



Newsletter: June 2024

Revealed: The secret formula for success

In this article, I will reveal the secret formula for revival. If we can perfect these three characteristics Penrallt could grow at an exponential rate to the glory of God — we are talking about irrepressible revival.

The secret formula is hidden in Acts 2 & 3 in the activities of the first church which grew by 600% on day one (from 500 to 3,500 ch2,v41) and then gradually increasing on a daily basis to reach 5,000 (ch4,v5) over the next couple of weeks. That's another 43% growth. The three secrets:

- 1) Lucid proclamation of gospel truth.
- 2) Awesome demonstration of God's power.
- 3) Radical enactment of love expressed in gospel community.

1) Peter stood up while people mocked their group of disciples. Peter told them the truth about Jesus. He told them that God had planned and delivered a 'way' that all people could potentially know his love and peace and be part of His family. That they could be saved and reconciled to him. They needed to believe in Jesus as Lord and God and accept that he died for their sins and rose again. They would be held to account for their sins and they needed to respond urgently and needed to accept his gracious and merciful offer of salvation while they still could. It's the same for us.

2) They performed miracles. Yes — we pray for these today too. We believe God heals today, and anything is possible. But more broadly speaking, God transformed people's lives through the willingness of the disciples to pray, listen, to step out in faith and to obey when they heard his voice. This is when miracles happen.

3) The 'essential ingredient': a radically loving, counter-cultural community. They fellowshiped, prayed, worshipped and communed in a caring, generous and attractive community. A community which had different values to the values of the world. They celebrated different things. They lived together as a mirror of the grace, peace, joy and unconditional love of the gospel message.

So there you go: The three secret ingredients are 'The Gospel', 'God's Mission' and Love. Let's proclaim it, demonstrate it and live it. And let's prayerfully see what God will do to the glory of his name.

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](#)). 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); 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 2nd June

A radical and missional community characterised by Love

Preacher: John Thompson.

After this service will be our church lunch and fellowship event (see below).

Sunday 9th June

A radical and missional community characterised by Joy and Peace

Preacher: John Thompson.

Sunday 16th June

All-age Father's Day service led by Becca Jackman.

Sunday 23rd June

You are the salt of the earth

Matthew 5:1–16

Preacher: Lesley Jackson.

Sunday 30th June

A radical and missional community characterised by Patience, Kindness and Goodness

Communion service led by Revd. John Thompson.

After this service will be our Renew Wellbeing Prayer Picnic (see below).

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.

Children's Birthdays in June

2nd: Tani Akinkunmi

16th: Esther Onwusa

5th: Pedro Awolowo

27th: Harvey Lemon

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.

Deadline for next month's newsletter: Monday 2^{4th} June. Please send information to Magnus at the church office. All items should be submitted in writing, preferably by email, as early as possible.

Evening Services

Except where otherwise noted, evening services begin at 6pm on Sundays (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). Services planned for the rest of the month are as follows:

Sunday 9th June, 7:30pm

Rock Celebration Worship Service led by James Goodman & John Thompson.
Please bear in mind that this service will be a little louder than regular Sunday evenings (perhaps similar in volume to going to the cinema)

Sunday 16th June

Prophetic service led by Abi Penney.

We believe that God speaks today. Our prophetic evening services are an experimental and safe time of listening to God which is both open and gently guided. In these services, as one body, we anticipate hearing God's voice to strengthen, comfort and encourage – both personally and for the wider church.

Sunday 23rd June (Communion service)

Keeping your salt dry

Matthew 5:1–16

Preacher: Lesley Jackson

N.B. this is the same Bible passage as the morning service; the two sermons will be connected but sufficiently independent that you can benefit from hearing one or the other if you are not able to attend both services.

