing things too: It is something we should seek. It can be given to you and you can receive it. You can enter it. It's possible to see it. It is not from this world or 'of' this world. There will be feasting in it. It comes with power. It has been prepared for you from the foundation of the world. It is like treasure.

The phrase 'the kingdom of God' or 'the kingdom of heaven' was of huge importance to Jesus. It is mentioned 100 times in the New Testament. Jesus used this phrase to refer to the rule and reign of God in our hearts and in our lives. He said that God's Kingdom was a place where the perfect values of God's love were celebrated and lived out. But the values of his kingdom were not to be achieved by human force or power. Instead it was about forgiving one another, loving God, knowing God's love and peace for us, putting others first, sacrificing our lives for the benefit of one another. Loving our enemies. Loving our neighbours as we love ourselves.

People at the time of Jesus mistakenly thought that a messiah would come to bring them earthly rule in a specific city (Jerusalem) and in a specific land and for a cultural group of people. Instead, Jesus said that God's purpose had always been wider. It was for all people and any people and it was eternal and spiritual. Not merely spatial, temporal and physical. God was calling and drawing to himself all people - including any from the people of Israel who would be willing to come, but also anyone else in the whole world. Also, Jesus said he wasn't just calling people who had lived 'good lives'. He was offering entry to the Kingdom of God through forgiveness for anyone. They could be reconciled to God through repentance. They could come back to him and be part of His Kingdom. Forgiven. Restored. Loved. Blessed. And be a blessing to others.

In days of confused values and confused kingdom allegiance, our most treasured citizenship is that we are part of a parallel kingdom. The Kingdom of God.

Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done. On earth as it is in heaven.

We're praying for heavenly peace, heavenly justice and heavenly security.

Blessings,

John

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). We are now entering summer service mode, until the end of August. During this time, each service is aimed to last around an hour and we will alternate all-age services with ones in which the 11+ youth stay in for the whole time while the younger children go out to the hall for activities together part way through the service. Crèche facilities are also available for parents to use with their pre-school children if needed.

Sunday 6th July (All-age)

What is the church?

Preacher: Wendy Lemon.

This service will be followed by our fellowship beach trip (see below).

Sunday 13th July (11+)

The Kingdom of God (part 3)

Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 20th July (All-age)

The Lord's Prayer: Who is God?

Preacher: John Thompson.

This will be Becca's final Sunday with us as our youth worker.

Sunday 27th July (11+; Communion)

Gideon's Glorious Gospel Glimpse

Preacher: Donald Poirot.

Judges 6:12–16

Service Videos

Recordings of sermons from morning services are generally available both on our [YouTube channel](#) and on our own [website](#). Please contact the church office if you would like a link to recordings of full services. *We would ask you, please, to refrain from taking photos and videos during our services due to safeguarding concerns.*

Cylch Penrallt Tots

Mondays 1:30–2:45 term-time (last session before the summer break: 14th July). £1 per adult (with up to 3 children). Toys, fun play and activities. Snack, tea and coffee. Songs for tots in English and Welsh. Come along for a good space to safely play, to have fun, and to enjoy some good company together.

Children's Birthdays in July

5th: Odhran Patton

6th: Elvis Oluwamayomikun

9th: Daniel Goldsmith

16th: Juanita Wulengme

Evening Services

Evening services usually start at 6pm and last around an hour; unlike our morning services, they are not normally recorded or broadcast on Zoom. We will be taking a break from evening services over the school summer holidays (from 20th July) and aiming to restart in September.

Sunday 6th July

Baptismal service.

Sunday 13th July

Communion service led by John Thompson.

Sundays 20th July & 27th July: No evening service.

Other Events in July

♦ **Finding Jesus North Wales: Wednesday 2nd July, 10am – 12:30pm**

The Evangelical Alliance is hosting an event at Festival Church Old Colwyn to explore the results from their recent report Finding Jesus, which identifies pathways to faith in adulthood. For more information or to book a place on the course, please visit <https://www.eauk.org/about-us/nations/wales/finding-jesus-north-wales-2-july-2025>

♦ **Bangor Youth For Christ Prayer Meeting: Wednesday 2nd July, 7pm**

We will be hosting a prayer meeting, led by Bangor YFC Centre Director Grace O'Boyle, in the Twrgwyn Room at Penrallt. This is a space for us to come together across churches, backgrounds, and generations to pray with one heart and one purpose: to see the lives of young people in Bangor transformed by the love of Jesus. All are welcome.

