



# Penrallt Baptist Church

**Newsletter: November 2020**

## ***Re-calibrate for sustainable growth and keep planting***

In 1 Corinthians 3v6–9 Paul writes: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labour. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field."

Life and faith go through seasons. I've been blessed once again this year by the deep colours of autumn and the leaves making a beautiful, sun-lit golden carpet as I've walked through trees. We are also celebrating Harvest this month. So let's take a minute to think about the rhythms of life and growth in our faith. This passage also invites us to think about our own lives as crops and to think of our church as one of God's fields. God desires to bring about a harvest of spiritual fruitfulness in our lives individually and corporately.

For us to grow, we need to observe good patterns of receiving water and sun and to absorb the nutrients that we need to grow. His word, the Bible, refreshes us and gives us life like water. The presence of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit warms us and gives light and warmth like the sun. Our Christian community and other Christian friends and family provide the nutrients that we need to absorb. We need this every day in our Bible study and prayer life and also throughout the week in our engagement with one another. We grow more effectively in maturity when we support one another and go on the discipleship journey together – like in our zoom home groups and zoom ministries. Even just knowing that we are praying for one another. So consider joining a zoom home group if you are not already part of one, and keep in touch with Christian friends.

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Growth is a long-term project. Are you investing in the right activities for the long-term? Has coping with near-constant change made you reduce your vision to simply achieving short-term goals? Times of change are good times to re-examine our priorities before God. But take a minute to re-calibrate. We need a sustainable pattern for the medium-term and the long-term. And we remember that God also calls us to go to the edges of our 'field' to sow seeds of love, truth and goodness at the edges and beyond the existing community of believers. We are also called to plant other seeds and to nurture the lives of others too. But most of all, to be confident in God. This is His work and we pray and trust that He will bring growth as we take our parts in His plans and purposes. And we pray for a harvest of goodness, righteousness, acts of love and salvation to the glory of His name.

Blessings,

*John*



### **Smile! Jesus Loves You!**

The results of our pumpkin carving, inspired by Wendy's video from the service on 25<sup>th</sup> October, can be seen on the [Penrallt Baptist Church](https://www.facebook.com/penralltbc/posts/3451723131586562) Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/penralltbc/posts/3451723131586562>

**Deadline for next month's newsletter: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

*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 at [www.penrallt.org/services/](http://www.penrallt.org/services/). The services are available 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 will be found on the page for each service. We often break into smaller groups for part of the chat time, from about 11:45am. Newcomers and visitors are very welcome to join us.

**1<sup>st</sup> November:** *Be Confident in God: Together*

(Ephesians 2:1–17; Exodus 5:1–21). Preacher: James Goodman.

**8<sup>th</sup> November (Remembrance Sunday):** *Remember the Former Things.*

(Isaiah 46). Preacher: Jon Stammers.

This service will include an Act of Remembrance at 11am, which we plan to hold live on Zoom (the live service will start at 10:50am and include a mixture of fully live content and shared videos, leading into our usual chat at 11:30am; details may change so please check the website).

**15<sup>th</sup> November:** Harvest Service, including the BMS Harvest Appeal. We will be taking up an offering in the service, which will be split between BMS and a local foodbank.

**22<sup>nd</sup> November:** *Be Confident in God's Presence & In His Holy Spirit*

(Ephesians 2:18–22; Exodus 5:22–6:12).

Preacher: Siân Rees (EA Wales).

**29<sup>th</sup> November (Advent Sunday):** Communion service, with communion live

on Zoom at 11:30am (you will need bread and wine, or equivalent).

Preacher: John Thompson.

The sermons in our current series, *Be Confident In God*, are gathered together in one place at [www.penrallt.org/sermons/series.php?sid=BeConfident](http://www.penrallt.org/sermons/series.php?sid=BeConfident) (with links to the audio recordings and videos as well as the service pages on which each sermon first appeared). There are many previous sermons on the website too, including our recently completed series on *Listening to God*.

## ***Dates For Your Diary***

*See below for more information about these events.*

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Cytûn Autumn Service
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Tearfund Big Quiz
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Café Church: <i>God Will Fully Satisfy</i>

### ◇ **Big Quiz**

Penrallt will host an Online Quiz like no other on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm, as part of Tearfund's Big Quiz Night to fundraise for the Charity's work in some of the World's poorest countries.

