



Newsletter: February 2023

Learning History – or being doomed to repeat it

I actually quite enjoyed history at school and still enjoy finding out snippets when I visit museums and historic buildings today. I remember as a child if I complained about having to do my history homework, I was often told 'those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it'. This was Churchill's version of a quote by George Santayana who said, 'those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it'.

However, as we look around the world today tragically we see evidence of people repeating mistakes from history on individual levels, organisational levels and national levels. Many of them knew about history. The challenge is to go beyond learning about history, and learn from history. To make better decisions and grow in Godly wisdom.

The history of the people of God in the Old Testament is there for us to learn from as well as learning about God. As we look at the lives of many Old Testament characters, we are not reading about perfect lives and ideal situations. Far from it. We are looking at the ups and downs of the lives and faith of people and communities who were often well intentioned but were flawed. They were also often living in difficult times. We can learn from them. We can also learn as we consider how their decisions and journeys are perfected in the life of Jesus.

Jesus lived a perfect life and was perfectly in tune with God. The life and death of Jesus is the crux of history. His death for us all redeems our imperfect lives. His inspiration and his Holy Spirit helps us. And God makes us a promise that as we journey with Him, he will always be with us. (Matthew 28v19).

Blessings,

John

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Office hours: Mon–Fri 10am – 4pm; Administrator: Magnus Forrester-Barker

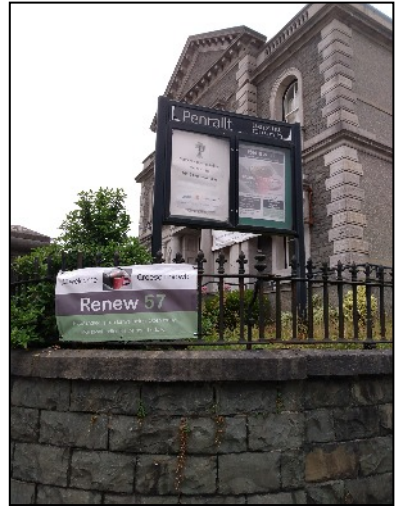
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Renew 57

Anyone and everyone is welcome to come to Penrallt on a Thursday morning, where the Canolfan (rear hall) is open from 10:30am to 12:30pm. Bring a hobby to share with someone else, have a cup of tea or coffee and some toast and a chat. There is a separate prayer space (in a different room) available throughout this time for quiet reflection with optional opportunities to be led in short gentle contemplative prayer in the prayer space at the beginning and the end. This is a place where it is "OK not to be OK". An opportunity to give some attention to our mental and spiritual well-being. Please pray for the team. If you'd like to know more, speak to Adrienne (adrieferrada@hotmail.co.uk) or Magnus (office@penrallt.org) or, even better, drop in and see for yourself.



Eco Church

There will be an ecumenical 'Eco Church' session at St John's Methodist Church, Bangor (on the High Street, next to Lidl) on Friday 3rd February 10:30am. This is a chance to explore, ask questions, chat and learn more about how churches and chapels can better care for creation, by hearing from those already taking action.

The session will be bilingual and all are welcome. It is being run by [A Rocha UK](#), a charity registered in England and Wales (1089276) and a company limited by guarantee (4210020). A Rocha UK is part of [A Rocha International](#), a global family of conservation organizations working together to live out God's calling to care for creation and equip others to do likewise.

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).

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Tuesday 21st February.

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

Morning Services This Month

Our morning services continue to be in a hybrid format, in the building and on Zoom. Please see the website for up to date information about services and a link for the Zoom meeting, as well as recordings of past sermons.

Morning services start at 10:30am on Sundays. 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); crèche facilities are also available for younger children. For all-age services, the children and young people remain in the service but crèche facilities are still available if needed.

Sunday 5th February

Responding to God's love with our Time, Talents and Treasures.

Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 12th February

The greatest Love story ever told.

All-age service led by Becca Williams.

Sunday 19th February

Learning from Gideon: Meeting with God in desperate times.

Judges 6:1–24. Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 26th February (Communion)

Lent.

Preacher: Patrick Baker.

Patrick, a retired former minister of Penrallt now based in South Wales, will be joining us on Zoom. Those on Zoom will need bread and wine (or equivalent) to fully take part in communion.

Service Videos

Recordings of sermons from morning services are available on our [YouTube channel](#) and our own [website](#). Please contact the [church office](#) if you would like a link to recordings of full services.

Giving

We take up an offering during our morning services. There is also a donations box at the back of the chapel which you can use if you would like to give financially towards the work of Penrallt, our mission partners and other projects we support. To explore other ways of giving, please speak to Averil (treasurer@penrallt.org), who will be able to advise.

