



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: January 2022

This New Year arrives with a mixture of excitement and frustration. A mixture of hope and uncertainty. Particularly regarding the pandemic and virus mutations. However, the one absolute and unchanging constant is God and his love. We have a message of love and hope and truth. We have a huge opportunity to be different and to make a difference in our world today and now.

Following on from our year of discipleship in 2021, we launch into 2022 seeking to put discipleship into practice through our mission. On Sundays and throughout our mid-week groups and meetings, our focus will be on how every one of us seeks to live and share the gospel on Mondays to Saturdays. How we aim to do this for the whole day and wherever we are. We will be trying to learn the 'ways of Jesus' for our context and for every moment in our lives. We will be thinking about how we can tell others about Jesus through our words and through how we live. Being a whole-life disciple-making church. Being disciples who are making other disciples. We pray that we will see God's love transform others and that we will discover the joy of walking with Jesus in all of our lives.

This leads us into our Alpha course which starts on Sunday evenings on 30th January. Our challenge is to ask God to place five people on your heart to invite. Five people who do not yet know Jesus. Ideally, bring them with you! Or if you haven't done an Alpha course yet yourself, come yourself! It's a great way to firm up your faith, to refocus your faith or to increase your confidence in sharing faith.

So please pray. God is at work... Through us and in us.

Blessings,

John

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Please pray for...

- The leaders' prayer meeting on Saturday 8th January, 9:30–11:30am.
- John and Abi as they attend the Fresh Streams leadership conference, 10th – 12th January. It is hoped that this is still going ahead, or if not it will be online. Please let John know if you are in a leadership role in the church and are interested in attending.
- Any and all activities, events and people mentioned in this newsletter!

In-Person Events

For all events and activities due to be taking place in person, please check with the organiser or on the website before attending for any up-to-date Covid regulations, cancellations or moves to online events.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The annual Week (or Octave) of Prayer for Christian Unity will as usual take place between 18th and 24th January. This year's theme is **We Saw His Star in the East** and the materials have been prepared by the churches of the Middle East.

Events planned by the churches of Cytûn Bangor are as follows:

Tuesday 18th January, 7:30pm on Zoom – Ecumenical Act of Worship, organised by Capel Berea Newydd & St John's Methodist Church.

Thursday 20th January, 10:30am on Zoom, organised by Penrallt & Emaus.

Friday 21st January (TBC – details to follow) – Prayer service at Our Lady and St James.

Monday 24th January, 7:30pm on Zoom organised by the Church In Wales & Mosaic.

Please check the church website for Zoom links and further updates.

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). *NB Magnus is still working largely from home at the moment, but the office hours still apply. He will be taking some time off over the coming months, mostly on Wednesday afternoons.*

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 24th January

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

Services This Month

Our services at the moment are all in a hybrid format, with a small congregation in the building and others joining us on Zoom, except where otherwise noted. Due to current Covid restrictions, numbers in the building are limited so please book a place if you are coming – booking links will be found on the church website at www.penrallt.org/services; please also see the website for up to date information about services and regulations, as well as the link for the Zoom meeting and recordings of past services, where available.

Sunday services start at 10:30am. 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); there are also crèche facilities available if you have very young children.

Sunday 2nd January

All-age communion service on Zoom only, led by Becca Williams.

Sunday 9th January

Frontline 1: All the difference in the world. Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 16th January

Frontline 2: Wherever we are. Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 23rd January

Frontline 3: Whatever we do. Preacher: Jon Stammers.

Sunday 30th January (Communion service)

Frontline 4: Together we grow. Preacher: John Thompson.

Communion will be served in a Covid-safe manner to those in the building. Those on Zoom will need bread and wine (or equivalent) to fully participate.

All this month's sermons from 9th January onward are part of our new *Frontline* series, based on material from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC). This is a 5-week course to build whole-life discipleship, helping us take God into our everyday lives and remember that everyday life and discipleship is the focus of our faith and mission. See licc.org.uk/ourresources/frontlinesundays for more information.

Prayer Meeting: Wednesday 12th January at 7:30pm on Zoom (not in the chapel as usual); the link will be available on our website. For more details of this and our weekly prayer meetings, see Prayer Resources later in this newsletter.

Children's Birthdays in January

7th: Jeffrey Packwood; 25th: Rebecca Gao; 29th: Gwyneth Allen

◊ **Alpha**

We are planning to run an Alpha course at Penrallt on Sunday evenings from 30th January until around Easter. We hope to run this in the church building but if necessary it will start online. If you would like to help, please speak to John (minister@penrallt.org). Please pray for this outreach too.

◊ **Baptist Leaders' Fellowship**

The next meeting of the Baptist Leaders' Fellowship is due to be a Zoom meeting on Monday 17th January led by Siân Rees, the Director of Evangelical Alliance Wales. Please contact the church office if you would like the Zoom details. Anyone in any role of leadership in any area of church life is welcome.

◊ **Building**

Please note that in line with current Covid regulations numbers in the building are limited. We recommend booking a place in advance to attend one of our services so we can ensure there is space for you (if there are spaces available, others may be admitted but priority will be given to those who have booked). You must wear a mask (unless exempt) and comply with other Covid regulations (see www.penrallt.org/services/index.php). If you are coming to the church building during the week, please contact the office to check whether anyone is there.

◊ **Church Fellowship Walk**

The next fellowship walk, on Sunday 6th February at 1:30pm will be a flat walk from Bangor Nature Reserve in Tal-y-Bont towards Abergwyngregyn along the coastal path (and back). Although flat it is a mud path rather than tarmac and can be narrow in places. Booking is required for Track & Trace purposes; more details on the booking page: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/penrallt-fellowship-walk-tickets-236250831597>

◊ **Church Meeting**

Our next church members' meeting is due to take place on Monday 17th January at 7:30pm. We were hoping to hold it in the church building but due to Covid restrictions it will instead be on Zoom (details will be emailed to members). If you are not a member but would like to be, or to find out what it involves, please speak to John (minister@penrallt.org) or Owen (secretary@penrallt.org).

