



Newsletter: May 2024

So you think that God is speaking to you?

Crazy though it may seem, we believe that the answer is yes. As we look at the New Testament, we see God speaking to his people and he continues to do so today. God sometimes speaks by highlighting a particular scripture or bringing it to mind. By giving us a single word or a couple of words or a sentence that keeps coming back. God also speaks by giving us vivid pictures or dreams.

Acts 2v17: Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days and they will prophesy.

This is exciting and it refers, we believe, to the era of the new covenant when the Holy Spirit came starting at Pentecost after the resurrection and ascension.

We need to take care — this is clearly an area where problems could arise. Nicky Gumbel, author of the world renowned Alpha course (a course in exploring faith and exploring Christian Basics), says that God speaks to us in 5 ways: commanding scripture, compelling Spirit, counsel of the saints, common sense, circumstantial signs. All should be deployed. We are instructed to test all prophecy, and God never contradicts his Word, the Bible. Also, prophecy is always going to be for our **'strengthening, encouraging and comfort'** (1 Corinthians 14v3). More on this topic in the video recording of the sermon from 28th April which is available to view on the website.

It's been exciting to listen to God in our prophecy services, by doing prayer exercises, by prayer walking together too. So we continue to listen to God and one another. In humility and with eager hearts, we are praying about what God is saying to us today. How we can best glorify him and do the things he is calling us to as individuals and as a church together. We want to connect with God's heart and plans to bring blessing and good and beauty to our local community outside of church, to our church fellowship, to our families and neighbourhoods, to our own lives and to our wider world. Come Holy Spirit!

Blessings,

John

Penrallt Baptist Church, Holyhead Road, Bangor LL57 2EU
www.penrallt.org

Minister: Revd. John Thompson; 07931 150697; minister@penrallt.org

Secretary: Jan Ablett; 07703 188632; secretary@penrallt.org

Treasurer: Cathy Fooks; 07729 892303; treasurer@penrallt.org

Administrator: Magnus Forrester-Barker; 07934 231788; office@penrallt.org (office hours: Mon – Fri, 10am – 4pm)

Information in this newsletter is correct, as far as possible, at the time of publication. Please see the website for up to date information, as details are subject to change.



Christian Aid Week Activities:

Sunday 12th May after the morning service
Cake stall in the Canolfan — small cakes for £1
Please let Sarah know if you can make a batch of cakes

Monday 13th May at 12:30pm
Bilingual service at Berea Newydd
With frugal lunch to follow

Wednesday 15th May at 2.30pm
An afternoon of board games and jigsaws at St John's Church Hall
Afternoon tea at 4pm

Saturday 18th May from 10 til 12.30pm
Coffee morning with plant and cake stalls in Ty Deiniol, Cathedral Close
(The Diocesan Centre)
There will be a street collection on the High Street during the morning.
Volunteer Collectors and donations of plants and cakes needed, please.

Children's Birthdays in May

12th: Oisín Patton

17th: Elena Igweh

18th: Mikel Ifiemor

20th: Tolu Akinkunmi

26th: Desmond Oyelakim

29th: Winnie Audu

30th: Damisi Oluwaseyifunmi

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 26th May.

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

Morning Services

Morning services start at 10:30am on Sundays with an option to join on Zoom if you are unable to join us in the building (Zoom link on website). 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 the crèche is still available if needed.

Sunday 5th May

The Ascension

Acts 1:1-11

Preacher: Donald Poirot.

Sunday 12th May

Christian Aid Week. Service led by Sarah Jackson and Revd. John Thompson.

Sunday 19th May

All-age Pentecost service led by Becca Jackman.

Sunday 26th May

Communion service led by Revd. John Thompson.

This Month's Speakers

Donald is a church member; Sarah is one of our deacons; Becca is our youth worker; John is our minister.

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.

Evening Services

Except where otherwise noted, evening services begin at 6pm on Sunday evenings. Unlike morning services, these are not usually broadcast or recorded. There is no evening service on the first Sunday of the month; instead we have our church lunch and fellowship event following the morning service (see next page). Details are not yet available for evening services for the rest of the month (12th, 19th, 26th May); please see our [website](#) for further information in due course.