Evening Services This Month

Evening services begin at 6pm on Sunday evenings and take place in the chapel, except where otherwise noted. Unlike morning services, these are not usually broadcast or recorded.

The programme for February is as follows:

Sunday 5th February

No evening service; instead we have a fellowship walk in the afternoon (see next page).

Sunday 12th February

Connect contemporary worship service.

Sunday 19th February

Prayer meeting and communion service.

Sunday 22nd February

Quiet, contemplative service.

Christmas Giving

The offering from our Christmas morning service raised £166.35, which has been forwarded to [Digartref](#), an Anglesey charity that provide a diverse range of services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Our donations in lieu of Christmas cards raised a total of £72.60 to be split evenly between the BMS Afghanistan Christmas Appeal and the work of Mark & Eve Young with the Lighthouse Community in Llandudno (see this month's [Focus](#) article on the back page for more about the Lighthouse Community).

Used Stamps

In the past, Eunice Smith has collected used stamps to raise money for BMS World Mission. BMS have now ceased to take stamps and Eunice has kindly agreed to collect any stamps that you have saved and pass them on to Leprosy Mission, who will continue to take them until the end of March. If you have any stamps to pass on, please drop them in to the church office by the end of February. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Eunice for facilitating this stamp collection over many years.

Children's Birthdays in February

7th: Afan Hedd Whitton

10th: Rosa Tough

◇ **Bangor University Christian Union Mission Week: Broken**

On the week beginning 13th February, the Christian Union will be running a mission week — a concentration of evangelistic events aimed at students, with opportunities for people to ask questions, discuss topics around Christianity and, most importantly, hear the gospel. Their theme this year is the brokenness in our world, its consequences and what the Bible has to say about it. They will be holding a daily lunch bar from 1 to 2pm and a talk each evening from 7:30 to 8:30pm (the latter at Penrallt). Please pray for the CU as they prepare for and run their various events and pray for a good response from their fellow students. Please contact the church office if you would like more information about the programme of events planned and ways you can support them.

◇ **Church Lunch**

We are aiming to restart our monthly bring and share church lunches after the morning service on the first Sunday of the month, beginning in March. If you would like to be part of the team that will help to oversee these, please speak to Owen (secretary@penrallt.org). Note that the fellowship walks will also continue, but will start a little later in the afternoon.

◇ **Fellowship Walk**

We are planning to have a walk on Sunday 5th February from Tregarth Community Centre along the cycle track to Bethesda and back again, starting with a picnic at 1pm (bring your own lunch). It is a tarmac path, so no specific walking shoes are needed but waterproof clothes and footwear are advisable as the weather forecast is looking damp. See <https://www.canolfantregarth.net/> if you need directions.

◇ **Foodbanks**

Bangor Cathedral Foodbank is open 2 – 3pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, operating from Tŷ Deiniol (the Diocesan Centre) next to Bangor Cathedral. They are able to give people up to two emergency food parcels without a referral from another service. To find out more please visit www.bangorfoodbank.org

Mosaic church also have a Foodbank at Coed Mawr Community Centre, which is open 9:30 – 11 on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. Contact Christine King on 07734 667011.

◇ **Hardship Fund**

The church has a small fund 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. 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. There are groups on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings and on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Most groups meet weekly, though some are fortnightly and we have groups meeting in person and groups meeting online (or a combination of the two).

We also have "contact, care and prayer" to enable people to stay connected even if they are not in a homegroup. This is where a member of the pastoral care team would contact you every 3 weeks or-so to ask how you are and if you'd like to receive prayer support. Please contact the [church office](#) if you are not part of contact, care & prayer or part of a homegroup and would like to be.

◇ **Kindle Kid's Club**

Kindle is a (free) fortnightly kids' club on Fridays from 6 to 7pm. All primary aged children are welcome and there is a space for parents to stay and chat over a panad while the club is on. Sessions this month will be on **3rd** and **17th February**. For more information, contact Becca (youth@penrallt.org).

◇ **Men's Fellowship**

Our men's fellowship group usually meet on the first Monday evening of the month, but for a change we will this month be joining the Soul Sisters (women's fellowship) for their activity on Saturday 11th February. See below for details.

◇ **Open The Book**

Cytûn have an *Open the Book* team that goes into Ysgol Hirael to deliver dramatized Bible Stories. Open the Book is an initiative by the Bible Society and is a fun and effective way to have a Christian presence in assembles at primary schools, and also a great way for Penrallt to continue our links at Hirael. Please speak to Magnus (office@penrallt.org), a member of the team, to find out more.

