



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: December 2018

When the Apollo 11 spacecraft reached the Moon on July 20, 1969, with astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walking on its surface, it generated a euphoric reaction around the planet. President Richard M. Nixon said, "This is the greatest week in the history of the world since Creation".

Was this the greatest week in the history of the world?

Many have said that President Nixon was wrong! *The greatest event in history was not when man stepped onto the lunar surface, it was when God stepped onto the planet earth.*

When the first man left his footprint on the surface of the Moon millions followed this event. On the other hand, nobody knew about the baby born to a virgin in a stable in Bethlehem. In that manger there was the most important lesson God could teach human beings, *humility*. The creator of the universe emptied Himself and took on the form of a man to understand what it is like for us (His creation) when we suffer or go through difficulties. If we consider ourselves to be important we are to serve, because God took off His crown and gave up His throne to become a servant.

He did it to show us the way, for Jesus said, "**I am the light of the world**. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".

This is a mind-blowing statement, but it means more than just following or tagging Jesus on Facebook, for He said, "I am the light... Whoever follows me... will have the light". It means following Him for who He is (Our Saviour, our Lord and our God). As He was humble and obedient to the Father we are called to be humble and obedient to Him. It is only then that we can walk in the light.

Penrallt Baptist Church, Holyhead Road, Bangor LL57 2EU
Tel: 01248 353355; Email: office@penrallt.org; Website: www.penrallt.org
Office open Mon–Fri 10am - 3pm; Administrator: Magnus Forrester-Barker

Minister: Rev. Freddy Farias-Palacios, 13 Bryn Eithinog, Bangor LL57 2LA; 07506 710694; minister@penrallt.org
Secretary: Neil Rymer, 20 Brynteg, Llandegfan LL59 5TY; 01248 713003; secretary@penrallt.org
Treasurer: Stephen Burrows, 39 Cil y Graig, Llanfairpwll LL61 5NZ; 01248 714048; treasurer@penrallt.org

He is the light of the world, a world that is in darkness, so if we do not follow Him, we will walk in darkness.

Where is the darkness? The darkness is in the world and in our hearts. In this world there is no other light (religion, politics or good-deeds) that can guide our lives and hearts. Jesus wants to guide us, protect us and give us hope. He is the only light, therefore all the world, and everyone in it, needs Jesus.

One day this baby, born in Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago, will visit this planet for a second time; but this time He will come as the 'King of Kings' and 'Lord of Lords'; "every eye will see Him..." (Rev 1:7) and "...every tongue will confess that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father..." (Philippians 2:11). That will be the next great day in human history. Have you received God's gift of gifts, Salvation? Are you ready for the next great day?

Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Blessed 2019

Freddy

Carol Services

This year we are having not one but two carol services at Penrallt:

Community Carol Service – Sunday 2nd December, 6pm

With singing led by our music ensemble and the participation of our students and the community groups who share the Canolfan Penrallt Centre with us, this will be quite different from a standard carol service! Join us for a very special evening (and bring your friends too).

Carols by Candlelight – Sunday 16th December, 6pm

A slightly more traditional, but no less special, service of lessons and carols accompanied by organ, with several presentation items from the choir led by John Jackson. All are welcome to this service too.

Mince Pies

Both carol services will be followed by tea or coffee and mince pies. If you would like to contribute some mince pies to the cause, please bring them on the day or drop them off to the office a few days earlier.

Services This Month

Our minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, will be the speaker at all services except where otherwise noted below. Owen Lloyd-Evans and Wendy Lemon are two of our deacons. The Barrells are our mission partners in Mozambique, where they work with BMS (the Baptist Missionary Society).

2nd December (Advent Sunday)

10:30am **The miracles of Christmas** *Luke 1:11–25*

6:00pm Community Carol Service, led by Owen Lloyd–Evans.

9th December

10:30am **Being and Bringing the Good News** *Isaiah 52:7–10;*
Speaker: Mark Barrell *Luke 2:10–14*

6:00pm Services with Mark & Susanna Barrell, our BMS mission partners based in Mozambique.

