



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: February 2021

New Series: Discipleship: How to become people who Love, Trust and Follow Jesus

When I was praying about this new series, I felt drawn to this idea that if we call ourselves Christians, then we are aiming to be followers of Christ. Not just in what we do, but in remodelling ourselves toward His character and His personality. I really felt that this focus wasn't simply going to be a list of rules or methodology – however helpful they are. But I couldn't quite see how it was going to work.

Then God really spoke to me at Fresh Streams – as he often does. I really sensed his love for me, his 'speaking tenderly' to me. It refreshed my relationship with Him. Yes, even at an online conference. When God really speaks to you it's quite arresting and exciting.

As the conference developed I got a sense that imitating Jesus, and becoming like Jesus should flow from our relationship with Jesus. Not by trying to follow a formula, but by being like him and because of a desire in our hearts.

Then Andy Glover spoke, saying that we want to be those who 'Love, Trust and Follow Jesus'.

I found this phrase strangely interesting. It gradually dawned on me that this was it. In order to follow Jesus, we have to trust Jesus. You are not going to truly follow someone that you don't trust. And in order to trust Jesus, we have to love Jesus. You're not going to truly trust someone that you don't love. In the meeting I wrote on the chat: "You have to Love before you can really trust. You have to trust before you can really follow. Do I really love? Do I really trust? Do I really follow? Do I need to go back to spend time with Jesus and love more? Do I need to wait on God and trust more? Do I need to listen and hear and follow more."

Penrallt Baptist Church, Holyhead Road, Bangor LL57 2EU

Tel: 07934 231788; Email: office@penrallt.org; Website: www.penrallt.org
Office hours: Mon–Fri 10am – 3pm; Administrator: Magnus Forrester-Barker

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

I believe that this is for the whole church at this time. After each sermon/service, please take a few minutes to reflect and pray through and write an answer to:

- How does this help me to Love Jesus more? (Or I *really love* the way that Jesus ...)
- How does this help me to Trust Jesus more?
- How does this help me to Follow Jesus more?

Please send me your answers and thoughts too. I believe that God speaks to and through all of us together. I hope you'll join me as we consider 'Who Jesus Would Be' and as we continue our walk of discipleship together.

Blessings,

John

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, except Bank Holidays; **the office will be closed on Tuesdays until the end of March**). *NB Magnus is working from home at the moment but office hours still apply.*

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 21st February

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

Children's Birthdays in February

7 th : Afan Hedd Whitton	8 th : Sophie Toplis
10 th : Rosa Tough	21 st : Harmony Wilson
23 rd : Tommy Capper	27 th : Siôn Davies

Services This Month

All our services remain online for the moment. All are open to everyone, including students. Please feel free to browse the online services — the service pages are available at any time once they are up (usually by the day before the specified date), but we recommended starting them at 10:30 on Sunday mornings, which should let you finish just in time to join us on Zoom for a chat straight afterwards at 11:30am (visitors are welcome and you can join without a camera if you prefer). More details and links will be found on our website: www.penrallt.org.

This month's sermons are all in our new series, ***Discipleship: How to become people who Love, Trust and Follow Jesus***. The first sermon in the series was on Sunday 31st January and all the sermons will be available at www.penrallt.org/sermons/series.php

7th February:

Jesus speaks from the heart

Luke 4:14–30. Preacher: John Thompson.

14th February:

Jesus confronts and overcomes evil and heals sickness

Luke 4:31–41. Preacher: Lesley Jackson.

21st February:

Jesus hears God and calls others to the gracious call of God

Luke 4:42–5:11. Preacher: Andy Lewis.

Also on 21st February: We will be joining in an all-Wales prayer meeting organised by the South Wales Baptist Union. This will be online at some point during the evening. Please watch [our website](#) for further details, which will be posted as soon as possible. *NB this event will be instead of our café service for this month.*

28th February:

Communion service.

Jesus heals, transforms and forgives

Luke 5:12–26. Preacher: John Thompson.

The communion will be live on Zoom at 11:30am (followed by a chat as usual). You will need bread and wine (or equivalent) to fully take part.

◇ **All-Wales Prayer meeting**

South Wales Baptist Association are organising an all-Wales prayer meeting for the evening of Sunday 21st February. We encourage you to participate. Please see [our website](#) for time and connection details, which will be published as soon as possible once we receive them.