◊ **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**

At present we are not taking up an offering during our services but if you would like to give financially towards the work of Penrallt, our mission partners and other projects we support, there is now a donations box at the front of the chapel (near the ramp) which you can use for that purpose. If you 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. If you find yourself in financial difficulty or know someone else that is struggling, please speak with 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**

We encourage you to join one of our homegroups if you are not already in one, as they are invaluable in helping us to deepen our relationship with the Lord and with one another. The groups currently meet on Zoom and other online platforms on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Tuesday and Friday mornings (most groups meet weekly), although some groups are beginning to return to physical meetings. Contact the church office to find out more or be put in touch with a group.

There are contact, care and prayer groups to enable people to stay connected and receive prayer support even if they are not in a homegroup; these groups do not meet together but each one has a designated person to contact the other group members regularly. Once again, please contact the church office if you are not part of a contact, care & prayer group or a homegroup and would like to be.

◊ **Mission Prayer Meeting**

The Penrallt mission group will be meeting on Zoom at 7:30pm on Wednesday 26th January to hear updates from our mission partners around the world and to pray for them. Please contact the church office if you would like the Zoom details to join this meeting.

◊ **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: Magnus Forrester-Barker (07890 109645); Geoff Moore (01248 410582); Gwen Hicks (01248 353648); Monica Morris (01407 840439), Abi Penney (07776 270399); John Thompson (07931 150697).

◊ **Penrallt on Facebook and YouTube**

We have three Facebook groups:

- Penrallt (www.facebook.com/groups/2402772192)
a general group for information and social interaction
- Penrallt Prayer Point (www.facebook.com/groups/302627593231755)
a private group (as defined by Facebook, i.e. request to join)
specifically to share prayer requests and encouragements
- Penrallt Student Fellowship (www.facebook.com/groups/195300234272943)

We also have a YouTube channel and a Facebook page (both called *Penrallt Baptist Church*), as well as another Facebook page for our young people:

- www.youtube.com/channel/UCwK0_IPqAVqGKwQREg6JhHg
- www.facebook.com/penralltbc
- www.facebook.com/penralltyouth

◊ **Prayer Resources**

Send prayer requests, thanksgivings and testimonies to our email prayer diary via office@penrallt.org – email this address, too, to subscribe to the prayer diary, which goes out every week (usually on Mondays). We also have a Facebook prayer group (see above), which allows more interactive sharing of prayer requests and updates, as well as prayer meetings via Zoom on **Wednesdays at 11:30am** and **Saturdays at 8:30am**; please contact the church office if you need the connection details for either meeting (which are also posted in the prayer diary every week); *NB the Saturday meeting will resume on 15th January after its Christmas break*. We also have a monthly prayer meeting, which this month will also be on Zoom (not in the church building as usual) on **Wednesday 12th January at 7:30pm** and will focus on praying for our forthcoming Alpha course; the link will be available on the church website.

◊ **Students**

We are delighted to welcome students to Penrallt. You are encouraged to take part in church activities and join a homegroup. For more information about student activities and how Penrallt can support you, and vice versa, please contact John on students@penrallt.org or see our Penrallt Student Fellowship Facebook group.

◊ **Youth Events and Website**

Our youth activities have restarted this term with a Thursday night group called Ignite (usually meeting in the Canolfan at 7pm) and a Sunday morning group called Deeper (taking place during our morning services). Further details can be found on our youth website, www.penralltyouth.org, as well as our *Penrallt Youth Facebook page* and *Instagram group*. Contact our youth worker, Becca (youth@penrallt.org), for more information.

Focus on...



Home Mission

Supporting Baptist ministries across the UK

Home Mission exists 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 £3 million was given in donations to Home Mission in the first 11 months of 2021, falling slightly below their budget target. The money is used to fund over 200 local church projects, ranging from church planting to renewal and mission, as well as supporting mission initiatives at a regional level and facilitating three Specialist Teams that work across the UK in the areas of Faith & Society, Ministries and Support Services (such as pensions and legal advice).

Geographically the closest Home Mission project to Penrallt at the moment is New Park Street English Baptist Chapel, Holyhead. Their minister, Deb Stammers, is a former Penrallt member and we had the privilege of recommending her to South Wales Baptist College for her training and supporting her through this and her subsequent placement in Holyhead which led to them calling her as their minister on the completion of her studies. Although Deb has now been in post for over a year, her ordination (as a Baptist minister) and induction (as the minister of New Park Street) was delayed by Covid. A number of us from Penrallt were able to take part in her ordination/induction service last November.

Deb, in fact, works both for the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) as the minister of New Park Street, partially supported by a BUGB Home Mission grant, and for the Baptist Union of Wales (BUW) as a *Gweinidog Cenhadol* ("Missions Minister") among Welsh-language chapels on Anglesey, partially supported by a BUW Home Mission grant. As a BUGB-affiliated church it is their Home Mission fund that Penrallt contributes to, but we are delighted to see Deb working with both Baptist Unions (and in both Welsh and English).

If you want to find out more about (BUGB) Home Mission you can do so at
https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/220659/Home_Mission.aspx

You can also make individual donations to Home Mission if you wish. But above all, please pray for this work, both in Holyhead and Anglesey and across the UK.

Magnus Forrester-Barker

Magnus is Penrallt's Home Mission Coordinator