



Newsletter: April 2025

Why did Jesus rise from death? And what does it mean for me?

In a recent survey of 4,000 people in 2022, more than half believed that Jesus could have risen from death. 59% people are willing to accept the resurrection. So the questions that most people have are not “I can’t believe in the resurrection — prove it to me”, they are actually “why did Jesus rise from death?” and “does it mean something for me?”.

Spirituality in the UK has changed drastically in the last 10 years. There is a new openness in society to a spiritual dimension to life. Most people believe that there is a God or a ‘higher power’. The *Talking Jesus* report was done by the Evangelical Alliance and the ‘Hope’ organisation in 2022 — in partnership with a number of other organisations including Alpha, Luis Palau and Kingsgate. It is both an encouragement and a missional imperative for evangelism.

The resurrection is critical to our faith. Paul writes in 1 Cor 15, “*if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith*”, but he goes on to say that Jesus was indeed raised. (a) This gives proof of his divinity. Jesus claimed to be divine. His power over death is the evidence. (b) Jesus claimed to be able to forgive sins. His resurrection is the confirmation that our sins really are forgiven as we trust in him. (c) Jesus is the firstfruits of a future resurrection. Proof that death is not the end — and that we too will be raised with him in glory. In a sublime relationship of eternal love with God. (d) We have new life in Jesus. Our existence today and our eternal future is bound to him. We are somehow emphatically ‘in him’ and we share in his new resurrected life. (e) The same power that raised Jesus is incredulously available to us. His Holy Spirit (Rom 8v11).

What a wonderful message we have to share! Let’s encourage one another with these truths — and encourage one another as we share the good news with everyone we can.

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)

Morning Services

Sunday morning services start at 10:30am with an option to join on Zoom if you are unable to join us in the building ([link on website](#)). This month, the young people (11+) will stay in for all services; children (under 11) will also stay in for the all-age services and will go out to the hall part way through the other services to watch a video. Crèche facilities are available for very young children (supervised by their parents) in all services.

Sunday 6th April (All-age)

Miracles of Jesus: Raising Lazarus

Preacher: John Thompson.

The service will be followed by an opportunity to bring your sandwiches and eat together before Easter Cracked (see below).

Sunday 13th April

Palm Sunday

Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 20th April (Easter Sunday; all-age)

Resurrection

Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 27th April

Communion service led by Becca Jackman.

Service Videos

Recordings of sermons from morning services are generally available both on our [YouTube channel](#) and on our own [website](#). Please contact the church office if you would like a link to recordings of full services. *We would ask you, please, to refrain from taking photos and videos during our services due to safeguarding concerns.*

Evening Services

This month's evening services will both be continuing in our video series on Romans by Andrew Ollerton (note that you don't need to have seen earlier parts of the series to benefit from these). They will start at 6pm and last around an hour. Unlike morning services, our evening services are not normally recorded or broadcast on Zoom.

Sunday 6th April: No evening service

Sunday 13th April

Communion service led by John Thompson.

Freedom (part 2)

Easter Sunday 20th April: No evening service

Sunday 27th April

Service led by Magnus Forrester-Barker.

Hope (part 1)

Cytûn Easter Events

We will be joining together with the other churches of Cytûn Bangor (Churches Together in Bangor) for two events over Easter:



Good Friday (18th April): Passion Play

Starting at 11am at the War Memorial (Glanrafon car park, opposite Pontio) we will be re-enacting the story of the crucifixion, with scenes at the Cathedral and Debenhams (near the town clock).

Easter Sunday (20th April): Service on Roman Camp

Starting at 7am, followed by breakfast at Penrallt. Contact the church office if you need directions to Roman Camp.

Other Events in April

◇ Bangor Youth For Christ Prayer Meeting: Wednesday 2nd April, 7pm

We will be hosting a prayer meeting, led by Bangor YFC Centre Director Grace O'Boyle, in the Twrgwyn Room at Penrallt. All are welcome.

◇ Church Lunch / Easter Cracked: Sunday 6th April

As usual we start the month with lunch together after the morning service. Like last month, we are inviting you to bring your own picnic. We'll set out some tables and chairs in the hall and there will be tea, coffee and soft drinks provided.

There will not be a fellowship walk this month. Instead we will be holding our *Easter Cracked* event in the afternoon. This is our family outreach event for the Easter season. Please pray for the team, and for people to attend and for fun, fellowship and safety. Also that they capture something of the wonderful good news of the Easter gospel message and for a sense of the presence and love of God and that people want to find out more and join in with more of the activities of the church.

PENRALLT BAPTIST CHURCH INVITES YOUR FAMILY TO...

EASTER CRACKED

A FREE FAMILY EVENT THAT EXPLORES THE STORY BEHIND EASTER
WITH ACTIVITIES FOR PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN
(PARENTS/GUARDIANS MUST STAY TO SUPERVISE)

SIGN UP ONLINE!
FIND THE LINK AT WWW.PENRALLT.ORG
OR
SCAN QR CODE

INCLUDES CRAFTS, GAMES,
ACTIVITIES, REFRESHMENTS
AND MORE!

SUNDAY 6TH APRIL
15:00 - 17:00
AT PENRALLT BAPTIST CHURCH

◇ **Church members' meeting: Wednesday 9th April**

The next meeting for Penrallt members will take place on Wednesday 9th April in the building and on Zoom at 7:30pm. If you are not a church member and would like to be, or to learn more about what membership means in a Baptist church, please speak to John (minister@penrallt.org) or Jan (secretary@penrallt.org).

◇ **Soul Sisters: Saturday 12th April, 10:30am**

Soul Sisters is Penrallt's women's fellowship group. All ladies are welcome. This month we will be meeting between 10:30 and 12:00 at Canolfan Penrallt (the rear hall at the church) to discuss and reflect on the roles of women in the Easter story. For more information speak to Averil (francishac3@aol.com).

◇ **Llanw: 21st – 25th April**

Llanw is an annual festival that brings Christians through Wales together to celebrate and deepen our relationship with the living God. It is principally through the medium of Welsh but non-Welsh speakers are welcome and translation facilities are available. This year it is in Llangrannog, from 21st to 25th April. For more information or to book places, visit <https://llanw.org/>.

◇ **Men's Breakfast: Saturday 26th April**

Our men's fellowship group usually meet on the last Saturday morning of the month for food and friendship at Ian Ablett's home in Caernarfon between 9 and 11am. All men are welcome. Please contact the church office or Ian (ianablett57@gmail.com; 07759 718931) for more details, or to offer or request a lift.

Future Dates

◇ **Pathways: Saturday 10th May and 21st June**

Penrallt is hosting the North Wales hub of the *Pathways* training course run by Cardiff Baptist College. The next module is Pathways into Christian Belief. This goes more deeply into Christian Theology. It comprises two sessions, on Saturday 10th May and Saturday 21st June. It is necessary to book in advance (and pay) to attend these sessions which can be attended on a 'per module' basis. For more information or details of how to register with the College, contact John Thompson (07931 150697).

The following events are warmly recommended. Please check their websites for information and note that early bird discounts may be available so you are advised to consider booking early!

◇ **Llandudno Keswick Bible Week: 6th–9th May**

<https://gloddaethchurch.org/bible-week/>

◇ **BUGB Assembly: 16th–17th May**

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/247895/The_Baptist_Assembly.aspx

◇ **Momentum (BUW): 7th June**

<https://buw.wales/momentum-2025-celebrating-the-gift-of-the-spirit/>

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.

Children's Birthdays in April

26th: Eneye Fateru

28th: Alice Onwusa

Other 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. Note that he sometimes works from home or is out for meetings, so you are advised to check before travelling in to the church building.

◇ 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 who 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, Tuesday and Wednesday 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.

◇ Pastoral Help

If you have concerns about your own or someone else's welfare, please contact a member of the Pastoral Care Team: Ian Ablett (07759 718931); Jan Ablett (07703 188632); Magnus Forrester-Barker (07890 109645); Geoff Moore (01248 410582); Monica Morris (07827 472637), Abi Penney (01766 890624), John Thompson (07931 150697). Please pray for the PCT as well.

