



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: June 2021

Planning in faith – Praying for and supporting Rebecca

Do you find that it's difficult to plan for warm summer activities when it's raining? It doesn't inspire you with confidence watching water dripping down the windows and when you can hear the rain too! Perhaps you're making plans and hoping that the social distancing measures or travel restrictions will be eased? It continues to be a difficult and frustrating time for many people. We continue to pray for many who are hurting at this time.

Happily, making plans with God is a little bit better. We can't necessarily see everything at the time, but God gives us a vision. God then slowly opens up a way to get to the vision he showed us. We respond by stepping out in faith. Step by step. We look to our God who is faithful. We can also look back and see how God has provided for us and led us in the past. This builds our faith to carry on. Last year we felt led to employ a youth worker. It felt very much like stepping out in faith. In February this year, God led Rebecca to us and she starts this month. We are delighted that Becca is going to be joining the team to lead the youth work. We hope that joining in the summer will enable her to meet many of the young people and people in the church and in the wider community while coronavirus restrictions are eased. We pray for growth of discipleship in our young people, for young people to come to salvation, we pray for young people outside of the church to become more open towards God and to the church. We pray for all of these things!

We already have a great youth team, and the whole team are looking forward to Becca's contribution. But we can all ask ourselves how we can support Becca and our youth work too. Becca will need our support, our prayers, and she will need many volunteers in many different areas too if this is going to bear fruit.

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There will no doubt be challenges and disappointments along the way. We'll need to try things out and accept setbacks. We'll need to look to God for wisdom, for guidance, for direction and for the resources that we need. We'll need to persevere. But most of all, we'll need to remember that this is God's work. It's God's initiative. God cares about this even more than we do. This is God's heart and God has shared his heart with us. So we commit all of this once again to the glory of God. We place it all in his hands.

Proverbs 16v9: In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.

Blessings,

John

Children's Birthdays in June

27th: Harvey Lemon, Ben Warnock

Church Office

The church administrator, Magnus, can be contacted on office@penrallt.org or 07934 231788 during the church office opening hours (10am – 3pm Monday to Friday, except Bank Holidays). *NB Magnus is still working mostly from home at the moment, but the office hours still apply.* **The church office will be closed from Tuesday 22nd June to Tuesday 29th June.**

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Tuesday 29th June

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

Services This Month

We continue with a mixture of live broadcasts and pre-recorded services. We are gradually starting to reintroducing a congregation to the building for our live services, which can also be joined on Zoom (and where possible we make a recording available afterwards too). All services are open to everyone, including students, but it is necessary to book a place if you want to be part of the live congregation – booking links will be sent to our news mailing list (please contact the church office if you wish to join this), or you can check on our website.

Live services generally start at 10:30am on Sunday mornings. Pre-recorded service pages can be followed at any time, but we recommend starting those at 10:30am on Sunday too and then joining us for a chat on Zoom at 11:30am. The list below indicates which services are live.

Links to upcoming services, along with further information, can be found on our website (www.penrallt.org/services); there you will also find the pages for past services including recordings, where available, of live services.

Sunday 6th June

The Faith of the Centurion

Luke 7:1–10. Preacher: Patrick Baker.

Sunday 13th June (Live)

Jesus Raises the Widow's Son

Luke 7:11–17. Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 20th June

Father's Day

Preacher: Hywel Davies.

Sunday 27th June (Live Communion Service)

Confirmation to John the Baptist

Luke 7:18–35. Preacher: John Thompson.

You will need bread and wine (or equivalent) to fully take part in communion.

Note that the sermons on 6th, 13th and 27th June are part of our ongoing series, [Love, Trust and Follow Jesus](#). Previous sermons in the series can be found on our website.

Would you like to serve by leading a prayer session during the Sunday service?

If the answer is yes, please contact Magnus (office@penrallt.org) or Ama (amaeyo@yahoo.co.uk) as we would love to hear from you. Thank you.

◇ **Beach Picnic and All-Age Fellowship Fun**

Meet us on the beach behind the Oyster Catcher in Rhosneigr for a picnic and fellowship, starting at **1pm on Sunday 6th June**. All are welcome. Booking a (free) ticket is essential. More details on the booking page:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/penrallt-beach-picnic-and-all-age-fellowship-fun-tickets-155583280781>

◇ **Building**

You must book a place if you wish to attend a service or event in our building. Booking links will be found on our website and will be emailed to the news mailing list (please contact office@penrallt.org if you wish to join this). If you need to enter the church building for any other purpose, please contact the church office beforehand to obtain permission and arrange access.

