



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: December 2019

December 2019 could well be remembered as Decision month. This year, it's not just about lighting our Advent candles in anticipation of the birth of the baby Jesus and making Christmas preparations both spiritual and practical (for many of us, including me, not at all equally balanced, I fear). This year, a contest with far-reaching consequences, we are told, is also being played out. Traditional party politics is no more it seems. In the new order there are those who have had enough of it all and just want it all to be over (and if possible, never mentioned again) pitched against those who never wanted it to start in the first place, with a third faction suggesting the important thing might just be to stop destroying our planet before it really is too late. Now don't panic – I'm not going to begin to suggest how you might vote on election day, although I would warn against supporting the Apathy Party. Their slogan "what difference will one vote make – it's not worth the effort" is always remarkably persuasive, but it's worth remembering that the right to vote is a precious freedom, the result of many sacrifices and courage.

There are many other decisions to be made in December of course, probably more than the number of chocolates in the Advent calendar. What cards to send, what presents to give (especially that awkward relative who seems to have everything already!), what food and treats to buy, who to visit over the holiday season, who to invite, whether a new Christmas sweater is needed, whether to have a real Christmas tree this year...

Yes, it's so easy to lose sight of THE decision we all need to make this December – as we remember the baby Jesus, God becoming perfectly human, as vulnerable and fragile as any of us, are we prepared to give ourselves fully and completely to following Him? He provides the template for how life should be lived:

Respect – for human life, for each person of equal value as a child of God

Integrity – words and actions in harmony

Compassion – reaching out to the oppressed, those in poverty and all those suffering and struggling with life

Humility – lacking arrogance or false pride

Wouldn't it be amazing if our politicians, of whatever political persuasion, showed such qualities? Perhaps it would counter the lack of trust in politicians that has grown so much recently. It's certainly something we can pray for in the days and months ahead. But perhaps we should also remember the old adage: *we get the politicians we deserve*. We could certainly use more respect, integrity, compassion and humility these days – on social media, in our schools and colleges, in our workplaces and communities and throughout society. Jesus isn't concerned with majorities and winning seats, but rather that each and every one of us comes to know Him. For Him, each one of us makes a difference – He is after all the shepherd who looks for and rescues the one lost sheep from the flock – each of us worth becoming human for, worth dying for. Change is in each of our hands (and hearts) when we accept the welcome He extends individually to us. That's something to think about in this month of decisions.

Bob Woods

Mince Pies

For our nativity service and carol service on 15th December we will be serving mince pies. If you would like to donate some, please bring them on Sunday 8th December or drop them off to the office during the week leading up to the 15th, or on the day itself.

Any mince pies left after these events will be used for the evening service on 22nd December (though a small number might go to sustain our church administrator during the week!)

Services This Month

1st December (Advent Sunday)

10:30am **To Whom Shall We Go?** *John 6:60–71*
Preacher: John Thompson

6:00pm Communion Service
The Missing Link *Matthew 1:1–17*
Preacher: Magnus Forrester-Barker

8th December

10:30am BMS World Mission service on the theme of South Sudan's Conflict Survivors, led by Sarah Jackson

6:00pm **The Old Testament Scriptures foretell the Coming of the Messiah** *Luke 24:25–44*
Preacher: Roger Borlace

15th December

10:30am **Sunday School nativity service**

6:00pm **Carol Service**

22nd December

10:30am **Forgive & be Forgiven** *Ephesians 4:29–5:2*

6:00pm **Music, musings and (maybe) mince pies**
An informal evening service in the rear hall, featuring some carols you might not know, led by Magnus Forrester-Barker.

25th December (Christmas Day)

10:30am Christmas morning service led by Adrienne Ferrada.
The offering this morning will be donated to *Digartref* (please ask Julia Morgan for more details).

29th December

10:30am Communion Service
Faith and understanding for the coming year
Preacher: Andrew March

There will be no evening service tonight.

John Thompson is the pastor of Llanelwy Community Church and is our moderator during our current pastoral vacancy. The other speakers are all members of Penrallt.

Dates for Your Diary in December

Saturdays	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Wednesday 4	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Friday 6	7pm	Make Way for Christmas – free performance at St John's Methodist Church (also on Saturday 7 th at 6pm!)
Sunday 8	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre.
Wednesday 11	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
Friday 13	6pm	Cytûn carol singing at Morrisons.
Monday 16	10:30am	Church Walk at Llanddona beach.

Please see later in this newsletter for more about some of these events.

Children's Birthdays in December

23rd: Finley Lemon

Christmas Cards and stamps

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. The board should be available to use from Sunday 8th December.

BMS World Mission can also 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 15th 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.