♦ **Renew 57: Every Thursday, 10:30am-12:30pm**

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), free of charge (including refreshments). 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 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 drop in and see for yourself.

♦ Fellowship Beach Trip: Sunday 6th July

As usual we start the month with a fellowship event on the first Sunday afternoon. This month we are planning to go to the beach at Benllech (weather permitting). For more details, or to offer or request a lift, please speak to Jenny Willis (fellowship@penrallt.org). You are welcome to bring a packed lunch and join us as we eat together in the hall after the service, even if you don't intend to go to the beach. If you are joining the beach trip, please meet Jenny on the stage straight after the morning service (and before lunch) so that we can finalise arrangements. Please note that there will not be a fellowship event in August.

♦ Church members' AGM: Monday 7th July, 7:30pm

The Annual General Meeting for church members will take place in the building and on Zoom on Monday 7th July. If you are a church member and did not receive email notification of the meeting in early June, please contact Magnus (office@penrallt.org) to ensure that you receive the meeting papers that will be circulated before the meeting.

If you are not a church member and would like to know more about membership, please speak to either John (minister@penrallt.org) or Jan (secretary@penrallt.org).

♦ BMS Evening North Wales: Tuesday 8th July, 7:30–9pm

A chance to meet BMS mission worker Pastor J at Capel Caersalem in Caernarfon (LL55 2RH). Pastor J is from India and works in Cambodia. John Settatee from the BMS Church Engagement Team will also give a short impact report and there will be a Q&A session with both contributors. The event will be bilingual.

♦ Baptist Leaders' Fellowship: Monday 14th July, 10am – 12pm

The next meeting of the BLF will be at Prince's Drive Baptist Church, Colwyn Bay. The speaker will be Danni Worley, a pioneer missionary working in Dolgellau with the Baptist Union of Wales. This group is open to anyone in any church leadership role and the meeting is free and is followed by a bread and cheese lunch (also free) for those who would like to stay.

♦ Soul Sisters: Saturday 19th July, 10:30am

Soul Sisters is Penrallt's women's fellowship group. All ladies are welcome. This month we will be meeting at Bangor Garth Pier (LL57 2SW) to discover the history of this Victorian Engineering. There are kiosks which also sell items and a cafe at the end of the pier where we will stop and have refreshments. We will meet at 10:30 at the entrance. There is an admission charge of £1 and car parking is £2. If anyone would like a lift or more information, please contact Averil (francishac3@aol.com) or Ellie.

♦ Men's Breakfast: Saturday 26th July

Our men's fellowship group usually meet on the last Saturday morning of the month for food and friendship at Ian Ablett's home in Caernarfon between 9 and 11am. All men are welcome. Please contact the church office or Ian (ianablett57@gmail.com; 07759 718931) for more details, to check the venue, or to offer or request a lift.

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.

Other Information

♦ 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. Note that he sometimes works from home or is out for meetings, so you are advised to check before travelling in to the church building.

♦ 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 who 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).

♦ 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, Tuesday and Wednesday 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.

♦ 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) is a general group for information and social interaction; *Penrallt Prayer Point* (www.facebook.com/groups/302627593231755) is a private group to share prayer requests and encouragements; you can probably guess the target audience of *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/

♦ 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), or Tuesdays in the event of bank holidays. We also have a more interactive Facebook prayer group (*Penrallt Prayer Point*). 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. *Please note that the Saturday prayer meeting will not be running in July.*

♦ Prayer Team

We would love to pray for you and pray with you. We believe that God transforms people's lives. Praying for people and regularly asking God to fill them with the Holy Spirit is a key part of this for many people. We have a team available for personal prayer, wearing blue "Prayer Team" lanyards, at most services. This is often at the end of the service, sometimes during communion or at other times; if you would like prayer please find a member of the team at any time and they will be able to offer to pray with you in an appropriate space, often as a pair.

