



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: October 2020

For such a time as this

In our series, *Be confident in God*, we have been exploring how God has always been in control of history, whilst also calling individuals to step out in faith. To enact his will and to bring about his plans. We have seen this as we have looked at the life of Moses. Throughout the challenges, successes and failures in his life, Moses was rescued, chosen, appointed, anointed and empowered to be God's servant. We see this also in the life of Esther. When Esther becomes queen, she has to choose whether to stand up for God's people. Mordecai challenges Esther saying, "who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this" (4v14). She has the honour and privilege and responsibility to be God's agent in her situation. Esther risked her life and was obedient to God's call in her time in history and God did a great work through her to save his people.

For us today, circumstances around us could again get more challenging over this month. Once again, God's people are called to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control (Galatians 5v22-23). To listen to God. To respond as he calls us and to be God's agents. To be channels of his peace.

However, we ultimately want to point people to Jesus. Not to rely on us or be like us, but to rely on Jesus and be like Jesus. We don't have all the answers, but he does. We want people to be transformed, healed and saved by Jesus. To know his love. Jesus himself fulfilled God's plan by laying down his life for us in the greatest act of love in history. So be confident in God. Be confident in Jesus.

Blessings,

John

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Services This Month

Our services continue to be held online at www.penrallt.org/services/. The services are available at any time but we recommend doing them at 10:30am on the Sunday morning if you can, for a greater sense of connection with the rest of the congregation.

Every Sunday, we hold a Zoom meeting for those who wish to join in a chat after the service, starting at 11:30am and lasting around half an hour. The link to join the chat will be found on the page for each service. We often break into smaller groups for part of the chat time, from about 11:45am. Newcomers and visitors are very welcome to join us.

Except where otherwise noted, the preacher is our minister, John Thompson.

4th October: *Be Confident in God's plan for the Church – Oaks of Righteousness* (Ephesians 1:15–16; Exodus 3:16–22; Isaiah 61:3). Preacher: Lesley Jackson. *This service includes a craft activity for children that needs newspaper/plain paper, scissors and sellotape.*

11th October: *Be Confident in God's Revelation and Power* (Ephesians 1:17–23; Exodus 4:1–17).

18th October: *Be Confident in God's Power to Transform* (Ephesians 2:1–10; Exodus 4:18–31). Preacher: Michael Blok.

25th October: All-age communion *Responding to Halloween – Be Confident in God's Goodness and Light.* The communion will be live on Zoom at 11:30am (you will need bread and wine, or equivalent) and the service will include activities for children (we will try to indicate on the previous week's service page if any craft materials are needed).

The sermons in our current series, *Be Confident In God*, are gathered together in one place at www.penrallt.org/sermons/series.php?sid=BeConfident (with links to the audio recordings and videos as well as the service pages on which each sermon first appeared). There are many previous sermons (in series or otherwise) on the website too, including our recently completed series on *Listening to God*.

Dates For Your Diary

See the following pages for more information about these events.

Sunday 4 th October	Family Fellowship Walk
Monday 12 th October	Church members' meeting (7:30pm)
Sunday 18 th October	Café Church (6:30pm)
Saturday 31 st October	Light Party

◇ **Building**

Please note that our building remains closed until further notice. If it is absolutely essential for you to enter the premises, please contact the church office for advice. Please do not enter the building until you have permission to do so.

◇ **Café Church**

Our monthly Sunday evening Café Church is back for the new academic year. It retains the informal, interactive format but is now taking place on Zoom (sadly this means you have to provide your own tea and cake). The next one will be on Sunday 18th October at 6:30pm; a link will be available on the church website.

◇ **Church Members' Meeting**

Our next church members' meeting will take place via Zoom on Monday 12th October at 7:30pm. If you are not a church member and would like to become one, or to find out what membership is all about, please speak to John (minister@penrallt.org) or Owen (secretary@penrallt.org).

◇ **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 working from home at the moment but office hours still apply. Even if you have his other phone numbers, please do not use them for work-related purposes except in case of emergency.*

◇ **Family Fellowship Walk**

On the first Sunday afternoon of each month, weather and covid restrictions permitting, we are intending to have a walk for the whole church family – the pace will be that of the person with the smallest legs! Due to the restrictions, walks are currently limited to 30 people and it is necessary to book places for your family in advance. This month's walk, on 4th October, will be from Newborough / Llanddwyn Beach Car Park to Llanddwyn Island and back. Book your places (for every family member attending, including children) at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/penrallt-family-fellowship-walk-newborough-tickets-123240857723>. It is free to book but please note that car parking costs apply and they are only accepting contactless payments.

◇ **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. While we are unable to meet physically, the groups are meeting 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; unlike the homegroups 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.

◇ **Light Party**

Back by popular demand, our Light Party on Saturday 31st October provides an alternative to halloween parties, celebrating the fact that God is light and that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it. We are not yet sure of the details such as times or whether the event will be held outdoors in our marquee or on Zoom. Please watch the church website or Facebook group for more information.

◇ **News Mailing List**

If you would like to join (or leave) the mailing list to receive an emailed link to each month's newsletter when it is published, as well as other news announcements, please contact the church office on office@penrallt.org.

◇ 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 (410582); John Thompson (07931 150697).

◇ Penrallt on Facebook

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)
specifically to share prayer requests and encouragements
- *Penrallt Students* (www.facebook.com/groups/195300234272943)

◇ 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 prayer broadcasts on Wednesday evenings at www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338268/Prayer_broadcasts.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).

Children's Birthdays in October

7th: Anna Warnock

20th: Micah Adams

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Thursday 22nd October

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

Focus on...

Colm & Catherine Ó Brolcháin **Serving with OM Ireland**



Former Penrallt members, Colm and Catherine Ó Brolcháin are part of a 25 strong OM Ireland team and are based at Lacken House in Roscommon. OM Ireland exists to reach the lost, equip and mobilise the church.

Catherine is involved in the pastoral care of the OM Ireland team, and Colm usually drives the Big Red Bus and is involved in outreach events.

At the start of the year, Catherine joined two other OM Ireland team members to prepare for the visit OM's ship the Logos Hope to Ireland during 2020. Sadly, that visit was scuppered by the global pandemic and has been postponed. The Logos Hope was holed up in the Caribbean for the summer.

Back in December, Colm had some successful planned surgery, but found himself unexpectedly back in hospital for a week in January with emboli in his lungs. Needless to say, he still managed to effectively share the good news of Jesus with his fellow patients!! Colm was just returning to work when OM Ireland closed its offices on 12th March. Although he was not able to go out to help churches with evangelization with the Big Red Bus, Colm did however go and collect it and bring it home, so that he could work on projects inside the bus.

Daughters Ciara and Sinead both moved back from Dublin to work from home during the lockdown, helping out with shopping and collecting prescriptions. Son Ruairí decided to stay in in Dublin, while attending college online.

Catherine was able to continue with her pastoral work via video conference meetings and by phone, keeping a particular eye on the singles in the team. Colm and Catherine, and other members of the OM Ireland team have also been helping out and getting to know their neighbours during the lockdown. They give thanks for the new relationships developed.

Much of the ministry of OM Ireland is relational, sharing the Gospel in person, in conversation. Colm would normally be attending the Fleadh Cheoil (Irish music festival), the Appleby Horse Fair and the National Ploughing Championships, but that has not been possible this year, as they have all been cancelled. Colm and Catherine will be bringing us an update on what they have been up to over the summer during a Sunday service in October – watch out for the video.