Sunday 30th June — no evening service tonight as we will be having our Renew Wellbeing Prayer Picnic in the afternoon (see the inside back cover of this newsletter for more information)

General Election 4th July 2024

To check if you are eligible to vote in the General Election:

www.gov.uk/elections-in-the-uk/general-election

You must be registered to vote before the end of **18th June** to be able to vote in the general election on **4th July 2024**. It is easy to register to vote — there's a simple online form or you can fill in a paper version and post it to your council.

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

You can request a postal vote, if you can't vote in person. This doesn't require photo ID. You must apply for this before **19th June** (5pm).

www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/postal-voting

This is the first general election where you must bring appropriate photo ID to the polling station when you vote. A UK/EU driving licence, UK/EU passport or Blue Badge are fine, even if they are out of date, as long as the photo still looks like you and your name hasn't changed.

Full list of photo ID options: www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photoid-youll-need
If you don't have appropriate photo ID, you can apply for a free voter authority certificate by **26th June** (5pm).

www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-idvoter-authority-certificate

◆ Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for Penrallt members will take place on Wednesday 3rd July in the building and on Zoom at 7:30pm. We are seeking to elect new church deacons at the AGM. Nominations are now open until Sunday 16th June. Any church member is eligible to serve on the diaconate, and to be considered they need to be nominated (in writing) by two other church members.

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).

◆ Baby Shower

You are invited to come and join in a baby shower on Saturday 15th June, 10am to 12pm at Penrallt, to celebrate, encourage and pray for Matt and Rebecca Dawson and their unborn baby as they prepare for the birth of their first baby. It will be a time of fellowship and fun, men and women welcome (adults only). Please bring a plate of cakes or nibbles to share. Any questions please speak to Wendy Lemon.

◆ Christian Aid Week

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christian Aid collection and cake stall. Penrallt raised £445 in total.

◆ Church Lunch and Fellowship Events

Our monthly church lunch and fellowship event will be on 2nd June. For lunch, we ask our regular congregation to bring a plate of finger-food, enough for yourself and one or two others, so we have plenty to share with our visitors. Afterwards we will head (weather permitting) to the beach at Tyn Tywyn on Anglesey (near Rhosneigr). Please speak to Jenny (fellowship@penrallt.org) if you would like to join the beach trip.

◆ Clothes to Go

The Soul Sisters (see below) are planning to hold a 'Clothes to go' event on **Saturday 14th September** at Penrallt, as mentioned in last month's newsletter. Please save this date for your diary. We've all got beautiful clothes in our wardrobe that we never wear, that could bless someone else. We would like to ask you to look through your closets, drawers and wardrobes for any good quality, clean clothing that you have lost interest in wearing, or items that you now realise are unsuitable for your lifestyle. We would love you to consider donating them to our event, thereby blessing those who are struggling financially to clothe themselves adequately, to keep warm in winter or perhaps to dress appropriately for a job interview.

We have revised our criteria to include not just women's and children's clothing, but also men's clothing.

If you've decided that you have some good quality, clean, 'preloved' or new clothing, that you are able to donate, please speak to Jenny Willis, Abi Penney, Averil Francis or Cathy Fooks.

◆ 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 7th and 21st June. To find out more about Kindle, please contact Becca (youth@penrallt.org).

◇ Men’s Breakfast

Our men’s fellowship group usually meet once a month on Saturday mornings for food and friendship at Ian Ablett’s home in Caernarfon. All men are welcome. The next breakfast is due to be on 22nd June. Please contact the church office or Ian (ian.ablett@open.ac.uk; 07759 718931) for more details or to offer or request a lift.

◇ **Open The Book**

As invited guests in primary schools, storytelling teams use the Bible Society's *Open the Book* programme to prepare and present a 10 to 15-minute scripted Bible story to a school assembly, involving the children as much as possible. This is a fantastic opportunity to share Bible stories with children who would otherwise never hear them. For more information, speak to Sarah Jackson or Magnus and visit the OTB website: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/>.

◇ **Penrallt on Facebook, Instagram 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 to share prayer requests and encouragements
- * *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/

◇ **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.