If you are a church member and would like to be on the prayer team please speak to John or Jan. Our Pastoral Care Team are able to offer a further level of support (see *Pastoral Help* above). Please don't hesitate to approach John or another member of the Pastoral Care Team.

♦ Students

We love to welcome students as part of our church family. For more information about activities for students, or just for a friendly chat, please get in touch with our student co-ordinator, Holly Redding (students@penrallt.org). Also, don't miss our Penrallt Students Facebook group.

♦ 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), that we run in conjunction with Mosaic church during school term times. *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).

Farewell to Becca (and Sam)

John writes: “It is with some sadness but also with celebration that we say goodbye this month to our youth worker, Becca who has been with us for 4 years. This June, Becca completed her 3 year masters’ degree in Youth Work which she has been doing whilst also working at Penrallt. It’s great that Becca will be starting a full-time youth worker role in Gloucestershire which is based partly in a church and partly based in the existing YFC team doing outreach into schools and into the community. We are hugely grateful to Becca and to God for all that Becca has done through her youth work here at Penrallt and through her other talents. She will be sorely missed! And we are very sad that both Becca and Sam are moving on, but it is great to see Becca continuing in her ministry and we will be staying in touch and praying for both Becca and Sam as they move and as they settle into the church, into work with YFC and into life in Gloucestershire. We look forward to hearing all about it and hope they’ll still come and visit!”

Becca and Sam’s last Sunday with us will be 20th July.

Deadline for next month’s newsletter: Sunday 27th July. Please send information to Magnus at the church office. All items should be submitted in writing, preferably by email, as early as possible.

News Mailing List: Sign up to receive email notification (and a PDF link) when the newsletter is published each month, as well as other news updates from time to time. To join or leave the list please send an email to office@penrallt.org.

Peter & Rachel Calvert

Serving with Perspectives and A Rocha in France

The Calverts have been on the mission field in France for about 20 years, initially in Saint-Étienne (in the south) and for the last 10 years in Blois (roughly in the middle of the country). Until recently their focus was on church planting but for the last four years Peter has been pastoring a rural congregation in Romorantin (a smaller town near Blois) and Rachel is now serving on the board of directors for *A Rocha France*, part of the global A Rocha family of conservation organisations that seek to apply Christian principles to environmental and ecological issues, living out God's calling to care for creation and equipping others to do likewise.

The time has now come for them to move on to Le Blanc Mesnil, a northern suburb of Paris, where Peter takes on the role of pastor at *Eglise Protestante Évangélique du Blanc-Mesnil*. This is part of the Perspectives network of evangelical protestant churches that they have already been working with in Blois and Romorantin. The church was planted in the late 1990s by France Mission workers David and Mary Brown. The congregation of around fifty have recently extended their premises. There is a good mix of nationalities and generations, and we sense a love for God's Word and for his people. After a phase of consolidation, with a particular focus on good Bible teaching and fellowship, the church hopes to grow into a new season of active outreach and service together in their multicultural community.

Rachel will be continuing to work with A Rocha, a role which already takes her to different parts of France and beyond. This is quite different to the local church ministry focus she was expecting to pursue, but she recognises that God has opened doors for her to serve in this capacity and describes it as fun, challenging and quite frequently a roller coaster experience.

This is a big move not just for Peter and Rachel but also for their three girls. Inès (14), will be moving to Paris with her parents. Sophie (16) is planning to stay in Blois next year for her final year of secondary school, where she will be sitting her baccalauréat (roughly equivalent to A-levels) and is also hoping to finish her double bass diploma at the music school. Anna (18) is preparing to study literature and social sciences next year, probably in Lyons.

Please pray for the whole family as they (with the possible exception of Sophie) say goodbye to friends and church family in Blois and settle in pastures new. Pray that the Lord would enable each of them to continue to seek him, to fellowship with his people and walk in his ways as they scatter in different directions. Pray too for Peter, Sophie and Anna as they are involved with various Christian summer camps (including one that Peter will be directing).

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)