We welcome individuals, couples and families to join us. A JustGiving page will be set up – donations are welcome but by no means obligatory; it will just be lovely to join friends for an evening of fun for a great cause. There will be breaks to allow for chats.

To take part in the Tearfund Quiz, there will be an invitation on Penrallt's website to join us via Zoom – we look forward to seeing you on the night.

### ◇ **Building**

Due to recent tightening of Covid regulations we have had to put on hold plans to restart activities such as the monthly prayer meeting in our building. The building remains closed until further notice. If it is absolutely essential for you to enter the premises, please contact the church office for advice. Please do not enter until you have permission to do so.

### ◇ **Café Church: 15<sup>th</sup> November at 6:30pm**

Our monthly Sunday evening Café Church is an informal, interactive service taking place on Zoom (sadly this means you have to provide your own tea and cake). This month's theme is *God Will Fully Satisfy*. A link will be available on the church website.

### ◇ **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). *NB Magnus is working from home at the moment but office hours still apply. Even if you have his other phone numbers, please do not use them for work-related purposes except in case of emergency.*

### ◇ **Cytûn Autumn Service: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

The churches of Bangor will be coming together for a service on Zoom at 7:30pm. A link will be available on the Penrallt website.

## ◇ **Family Fellowship Walk**

Due to the fire-break lockdown, our walk on 1<sup>st</sup> November has been cancelled. We hope to run a walk on the first Sunday of December – please visit the website news page for further information.

## ◇ **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**

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](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. 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.

## ◇ **News Mailing List**

If you would like to join (or leave) the mailing list to receive an emailed link to each month's newsletter when it is published, as well as other news announcements, please contact the church office on [office@penrallt.org](mailto:office@penrallt.org).

## ◇ **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**

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))  
specifically to share prayer requests and encouragements
- *Penrallt Students* ([www.facebook.com/groups/195300234272943](https://www.facebook.com/groups/195300234272943))

## ◇ **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, 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 prayer broadcasts on Wednesday evenings at [www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338268/Prayer\\_broadcasts.aspx](http://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338268/Prayer_broadcasts.aspx), as well as other resources at [www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/337630/Coronavirus.aspx](http://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/337630/Coronavirus.aspx) and at [www.nwba.org.uk/](http://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](mailto:office@penrallt.org)).

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

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

*Focus on...*

## **Mark & Susanna Barrell** **Serving with BMS in Mozambique**

Mark and Susanna, with daughter Lizzie have been serving in Maputo, the capital city of Mozambique, East Africa, since early 2018. Mark is working alongside the Mozambique Association of Christian Lawyers to help build its capacity, and Susanna has been using her skills to support two sewing groups.



In the face of the global Covid-19 pandemic, the Barrell family took the difficult decision to return to the UK at the very end of March. Susanna was able to support her sewing groups from a distance to make 31,000 face masks for use by the Ministry of Health for use in the hospitals in Maputo. Susanna also made scrubs for the local hospital. Mark was able to use his time here on some admin tasks to support AMAC. Lizzie's schooling went online from Mozambique, but she did miss her friends.

Mark and Lizzie returned to Mozambique in the middle of September, to allow time for period of quarantine before Lizzie's iGCSEs started in October. Susanna remains in the UK, awaiting medical tests. Please pray that this matter would be resolved quickly, and the family would be reunited at the earliest opportunity.

Mark reports that AMAC (the legal work) has seen a real increase in clients over this past eight months in the Maputo office. Whilst the student ministry and community legal education has been curtailed due to the coronavirus, the numbers of those needing help grow, especially in employment and family areas. Sergio Massinga took over as Chair of AMAC at the end of October, and we are asked to pray for him as he comes in at a challenging time, as they work through Covid-19.

Give thanks for a grant that AMAC have received from the American Bar Association. This is for a project over a year with a focus on women who are caught up in land law disputes. Please pray for their recruitment both in Beira and Maputo and for a successful start to this project and wisdom on how to do it well during Covid-19.



[www.bmsworldmission.org/people/mark-and-susanna-barrell/](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/people/mark-and-susanna-barrell/)