



Newsletter: June 2025

A quiet revival!

This May we saw the release of a report called “The Quiet Revival” from a team across the Bible Society and YouGov research. The Bible Society introduction to the report states: “The results of this thorough and robust study demonstrate that over the space of only six years, there has been a significant growth in the numbers of people going to church; Christians are practising their religion more intentionally; more young people are finding faith; more people are reading the Bible.”

Looking at the figures in the report, comparing today to 2018, we see that church attendance has grown from 8% of the population to 12%. In numerical terms, 3.7m to 5.8m. An increase of 56%. This growth is significant among young people aged 18–24. In 2018, just 4% of 18–24 year olds said that they attended church at least monthly. Today this has risen to 16%. One in six people aged 18–24 are now happy to say that they attend church at least once a month. We are also seeing an increase in people reading the Bible. 67% of churchgoing Christians read the Bible at least weekly outside of church. This is a significant increase from 54% in 2018.

There is good news across all nationalities. At Pentecost, the gospel message inspired by the Holy Spirit is in the languages of many different nations. The church is born with a message to spread over the whole world in the heart language of all humankind. At Baptist Assembly this year it was wonderful to hear amazing stories of Christian organisations like BMS working among asylum seekers and internationals. 1 in 3 churchgoers aged 18–54 are now from an ethnic minority. We have been blessed by those coming with strong faith to live in Britain too. However, the figures in the report tell a story of salvation that goes way beyond figures due to migration.

The Bible Society introduction continues: “Large numbers of young adults have started going to church, reading the Bible regularly, practising prayer and worshipping Jesus Christ as God. A new generation is finding hope in the Christian message and in established Christian communities.”

This is commonly referred to as revival. Praise God!

Hosea 6: “he will revive us ... he will restore us ... that we may live in his presence.”

So let’s be re-filled and re-energised with the strength that the Holy Spirit gives as we boldly present the wonderful gospel message to a culture and generation that is eager to hear and receive the message and is willing to respond and commit to the wonderful truth of Jesus.

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). 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.

Sunday 1st June (All-age)

The Ascension

Preacher: John Thompson.

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

Sunday 8th June

Pentecost

Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 15th June (Father's Day)

Living the life God intended for me

Luke 15:11–24

Preacher: Simon Lambourne.

Sunday 22nd June

The Kingdom of God (part 1)

Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 29th June (Communion)

The Kingdom of God (part 2)

Preacher: John Thompson.

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 (starting 2nd June). £1 per adult (up to 3 children per adult). 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 June

2nd: Tani Akinkunmi

5th: Pedro Awolowo

16th: Esther Onwusa

23rd: Grace Idahosa

27th: Harvey Lemon

Evening Services

This month's evening services at Penrallt will continue our video series on Romans by Andrew Ollerton (note that you don't need to have seen earlier parts of the series to benefit from these). They will start at 6pm and last around an hour. Unlike morning services, our evening services are not normally recorded or broadcast on Zoom.

Sunday 1st June: No evening service

Sunday 8th June, 7pm at Caersalem (Caernarfon, LL55 2RB)

Codi Mawl: A bilingual worship event led by Caersalem, Goleudy (Llangefni) and Penrallt. *There will be no service at Penrallt this evening.*

Sunday 15th June (Communion)

Service led by Magnus Forrester-Barker: *Devotion (part 1)* — Romans 12:1–2.

Sunday 22nd June

Service led by John Thompson: *Devotion (part 2)* — Romans 12:3–21.

Sunday 29th June: No evening service.

Instead, there will be a Messy Church service in the afternoon (see below).

Other Events in June

♦ **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Saturday 31st May – Saturday 7th June**

This year the churches of Bangor are celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in June rather than January, in the hope of better weather! The theme for the week is *Do you believe this?* Events will be:

Saturday 31st May, 10:30am: **Prayer walk and picnic**, starting at Emaus Chapel, LL57 2TE.

Monday 2nd June, 7:30pm: **Reflection on the Nicene Creed** with Revd. Nick Sissons on Zoom (Meeting ID: 918 9994 4714, passcode: Cytun or use the link <https://zoom.us/j/91899944714?pwd=uWro8rMoiWrDDkxqzt42bF4VTYGimj.1>).

Wednesday 4th June, 11am–3pm: **Craft session** (drop in) at St. John's Church (next door to Lidl on the High Street).

Saturday 7th June, 4pm: **Cytûn service** in Emaus Chapel, using the booklet "Do you believe this?" prepared by the Bose Community of Northern Italy. You can join this service on Zoom (Meeting ID: ID: 891 8385 3114, no passcode; or use the link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89183853114>).

♦ **Fellowship Beach Trip: Sunday 1st June**

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 Rhosneigr (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.

