



Newsletter: September 2025

Divine Wisdom: The Wisdom of God!

It has been said that knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad. Bangor is sometimes advertised as a “city of learning” — so hopefully, as we start a new academic year you will gain in both knowledge and wisdom by being here!

Both knowledge and wisdom are celebrated in the Bible as things to be pursued and attained, but wisdom is considered to be of higher value. The Bible encourages us to be a trustworthy person of integrity, to work hard, and to be a good friend. This wisdom is similar to many other philosophies and religions and should not be neglected.

However, the Bible also teaches that there is forgiveness and reconciliation with God uniquely through Jesus. This is because Jesus is the son of God and the main reason that he came to the world was to offer us reconciliation with God and salvation in him from our sins. This is something that is “foolishness to Greeks” and is “a stumbling block” to Jesus’ own people — the Jews. However, this amazing truth became possible for the whole world with the coming of Jesus — the dawn of a new age of the revelation of God’s love, grace, mercy and his eternal plan for us. The truth and power of this message is demonstrated in transformed lives and it elevates, fulfills and surpasses all other wisdom.

So over this academic year I pray that we all seek to deepend our wisdom and our knowledge ... and that we do so critically. Not all that glitters is gold. I pray that we live first and foremost in the way of the Jesus of the Bible following his path and his love . That we go deeper ourselves and introduce others to the wonderful things that “no eye has seen, no ear has heard and no human mind has conceived.” The “things that God has prepared for those who love him” and things “God has revealed by his Spirit” (1 Cor. 1&2).

Blessings,

John

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

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

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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.

Sunday 7th September

The blessings of Divine Wisdom

1 Cor. 1:1–9

Preacher: John Thompson.

This service will be followed by our monthly fellowship event (see below).

Sunday 14th September

The unity of Divine Wisdom

1 Cor. 1:10–17

Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 21st September

The wisdom of God and the wisdom of the world

1 Cor. 1:18–31

Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 28th September (Communion)

The wisdom of the Spirit and the mind of Christ

1 Cor. 2:1–16

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.*

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. There is no evening service on the first Sunday of the month, when we have our fellowship walk in the afternoon. Evening services for the rest of September are:

Sunday 14th September

Romans #9a. Service led by Peter Jones.

Sunday 21st September (Communion)

Romans #9b. Service led by Peter Jones.

Both these services will continue in the Romans video series by Andrew Ollerton that we have been following this year. You don't need to have been to previous sessions to benefit from these.

Sunday 28th September (7pm; refreshments served from 6:30pm)

Codi Mawl — A bilingual (Welsh/English) service hosted jointly with Caersalem (Caernarfon) and Goleudy (Ynys Môn). See below for details.

Other Events in September

♦ Bangor Youth For Christ Prayer Meeting: Wednesday 3rd September, 7pm

We will be hosting a prayer meeting, led by Bangor YFC Centre Director Grace O'Boyle, 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 Walk: Sunday 7th September

We usually have a fellowship walk or other activity together after the morning service on the first Sunday of the month. This month we will be heading across to Newborough for a walk to Llanddwyn Island, a beautiful tidal island on the southwest coast of Anglesey. The walk will be about 5km. For more information, or to request or offer a lift, please contact Jenny (fellowship@penrallt.org). Before we set off for the walk there will be an opportunity to eat lunch together in the hall — please bring your own food. You are welcome to join us for lunch even if you aren't going on the walk.

♦ Cylch Penrallt Tots: Monday afternoons from 8th September

Following a successful pilot last term, we are looking forward to continuing our new group for pre-school children and their parents/carers in the autumn. The group will restart on Monday 8th September and will run during the school term at the slightly earlier time of 1 to 2:30pm. £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.

♦ Messy Church: Sunday 14th September, 3–5pm

This is a free family event where we will explore our theme through crafts, games, activities and a meal. This time we are looking at the story of Abraham and Sarah and seeing how God has purposes for us and keeps his promises, and how we are part of the family of God and there are so many of us – we are like stars in the sky and sand on the beach, just as God promised.

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; similarly adults will only be admitted if accompanying children.** To help us with numbers, please register your children for the event at: <https://penralltbc.churchsuite.com/events/crfta5kn>

♦ Baptist Leaders' Fellowship: Friday 19th September

The Baptist Leaders' Fellowship is hosting a Zoom event on Friday morning 19th September which promises to be fascinating. It will be led by Rosa Hunt and Ed Kaneen of Cardiff Baptist College, together with Simeon Baker, and it will be centred around a paper being written by Rosa and Ed questioning the way we handle church membership. Given that our spiritual life is a pilgrimage, does church membership make it look as if we have already "arrived"? Given that very few of our church members are Baptists originally, how does this effect the way we do church? Their ideas have proved to be provocative and somewhat controversial so we are looking forward to this discussion. Would you like to join us? The meeting will be from 10am to midday and we will publish the log-in details the week before. By the way, Ed Kaneen's grandparents were long-standing members of Penrallt!

♦ Soul Sisters / Men's Fellowship: Saturday 20th September

Soul Sisters is Penrallt's women's fellowship group, that meet once a month for a varied programme of activities, and the men's fellowship group usually meet once a month for breakfast. This month both groups are meeting together for a BBQ brunch, followed by coffee and cake, at Jan and Ian's home in Caernarfon. All are welcome. Please contact the office or Ian (ianablett57@gmail.com) for details of how to get there, or if you need a lift.