◇ **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 Weekly Drop-in and the Renew Wellbeing Prayer Picnic**

Even if you are always busy on a Thursday morning, do pop in to the Renew Wellbeing Prayer Picnic after the morning service on Sunday 30th June. You may have a neighbour or a friend who would enjoy coming to something like this. This is our third year now of being open from 10:30 to 12:30 every Thursday morning in Canolfan Penrallt. For some Regulars and Team, this is one of the best bits of the week.

Yes, we are a 'drop-in' with refreshments and activities like jigsaws, colouring, stone painting, etc. but at heart Renew Wellbeing is a prayer movement, modelling very simple and always optional rhythms of practising God's presence — rhythms of prayer which can also be used at home on our own.

On Sunday 30th June some 300 Renew centres in churches around the UK will be reaching out to their congregations, sharing what this prayer movement is all about. Do pop in for a taste of Renew 57 at Penrallt in the form of a picnic after the morning service (outside if the weather is fine, or in the hall if not). Please watch our website for further details which are not available at the time of going to press.

For more about Renew 57, please contact Adrienne (adrieferrada@hotmail.co.uk).

♦ Soul Sisters (Women's Fellowship)

Our next meeting on Saturday 8th June at 10:30am–12 in the rear of the church will be an interesting presentation by Jalia Packwood on a recycling project she is undertaking in Uganda. Come along to support Jalia on this exciting project and also bring your own recycling projects. If you wish to learn more or require a lift, please contact Averil or Ellie. 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.

♦ Thanks

Denise Mills writes: "I would like to thank everyone who prayed for my daughter Claire over the past few months. It gave us great comfort to know the family at Penrallt were there for us. Thank you also for your generous donations to her chosen charity Tŷ Olwen Hospice where she was incredibly well looked after at the end. The total donations so far have reached £5,000 which will go towards maintaining the invaluable work they do at the hospice. With thanks, love and blessings."

♦ Weddings

Ama Eyo and Ifiok Otung would like to invite everyone to their marriage celebration at Penrallt Baptist Church on Saturday 29th June 2028 at 1pm. There will be a short reception immediately after the blessing, to which all are also welcome. If interested in any aspects of the planning, please contact Ama at amaeyo@yahoo.co.uk

Rachel McCabe and Simon James are getting married on Saturday 6th July at 10:30am in Penrallt; if you know them and would like to attend, or would like to volunteer to help serve refreshments after the service, please let Rachel know either in person or via txt on 07501 402211.

♦ 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). *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).

Focus on...



Sarah and Paul Brown

Serving with BMS in Thailand

After serving with BMS in Bangkok for six years, Paul and Sarah moved to Chiang Mai in 2019 to work with BMS World Mission partner Thailand Karen Baptist Convention (TKBC). Their primary role is to support and disciple the students at Siloam Bible College. They both teach English and produce course materials. Paul develops the IT systems for the college. Sarah provides bakery lessons to give her students skills that will widen their career opportunities.

While reflecting on their recent teaching year, which finished at the end of February, Sarah and Paul reported that they have enjoyed teaching and getting to know the students more than they imagined; it has been a blessing. However, they note that it has been a challenging year. Particularly preparing the lessons to teach daily without a curriculum. Teaching at this level was new to Sarah and Paul and initially, it was hard to find a rhythm, but God has been gracious and gave them the strength they needed. One week Paul lost his voice but still managed to teach. Sarah and Paul acknowledge that they made teaching mistakes along the way; but with God's help, they are learning from them and know it will be a continuous process.

Paul and Sarah were called to mission individually before getting married. After serving in their local communities, mission work with BMS as a couple felt like a natural progression.

They share a love of the outdoors and cooking. Paul adores football and plays the bass guitar, whilst Sarah is passionate about all forms of visual art.

Paul and Sarah are on home assignment throughout June until mid-July. Please pray for them as they travel around the UK to visit supporting churches. Pray too for the time they spend with their families.

For more information: <https://bmsworldmission.org/psbrown>

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.