



Newsletter: October 2024

Messy Church? Really?

This month sees the launch of Messy Church. It's a popular brand, but is it a good thing? Is the name a good thing? Is it right to encourage Church to be messy? Or are there principles we can learn from which should apply to all forms of church? Should it shape our expectations of church?

Messy lives: Messy Church is for messy people. Jesus came and called ruffians and outcasts to be his disciples and leaders. They were originally tax collectors (usually cheats), fishermen (usually ruffians, or at least uneducated men - see Acts 4v13). He ministered to prostitutes and outcasts. We are looking for Messy people who Jesus can help. And if we're honest, we're still a bit messy round the edges too. We want to show grace to people. God accepted/accepts us (even us!), and we want to accept all and help them to see that Jesus can bless them and lead them to another way. We should expect people to have messy relationships, messy homes, messy religion, messy love-life, the lot. It's a great opportunity to show grace and love.

Messy children: Messy Church is for kids who love to play! We often put up needless barriers about not making a mess. Jesus welcomed children (let the little children come unto me). Jesus encouraged us to be child-like (unless you are like little children you will not enter the kingdom of God)

Messy or True Church?: Any gathering with 'church' in the title is our opportunity to show another way. By loving one another. By not arguing, or being angry with one another. This will be attractive as it reveals God's nature to people too. We show another way as we serve others. We serve them as if we were serving Jesus (you remember that verse ...' whatever you do for the least of these you did for me?') So we serve not grudgingly, but considering it a privilege. We show another way as we are examples of Jesus in our own lives. Shining like stars (Philippians).

Messy Church is Jesus coming into the mess as the Mess-iah! Jesus is the one who can change people's lives. Ultimately, we want to point people to him not us. He, and His Holy Spirit is what will really make the difference. So we give Jesus the glory: Talking about the effect Jesus has on our lives. Talking about how prayer helps us. Talking about how His Holy Spirit transforms us. Talking about how the Bible inspires us. Talking about worship songs we enjoy and how worship lifts our spirits. Talking about how Christian friends and/or homegroups help us on our journey.

Please pray for our Messy Church outreach pilots.

Blessings,

John

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 6th October

All-age international outreach service.

Church: People of all nations and testimony to all nations

Preacher: Revd. John Thompson.

Revelation 21:24, Matthew 24

Sunday 13th October

Preacher: Revd. Mark Young.

Sunday 20th October

Church: Oikos — the household of God

Preacher: Revd. John Thompson.

Sunday 27th October (Communion)

Service Videos

Recordings of sermons from morning services (except all-age ones) 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 October

10th : Caleb Atinsola, Maxwell Olowashindara

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.

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.

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 below). Services planned for the rest of the month are as follows:

Sunday 13th October

Communion service led by Magnus Forrester-Barker.

Sunday 20th October (3–5pm): Messy Harvest

This is a free family event where we will explore the theme of Creation through crafts, games, activities and a meal. The activities are aimed at children aged between 3 and 11, but there is a crèche space for younger ones as well as games that teenagers will enjoy, so bring the whole family! **Please note: all under 18s will need to be supervised by an adult at all times for safeguarding reasons; similarly adults will only be admitted if accompanying children.**



It is helpful if you can sign up in advance for this (using the QR code or this link: <https://penralltbc.churchsuite.com/events/6ua8m9ao>) to help us get an idea of numbers for providing craft materials and food. Messy Church is designed to be accessible to those who are not used to church, so invite your friends too!

Sunday 27th October

Prophetic/contemporary service led by Abi Penney and James Goodman.

◇ BMS World Mission Birthday Party

BMS World Mission (formerly the Baptist Missionary Society) are celebrating their 232nd birthday with a party on Wednesday 30th October from 7 to 8:15pm. We will be joining the party. Venue to be confirmed. Please RSVP to Sarah Jackson (sarah.jackson.home@gmail.com).

◇ Church Lunch and Fellowship Events

We will have our usual church lunch on the first Sunday of this month, 6th October. To comply with best practice and government regulations we are asking that everybody who brings food should read and follow the food handling guidelines that were recently circulated to our news mailing list. If you did not receive a copy and would like to bring food to share, please contact the church office.

After the lunch will be a fellowship walk at Aber Falls, led by Jenny Willis. We are organising a minibus. You are welcome to take your own car but parking may be quite limited and you will need to pay for it. To find out more details or reserve a space in the minibus, please speak to Jenny (fellowship@penrallt.org).

◇ Codi Mawl: A Bilingual Worship Evening

Sunday 6th October, 7pm at Lighthouse Church (Llangefni FC, LL77 7RP). The first in a series of three bilingual (Welsh-English) worship events for Christians across Gwynedd and Anglesey. The other events are due to take place at Caersalem (Caernarfon) on 3rd November and at Penrallt on 12th January.

◇ **Cups on a String: A Riding Lights Theatre Company production**

Riding Lights (one of the leading Christian theatre companies in the UK) will be performing “Cups on a String: Can anyone hear me?” at Sussex Street Christian Centre, Rhyl (LL18 1SE) on Tuesday 29th October, 7:30pm. Tickets £15, concessions £10. Box Office: ridinglights.org/cupsonastring

◇ **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.