♦ **Bangor Youth For Christ Prayer Meeting: Wednesday 4th June, 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. If you can't make it this time, there will be a similar meeting on Wednesday 2nd July. See <https://bangor.yfc.co.uk/> for more information or to sign up for their email list or to volunteer to serve with them.

♦ **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). 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.

♦ **Bangor Street Pastors Prayer Meeting: Thursday 5th June, 7:30pm at Emaus**

Come and support the work of Bangor Street Pastors in prayer at Capel Emaus, Love Lane, Bangor.

♦ **Momentum (BUW): 7th June**

The Baptist Union of Wales are holding a day in Carmarthen with activities for all ages and special guests including Dr. Belle Tindall, the staff writer at the Centre for Cultural Witness. For more information and to book places, please visit <https://buw.wales/momentum-2025-celebrating-the-gift-of-the-spirit/>

♦ **Soul Sisters: Saturday 21st June, 10:30am**

Soul Sisters is Penrallt's women's fellowship group. All ladies are welcome. This month we will be meeting at Treborth Botanic Gardens for a short walk (Mindfulness trail, 45 mins flat walk) finishing with a picnic (bring your own lunch). We will meet at the glasshouses at 10:30 — parking is limited but the entrance at the end to the running track is open, with plenty of room there.

Directions from Bangor: drive towards Menai Bridge, take 2nd exit at Antelope Roundabout, turn left immediately before the bridge and follow the road past a small industrial estate, continuing through two stone pillars. You can park in any of the parking slots or continue to greenhouses.

Directions from Anglesey: drive over the old bridge, turn right at the end before the roundabout and continue as above.

For more information speak to Averil (francishac3@aol.com).

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.

♦ Men's Breakfast: Saturday 28th June

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. However, **this month we will be meeting at Penrallt** instead (subject to confirmation). 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. We are expecting to be back at Ian's for our July and August meetings and to be joining with the Soul Sisters for a barbecue in September.

♦ Messy Church: Sunday 29th June, 3–5pm

This is a free family event. Our theme is *Jesus calms the storm* and we will explore this through crafts, games, activities and a meal. The activities are aimed at children aged between 3 and 11, but there is a crèche space for younger ones as well as games that teenagers will enjoy, so bring the whole family!



Please note: all under 18s will need to be supervised by an adult at all times for safeguarding reasons; adults will only be admitted if accompanying children.

Click the link or scan the QR code to book places for your children at <https://penralltbc.churchsuite.com/events/lvrezdel>

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. ***Please note that Magnus will be on annual leave from 16th to 20th June.***

♦ 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.

♦ 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. *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).

Thanks

Carol Morris would like to thank everyone who attended Blodwen's funeral and especially John, who led the service. She would also like to thank everyone who has prayed for her own health issues and reports "My procedure went well and I am now clear, but have to attend hospital every three months. Please pray for a speedy date for my op at Walton Hospital."

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Wednesday 25th June. 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.

Paul and Sarah Brown

Serving with BMS in Thailand



The Browns both teach at Siloam Bible Institute (SBI) in Chiang Mai in the north of Thailand, where they have just finished their summer holiday (in mid-May). Back in April, when their latest prayer letter was released, they remarked that the hot season was in full swing across Thailand but was thankfully not quite as hot as last year!

They have been reflecting on the transforming power of God's grace, noting that our lives can have many unexpected turns, which can leave us feeling lost, defeated, or hopeless. However, during our trials, the powerful force of God's grace can transform our lives and rewrite our stories. Grace is God's unmerited favour and unconditional love that breathes new life into us, bringing change from the inside.

Paul and Sarah have seen God's transforming power at work in the lives of several of the students they have been teaching at SBI. One of them, a young man called Htoo Lee, witnessed God's amazing grace turning his life around from taking drugs, drinking and having a rebellious nature, saving him from prison and, largely through the forgiveness and compassion he received from his godly parents, leading him to give his life to the Lord and go to study at SBI in order to become an evangelist.

Two other students, not named in the Browns' prayer letter, returned to repeat the pre-class from last year. Although their English skills are still not the strongest, it has been amazing to see them flourish in their confidence, abilities and growth in the Lord. They were due to retake the test at the start of the new semester in mid-May.

Life is not all plain sailing for the students. Sarah noticed that one of them, a girl referred to as Sky (not her real name), was not her usual bubbly self, so she spent time talking and praying with her. Eventually it was decided that Sky should return home to rest and be with her family. Sarah has continued to be in touch with Sky and has had opportunities to speak with her parents. It was hoped, at the time of writing, that Sky would be able to return and move up with the other students at the start of the new semester. We are asked to keep her physical and mental health in our prayers.

Please pray for all the students, giving thanks for their growth in the Lord and in themselves. Pray too for the recent graduates, for God's guidance for the next steps of their journey. Pray for Paul and Sarah themselves, that they would continue to inspire, and be inspired by, their students to grow in the Lord and be agents of his transforming grace.

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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)