We'll meet from 11:30am onwards for brunch (bacon butty/sausage butty, with a vegetarian option, etc.) followed by pastries, cakes with tea/coffee and soft drinks throughout. Please come when you like and stay as long as you wish.

Please can we ask you to pray in advance for good weather on the day, so that we can go ahead and meet outside.

♦ Codi Mawl: Sunday 28th September, 7pm

Over the past year we have enjoyed a number of bilingual worship evenings hosted jointly between Caersalem (Caernarfon), Goleudy (Llangefni) and Penrallt, with a number of people from other churches joining us for powerful times of praise and prayer. The next one will be hosted at Penrallt on the evening of 28th September, in Welsh and English. Refreshments will be served beforehand, in the hall, from 6:30pm.

♦ CU Potluck: Tuesday 30th September

Among the events they are planning to welcome this year's new students, the Bangor University Christian Union will be hosting a potluck supper at Penrallt on Tuesday 30th September. They are looking for volunteers from the local churches to provide food for the event and have asked Penrallt to contribute savoury dishes. If you can help, please contact the church office.

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.

Future Events

♦ Church Members' Meeting: Wednesday 8th October, 7:30pm

The next meeting for church members will take place in the building and on Zoom on the evening of 8th October. Papers will be circulated to members 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).

Canolfan Penrallt

Our community centre, Canolfan Penrallt, is intended to provide a service for and a bridge with our local community. It includes our main hall (where we meet for tea, coffee and a chat after morning services) with a recently refurbished kitchen, as well as the Twrgwyn Room (the smaller meeting room across the corridor from the church office, on your left as you head in to the hall). These facilities are available to hire for a modest fee, with a discounted rate for community groups.

Several groups (including a choir and two dance groups) regularly hold their activities in the Canolfan and there is space in our calendar to accommodate standalone bookings from individuals or groups as well as further regular bookings (especially during the daytime; NB Saturdays are reserved for one-off bookings and church events).

If you're looking for somewhere to host an event such as a child's birthday party, or you know a group that is seeking a venue for their meetings, please bear us in mind. See <https://www.penrallt.org/canolfan/index.php> or contact canolfan@penrallt.org for more information.

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*):

- www.youtube.com/@penralltbaptistchurch
- www.facebook.com/penralltbc

♦ 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 feel free to drop us an email to students@penrallt.org. Also, don't miss our Penrallt Students Facebook group.

♦ Youth

After a summer break, our Sunday morning youth group, *Deeper*, will restart in September and continue as before, with the young people (11–17) going out part way through the morning service to study the Bible and apply it to their lives.

Our mid-week youth group, *Ignite*, will be replaced by *Youth*, a group run by Bangor YFC with volunteers from Penrallt, Mosaic and other churches. This will continue to run on Thursday evenings at Penrallt during term-time, from 7pm to 8:45pm. This group is open to all youth (11–18) and will feature games and activities, with a gentle presentation of Christian values and principles. Registration is required, and can be done at <https://tally.so/r/noqO4Z>. The first session will be on 11th September.

For more information, email us at youth@penrallt.org.

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Wednesday 24th September. 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.

Mark & Eve Young

Serving at Lighthouse Community Church, Llandudno

The Light House is a pioneering community with a mission to go beyond the walls, seeking the least, the last and the lost in the streets and lanes of West Shore, Llandudno. It is a Home Mission funded renewal of church which has its origins in the footprint of the former Llandudno Baptist Church. The past 12 months have seen an abundance of answered prayer as God has moved inside and outside the walls.

After years of neglect, the church hall was derelict, but through the generosity of the local community and those within the church giving time, money, and talent, it has been renovated and was reopened in October 2024.

Earlier this year, the church entered into a formal partnership with Prince's Drive Baptist Church, Colwyn Bay, with a promise to mutually support one another through prayer, finances, people and ministry. A firm foundation has been laid.

Mark Young is the pastor of the Light House and also serves as the chaplain for Llandudno Football Club, working with Sports Chaplaincy Wales. The team's 2024/25 season went from a shaky start to a strong finish, as explained by Mark and members of the team in this video: https://youtu.be/_nOV0WDwNOQ

Others from Light House have also been building relationships with the local community. One is a regular volunteer for Friends of West Shore, another has joined the model railway club and regular prayer walks are helping them know and be known in their community. A key moment was when they opened the church to provide refreshments to coastguard, police and searchers when a teenager was lost at sea off West Shore Beach.

The church feel God has blessed them mightily through the last 12 months, as their faith has grown along with their expectations of what Father, Son and Holy Spirit will do. They hope to discover the needs of the local community and use what God has given to meet these needs, especially in tackling the poverty and isolation they see around them. This will involve growing their capacity to have community groups and individuals share their space, making disciples from the local area and perhaps beginning a gardening project within their extensive grounds.

They ask us to please pray for the people, provision and faith they need to carry on.

We were delighted to have Mark, along with his wife Eve and sons Luke and Euan, visit us at Penrallt in August, when Mark led one of our morning services. The family used to attend Penrallt regularly a number of years ago, before spending some time as missionaries in India prior to Mark training as a Baptist minister.