◇ **Children's Work**

Sunday school for 5–11s meets online every Tuesday at 6pm via Zoom, for about 45 minutes. There is a Facebook messenger group used by families in the church for general communication and support. We share information about church activities for children and families but also use it to support one another with whatever is happening. Please contact the church office if you would like to join in.

◇ **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 about how you can access or contribute to the foodbank please visit www.bangorfoodbank.org

◇ **Giving**

We quite understand that financial difficulties may impact your ability to give to the work of the church at this time. Please do not place yourself under additional financial strain. However, if you normally give to the weekly cash offering and 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. The groups currently meet on Zoom and other online platforms 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.

There are 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.

◇ **Momentum**

Join us in the Wave of Prayer – Momentum 2021: Change the atmosphere.

At Penrallt, we are joining in a Wave of Prayer that is sweeping across Wales, organised by the South Wales Baptist Association to ask God to “change the atmosphere in our community”, and to “build His Kingdom here”. Our meeting will be at 7:30pm on Wednesday 9th June 2021 and will be a hybrid event, with a small congregation in the building and others joining us on Zoom. For more about Momentum, see the Focus article at the end of this newsletter.

If you would like to attend in person, please book your place at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/momentum-prayer-meeting-registration-157075748793> (NB places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis).

The Zoom meeting will be at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89640115339?pwd=SEVESVFDYXd3NVZOUdRoZjJMUzZtUT09> (Meeting ID: 896 4011 5339; Passcode: 928689).



Catch the Wave at Penrallt, Wednesday 9th June

◇ **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); Monica Morris (01407 840439), John Thompson (07931 150697).

◇ **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 Students* (www.facebook.com/groups/195300234272943)

There is also a Facebook page and a YouTube channel (both called *Penrallt Baptist Church*):

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

◇ **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, and prayer meetings via Zoom on Wednesday lunchtimes at noon and Saturday mornings at 8:30am (please contact the church office if you need the connection details for either meeting).

The Baptist Union have resources for prayer and reflection at www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338269/Prayer_and_reflections.aspx, as well as other resources at www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/337630/Coronavirus.aspx and at www.nwba.org.uk/ with encouraging articles and stories, prayer broadcasts and reflections.

◇ **Shopping**

Do you need help with shopping? Or does someone you know need help with shopping? We would love to help. We have a small team of volunteers able to shop for those cannot get to the shops themselves. If you would like to use this service, or join the team, please contact the church office (office@penrallt.org).

Focus on...

Momentum Wave of Prayer 2021



Momentum is usually an annual joint conference for Baptists in Wales who are part of BUGB (Baptist Union of Great Britain) and BUW (Baptist Union of Wales). This year, instead of organising a conference, a 'wave of prayer' has been planned which will move across all of Wales going to a different region in Wales.

MOMENTUM 2021

The Wave of prayer has been finalised. Have a look to see when the wave breaks over your area.

Swansea - Pantygydr - 25th May
Haverfordwest - Bethesda - 28th May
Newbridge on Wye - Pentref - 3rd June
Brecon - Kensington - 6th June
Bangor - Penrallt - 9th June
Risca - Moriah - 10th June
Griffithstown - Ebenezer - 16th June
Newport - Lliswerry - 19th June
Pontypridd - Temple - 22nd June
Whitchurch - Bethel - 24th June
Bryncethin - Nazareth - 26th June

The 'wave' started at Pentecost with a video from Ilston, which was the place of the first Baptist Church in Wales in 1649 and will move clockwise around all of Wales. At time of writing, it has been to Pantygydr Baptist Church, Swansea where people gathered to pray and is now in Haverfordwest where people are now gathering to pray. It comes to Bangor with our hybrid event live in the building and online on 9th June.

People all over Wales will be praying that God will change the atmosphere. That we will see God's kingdom come in our communities. That we will see the broken healed, the hurting comforted, and people reconciled to God through salvation and new life. That we will get fresh vision for what that could look like locally and all over Wales. There is also the hope that Christians in Wales will become more aware of one another's needs. To facilitate this, each hub meeting will receive prayer from the previous hub meeting and prayers will be written to send to the next hub.



So please join us in person or on zoom on Wednesday 9th June at 7pm. We'll also have a brief slot at our church family get-together on Rhosneigr beach on 6th. Please pray for the Baptist Churches in North Wales from 7th–9th June. And please get involved in this season in praying for our churches and communities all across Wales.



There is more information on the church website, and at <https://nwbanorthwales.wordpress.com/wave-of-prayer/>.

Blessings,

John