16th December

10:30am Sunday School Nativity Service led by Wendy Lemon.

6:00pm Carols by Candlelight service.

23rd December

10:30am **Jesus Christ the Lord** *Luke 2:11*

Tuesday 25th December

10:30am Christmas Day Service led by Freddy Farias-Palacios.

30th December

10:30am Family Communion Service led by Freddy Farias-Palacios.

NB there will be no evening services on 23rd or 30th December.

Dates for Your Diary

Saturdays	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Saturday 1	7pm	Christmas Ceilidh.
Sunday 2	afternoon	Family fellowship walk in Rhiwlas.
	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre residential home in Llangoed.
Monday 3	7:30pm	Deacons' meeting.
Wednesday 5	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Sunday 9	2:15pm	Service at Plas Garnedd residential home in Llanberis.
Monday 10	10:30am	Church Walk at Llanddaniel & Llanedwen.
Tuesday 11	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
Friday 14	6:00pm	Cytûn Carol Singing at Morrisons.
Friday 21	7:00pm	Free concert at Boston Centre Stage in Holyhead with Chip K, organised by Gobaith Môn. All youth are welcome.

Please see below for more about many of these events.

News of People

Our prayers and condolences are with Jane Swift following the death of her mother in late November.

Congratulations to Hilary and Peter Basterfield, who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last month.

Children's Birthdays in December

18th: Micah Ngoga

23rd: Finley Lemon

Christmas Cards

For your cards to the rest of the Penrallt fellowship, please consider sending just one card to the entire church instead of giving individual cards (and risk missing someone!) and donating the money saved to BMS World Mission. There will be space on the board for your cards and an envelope for you to leave your donation.

Homegroups

Many of our folk meet in small groups during the week for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. We encourage you to join one of these groups if you are able to. *NB groups generally do not meet on the week of the monthly prayer meeting or the Experiencing God course and may not meet all other weeks – please check with the named contact. All landline numbers below have the 01248 area code.*

Day	Time	Group Name	Contacts
Mon	7:00pm	Delta	Brian Wheatcroft (602516) Pat MacKenzie (670948)
Tue	10:00am	Nilgiri	Joan Beer (353874)
Tue	7:30pm	Tyddyn Isaf (Menai Bridge)	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
Wed	2:00pm	Carers	Carol Morris (208407)
Wed	7:30pm	Bryn Eithinog	Freddy Farias-Palacios (07506 710694)
Wed	7:30pm	Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
Thu	10:30am	Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7:30pm	Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
Thu	7:30pm	Ogwen Valley	Brian & Kate Wheatcroft (602516)
Fri	10:30am	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316) Lesley Jackson (680330)

◇ **Christmas Ceilidh**

Get your dancing shoes out, as we are having a ceilidh (aka twmpath, barn dance, hoedown etc.) on **Saturday 1st December** at Penrallt. Music will be provided by Haley's Ceilidhs (aka Magnus Forrester-Barker, James Goodman and Owen Lloyd-Evans, with Rob Haley calling), back by popular demand after the recent wedding of Mr and Mrs Dawson. This event is for the whole Penrallt family and our friends (i.e. invite who you want!). Entry will be £4 (or £2 for concessions) and all proceeds will go to the charity Compassion (<https://www.compassionuk.org/>). The evening will include plenty of dancing, as well as tea, coffee, biscuits and maybe even some cake. Doors open at 7pm; dancing to start at 7:30pm and go on until late.

◇ **Church Lunch**

Sunday 2nd December

We will, as usual, have a church lunch on the first Sunday of the month. Please bring enough buffet-style food for yourself and a few others.

◇ **Church Office**

Please note that the office will be closed from Friday 21st December and will reopen on Wednesday 2nd January.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 10th December 10:30am

The walk will take place on the *second* Monday of December (earlier in the month than usual) and will be a short circular walk around Llanddaniel and Llanedwen, visiting Bryn Celli Ddu Burial Chamber and the surrounding countryside, before going back to Ian and Mari's for some lunch. Meet at 10.30am at the car park for Bryn Celli Ddu on the road to Llanddaniel from the A4080 (just before the old school... now a nursery). Please wear suitable shoes but there is no need to bring a picnic! Contact Mari (07443038183), or Ian for details.