◇ Baptist Assembly

This year's Baptist Assembly takes place in Telford, 17th – 19th May. Cathy Fooks will be attending as Penrallt's voting representative. To book places or find out more, please visit https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/411780/Assembly_2024.aspx. Note that the closing date for registration is Sunday 12th May unless all places are booked earlier! The closing date for the Young Adult package is Sunday 5th May.

◇ Baptist Leaders' Fellowship

The next meeting of the Baptist Leaders' Fellowship (BLF) will be at Prince's Drive Baptist Church, Colwyn Bay, on Friday 17th March at 10:30am. The speaker will be Ben Slatter on the subject of "Nurturing Gospel Culture in our Churches. There will be coffee on arrival (from 10am) and a soup, bread and cheese lunch afterwards. The BLF is open to anyone who has a church leadership role at any level.

◇ Christians Against Poverty Befriender Training

You are invited to join an interactive training session on Wednesday 15th May, 10am – 12pm, to learn more about becoming a befriender with CAP. This event is free and does not involve a commitment to becoming a befriender. The training is online for all of Wales and South West England, but there will be an opportunity to meet at Berea Newydd with others from this area and do the training together. For further details and a booking link, please contact Ruth Godding (ruthgoddling@capuk.org).

◇ Church Lunch and Fellowship Events

Our monthly church lunch and fellowship events take place on the first Sunday; this month they will be on 5th May. For lunch, we ask our regular congregation to bring a plate of finger-food, enough for yourself and one or two others, so that we have plenty to share with our visitors. The walk will be at Llanfairfechan, along the front to the bird hides and back, ending at the playground. Please contact Wendy Lemon (wendylemon@icloud.com) for more information.

◇ 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.

◇ Clothes to Go

The Soul Sisters (see below) are planning to hold a 'Clothes to go' event on 14th September at Penrallt. It was initially birthed as an idea of offering unused good quality LADIES' clothes that we have in our possession, for those who are unable to afford new clothes; those who are perhaps unable to afford clothes to even keep warm. However, we are now feeling that we should widen the remit to include BABIES' clothing and CHILDREN's clothing. We all have unused clean, good quality clothing at home, which could be used to bless others. Please, have a look in your wardrobes, drawers and chests, to see if you have any clean, unwanted good quality clothing, and get in touch with us. If you will struggle to store the items until the event takes place, or if you need further information, please contact Averil Francis, Jenny Willis or Abi Penney.

◇ Flowers

Judith says: “If anyone would like to help me with the flowers they would be very welcome. Similarly, if anyone would like to do some for a special occasion just let me know.” Contact Judith on judithmbousfield@gmail.com or 01248 490956.

◇ Foodbanks

Bangor Cathedral Foodbank (www.bangorfoodbank.org) 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.

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

◇ Giving

We take up an offering during our morning services, or you can use the donations box at the back of the chapel 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 Cathy (treasurer@penrallt.org), who will be able to advise.

◇ 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 Cathy Fooks (treasurer@penrallt.org).

◇ Homegroups / Contact Care & Prayer

We encourage you to join a homegroup if you are not already in one, as they are invaluable in helping us to deepen our relationships with the Lord and with one another. There are groups on Monday to Thursday evenings and on Tuesday and Friday mornings, meeting weekly or fortnightly in person, online or as a combination of the two.

We also have “contact, care & prayer” to enable people to stay connected even if not in a homegroup. A member of the pastoral care team (see below) would contact you every few weeks to ask how you are and if you’d like to receive prayer support. Please get in touch with the church office if you are not part of contact, care & prayer or a homegroup and would like to be.

◇ Kindle Kids’ Club

Kindle is our fortnightly Friday night club (6 – 7pm) for primary school aged children. This month it is due to be running on 3rd and 17th May. To find out more about Kindle, please contact Becca (youth@penrallt.org).