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 do not meet every week – 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)
Mon	7:45 – 9pm	Rhiwlas	Wendy & Andy Lemon (353743)
Tue	10am	Nilgiri	Joan Beer (353874)
Tue	7:30pm	Penlon	Sarah Jackson (714799)
Tue	7:30pm	Tyddyn Isaf (Menai Bridge)	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
Wed	7:30pm	Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
Fri	10:30am	Llwyn Onn	Pat MacKenzie (670948)
Fri	10:30am	The Lydias	Ellie Jones (602289) Lesley Jackson (680330)

◇ **Church Lunch**

Sunday 1st December

As usual, there will be a (free) bring and share lunch after the morning service on the first Sunday of the month. Please bring enough buffet-style food for yourself and one or two others. Visitors are very welcome (and are not expected to bring food).

◇ **Church Office**

The church office will be closed for Christmas from Monday 23rd December and is due to reopen on Thursday 2nd January.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 16th December 10:30am

Meet at car park 567806 next to Llanddona beach (Red Wharf Bay). Circular walk includes Bwrdd Arthur (Arthur's Table) where there are remains of a settlement dating from the Romano-British period. Bring sandwiches and wear boots and warm clothes. For more information, contact Roger Borlace on 713146 or 07969 308976.

◇ **Election Hustings**

Cytûn are hoping to hold hustings with the candidates from the Arfon constituency in preparation for the general election. These will be chaired by Bishop Andy and are likely to take place in Neuadd Penrhyn on either Sunday 8th or Monday 9th December. Details are yet to be confirmed, so please check our website news page or contact the church office if you would like to be informed when more is known.

◇ **Interim Moderator**

During our current pastoral vacancy, Revd. John Thompson, the Minister of Llanelwy Community Church, is serving as our Moderator. In addition to chairing members' and deacons' meetings, John will be preaching at Penrallt roughly once a month and will be in the office at times during the week. The day and time will vary, so please contact John (moderator@penrallt.org, 07931 150697) or Magnus (office@penrallt.org, 01248 353355) in advance if you would like to arrange a meeting. Please avoid contacting John on Saturdays, except in case of serious emergency, as this is his day off.

◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting** *Wednesday 11th December 7:30pm*

Our monthly mid-week prayer meetings, for the whole congregation, usually take place in the chapel and last about an hour. The next meeting after this one will be on Thursday 16th January.

There is also a men's prayer meeting on the first Wednesday morning of the month, at 10:30am in the Twrgwyn Room and lasting about an hour, usually followed by coffee at a local hostelry. This month it will be on Wednesday 4th December.

◇ **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 – or contact at the church office on 01248 353355); Gwen Hicks (353648); Geoff Moore (410582); 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 later in the week) 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** *Sunday 8th December 2:15pm*

On the first Sunday afternoon of the month we usually take a short service at the Haulfre residential home in Llangoed (near Beaumaris). The service starts at 2:15pm and lasts roughly half an hour. This month we are going a week later than usual and will be singing Christmas carols.

Focus on...

Gobaith Môn



Serving the young people of Anglesey

Hi all, it's Amy here. There have been many exciting things happening with Gobaith Môn. Keren and I have been seeing God open new doors for us and we have appointed a new worker called Ellis. We have also had the privilege of working with Jenny Willis and Kirsty Williams who have been involved in clubs and lessons with us.

Schools

- Breakfast Club (Holyhead High) – We have continued baking 250 muffins every Tuesday for the breakfast club and other students at break.
- Assembly (Holyhead and Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones) – We do weekly assemblies in Holyhead with year 7,8,9 and 10 and whole school assemblies in Amlwch regularly. In these we look at various topics from a Christian perspective.
- PSE Lessons (Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern, Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones and Holyhead High) – We have taught about Morality and Resilience.



- RE Lessons (Holyhead High) We have taught on Evil and Suffering to a year 9 RE class. And we continue to have weekly sessions in the Nurture Room where we discuss various topics bringing Christian input.
- Office Space (Holyhead High) – The office space in Holyhead is open on a Monday and Tuesday, break and lunchtime. This has been described by a student as a “safe haven”.
- Ysgol David Hughes - We have been running a Games Club on a Thursday and Friday lunchtime which has proven to be very popular with the students.

Church

- Capel Goleudy (Amy) – Worship team and helping with the children and youth work. Capel Goleudy have “Youth Nights” that happen on the first Wednesday of the month.
- Elim (Keren) – Worship, Children and Youth ministry



PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.”
- Continued protection and favour in all areas of our work.
- Growth in prayer and financial support for the work.

Gobaith Môn PRAYER MEETING: Monthly (3rd Thursday of the month)
7:30pm @ Cildwrn Chapel, Llangefni, LL72 7NN

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Tel: 01248 353355; *Email:* office@penrallt.org; *Website:* www.penrallt.org
 Office open Mon–Fri 10am - 3pm; *Administrator:* Magnus Forrester-Barker

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