



Newsletter: April 2026

Non dum lucet — While it was not yet Light

So begins the account of Jesus' resurrection in the Vulgate, St Jerome's 4th Century translation of the New Testament into Latin.

The NIV renders this: "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance." (John 20:1; NIV).

The King James Bible, the Authorised Version of the 17th Century, has an immediacy about it: "The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre" (John 20:1; KJV).

But I love the simplicity of Jerome's Latin: *Non dum lucet — while it was not yet light.*

Maybe he chose not to employ the word dark, a word associated with death, because Jesus had already risen!

Jesus, The firstborn from the dead.
The Light of the World,
The One who gives light to all men

The One who had overcome the darkness of death for all the billions of men, women and children who would believe in Him throughout all the centuries to come.

However you translate it this was the best news ever for the whole world.

Oh death, where is your sting!

Mary was brave enough to go out into the dark to seek for Jesus, But it was He who found her. And He called her by her name.

* * *

On a similar search, Anselm, the first Archbishop of Canterbury after the Norman invasion, prayed humbly:

"You have made me and remade me
Yet still I do not know You...
Let me seek You by loving You
And let me love You when I find You."

* * *

The Old Testament records God saying:

“You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.”

And it goes on:

“I will be found by you, declares the Lord.” (Jeremiah 29:13–14; NIV)

* * *

May the Lord find us as we seek Him in our darkness, this Easter.

With love in Him,

Adrienne Ferrada

Cytûn Easter Events

We will be joining with the other churches of Cytûn Bangor for two events over Easter, to which all are welcome:

Good Friday (3rd April): Passion Play and March of Witness

Starting by the War Memorial at 11:30am, processing past the Cathedral and down the High Street to the Debenhams plaza (by the town clock).

Easter Sunday (5th April): Sunrise Service

Starting at 7am at Penrallt (*moved from Roman Camp due to the stormy weather forecast*), followed by breakfast.

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). Children and young people go out part way through the service for Sunday school (primary school / up to 11) or *Deeper* (secondary school / 11 – 18); a crèche is also available for younger children. The children and young people stay in for all-age services; the crèche is still available.

Sunday 5th April (Easter Sunday)

All-age Easter service led by John Thompson.

There will be no fellowship walk after the service this month.

Sunday 12th April

Jesus appears to Thomas

The young people (11+) will stay in for this service.

Preacher: Grace O’Boyle

John 20:24–29

Sunday 19th April

Service led by Colm & Catherine Ó Brolcháin, our mission partners with OM Ireland (see the [Focus](#) article at the back of this newsletter for more about them).

Sunday 26th April (Communion)

Preacher: Mark Young.

Information in this newsletter is correct, as far as possible, at the time of publication. Please see our website (www.penrallt.org/news/) for revised newsletters and more up to date information, as details are subject to change.

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

Evening services usually start at 6pm and last around an hour; unlike our morning services, they are not normally broadcast on Zoom. At present evening services usually take place in the Twrgwyn Room; please enter via the side door.

There is no evening service on the first Sunday of the month. The sermons for the rest of the month will start a new series based on the first few chapters of Mark's gospel. *We plan to record the sermons (audio only) and make them available on our website.*

Sunday 12th April (Communion)

Jesus: Son of God

Preacher: Peter Jones

Mark 1:1–8

Sunday 19th April

The baptism and temptation of Jesus

Preacher: John Thompson

Mark 1:9–13

Sunday 26th April

The message of Jesus and the calling of the disciples

Preacher: Simon Lambourne

Mark 1:14–20

Other Events in April

◆ *No Bangor YFC prayer meeting this month*

We usually host a prayer meeting, led by Bangor YFC Centre Director Grace O'Boyle, on the first Wednesday of each month. This will not be taking place in April, although is expected to run as usual on Wednesday 6th May.

◆ **Renew 57: Every Thursday, 10:30am–12:30pm**

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), free of charge (including refreshments). 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 Simon (s.lambourne565@btinternet.com) or Magnus (renew@penrallt.org) or drop in and see for yourself.

◆ **Fringe Dweller: Thursday 9th April, 7pm**

The Methodist churches locally have invited us to join them at the Uniting Church of St Paul's in Penmaenmawr (Bangor Road, LL34 6LE), to hear pioneer minister and author Jonny Baker reflect on his recent book about Jesus, the Fringe Dweller, who meets with those at the edges. Please contact heather.bangormeth@gmail.com to book a (free) place; food and drink will be served for donations.

◇ **Soul Sisters: Saturday 11th April, 10:30am**

Soul Sisters is Penrallt's women's fellowship group, that meet once a month for a varied programme of activities. All ladies are very welcome. This month the group will meet at Canolfan Penrallt (our rear hall) and you are invited to bring 3 objects which tell your story and a baby photo of yourself. Please contact Averil (francishac3@aol.com) for more information.

◇ **Cylch Penrallt Tots: Monday afternoons in term-time, 1pm**

This is our group for pre-school children and their parents/carers, running during the school term on Monday afternoons from 1 to 2:30pm. £1 per adult (with up to 3 children). Toys, fun play and activities. Snack, tea and coffee. Songs for tots in English and Welsh. Come along for a good space to safely play, to have fun, and to enjoy some good company together. *Please note that the group will not be running on 6th April, which is in the school holiday.*

◇ **Pathways: Saturday 18th April (also 9th May and 13th June)**

Penrallt is hosting the North Wales hub of the Pathways training course run by Cardiff Baptist College. It is divided into modules each split across two sessions. The April session will conclude the module *Pathways into Preaching*, started in March. The next module, on 9th May and 13th June, will be *Pathways into Leadership* and the session in May will be led by Ed Kaneen, Principal of Cardiff Baptist College. 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).