◇ Prayer Resources

Send prayer requests, thanksgiving and testimonies to our weekly email prayer diary via office@penrallt.org — use this address, too, to subscribe to the prayer diary, which usually goes out on Mondays. We also have a more interactive Facebook prayer group ([Penrallt Prayer Point](#)). 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 (they are also listed at the bottom of our email prayer diary each week).

◇ Renew 57

Thursday mornings, 10:30am to 12:30pm in Canolfan Penrallt (our rear hall/ community centre). A space for the whole community, where you can bring a hobby to share with someone else or simply sit and chat over a cup of tea or coffee and some toast. A separate prayer space is available throughout this time for quiet reflection, with optional opportunities to be led in short gentle contemplative prayer at the beginning and end of the session. 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. To find out more, please speak to Adrienne (adrieferrada@hotmail.co.uk) or Magnus (office@penrallt.org), or drop in and see for yourself. Please pray for the team.

◇ Soul Sisters (Women’s Fellowship)

On Saturday May 11th we will be visiting the Bangor Museum “Storiell” LL57 1DT where there is an Art exhibition and other items of interest. We will meet at the museum at a later time of 10:45 as the museum does not open until 11 and afterwards we will walk into Bangor for lunch which is optional. If anyone requires a lift or has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Averil. All women are welcome.

◇ Students

We love to welcome students as part of our church family. To learn more about what’s on, or just for a friendly chat, drop our student co-ordinator, Becca, an email at students@penrallt.org. Also, don’t miss our Penrallt Students Facebook group.

◇ Talking Jesus North Wales

Discover what people think of Jesus, Christianity and evangelism in Wales and across the UK at an event hosted by Evangelical Alliance Wales on Wednesday 15th May (10am for 10:30am, to finish by 1pm; light refreshments will be served) at Festival Church Old Colwyn, with Rachel Jordan-Wolff and Rachael Heffer. Learn more / sign up at <https://www.eauk.org/about-us/nations/wales/talking-jesus-north-wales>.

◇ 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 service). *Ignite*, a social evening with games and activities, is open to all. *Deeper* provides opportunity to find out more about the Christian faith. For more information see 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... **Christian Aid Week 2024: 12–18 May**

Seven days, so many ways to make a difference.



Every Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world.

This year's appeal runs from 12–18 May and is focussing on the organisation's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa. Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and landslides. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: more than 70 per cent of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished.

Christian Aid has been working in Burundi since 1995 when it first offered humanitarian assistance to people surviving the civil conflict. Now, alongside local partners, the organisation helps establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). These community-led groups mean people can save and borrow money, making small businesses possible, offering reliable and diverse incomes so families can eat regularly, get medicine when they need it, and build safer homes.

Thirty-five-year-old Aline Nibogora is the chairperson of a VSLA which supports some 25 families in a remote village, in Makamba Province. Aline escaped an abusive marriage only to find herself on the streets begging for a place to stay.

Her life changed when she went to a three-day, Christian Aid-funded community workshop. With a small start-up loan, Aline began trading avocados and peanuts locally. She's now a grocery wholesaler and living on her own plot of land where she's building a home for her family. In the next five years she hopes to expand, so one day she can buy a mill. This will provide a source of income without the need to transport heavy goods over long distances.

"I don't want my children to have a painful life like mine, remembering it makes me weep. I could never have dreamed I would one day have a brick house and be a successful businesswoman, able to feed and clothe my children. This is a plan and I will do it; I am a woman who is an achiever."

This Christian Aid Week — from 12–18 May — supporters are once more stepping up, knowing that every prayer, every gift, every action helps transforms lives.

There are **seven days and so many ways to make a difference** — whether that's church services, special collections, or even a Bible readathon. For those who like a physical challenge there's a new option for 2024 with the chance to take part in 70k in May. You can cover the distance in any way you like, take part by yourself or with a group, and share your progress on a dedicated Facebook page. Find out all the ways you can support Christian Aid Week by visiting the Christian Aid website:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Online donations can be made here:

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/Penrallt>

Or scan the QR code:

