



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: July 2020

As my ministry gets into full swing at Penrallt, we are in the midst of a global pandemic. We turn to God in prayer. We pray for the many who are suffering and the many who have been adversely affected in many different ways. We trust in God for the future and we trust him to guide us as individuals and as a Church. We ask for His Holy Spirit as we seek to respond in the love of Jesus.

Our services currently include a series on listening to God. We believe that God is the ultimate reality. He created the universe in its complexity, majesty and beauty. He is Lord of Heaven and Earth. He is omnipotent (all powerful), omnipresent (everywhere all the time) and omniscient (all knowing). He knows what everyone's needs are and what the best plan is for every aspect of life. He continues to have a plan for us as individuals, and collectively for us as a Church. God communicates his will for us and his love for us through the Bible, through his Son, and in a number of other ways. We will be looking at these in our sermon series on listening to God.

Jesus was able to hear God speaking in times of peace and times of stress. In times of joy and in times of anguish.

Anne Long (Listening p147) writes, *"Like Jesus, we can cultivate an inner dialogue with God in the midst of daily life, sometimes talking to him, sometimes listening, opening our concerns, questions, hopes, fears, turning to him with a love glance and feeling his loving response, asking for wisdom for others or for his perspective on a particular task. We do not have to go apart or kneel down before God will speak to us. He is with us continually whether we feel his presence or not"*.

Jesus also calls us to hear his voice. The voice of Jesus gives us peace for now and for eternity. In John 5v24 Jesus says, *"Very truly I tell you, whoever*

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hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life”

As we follow Jesus in our daily lives, we want to be listening to him in order to hear what he is saying generally and sometimes specifically too. It's important to set time aside to listen to God – on a daily basis and occasionally in other ways too. I recently set aside some time to walk up a mountain on my own to listen to God and reflect on this new phase of life and ministry. That time was a blessing to me. I hope and pray that you find blessing as you set time aside too. I hope and pray that we, as a Church, will find it helpful to look at this topic together.

And as we set out in this new phase of the life of the Church, I hope and pray that through his Word, and through his Holy Spirit, we hear and know God's love through Jesus. And I hope and pray that we bring Glory to God.

Blessings,

John

John's Induction – Saturday 4th July

We look forward to holding the induction service for John Thompson as our minister on Saturday 4th July, starting at 2pm and lasting for an hour. Since we are still unable to meet physically the service will take place via Zoom, using a mixture of live and pre-recorded video. Please contact the church office (see below) by Friday 3rd July if you would like an invitation to the Zoom meeting.

The service will also be available to watch on our YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwK0_IPqAVqGKwQREg6JhHg) both live and after the event. This is open to everyone and an invitation is not required.

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); NB Magnus is working from home at the moment but office hours still apply! **Please note that the office will be closed on Tuesday 14th and Tuesday 21st July.**

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Thursday 23rd July

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.

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

5th July: *Listening to God – in practice* (Mark 1:35–39).

12th July: *The Imaginary Dog Collar Challenge* (1 Peter 2:4–10).

Preacher: Deb Stammers (minister of New Park Street English Baptist Church, Holyhead)

19th July: *Listening for guidance – including prophecy* (Acts 16:6–15).

26th July: *Listening to one another* (Joshua 22:10–34).

The service will include communion (bring your own bread & wine!)

Children's Birthdays in July

1st: Odin Griffiths

2nd: Summer Wilson-Williams

5th: Odhrán Patton

13th: Cai Davies

◇ **Deb Stammers**

Deb has now completed her college course and the Valedictory Service is due to take place (via Zoom) on Saturday 4th July at 7pm; the speaker is Jenni Entrican. Deb is keen not to take people away from John's induction earlier in the day but if you would like to attend her service too you are very welcome. Please contact the church office for details of how to access the meeting. NB Deb will be preaching at our service on Sunday 12th July.

◇ **Encouragement from EA Wales**

We have received a postcard from Siân Rees, the National Director for Evangelical Alliance Wales (and our preacher on 31st May this year), saying "To all at Penrallt, we are cheering you on fiercely and covering you in prayer. Keep going! (1 Cor. 15:58)". Be encouraged – and don't forget to pray for Siân and her EA colleagues too.

◇ **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. Contact the church office to find out what is available.

◇ **Midweek Prayer Meetings**

Every Wednesday at noon we hold a short prayer meeting via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/201027611?pwd=ZzhiZ2xjRmVjTTVnOStERXh5YnZ0Zz09>
(note that the link now includes a password; it will only be active while the meetings are running).

◇ **Mission Prayer Meeting**

Our quarterly mission prayer meeting will be on Monday 27th July, using Zoom. Please contact the church office if you would like to participate, so that we can send you a link for the meeting.

◇ **News Mailing List**

We have set up a newsletter mailing list so that you can receive an emailed link to each month's newsletter when it is published, as well as other news announcements. If you would like to join (or leave) the mailing list, please contact the church office on office@penrallt.org – note that church members and other regular attenders for whom we have email addresses have automatically been added to the mailing list, though they will be removed on request.

◇ **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' AGM**

Our Annual General Meeting (postponed from April) will take place via Zoom on Monday 6th July 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. You can send prayer requests, thanksgivings and testimonies to our electronic prayer diary via office@penrallt.org – email this address, too, to request to receive the prayer diary, which is emailed out every week (usually on Monday afternoon).

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.

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.

◇ **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).

◇ **Virtual Choir**

We are hoping to put together a virtual choir to make a video of the song "Father we love you" in four-part harmony. Please contact the church office as soon as possible if you would like to take part.

Focus on...



**"WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME STORM,
BUT WE ARE NOT ALL IN THE SAME BOAT"**

In the midst of the current Coronavirus crisis, many are beginning to wonder what life might look like afterwards. Might this be a chance to create a new normal? For many years, Tearfund has walked alongside communities around the world as they respond to disasters, helping them to recover and create a more resilient 'new normal'. Now, we each face a similar opportunity: how can we 'build back better' and what is the church's role.

We don't have to return to the old system that keeps people in poverty and damages the environment. Together, we can protect those most vulnerable in this crisis and reboot the economy in a fair and sustainable way. Tearfund are calling for a World that allows every person to flourish-along with all creation. This is a once in a generation opportunity to build a better reality together and this month, I want to bring your attention to Tearfund's REBOOT CAMPAIGN and encourage you to visit their website: <https://www.tearfund.org/>

Families – For many families in poorer countries, being in lockdown means no longer being able to earn enough that day to feed your children. In places where malnutrition is already a problem, even more people are going hungry and face the risk of starvation.

Pray for Tearfund and other aid organisations to be able to get food, financial aid and emotional support to people whose already fragile circumstances have become desperate because of the pandemic.

Healthcare – Millions around the World have no access to the Healthcare they need, some have to walk miles just to get near their local clinic. In South Sudan there are only 4 ventilators for a population of 11 million.

Pray for Tearfund partners who are setting up hand-washing stations, distributing soap and provide hygiene training.

Government & Society – Many governments in developing nations are not able to provide people with the extra financial support we are receiving in the UK. In many countries 80% of the population rely on daily wages ie Pakistan. There are also places in the world where lockdown and social distancing is impractical or even impossible, such as for the millions living in refugee camps.

Pray for God to protect people living in refugee camps from coronavirus ,such as the half a million Rohingya people in the world's biggest refugee camp in Bangladesh. Pray for the leaders of these camps as they begin to respond.

'Let Light shine out of darkness'-2 Corinthians 4:6

Averil