



Penrallt Baptist Church

Newsletter: October 2021

Taste and see that the Lord is Good

The Bible invites us to 'Taste and see that the Lord is good'. When we are planning to eat a cake, we can read about it first. That's not a bad idea. We can find out interesting information about it. Then having decided to eat it, we can wait and read how other people have enjoyed it. We can wait and see what effect it has had on other people. But eventually, the thing we are supposed to do is to actually eat the cake ourselves.

We've been looking at what we can learn about discipleship as we are working our way through the gospel of Luke. Jesus' disciples learned because they were in relationship with Jesus, they trusted Jesus and they followed Jesus. We also need to love, trust and follow Jesus for our journey of discipleship to grow and develop and bear fruit.

At Penrallt we are gradually opening up more and more of our activities. Some in person, some online. Some as hybrid events – in person for those who are comfortable attending in person and online for those who are more comfortable joining remotely. Gathered together as one community together the best way we can. However you attend, we encourage you to dive in. To get immersed and involved in church life. The Christian life is designed to be lived in community – so we'd encourage you to join a home group or Zoom homegroup and be contacted regularly through our Contact Care and Prayer scheme. If you can't access our services online, please make use of our DVD library of sermons and services. We'd also encourage you to get involved in serving on one of our Sunday teams – youth, children, tech, or music, or in a practical team ministry – like cleaning and gardening, and administrative tasks too. All these ministries need people in all of these roles to function effectively, and it's a great way to get to know people too. Also, you will learn more by doing as well as listening. And we'd love to do more mission outreach in evangelism and in showing love to the community in other practical ways too.

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

However you do it, we encourage you to get involved in the Christian life. This is when faith comes to life. When we immerse ourselves in it. When we put into practice what we are learning in our daily experience. You have about 10,000 taste buds on your tongue and in your mouth – allow God to light them up as you taste and see that the Lord is good!

John

Children's Birthdays in October

7th: Anna Warnock

20th: Micah Adams

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 still working mostly from home at the moment, but the office hours still apply.*

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 24th October

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

Services This Month

Our services at the moment are all in a hybrid format, with a small congregation in the building and others joining us on Zoom. It is not currently necessary to book places for the service but other Covid regulations remain in place and the situation could change at short notice so please keep an eye on our website (www.penrallt.org/services) for up to date information, as well as the link for the Zoom meeting and recordings of past services, where available.

Services start at 10:30am on Sunday mornings except where otherwise noted. Children and young people go out part way through the service for Sunday school (up to 11) or *Deeper* (12 –17); there are also crèche facilities available if you have very young children.

Sunday 3rd October

Jesus sends out the 72 (Luke 10:1–24). Preacher: Donald Poirot.

After this service there will be a fellowship walk, starting at 1pm. See the next page for more information.

Sunday 10th October (Safeguarding Sunday)

What's so good about the Samaritan? (Luke 10:25–37).

Preacher: Magnus Forrester-Barker.

Deeper (our youth group) will not be running this week as the young people and their leaders are away at the NWBA Youth Impact weekend.

Sunday 17th October

All-age harvest service led by Wendy Lemon, Becca Williams and John Thompson.

2pm: Cytûn Harvest Walk (see next page for details).

Sunday 24th October

Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 31st October (Communion)

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 take part.

The first two sermons this month are part of our ongoing series, [Love, Trust and Follow Jesus](#). Details of the final two Sundays are still to be confirmed but these are also expected to be part of the series. Previous sermons in the series can be found on our website.

Prayer Meeting: Wednesday 13th October at 7:30pm in the chapel. For more details of this, our weekly Zoom prayer meetings and our mission prayer meeting on 27th October, see Prayer Resources later in this newsletter.

◇ **Building**

It is no longer required to book places to attend our services, but you must still wear a mask (unless exempt) and comply with other Covid regulations (see www.penrallt.org/services/index.php). If you need to enter the church building for any other purpose during the week, please contact the church office beforehand to obtain permission and arrange access.

◇ **Church Fellowship Events**

This month's fellowship event is a walk from Brynrefail to the lagoons in Llanberis (approx. 45 minutes each way on a tarmac path suitable for prams, buggies, scooters and bikes), starting at 1pm on Sunday 3rd October. All are welcome but booking a (free) ticket is essential. More details on the booking page: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/penrallt-fellowship-walk-and-picnic-tickets-174710452667>

For next month's fellowship event, on Sunday 7th November, we are planning a walk along the cycle track from Port Penrhyn. Watch our website or the [Penrallt Baptist Church](#) Facebook page for more information and an Eventbrite booking link nearer the time.

◇ **Church Members' Meeting**

Our next meeting for church members will be on **Monday 11th October** at 7:30pm on Zoom. If you are not a member but would like to be, please speak to John (minister@penrallt.org) or Owen (secretary@penrallt.org).