◇ **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/30262793231755)
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)

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/@penralltbaptistchurch

www.facebook.com/penralltbc

www.facebook.com/penralltyouth

◇ 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 (07827 472637), Abi Penney (01766 890624); John Thompson (07931 150697). Please pray for them.

◇ Prayer Resources

Send prayer requests, thanksgivings and testimonies to our email prayer diary via office@penrallt.org — use this address, too, to subscribe to the prayer diary, which goes out every week (usually on Mondays). There are also prayer cards in the church porch that you can use to submit items for the prayer diary.

We also have a more interactive Facebook prayer group (*Penrallt Prayer Point*: www.facebook.com/groups/30262793231755). To pray with others, you are welcome to join our weekly Zoom prayer meetings on **Wednesdays at 11:30am** and on **Saturdays at 8:30am**; please contact the church office if you need the connection details for either meeting (also listed at the bottom of our email prayer diary each week). Our monthly evening prayer meeting will be combined with a communion service on **Sunday 19th February at 6pm**.

◇ Soul Sisters (& Brothers)

On Saturday 11th February at 10:30, we will be joined by the Men's Fellowship and any others who may wish to join us, to spring clean the Church with lunch provided afterwards (small donation towards the lunch). We shall be grateful if you will bring any cleaning materials, e.g. dusters, cloths, buckets etc. Could you please advise Averil by email (treasurer@penrallt.org) no later than 5th February if you are staying for lunch.

◇ Students

We love to welcome students as part of our church family. If you would like to know more about what activities are available, or if you just want a friendly chat, our student co-ordinator, Becca (students@penrallt.org) would love to hear from you. Also, don't miss our student Facebook group: *Penrallt Students* (www.facebook.com/groups/195300234272943)

◇ Youth: Ignite and Deeper

Our main youth activities are a Thursday night group called *Ignite* (usually meeting in the Canolfan at 7pm) and a Sunday morning group, *Deeper* (during our morning services). Ignite is open to all, and is a social evening with games and activities. Deeper provides opportunity to find out more about the Christian faith. Find out more on our youth website, www.penrallyouth.org, as well as our *Penrallt Youth Facebook page* and *Instagram group*. Contact our youth worker, Becca (youth@penrallt.org), for more information.

Home Mission

To quote the [Home Mission](#) page on the Baptists Together website, "Home Mission is all about helping Baptist churches and individuals to reach their mission potential and bring the love of God to their communities. It is the Baptist family purse..." A substantial part of Penrallt's missions budget each year goes to Home Mission in order to provide financial support for a range of projects in Baptist Churches across the UK that would otherwise not be able to fund them.

One of the newest Home Mission funded projects within the North Western Baptist Association (of which Penrallt is part) is the Lighthouse Community in Llandudno, a pioneer ministry led by Revd. Mark Young.

Mark needs no introduction to many at Penrallt as he, his wife Eve and their sons Luke and Euan were members of our congregation for a number of years and still drop in occasionally. Mark was ordained as a Baptist minister last July and inducted as the minister of the Lighthouse Community in October. So, what is the Lighthouse Community?

It is a church which aspires to go beyond the walls to connect with people who have no church background or who would never choose to step inside a church building. Although they have their own building, Llandudno Baptist Church on the West Shore, their activities are more centred around the Haven Café on Madoc Street in Llandudno, where they hold a regular Café Church to provide gospel outreach and discipleship, working through the Hope Explored course. They are praying and planning in preparation for a mission in West Shore around Easter.

As well as working in partnership with local Baptist churches (with both John Thompson and Neil Rymer from Penrallt on their steering committee), they work closely with two other Christian charities, Hope Restored and Sanctuary Trust.

Hope Restored is a local initiative that seeks to provide hot food for those most in need, along with any basic essentials that they might require in two weekly drop-ins. They also run a non-referral food bank and, most importantly, provide the love, hope and support that are so vital for those going through difficult circumstances.

Sanctuary Trust began in Rochdale and later spread to North Manchester and North Wales, tackling homelessness and related issues, including drugs and alcohol, social and mental health problems. The Lighthouse Community are working with Sanctuary Trust by providing space in their church building to house the Conwy Food Bank and a Ukraine Appeal Clothing Bank. They plan to fit out an office for the food bank manager so she can be warm and organised, and they are hoping for a grant from Conwy Borough Council to pay for the majority of the work.

Please hold the Lighthouse Community and their mission partners in your prayers. Specifically, pray for:

- Continued good relationships as they do the legal side of lease agreements with their charity partners.
- Vision and direction for the missional community.
- Provision of funds and food for the two food banks.