◇ **Building**

We are hoping to be able to restart some activities in our building soon but for the moment please do not enter unless absolutely necessary and even in that case please contact the church office beforehand.

◇ **Café Church**

Our monthly Sunday evening Café Church is taking a break in February.

◇ **Children's Work**

Sunday school for 5–11s meets online every Tuesday at 6pm via Zoom, for about 45 minutes. There is a Facebook messenger group used by families in the church for general communication and support. We share information about church activities for children and families but also use it to support one another with whatever is happening.

Please contact the church office if you would like to join in.

◇ **Cytûn AGM**

Bangor Cytûn (Churches Together in Bangor) will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Zoom on Wednesday 10th February at 7:30pm. The guest speaker will be Siân Rees, National Director of Evangelical Alliance Wales. Penrallt will be taking the chair of Cytûn for the next year from this meeting. A Zoom link is available on our [website](#).

◇ **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**

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. 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. While we are unable to meet physically, the groups are meeting on Zoom and other online platforms on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Tuesday and Friday mornings (most groups meet weekly). 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; unlike the homegroups 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.

◇ **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); Monica Morris (01407 840439), 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 Students* (www.facebook.com/groups/195300234272943)

There is also a Facebook page and a YouTube channel (both called *Penrallt Baptist Church*):

- www.facebook.com/penralltbc
- www.youtube.com/channel/UCwKO_IPqAVqGKwQREg6JhHg

◇ **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, and prayer meetings via Zoom on Wednesday lunchtimes at noon and Saturday mornings at 8:30am (please contact the church office if you need the connection details for either meeting).

The Baptist Union have resources for prayer and reflection at www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338269/Prayer_and_reflections.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).

◇ **Tiny Garden Church**

New Park Street Baptist Chapel in Holyhead (see last month's Focus article) are starting a new venture called *Tiny Garden Church*, aimed at encouraging people to grow their own vegetables. This will be taking place via weekly Zoom meetings on Fridays at 3:30pm, starting on 5th February, with 'Muddy Church' prayer celebrations once a month. There will be support and advice from organic gardener Sue Jennings. As the events are online, you don't need to live near Holyhead to take part. Please feel free to pass the information on to friends or family who may be interested. For a Zoom link or more information, please email jenningsue@gmail.com

Focus on...



Towards the end of January Susan and Tony Burt, on behalf of Penrallt, attended a prayer meeting on Zoom, hosted by Bangor University's Christian Union. Rory, one of the student leaders, opened the meeting with a passage taken from Acts 16 (Paul's conversion of Lydia in Philippi). He then cleverly transferred the Bible passage from the first to the twenty first century – Philippi in Macedonia became Bangor in Gwynedd, and Lydia in Acts was transformed into Lydia a second year student at Bangor University. The message is as relevant now as it was then, in the midst of these difficult and uncertain times.

There were quite a few representatives from churches in the Bangor area (including AOG, Mosaic and Ebenezer), dividing into small groups to pray for the forthcoming CU mission, which will take place through six online presentations scheduled during the first fortnight in February. Tony writes: "It was an honour to take part, and to meet some delightful young Christians, on fire for God."

Bangor University Christian Union exists to give every student the opportunity to hear and respond to the great news of Jesus Christ. Coming into this semester, in a new lockdown, the CU needs your support and prayer with the upcoming missions weeks. Spreading across two weeks, from 2nd to 12th February, and focusing on the theme of 'Something More?', there will be a variety of live-streamed podcast discussions and Zoom talks, each followed by interactive question and discussion time.

The CU say: "This is going to be a very different missions week to what the CU is used to so please pray:

- For the online events, taking place at 7:30pm on 2nd, 4th, 5th, 9th, 11th and 12th February
- For the speakers – that God would use their words clearly and effectively
- For CU members – to get involved and to be bold in inviting their friends
- For online publicity – we cannot go out to meet students/distribute flyers and so we are relying on online advertising
- For our energy – that despite being online, we can show the joy of the Gospel
- Most of all, that people will come along and will be saved

If you want to find out more information or want to be added to our monthly prayer letter list, please email: cu@undebbangor.com"

(Information about the mission programme is also available on the Penrallt Students' Facebook group)