◇ Penrallt on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

We have three Facebook groups — *Penrallt* (www.facebook.com/groups/2402772192) is a general group for information and social interaction; *Penrallt Prayer Point* (www.facebook.com/groups/302627593231755) is a private group to share prayer requests and encouragements; you can probably guess the target audience of *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 and an Instagram account:

- www.youtube.com/@penralltbaptistchurch
- www.facebook.com/penralltbc www.facebook.com/penralltyouth
- www.instagram.com/penralltbaptistchurch/

◇ 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 (provided any items for it have been received). 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.

◇ Prayer Team

We would love to pray for you and pray with you. We believe that God transforms people's lives. Praying for people and regularly asking God to fill them with the Holy Spirit is a key part of this for many people. We have a team available for personal prayer, wearing blue "Prayer Team" lanyards, at most services. This is often at the end of the service, sometimes during communion or at other times; if you would like prayer please find a member of the team at any time and they will be able to offer to pray with you in an appropriate space, often as a pair.

If you are a church member and would like to be on the prayer team please speak to John or Jan. Our Pastoral Care Team are able to offer a further level of support (see *Pastoral Help* above). Please don't hesitate to approach John or another member of the Pastoral Care Team.

◆ Renew 57 Weekly Drop-in

Renew 57 is a space for the whole community, on **Thursday mornings, 10:30am to 12:30pm in Canolfan Penrallt** (our rear hall/community centre). 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 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 drop in and see for yourself.

<h1>Renew 57</h1>		
www.renewwellbeing.org.uk	www.penrallt.org/renew57	
	<h2>Open every Thursday</h2> <h3>10:30am – 12:30pm</h3>	
	Chat	Shared Hobbies
	Company	Free Refreshments
All are welcome. Please drop in.		<h2>Renew Wellbeing</h2>
renew@penrallt.org 07934 231788	A quiet shared space where it's ok not to be ok	

◆ Students

We love to welcome students as part of our church family. For more information about activities for students, or just for a friendly chat, please get in touch with our student co-ordinator, Holly Redding (students@penrallt.org). Also, don't miss our Penrallt Students Facebook group.

◆ Youth: Ignite and Deeper

Ignite (usually meeting in the Canolfan at 7pm on Thursdays) is a social evening with games and activities, open to all youth (11–17), that we run in conjunction with Mosaic church. *Deeper* (during our Sunday morning service) provides opportunity to find out more about the Christian faith. For more information see our youth website, www.penrallyouth.org, as well as our Penrallt Youth Facebook page and Instagram group, or contact our youth worker, Becca Jackman (youth@penrallt.org).

Colm & Catherine Ó Brolcháin

Serving with OM Ireland

Greeting to you all at Penrallt!

Colm and Catherine Ó Brolcháin have been serving with Operation Mobilisation (OM) in Ireland for many years. In Ireland, Evangelical believers make up less than 2 percent of the population, which is the lowest percentage of any English-speaking country. This spiritual reality is why they are so encouraged by the support of the church community at Penrallt!

As part of the OM team since 2008, Evangelism is Colm's main role and Pastoral care is Catherine's.

OM provides small, developing churches with long term OMs. We host an average of 7 one-week short term outreaches through each year and we accept Interns as part of their College courses.

It is wonderful to see the way small churches are encouraged by having short term teams to assist them begin ministries or to run recurring ministries. Colm and Catherine work at different ends of these outreaches; Catherine is involved in training, cleaning and feeding! Colm then brings them out to the churches and introduces them to evangelism and Irish culture.

OM were part of the recent Nationwide Evangelical campaign 'Patrick's Story'. In total, 198 churches joined the campaign which was run during the two weeks before St Patrick's Day, 17th March. The campaign created excellent Irish resources to be used by the churches and OM was also involved in the front end by hosting the St Patrick's Challenge outreach where 16 people plus the OM team went out to support 4 churches.

Colm and Catherine are looking forward to their visit to North Wales at the beginning of May this year and will participate during the Sunday service on May 4th.



Deadline for next month's newsletter: Wednesday 23rd April. Please send information to Magnus at the church office. All items should be submitted in writing, preferably by email, as early as possible.

News Mailing List. Sign up to receive email notification (and a PDF link) when the newsletter is published each month, as well as other news updates from time to time. To join or leave the list please send an email to office@penrallt.org.