



# Penrallt Baptist Church

**Newsletter: November 2021**

## ***How are you doing with 'being a disciple who makes other disciples'?***

Jesus gives us the challenge to be disciples, and to make disciples in Mat 28v19. This is a challenge individually and collectively. It's not easy, but we have a model from the early disciples in the book of Acts. They were gathering together for worship, encouraging one another, learning together, helping the poor, healing the sick, working for justice and spreading the good news of Jesus. They did this as diverse groups of communities working together. Looking back at our last month in Penrallt, we've also had opportunities to be disciples who make other disciples. Encouraging one another in life and in mission together, responding to needs in the community and reaching out to our community in love together.

It was good to 'walk for Christian Aid' as Cytûn churches in Bangor. Gathering on Siliwen fields and then on Roman Camp ahead of the COP26 summit in Glasgow. We read and we prayed together and we sent our group photo to add to the Christian Aid campaign. Perhaps you couldn't come in person and you engaged online – that's great too. You can still get involved through the Christian Aid or Tearfund websites. This helps people inside and outside the church see that we care about the environment. There are lots of different ways we can demonstrate our care for the environment. Disciples intentionally seeking to make other disciples.

Our Harvest service was our outreach to support local foodbanks – sharing the love of God with our community and looking at our missionaries in the wider world – and highlighting the need of the persecuted church too. And our light party – provided a fun Christian alternative. Helping one another by providing an alternative when there are things going on that we don't really want our families to be part of. There were many more events I could mention too. Disciples intentionally seeking to make other disciples.

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Penrallt Baptist Church, Holyhead Road, Bangor LL57 2EU

Tel: 07934 231788; Email: [office@penrallt.org](mailto:office@penrallt.org); Website: [www.penrallt.org](http://www.penrallt.org)  
Office hours: Mon–Fri 10am – 3pm; Administrator: Magnor Forrester-Barker

Minister: John Thompson; 07931 150697; [minister@penrallt.org](mailto:minister@penrallt.org)  
Secretary: Owen Lloyd-Evans; 07941 612868; [secretary@penrallt.org](mailto:secretary@penrallt.org)  
Treasurer: Averil Francis; 01248 421744; [treasurer@penrallt.org](mailto:treasurer@penrallt.org)

Thank you also for praying for all that is going on in the church too. Hopefully as you read this month's newsletter you'll pray for this month's events too and for the church as we prepare for Christmas.

Being part of a church community is an essential part of 'being a disciple who is making other disciples'. Discipleship is something individual but it is also something that we're called to do together as a church community and in smaller mission-focused communities within our church community. Making other disciples is the calling of Jesus, and this is what our hearts long for. It's how we are wired. We step out in faith trusting God that he will empower us by his Holy Spirit.

Let's help and inspire one another to be disciples who make other disciples.

*John*

### ***Children's Birthdays in November***

16<sup>th</sup>: Reuben Thompson

22<sup>nd</sup>: Ari Bale

### ***Church Office***

The church administrator, Magnus, can be contacted on [office@penrallt.org](mailto:office@penrallt.org) or 07934 231788 during the church office opening hours (10am – 3pm Monday to Friday, except Bank Holidays). *NB Magnus is still working mostly from home at the moment, but the office hours still apply. He is usually in the office on Tuesday and Friday afternoons but it's as well to check before travelling in to see him.*

### **Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

Please send information to Magnus ([office@penrallt.org](mailto: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. It is not currently necessary to book places for the service but other Covid regulations remain in place and the situation could change at short notice so please keep an eye on our website ([www.penrallt.org/services](http://www.penrallt.org/services)) for up to date information, as well as the link for the Zoom meeting and recordings of past services, where available.

Services start at 10:30am on Sunday mornings. Children and young people go out part way through the service for Sunday school (up to 11) or *Deeper* (12 –17); there are also crèche facilities available if you have very young children.

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

*Jesus – Power over evil* (Luke 11:14–28). Preacher: James Goodman.  
After this service there will be a fellowship walk, starting at 1pm. See the next page for more information.

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November** (Remembrance Sunday)

Preacher: John Thompson.  
This service will include an Act of Remembrance at 11am.

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

*Lights, signs and illumination* (Luke 11:29–36). Preacher: *TBC*.

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November** (Advent Sunday + Communion)

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 take part.

The sermons on 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November are part of our ongoing series, [Love, Trust and Follow Jesus](#). Previous sermons in the series can be found on our website.

***Prayer Meeting:*** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30pm in the chapel. For more details of this and our weekly Zoom prayer meetings, see Prayer Resources later in this newsletter.

## ***Bangor University Remembrance Service***

Our minister, John, as one of the chaplains in the University Chaplaincy team, will be leading a short service of Remembrance on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November on the steps outside PJ Hall (Main University Building) (or at Penrallt, in the case of extremely bad weather). You are welcome to attend – please aim to arrive at 10:45am for a 10:50 start. More details will be available on the chaplaincy website: [www.bangor.ac.uk/studentservices/faith/index.php.en](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/studentservices/faith/index.php.en)

## ***Christmas is Coming***

### ***Dates For Your Diary and other Important Information***

Our Advent and Christmas program for this year is currently shaping up as follows:

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November: Advent Sunday (communion service)

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December: Nativity Service, led by the Sunday school and youth groups. Rehearsals start on 14<sup>th</sup> November and we would love the parents and carers of our children and young people to be involved. Please speak to Wendy Lemon for more information.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December: Cytûn Carol Singing at Morrisons for Christian Aid (6pm, TBC).

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December: Christingle service at 4:30pm (NB this will be in the building only, with no recording or broadcast). This is an all-age activity service, and is a great event to invite your friends and neighbours to as it provides a gentle introduction to what Christmas is all about.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Morning service at 10:30am

### ***BSL Carol***

We are hoping to record a video of a carol in British Sign Language to use during our Christmas services. Ability to sing is not required for this project, and Siân Whitton will be helping us with the BSL needed for signing! Please contact the church office if you would like to know more, or to sign up.