◇ **Cytûn Harvest Walk**

At 2pm on Sunday 17th October we are joining with the other churches of Bangor for an event in partnership with Christian Aid in support of and to draw attention to the Young Christian Climate Network, who are walking in advance of the Climate Summit in Glasgow. You are encouraged to eat lunch beforehand and perhaps bring an individual cake or snack and a drink to eat together. If weather is bad, we'll stay at Penrallt, watch the Christian Aid video and join together in prayer. If weather is good enough, we'll leave Penrallt at 2pm, walk to the fields on Siliwen road near the stones, be led in prayer there and eat our cakes. Then for those who are able, walk on up to Roman Camp and pray again up there.

◇ **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**

At present we are not taking up an offering during our services but if you would like to give financially towards the work of Penrallt, our mission partners and other projects we support, there is now a donations box at the front of the chapel (near the ramp) which you can use for that purpose. 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. The groups currently meet on Zoom and other online platforms on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Tuesday and Friday mornings (most groups meet weekly), although some groups are beginning to return to physical meetings. 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; 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 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

◇ **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, as well as prayer meetings via Zoom on **Wednesdays at 11:30am** and **Saturdays at 8:30am**; please contact the church office if you need the connection details for either meeting (which are also posted in the prayer diary every week). This month we also have a prayer meeting in the church building on **Wednesday 13th October at 7:30pm**, which we hope will be the first of a series of monthly prayer meetings, as well as our quarterly **Mission Prayer Meeting on Zoom at 7:30pm on Wednesday 27th October** (contact the church office if you would like the connection details).

The Baptist Union have resources for prayer and reflection at www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338269/Prayer_and_reflections.aspx and at www.nwba.org.uk/ with encouraging articles and stories, prayer broadcasts and reflections.

◇ **Students**

We are delighted to welcome new and returning students. Our main student activity this term, mostly taking place on Monday evenings, is following a programme called *Faith: One Eight*, that is based on Acts 1:8 and Joshua 1:8. Its aim is to discover, discern and discuss gospel principles and apply them to our lives to foster individual faith, engage with the wider Christian community and develop evangelistic skills. For more information, contact our student co-ordinator, Ryan (students@penrallt.org) or see our [Penrallt Student Fellowship](#) Facebook group.

◇ **Tech Team**

It takes a lot of work behind the scenes to make our services happen. We are very grateful to our small but dedicated tech team who do their best to ensure that you can see and hear what's going on. If you would like to join the team there is always room for more volunteers. Some technical competence is useful but prior experience of the technology we are using is not required as training can be provided. Please speak to Owen or Magnus if you can help.

◇ Youth Events and Website

Our youth activities have restarted this term with a Thursday night group called Ignite (usually meeting in the Canolfan at 7pm) and a Sunday morning group called Deeper (taking place during our morning services). Further details can be found on our new 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...

Colm & Catherine Ó Brolcháin
Serving in Ireland with Operation Mobilisation



Greetings to you all.

How we praise our mighty God that He was doing many new things in the last year.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wastelands" Isaiah 43:19

Our OM families embedded into churches around Ireland have seen an increase in people interested in Jesus and in church, through watching online services during lockdown. After many years our own church baptised two people this summer, which is a huge encouragement to us to continue our Food Cloud ministry (<https://food.cloud>). Many other small churches are following the new openings for ministry that the Lord is creating.

Catherine continues in Pastoral care for our team of 35; 7 singles and 14 families, she developed a short 3 morning Mentoring course for the team and was involved in all the debriefing of those leaving and much of the training of those arriving... oh yes, the Lord was still able to move His people around the world, His plans prevail!

In March for St Patrick's day, our team hosted our first online outreach! 6 sessions of 90 minutes with 23 participants. We were especially delighted that someone from Penrallt came on the outreach. We had this feedback: "My highlight was listening to the daily devotions and using them to rekindle my heart towards outreach and mission after a spiritually dry period in my life." And, "It has given me more ideas for engaging with people and trying to show Christ's love."

This summer, both Colm and Catherine temporarily moved to the OM base to welcome three short-term teams that OM hosted. We are really amazed that we had any at all, two were with young people from the North and South of Ireland and they had their first taste of street evangelism and publicly giving their testimonies. Here are a couple of quotes: "I understand now that God is calling everyone into mission"; "I'm going to join the team at my church that do outreach on the streets, I never believed that I could do that".

Colm is very encouraged with adding Roscommon town to his weekly Big Red Bus ministry timetable, it's a massive encouragement to the Anglican vicar there, who joins the outreach every week. In Longford three families heard about the local church while they were at the Bus and they attend the OM church plant in that town.

Colm turned 70 this summer and we had a lovely 2 week break in Co. Wexford. Ciara and Sinéad are working in Dublin and Ruairí is in his final year of college.

We have really missed coming to visit you and hope that next year it may be possible, thank you for your prayers.

Love,

Colm & Catherine