◇ **Family Fellowship**

Sunday 2nd December

On the first Sunday of each month, following church lunch, we usually have a family fellowship activity that is open to the whole church family. This month we will be going for a walk in Rhiwlas, followed by hot chocolate at Wendy Lemon's house. Please speak to Wendy for the address and directions (and to give her an idea of how many are coming).

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

Tuesday 11th December 7:30pm

Our monthly mid-week prayer meetings are for the whole congregation and all are warmly encouraged to attend. The meetings usually take place in the chapel, and last about an hour. The next two meetings after this one will be on Thursday 10th January and Tuesday 12th February.

◇ **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; Gwen Hicks (353648); Geoff Moore (410582); Lawrence Moss (713793); Helen Thomas (600174); Roshni Verghese (07967 320048).

◇ **Pray for Penrallt Every Day**

We believe in prayer and encourage people to pray. You can send prayer request to our electronic diary via office@penrallt.org (there are also prayer cards in the church porch that you can fill in). Better still, you can receive the prayer diary straight to your inbox every Monday (or occasionally on Tuesdays) by emailing the office now and requesting to be put on the list. For more immediate and interactive sharing of prayers, search on Facebook for *Penrallt Prayer Point* and send a request to join our group.

◇ **Rough Sleepers**

We do not recommend giving money directly to the rough sleepers in Upper Bangor. You will find labelled envelopes in the porch for a gift that will buy meal vouchers which are distributed to the homeless by the Cathedral; this certainly would be a more meaningful form of help.

◇ **Sunday Afternoon Services**

We usually visit local residential homes on the first Sunday afternoon of the month, alternating between Haulfre (in Llangoed, near Beaumaris) and Plas Garnedd (in Llanberis). The services start at 2:15pm and last roughly half an hour. This month we will be going to both homes to sing carols: **Haulfre on 2nd December** and **Plas Garnedd on 9th December**.

◇ **Used stamps for Baptist Missionary Society**

BMS World Mission can raise funds from the sale of used postage stamps (as well as coins, medals, & other collectibles). Please trim stamps leaving about a ¼ inch border. Packets of stamps may be left in the church office, clearly marked "Stamps for BMS".

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 16th December.

Please send information to Magnus (office@penrallt.org; 01248 353355). All notices (including alterations to standing information) should be submitted in writing (preferably by email) as early as possible.

Focus on...

Gobaith Môn



Gobaith Môn aims to bring together Christians from all denominations to bring hope to the youth of the Island, by encouraging and developing youth work in schools, churches and communities. At the moment there are three frontline workers; Keren Coney, Emily Price and myself (Amy Burrows).

Schools

Holyhead – Our main responsibilities in Holyhead are the assemblies, collective worship and vulnerable breakfast club. Whilst in Holyhead we work out of an office giving the opportunity for the students to interact with us on a personal level. From this they are able to approach us about issues raised in the assemblies and collective worship. This year we have also been teaching RE classes in the nurture room.

Bodedern – In Ysgol Bodedern we have been doing year 10 PSE lessons on various topics including “Moral Compass” and “Media and Morality”. We are also going to take an RE class where we will hand out Gideons Bibles.

Churches

Divergent – This is a monthly youth event held in Thomas St. Chapel, Holyhead, aimed at inspiring young Christians to deepen their relationship with God whilst building relationships with other Christians.

Additional work

Videos – Every week we make different videos for various reasons. Our video series “Schools Live” is used in tutor groups as a form of collective worship, these tie into the assemblies. The series “One minute take on the Top 10” is where we discuss recent music in the charts and speak about how they can relate to the message of Jesus.

One to one discipleship – This allows a greater investment for youth exploring Christianity. Personally, I mentor four girls on the Island.

Exciting news! We are having a free concert in Holyhead put on by Gobaith Môn and sponsored by Scripture Union. All youth are welcome.

