



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: January 2020

Welcome to Penrallt as we enter a new year and a brand new decade!

An interesting project idea was doing the rounds on social media before Christmas, describing how to heat an entire room using just a few candles inside an inverted clay flowerpot. It seemed like a great idea; simple, cheap and compelling. However, like many such things, it was too good to be true – someone calculated you'd need about 100 candles for a small room, and no ventilation. Even Neolithic people put holes in their huts to let the smoke out! In any case, Jesus told us not to hide our light under a vessel. Some false ideas are more costly. As a graduate chemist I spent an entire year on a project that simply proved that a previous investigator had made up all his results. I decided a career in research was probably not for me; nevertheless, ideas and theories must be tested and challenged vigorously in order to stand or fall.

As I write, we have just come through a brutal and unpleasant general election, with social media playing a large part in spreading false information aimed to discredit. I heard recently that the famous quote, "A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes," usually attributed to Mark Twain, is not actually by him – which is delightfully ironic!

However we may feel about the outcome of this election, as Christians we must surely all agree that truth is a vital commodity, in short supply. There is, of course, nothing new under the sun; human nature is what it is. Two thousand years ago, an innocent man was condemned to die a criminal's death on the basis of false testimony, the will of a baying crowd, and a weak political leader, Pilate, who famously asked, "what is truth?" How contemporary!

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Treasurer: Averil Francis; treasurer@penrallt.org

It is easy to become dispirited and negative as January bites, but meditating on the above, we see that God is fully in control; that in those darkest of days the Truth broke forth and the grave could not contain Him – what man had intended for evil, God used to break the power of sin and death, for all eternity! 'Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot in vain?' asks the psalmist. But God 'laughs' at their pretension. He is enthroned above the flood and he warns kings and rulers to 'be wise' and 'embrace the Son'. But we're rushing on past Easter here...

In our December carol service, I was asked to read the final lesson. In my haste, I somehow put a bookmark against John 14, and not John 1, that traditional Christmas reading about light coming into the world. I did not even realise until I was told afterwards – assuming it was someone's rather odd choice. But though it was the 'wrong' reading, it brings a powerful and relevant message in these times. "Do not let your hearts be troubled...in my Father's house there are many rooms" says Jesus. He who came from above has prepared a home for you and me, and all who seek him in truth. In that passage He is 'the way, the truth and the life'. Truth is a person – the very person of Christ Jesus! And truth always wins out in the end.

At this Epiphany time, we remember the wise men who diligently studied the scriptures and came seeking Jesus the new-born King. The wise still do so today.

May the Lord bless us with strength and peace in 2020.

James Goodman

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 19th January

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.

Services This Month

5th January

10:30am **We believe** *John 11:25–27*
Preacher: Neil Rymer

6:00pm **Blessed be the name of the Lord**
Testimony and Communion Service led by Lesley Jackson

12th January

10:30am **What is the purpose and meaning of Life?**
Preacher: Donald Poirot *Ecclesiastes 12:1–14*

6:00pm **God in Three Persons**
Preacher: Peter Gordon-Roberts

19th January

10:30am **Jesus: Timing, Truth and Glory** *John 7:1–24*
Preacher: John Thompson

6:00pm Café church service in the rear hall, with an international flavour.

26th January

10:30am **Faith, Hope, Love**
Service led by the Pastoral Care Team.

6:00pm **Wrapped Up In God** *Ephesians 1:3–10*
Preacher: Peter Cousins

John Thompson is the pastor of Llanelwy Community Church and is our moderator during our current pastoral vacancy. Peter Cousins is a retired former minister of Penrallt and Peter Gordon-Roberts is also a retired Baptist minister. The other speakers and service leaders are all members of Penrallt.

Dates for Your Diary in December

Saturdays	8:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
Sunday 5	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre.
Monday 6	7:30pm	Church members' meeting.
Wednesday 8	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
Thursday 16	7:30pm	Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.
Friday 17	10am	Baptist Leaders' Fellowship meeting at Old Colwyn Baptist Church.
Saturday 18–Saturday 25		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Details of services have not yet been circulated by Cytûn, so please watch the church website news page for more information.
Saturday 18	9:30am	<i>Bible Unzipped</i> at Rhos-on-Sea URC.
Monday 20	10:30am	Church walk to Din Lligwy.
Monday 27	7pm	Alpha Supper

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

Children's Birthdays in January

7th: Jeffrey Packwood

25th: Rebecca Gao

Treasurer

Following her appointment at the October church meeting, Averil Francis will be taking over from Stephen Burrows as our treasurer from the church meeting on 6th January. The email address treasurer@penrallt.org will continue to work. We thank Stephen for his many years of dedicated service and Averil for her willingness to take up the mantle, and pray God's blessings on them both.

