



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: June 2022

An inspirational Christian community

I think it's great that the queen has spoken publicly of her faith in Jesus Christ and His impact on her life. Please continue to pray for her and for all our leaders as we celebrate the platinum jubilee this month. We pray that Wales and all countries in the UK would be good communities that honour God. We have a long way to go, but there are signs of hope. We believe that we at Penrallt, individually and corporately, can make a positive difference to our land – locally and nationally in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I'm always inspired, filled with hope and also challenged when I read the captivating words at the end of Acts 2v42-47. This is a beautiful vignette of the early church. We read of them meeting in the temple courts daily and also meeting in each other's homes for prayer, study, worship and fellowship. We hear of them caring for one another, sharing with one another and helping those in need. Did they have any idea that they would inspire a movement that would grow to 2.4 billion Christians around the globe today?

I believe that their love for one another was the primary reason for their growth. We read in the gospel of John ch13v34: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another". Here we see these words of Jesus fulfilled in practice.

I have the privilege of hearing about what goes on at Penrallt. Every day, people at Penrallt perform acts of love, kindness and care for one another.

As we read on in the book of Acts, opposition comes. Sin creeps into the fellowship from within, and opposition comes with violent force from outside. However, it's amazing to read how the church not only coped but grew

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throughout this. Of course, churches today have to cope with internal problems and external opposition, but the work of God continues in spite of this. In other parts of the world like Iran and China the church is still under persecution, but these are among the churches that have grown the most! Please pray for them and for the 'Open Doors' organisation and others like them. Open Doors help us to contend for the persecuted church by writing to our governments, raising awareness and in directing our prayers.

We read the result... "the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved". This continues across the world today. We see growth in Penrallt too for which we praise God and we seek to continue to follow his guidance for us.

As we journey through the book of Acts we see the story of the early church unfold. The question for us today is how can each of us contribute individually and corporately to making Penrallt more and more aligned to the values of the kingdom of God. Please do get involved in the community of Penrallt and pray for the things you read about in this newsletter. I pray you will know peace and God's love as you do so. This is the continuation of the work of Jesus, and he calls us all to be part of it. To his glory alone.

Blessings,

John

Children's Birthdays in June

27th: Harvey Lemon, Ben Warnock

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). *NB Magnus is still working largely from home at the moment, but the office hours still apply.*

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Tuesday 21st June

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 any Covid regulations which may be in force. The link for the Zoom meeting and recordings of past services, where available, are also on the website.

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); there are also crèche facilities available if you have very young children.

Sunday 5th June

A Community of courage.

Acts 2:1–4, 4:13–31. Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 12th June

A Community working it out in awe, wonder and worship.

Acts 4:31–37. Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 19th June

Father's Day all-age service led by Wendy Lemon.

Sunday 26th June (Communion service)

A Community with accountability and grace.

Acts 5:1–11. 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 participate.

The sermons on 5th, 12th and 26th June are part of a series of sermons on Community based on the early chapters of Acts. Recordings of the sermons in the series can be found on our website.

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 wellbeing. This is running as a pilot until mid-July. Please pray for John and the team.

Evening Services

Following a successful start in May, we are continuing to trial some different evening service formats until the Summer holidays. Some might work, some might not, but we are looking at using that Sunday evening slot to be of use to as many people as possible. Owen (secretary@penrallt.org) would welcome any feedback — but be gentle! And then we will evaluate.

Each of these services will start at 6pm and most are expected to last around an hour to an hour and a half. Note that unlike our morning services, these will not be recorded or broadcast on Zoom. Also, there will not be an evening service on the first Sunday of the month; instead we will continue our fellowship activities in the afternoons and in June we are also participating in the Cytûn Pentecost Praise service (see below).

Here is the programme for Sunday evenings in June:

Sunday 12th June

Monthly prayer meeting led by Lesley Jackson.

Sunday 19th June

No evening service. Please pray for the joint youth event with Penrallt, Mosaic and Lighthouse.

Sunday 26th June

Video evening service. Watching a Christian film in Church and then reflecting on it briefly.

Pentecost Praise

Although we are not planning our own evening services on the first Sunday of the month, we will be joining with the other churches of Cytûn Bangor for Pentecost Praise at 5pm on Pentecost Sunday, 5th June. This will be at Emaus, the Welsh Baptist/Congregational chapel on Love Lane (opposite Aldi and near M&S).

TFT event: Saturday 2nd July

A speaker from the True Freedom Trust is coming to speak on the topic "Understanding and supporting people who are Bible-believing Christians, are gay and are celibate". This is on Saturday 2nd July, 10:30–12:30. Coffee will be available from 10am. Please register with the office that you are coming by email to office@penrallt.org and feel free to bring a guest along with you. This is not designed or intended to be an open event for the public, rather it is aimed at the congregation of Penrallt and will be assuming some understanding of the Christian faith. Please ask John for more information.

◇ **Baptist Leaders' Fellowship**

There is no meeting in June. The net meeting is Friday 15th July. The speaker will be Amy Turner from Gobaith Môn.

