



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: August 2020

One of the 10 commandments is that there should be a day of rest in the week. There is no guilt in ensuring that we have rest built in to our patterns of life. In fact, it's quite the opposite.

For many, August brings the opportunity for rest and recuperation. The opportunity to catch up with friends and family. This year is going to be a bit different. Many who might have gone abroad will be staying in Britain, and a considerable number will perhaps be coming to Wales. Welcome to Wales if you are visiting!

Ecclesiastes 3v1: "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens". For those still working – the rest of us will continue to pray for you and we are thankful for what you continue to do. Whether you are key-workers, or working in the tourist industry, or if you simply happen to be at work at this time. I hope and trust that you also will get an opportunity to rest too. For some, this may be a time for weeping or illness – and our hearts continue to share the pain of the world at this time. We will of course continue to pray for you too.

If you are resting this month, whether you are having a stay-cation, or getting away, 'take God with you'. This doesn't mean don't have fun. Quite the opposite. God loves fun. When I was in my teens, I had a T-shirt which had a picture of God wearing a white robe, a cool pair of shades and carrying a surf board under his arm. It had the text, "On the 7th day, God went windsurfing". I was never very good at windsurfing, but I always enjoyed trying! Whatever you like doing on holiday, we have an amazing and beautiful world to enjoy – and there are many ways to enjoy it. Whether that is physically doing things or simply getting wonderfully lost in a book or in gardening.

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We are 'children of God' and God delights to see his children having fun. 'Take God with you', means thank God for the places that you go. Praise God for the things that you see. Welcome God into conversation. Recognise that he made the sunset and the sound of waves lapping in to the shore. See God's creativity in the crafting of a story, or the gentle geometric beauty of a rose. See God's joy in the smile of a friend and sense his love, delight and pleasure in you. And share it with others too. I have the three words, "isn't God clever" still ringing in my ears from when I was growing up!

So whatever you do, I hope and pray that you sense the delight of God as you take whatever opportunities you have to relax and enjoy the presence of God and to enjoy His world.

Hwyl Fawr a Pob Bendith,

John

Children's Birthdays in August

26th: Reuben Tough

28th: Rees Allen

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 (although he may have a handful of days off in August)! Even if you have his other phone numbers, please do not use them for work-related purposes except in case of emergency.*

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 23rd August

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

Services This Month

Our services continue to be held online in the form of web pages with a mixture of videos and text, available at www.penrallt.org/services/. The services can be followed 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 also be found on the page for each service. Recently we have been breaking into smaller groups for part of the chat time, from about 11:45am.

Except where otherwise noted, the preacher for all our services this month will be our minister, John Thompson.

2nd August: *Lost in the crowd?* (Luke 8:40–50). Preacher: Bob Woods.

9th August: *Listening to God's heart to save – and listening to those we're trying to reach* (Acts 17:10–34).

16th August: *Keep in step with the Spirit* (Galatians 5:16–18).

Preacher: Arwel Jones.

23rd August: *Listening to the poor and oppressed* (Amos 6:1–8).

30th August: Back To School with God Sunday.

The service will include family communion (bring your own bread & wine) and we are hoping to run the communion via Zoom – please see the service page for more information.

Building Update

Activities at our church premises remain suspended because of the current coronavirus situation. As lockdown eases, we are reviewing new government guidance, alongside advice from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, to decide when it is safe and practical to restart some activities at the church. At the moment we don't know when that will be, or what form it will take, as it is unlikely that we will be able to return to "normal" for a while yet.

As we are in the process of developing a Covid-19 Risk Assessment and Covid secure protocols, please do not enter the church premises at the current time. If it is absolutely essential for you to do so, please contact the church office for advice. Please do not enter the church building until you have permission to do so.

◇ **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. With the current lockdown and living in an area whose economy is dependent on tourism some of our members may suddenly find themselves in financial difficulty. If that is you or someone you know, do tell 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**

Our homegroups and contact, care & prayer groups are continuing to function, using Zoom and other technologies to keep us connected while we are unable to meet physically. We encourage you to join a group if you are not already in one. We have groups meeting on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Contact the church office to find out more or be put in touch with a group.