### ***Other News & Information***

#### **◇ Baptist Leaders' Fellowship**

The BLF (not just for ministers!) will be meeting in Old Colwyn Baptist church on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November, with Tim Presswood, a regional minister in the North Western Baptist Association, leading a study on the role that eating together plays in the spiritual life of Pioneer communities. Places are limited but they will also be running on Zoom. Contact the church office for more information.

## ◇ **Building**

It is no longer required to book places to attend our services, but you must still wear a mask (unless exempt) and comply with other Covid regulations (see [www.penrallt.org/services/index.php](http://www.penrallt.org/services/index.php)). If you need to enter the church building for any other purpose during the week, please contact the church office beforehand to obtain permission and arrange access.

## ◇ **Church Fellowship Events**

This month's fellowship event, on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November, is a walk along the converted railway path from Port Penrhyn, starting at 1pm. This is suitable for all ages. Booking is required for Track & Trace purposes; more details on the booking page: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/penrallt-fellowship-walk-tickets-193648898067](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/penrallt-fellowship-walk-tickets-193648898067)

## ◇ **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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:sarah.jackson.home@gmail.com)) or John Thompson ([minister@penrallt.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## ◇ **Ordination / Induction**

Deb Stammers invites friends from Penrallt to her ordination and induction service in Holyhead on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November. The service will be held at 2:30pm at Bethel Welsh Baptist Chapel, Edmund Street, Holyhead, and will be followed by a buffet in the Town Hall. Please let Deb know ([deb.stammers@btinternet.com](mailto:deb.stammers@btinternet.com)) by 15<sup>th</sup> November if you are planning to attend so they have an idea of numbers.

## ◇ **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), John Thompson (07931 150697).

## ◇ **Penrallt on Facebook and YouTube**

We have three Facebook groups:

- *Penrallt* ([www.facebook.com/groups/2402772192](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2402772192))  
a general group for information and social interaction
- *Penrallt Prayer Point* ([www.facebook.com/groups/302627593231755](https://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](https://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/UCwK0lPqAVqGKwQREg6JhHg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwK0lPqAVqGKwQREg6JhHg)
- [www.facebook.com/penralltbc](https://www.facebook.com/penralltbc)
- [www.facebook.com/penralltyouth](https://www.facebook.com/penralltyouth)

## ◇ **Prayer Resources**

Send prayer requests, thanksgivings and testimonies to our email prayer diary via [office@penrallt.org](mailto: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). We also have a monthly prayer meeting in the church building, which this month will be on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30pm**.

The Baptist Union have resources for prayer and reflection at [www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338269/Prayer\\_and\\_reflections.aspx](http://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338269/Prayer_and_reflections.aspx) and at [www.nwba.org.uk/](http://www.nwba.org.uk/) with encouraging articles and stories, prayer broadcasts and reflections.

## ◇ **Students**

We are delighted to welcome new and returning students, who are encouraged to take part in church activities and join a homegroup. We are also running lunches on Sundays for students. Our student co-ordinator, Ryan, is taking a break at the moment to concentrate on his studies and his family; for more information about student activities and how Penrallt can support you, and vice versa, please contact John on [students@penrallt.org](mailto:students@penrallt.org) or see our [Penrallt Student Fellowship Facebook group](#).

## ◇ **Tech Team**

It takes a lot of work behind the scenes to make our services happen. We are very grateful to our small but dedicated tech team who do their best to ensure that you can see and hear what's going on. If you would like to join the team there is always room for more volunteers. Some technical competence is useful but prior experience of the technology we are using is not required as training can be provided. Please speak to Owen or Magnus if you can help.

## ◇ **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](http://www.penralltyouth.org), as well as our [Penrallt Youth Facebook page](#) and [Instagram group](#). Contact our youth worker, Becca ([youth@penrallt.org](mailto:youth@penrallt.org)), for more information.

*Focus on...*



*The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the World and all who live in it –  
Psalm 24:1*

Climate change threatens the natural balance of the World. More frequent storms, droughts and floods mean crops ruined, people going hungry and children missing out on education. To tackle it we must radically rethink the global economy and live within the limits of our environment.

Tearfund work towards a World where every person's basic needs are met, where all human beings have a chance to flourish and where we all live within our environmental limit. Tearfund are committed to relief and development -finding ways to support sustainable livelihoods while at the same time protecting or improving the environment and reducing economic inequality.

In November , the UK hosts the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate change summit, COP26 .As Christians and the Church, we must answer God's call to love our neighbours and care for creation.

What can I do:-

**Add your voice**-Sign our petition at [tearfund.org/declaration](https://tearfund.org/declaration) calling on the **UK government to lead the world to a greener, fairer future that limits global warming to 1.5°C**

Pray-Sign up to receive regular prayer points about the climate emergency to your phone. Text PRAY to our prayer feed number +44(0)7916 874441 using your phone's SMS messaging app.

Engage your Church-Visit [tearfund.org/reboot](https://tearfund.org/reboot) to find plenty of resources.

Prayers-Ahead of COP26 join Tearfund in praying for UK Prime Minister who is chairing the conference and other World Leaders to make decisions that will limit global warming backed with solid plans and finance.

Strong outcomes for the poorest countries in the World that are suffering the worst impacts of climate change.

As Christians we need to understand that creation care is a gospel issue and an issue of justice. The church needs to know that we are all neighbours , that what we do impacts each other. Churches across the world have the potential to hold those in power to account and demand change.

*If you would be interested in finding more about Tearfund, please contact Averil, Penrallt's Rep.*