◇ **Tea with Colm & Catherine: Saturday 18th April, 5pm**

Our mission partners [Colm & Catherine Ó Brolcháin](#) will be leading our morning service on Sunday 19th April and also attending Renew 57 the previous Thursday but if you would like another chance to meet, chat and pray with them you are also welcome to join us in Canolfan Penrallt on Saturday at 5pm. Please speak to Ellie or Magnus in advance if you would like to provide a cake for this event.

◇ **Alpha: Monday evenings 20th and 27th April, 6:30pm**

Our current Alpha course at Penrallt started on Monday 26th January and is running on Monday evenings, 6:30–9pm, for 11 weeks with a break over Easter. We enjoyed an away-day in Colwyn Bay on Saturday 14th March (a week later than originally planned). Please keep the Alpha guests and team in your prayers as we reach the end of this year's Alpha but not the end of the journey.

◇ **Wedding: Saturday 25th April, 11am**

We look forward to celebrating the wedding of Carys Burrows and Liam Bray. They would welcome friends from Penrallt to come and celebrate their wedding ceremony and to join for light refreshments in the hall afterwards. They are requesting that people are seated by 10:45am and for Penrallt friends to sit upstairs if possible, to allow the large number of wedding guests to sit downstairs. Please could those intending to come let Stephen or Giselle know, via the church office, so they can plan numbers.

◇ Church Members' Meeting: Wednesday 29th April, 7:30pm

The next meeting for church members will take place in the building and on Zoom on Wednesday 29th April. Papers will be circulated to members before the meeting. If you are not a church member and would like to know more about membership, please speak to either John (minister@penrallt.org) or Jan (secretary@penrallt.org).

◇ Men's Breakfast: Saturday 2nd May

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. *This is actually the April breakfast, moved to the following week due to Carys and Liam's wedding.* All men are welcome. Please contact Ian (ianablett57@gmail.com) or the church office for details, or to offer or request a lift.

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.

◇ Mission Co-Ordinators

Owen Lloyd-Evans and Nia Evans are our Mission Co-ordinators and may be contacted by email on missions@penrallt.org for more information about our mission partners around the world. The [Focus](#) article at the back of the newsletter each month also shines a spotlight on one of our mission partners or some other mission-related activity.

◇ 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 (07776 270399), 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*):

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

◇ 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, or Tuesdays in the event of bank holidays. 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.

◇ 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 feel free to drop us an email to students@penrallt.org. Also, don't miss our Penrallt Students Facebook group.

◇ Youth

Our mid-week youth group, *Youth.*, is run by Bangor YFC with volunteers from Penrallt, Mosaic and other churches. This runs on Thursday evenings at Penrallt during term-time, from 7pm to 8:45pm, and is open to all youth (11–18). It features games and activities, with a gentle presentation of Christian values and principles. Registration is required, and can be done at <https://tally.so/r/noqO4Z>.

Our Sunday morning youth group, *Deeper*, takes place during the morning service, with the young people (11–18) going out part way through the service to study the Bible and apply it to their lives.

For more information, email us at youth@penrallt.org.

Notices for Sunday Mornings

The notices in morning services are now collated by Magnus in the church office, so if you would like a notice included please send it by email to Magnus by no later than noon on the Friday. All notices are included at the discretion of the duty deacon who presents them at the start of the service.

Notices for the Monthly Newsletter

The deadline for next month's newsletter is Wednesday 22nd 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.

Focus on...

Colm & Catherine Ó Brolcháin

Serving with OM Ireland



Greetings to all the Saints at Penrallt Church!

We are feeling excited as we look forward to our visit with you in April and will be part of your Church Service on Sunday 19th.

As we serve with Operation Mobilisation in Ireland, both Colm and Catherine continue with their main roles; Colm as an Evangelist and Catherine as Pastoral Carer for the Irish Team. Colm also works as the maintenance person for our 6 acre/ 18 bed Lacken House property. Catherine cooks for the Outreach events that we have and gives training on Irish Culture so that evangelism can be more in an Irish context.



As a small team with a residential property to run, we both help with preparing and cleaning rooms.

Fun fact — we had nearly 300 people stay with us in 2025! They were a mix of outreach groups, individuals, church groups and Christian Unions. It is a great joy to see God work in the lives of these guests and to know that He continually gives us strength to keep up with caring for those He brings to us.

Property Video tour: <https://youtu.be/ElmzeMMwfrs?si=ZVShTauQOMxpXZRf>

On the streets, Colm is speaking with a lot of teenagers who have many questions about faith as well as people of every age and life experience. He uses his 'Prayer tent' as it is so mobile and packs quickly into the car and most importantly keeps him and the other church people dry and warm!

We are excited to share with you that OM's ship the Logos Hope is coming to Ireland in August this year! All our team will be busy! As we prayed we asked the Lord that many Irish Christians will be mobilised into Mission because of the visit of the ship.

Many of you know that Colm and Catherine are retiring from official ministry with Operation Mobilisation at the end of August 2026 and see the visit of the ship as a wonderful highpoint after 18 years of serving with OM.

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)