◇ **CAP (Christians Against Poverty) help with debt in Bangor**

There is now a CAP centre (Menai Debt Centre) in Bangor. This helps people who are struggling with debt. The first step is to call the free help line number: 0800 328 0006 (Monday–Thursday 9:30–5:00, Friday 9:30–3:30).

◇ **Christian Aid Week**

Penrallt raised a total of £825. Cytun's Plant and Cake Stall raised £200, and the High Street collection raised £160. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way.

◇ **Church Fellowship Events**

Our fellowship event in June will be a Jubilee beach party at Rhosneigr on Sunday 5th June between 1 and 4pm; details on the booking page:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/jubilee-beach-party-tickets-333151905317>

Please see the website for details of the July event in due course.

◇ **Deacons**

Our deacons will be meeting on 8th June. Please pray for them. To find out who's who on the diaconate, see <https://www.penrallt.org/staff>

◇ **Foodbanks**

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 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.

◇ **Giving**

This month we will resume taking 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. 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).

◇ **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. There are groups on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Tuesday and Friday mornings (most groups meet weekly). We also have 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. Please contact the church office if you are not part of a contact, care & prayer group or a homegroup and would like to be.

◇ **Men's Fellowship**

Our men's fellowship group is continuing to meet monthly, generally on the first Wednesday evening of the month. Our June event was a barbecue on 1st June. Please contact Magnus (office@penrallt.org) if you would like to receive details of future events.

◇ **Ordination**

The ordination of Mark Young will be at Morecomb Baptist Church on 2nd July at 2:30pm. Mark and Eve are former members of Penrallt's congregation. Mark will be taking on the ministry at Llandudno in September. Please pray for Mark, Eve and family. All are welcome – please contact the office for further details. There will also be an induction at Llandudno in September.

◇ **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 Student Fellowship* (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/UCwK0_IPqAVqGKwQREg6JhHg

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); Gwen Hicks (01248 353648); Monica Morris (01407 840439), Abi Penney (01766 890624); John Thompson (07931 150697). The team are meeting on 10th June — please pray for them.

◇ **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 more interactive Facebook prayer group (see above). To meet and pray with others, you are welcome to join our weekly Zoom prayer meetings on **Wednesdays at 11:30am** and **Saturdays at 8:30am**; please contact the church office if you need the connection details for either meeting. Our monthly prayer meetings in the church building will now be on Sunday evenings at 6pm – usually on the second Sunday of the month; the next one is 12th June.

◇ **Tea Party**

A huge thanks to Judith and Bob Bousfield for hosting the Tea Party, which raised a massive £335 for BMS World Mission and Christian Aid.

◇ **Women's Fellowship (Soul Sisters)**

The Penrallt Women's Fellowship has now been renamed as Soul Sisters. The next meeting will be on Saturday 11th June, with a visit to Oriel Môn in Llangefni at 10:30 when we hope to have a guided tour of the exhibitions followed by refreshments at Holland Arms Garden Centre. If anyone would like transport, please contact Averil on 01248 421744 or treasurer@penrallt.org A warm welcome is extended to all women, including family and friends.

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

Focus on...

Sarah and Paul Brown

Serving with BMS in Thailand

Sarah and Paul Brown have been working in Thailand for ten years, initially in Bangkok and then moving to Chiang Mai in 2019.

Until the end of 2021, Paul and Sarah were serving with the New Life Centre Foundation, a BMS mission partner. They were supporting, empowering and discipling the youth and women to be able to serve the Lord holistically. As well as the wider community, particularly those who are marginalised. Paul was



assisting to build up the IT ministry and taught English to the youth, seminary students, and leaders from the women's department. Sarah taught baking to the youth, women within TKBC and the community, so they could utilise the skill for a livelihood.

Sarah and Paul were expecting to start a new ministry with the Thai Karen Baptist Convention (TKBC), working with the Karen people from January 2022. However, they had a visa issue that arose which unfortunately could not be resolved before the expiration of the temporary visa they had arranged during their Home Assignment before Christmas. Therefore, they had to return to the UK in March 2022, to wait for their 1-year Thai visa documentation to be compiled and processed before they can apply to the Royal Thai Embassy, London.

Before they left Thailand, Sarah and Paul had the wonderful opportunity to visit a Karen community in the mountains of Mea Hoi. They report that it was precious spending time with the Karen, listening to their hearts, praying, and encouraging each family. It also greatly encouraged Sarah and Paul to see that in the remote areas in the north of Thailand, God's Word and work are going forth.

The Karen families live in very modest homes, single story 1-bedroom houses made from wood, with minimal belongs, little to no modern technology, and living off the land by farming. It may seem like they do not have much, however, their hope in Christ far outweighs all the materials things that we seem to hold dear to us.

Paul and Sarah's home churches are New Testament Church of God, Aylesbury, and Mile End New Testament Church, London.

The Browns have sent us the following prayer points:

For TKBC as they reach out to Karen tribes in northern Thailand.

For the hope in the Lord to remain strong within the Thai & Karen communities.

For more information: <https://www.bmsworldmission.org/people/paul-and-sarah-brown/>