◇ **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: Adrienne Ferrada; Magnus Forrester-Barker (07890 109645); Gwen Hicks (353648); Geoff Moore (410582); John Thompson (07931 150697).

◇ **Penrallt Members' Meeting**

Our next church members' meeting will take place via Zoom on Monday 17th August at 7:30pm.

◇ **Penrallt on Facebook**

We have two groups on Facebook, which you are welcome to join: *Penrallt* (www.facebook.com/groups/2402772192) is a general group for information and social interaction, while the aptly named *Penrallt Prayer Point* (www.facebook.com/groups/302627593231755) is specifically to share prayer requests and encouragements.

◇ **Prayer Resources**

We believe in prayer and encourage people to pray. Send prayer requests, thanksgivings and testimonies to our email prayer diary via office@penrallt.org – email this address, too, to ask to receive the prayer diary, which goes out every week (usually on Mondays). As mentioned above, we also have a prayer group on Facebook. On Wednesdays at noon we hold a prayer meeting via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/201027611?pwd=ZzhiZ2xjRmVjTTVnOStERXh5YnZ0Zz09> (note that the link will only be active while the meetings are running).

The Baptist Union have prayer broadcasts on Sunday and 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. The Evangelical Alliance provide a weekly prayer on Thursdays, available at www.eauk.org/what-we-do/prayer-centre/coronavirus-prayer, along with other useful articles on their website.

◇ **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).

◇ **Website**

Our church website (www.penrallt.org) is undergoing a major overhaul. Amongst the new features we now have a "Welcome to Penrallt" video on our homepage, as well as a prayer page (www.penrallt.org/prayer) featuring an "Introduction to Prayer" video. Both videos are also available on our YouTube channel, along with videos of most of the sermons and Bible readings from our online services.

Please send any constructive feedback on the website, e.g. features you would like to see or ways we could make it easier to use, to webmaster@penrallt.org

Focus on...



Peter & Rachel Calvert **Serving with France Mission**

Pete & Rachel have been working as church planters in France for the past 15 years. After 10 years in Saint-Étienne, in the south of France, they moved to Blois, in the Loire Valley (central France), where they have been ever since. They have been working to establish a church in the town centre and much of their ministry focuses on sharing the gospel through conversations, prayer and Bible studies with friends and neighbours, individually and in small groups. They also host regular art exhibitions at a local gallery (a source of inspiration for thoughts and conversations) and run a Christian scout group. This is in addition to holding fortnightly church services at a local hotel, interspersed with services in the homes of church members (they were meeting via Zoom earlier in the year but have now been able to resume physical meetings). That's quite an exhausting list but it's not exhaustive — suffice it to say that they are kept pretty busy!

As I write this at the end of July, Pete & Rachel, along with their daughters Anna, Sophie and Inès, are at the same place they usually are at this time of year: Interaction 1 Camp, a Christian camp for 10 – 13 year olds that takes place in a



forest about 2 hours northwest of Blois (there is also an Interaction 2 Camp for 14 – 18 year olds, in case you were wondering!). Of course, this isn't quite a typical year and the camp is having to run without the usual contingent from the UK and with a number of social distancing and other covid-related restrictions in place. Nonetheless, to quote an email received from Pete at the camp: "The gospel is being preached and the kids are having a great time."

There's one small detail I didn't mention — they are not just at the camp but Pete is the Camp Director and Rachel is in charge of cleaning. With around 80 people to look after (including 47 children) and all the extra covid safety measures, this is no mean feat. Please pray for them to have all the wisdom and energy that they need and for everyone to stay safe and keep growing in the Lord.

For more about the work in Blois as it has developed over the past 5 years, check out the previous newsletter Focus articles on the Calverts from the August 2015, July 2016, September 2017, July 2018, February 2019, August 2019 newsletters (all of which are available from www.penrallt.org/news/newsletter.php). If you can read French you may also like to check out their church website:

www.eglisebloiscentre.org

Magnus