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)

◇ **Alpha**

We will be starting a new Alpha course on Monday nights, beginning with the Alpha Supper (a great introduction to the course, which people can attend without committing to the whole thing) on Monday 27th January, and running until Easter. Sessions will begin (with a meal) at 7pm and last around two hours. The course is free and all people and questions are welcome. Why not start praying now about who to invite?

◇ **Baptist Leaders' Fellowship** *Friday 17th January*

NB contrary to the name, this event is not just for church leaders (or just for baptists). The Baptist Leaders' Fellowship will meet on Friday 17th January in Old Colwyn Baptist Church 10:00–12:00 when Tim Gough will speak on Young People and the Church. Tim is a Centre Director of Llandudno Youth For Christ. His much acclaimed book *Rebooted: Reclaiming Youth Ministry For The Long Haul - A Biblical Framework* was published by IVP in November 2018. All are welcome.

◇ **Bible Unzipped**

Saturday 18th January

This is a theological learning community that meets monthly at Rhos-on-Sea URC Church. Bible Unzipped is entirely free though donations towards costs are welcome. This month the sessions will be led by Julia Bartholomew ("The Transmission of the Text of the New Testament") and Peter Cousins ("Worship in a First Century Household Church"). For more information, please speak to Roger Malone or Magnus Forrester-Barker.

◇ **Church Lunch**

Sunday 5th January

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 is due to reopen after the Christmas break on Thursday 2nd January.

◇ **Church Walk**

Monday 20th January

10:30am

This month's walk will start at Lligwy Beach car park (near Moelfre). The walk will go to Din Lligwy Romano-British village and return from a lunch stop at Moelfre via the cliff path. It will be led by Judith and Bob Bousfield. Please bring sandwiches. Contact Judith on 01248 490956 for more information.

◇ **Interim Moderator**

During our current pastoral vacancy, Revd. John Thompson, the Minister of Llanelwy Community Church, is serving as our Moderator. In addition to charring 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**

Thursday 16th January

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 is on Thursday 16th January and the following two are due to be on Tuesday 11th February and Wednesday 11th March.

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. It is usually followed by coffee at a local hostelry. This month it is on Wednesday 8th January (as some of us won't be up that early on New Year's Day!).

◇ **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).

◇ **Peter Coleman**

As many of you will know Peter Coleman has been admitted to a care home in Rhos on Sea, initially for 6 weeks but with the possibility of his placement becoming permanent. If anyone would like to visit the address is Coed Craig, 35 Tan y Bryn Rd, Rhos on Sea, LL28 4AD; tel. 01492 544075. Peter will probably recognise people although he won't necessarily remember names until reminded.

◇ **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 5th January 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. It is worth checking with the church office for confirmation that the service is going ahead as scheduled.

Focus on...



Home Mission

Supporting Baptist ministries across the UK

The purpose of Home Mission is to help Baptist churches throughout Britain to share the love of God with their communities. A portion of Penrallt's mission budget each year goes to Home Mission and thence to support a range of projects around the UK. We also support them in prayer.

A total of almost £4 million was given in donations to Home Mission in 2019. This money is used to fund over 200 local church projects, from church planting to renewal and mission, as well as to support mission initiatives at a regional level and to enable three Specialist Teams working across the UK in the areas of Faith & Society, Ministries and Support Services (such as pensions and legal advice).

Closest to home (at least in recent years) has been New Park Street Baptist Church, Holyhead, which was supported by a Home Mission grant to pay for their previous minister, Clive Alder. They are due to be receiving Home Mission funding again when Deb Stammers completes her placement later this year and formally becomes their minister.

To pick one more or less at random from a list of projects currently funded by Home Mission, Hoole Baptist Church in Chester are using a Home Mission grant to enable them to develop Missional Communities as an intentional way of engaging with those 'outside the church' and growing as a community of disciples. They have recently been able to expand from one Missional Community to two, both in the Blacon Estate and focused on connecting with the communities around two local primary schools. One of them has a thriving kids' club with 25-30 children, all from non-Christian homes, attending. The two communities meet together once per term for a Messy Church gathering. They are seeing people come to faith, be baptised and continue to grow as followers of Jesus.

This growing relationship as disciples of Jesus is, of course, what it's all about. If you would like to read more stories of Home Mission projects, you can find plenty at <https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/220769/Stories.aspx> You can also make individual donations to Home Mission. But above all, please do pray for this work.

Magnus Forrester-Barker

Among his many other hats, Magnus is Penrallt's Home Mission Coordinator