◇ **Games Night: Friday 25th October at 7pm**

It's important to spend time together as a church family doing regular things, and so we'd love for you to join us for our (hopefully first of many) fellowship event during the week! We will be meeting in the Canolfan to play some card and board games. This event is open to everyone and anyone — so please do invite friends along. Under 18s are also very welcome to join us — just for safeguarding, they shall need to be supervised by an adult at all times. Feel free to bring along any of your favourite games, and some sharing snacks if you are able. See you there! If you have any questions, speak to Becca Jackman (youth@penrallt.org).

◇ **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. Details available from the church office.

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.

◆ **Leadership Team Morning**

Members of Penrallt’s leadership team will be meeting on the morning of Saturday 5th October to prayerfully discuss our vision as a church. Please pray for them.

◆ **Light Party**

Penrallt’s alternative to Halloween parties, **Thursday 31st October, 4:30 – 6:30pm.**

A free family event with activities for those in primary or secondary school (accompanied by a responsible adult), including pumpkin carving (for over 11s), other crafts, games and food. This year we have a superhero theme, so come dressed as a superhero. Invite your friends and their families too. There will be a prize for the best dressed superhero. To book places for your children, please visit our booking page (<https://penralltbc.churchsuite.com/events/p7jgfdsl>) or scan the QR code. For more information and to book places, please see our website. To offer to help, please contact Wendy Lemon (wendylemon@icloud.com).



◆ **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 26th October. Please contact the church office or Ian (ian.ablett@open.ac.uk; 07759 718931) for more details or to offer or request a lift.

◆ **Mission Prayer Meeting**

The Penrallt mission group will be meeting on Zoom at 7:30pm on Wednesday 23rd October to hear updates from our mission partners around the world and to pray for them. Please contact the church office for the Zoom details.

◆ **Open The Book**

Open the Book is an initiative by the Bible Society and is a fun and effective way to have a Christian presence in assembles at primary schools as teams go in to deliver dramatized Bible Stories. The teams in Bangor are in need of more volunteers to keep running. Please speak to Magnus (office@penrallt.org), a member of the team at Ysgol Hiraël, to find out more.

◆ **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.

◇ Pathways

Penrallt will be hosting a monthly series of training courses run by Cardiff Baptist College. The first two sessions, on Saturday 19th October and Saturday 9th November, will be *Pathways into Pastoral Care*. NB it is necessary to book in advance (and pay) to attend these sessions.

◇ 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/

◇ 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. *Note that there will be no prayer meeting on Saturday 5th October due to the leadership team morning.*

◇ 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. We are hoping to offer prayer at most services. This is often at the end of the service, sometimes during communion or at other times, but 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 and 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. We also have a Pastoral Care Team who are able to offer a further level of support (see above under *Pastoral Help*). Please don't hesitate to approach John or another member of the Pastoral Care Team; their photos are on the wall at the back of the church.

◆ 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.

◆ Soul Sisters (Women’s Fellowship)

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday 12th October at 10:30 to 12:00 in the Canolfan (back hall at Penrallt). We will be reviewing our favourite books / authors, so come along with a book and join us for a cuppa. All ladies welcome.

◆ Students

We love to welcome students as part of our church family. We are hoping to appoint a new student co-ordinator soon but in the meantime you can still email students@penrallt.org as this address will be monitored by Magnus, our church administrator. Also, don’t miss our Penrallt Students Facebook group.

◆ Tearfund

After many years of excellent and enthusiastic service as our Tearfund rep, Averil Francis would like to hand the role on to somebody else. If you are interested, or would like to know what it entails, please speak to Averil or to Sarah Jackson.

◆ 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).

Our youth group will be attending the NWBA Impact weekend at the Quinta (Oswestry), 11th – 13th October.

Deadline for next month’s newsletter: Sunday 27th October. 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. If you are not already on our email list to receive notification (and a PDF link) when the newsletter is published each month, as well as other news updates from time to time, and would like to join the list please send an email to office@penrallt.org. You can also email us if you are on the list and would like to stop receiving news emails.

Focus on...

Chris and Anna Hembury



Serving with Hull YFC via the Church Mission Society

Chris and Anna live in the Boulevard area of Hull where people are known for their no-nonsense attitude and honest vulnerability, an area suffering from high unemployment, child poverty, addiction, mental and physical health problems, prostitution and increasing racial tension. People feel a crippling lack of self-worth. But it's an area full of buried treasure, untapped potential and dormant creativity.



Chris and Anna have been part of the Hull YFC team for 27 years. They are involved in supporting children, young people and families, through activities such as youth club, breakfast club, after school club, annual summer camp, 'natural detached' (otherwise known as walking about in the neighbourhood so they can "bump into" people), assemblies, weekly community meal, Matt's House, community garden, one to one, support for the local Church and other charities, working with people in addiction and women involved in street prostitution, bible studies, discipleship. Not to mention the form-filling, court/housing/safeguarding case conference/council office-accompanying and the incalculable "cuppa and a chat"s.

In particular, Chris and Anna support the group who are living in Matt's House, a house for mission and serving the local community. Anna also helps run Orts, a sewing collective where women from all walks of life can support each other, learn and create together. Ort is an old English word for leftover scraps (usually food). Orts is proving to be a place of healing in a gentle yet profound way, and the prayer time is an unmissable start for some. The complete renovation of the space has also meant that more use has been made of it outside of the Orts day, with youth club, Circuit Breaker breakfasts, and other ad hoc gatherings also regularly held there.

Recently Chris reluctantly studied for a government-funded diploma in gym instructing and personal training. He has also been running Circuit Breaker for just over two years, with a regular group of men. They train, followed by breakfast and conversation about anything from January transfers to Jesus, what they're doing/not doing to how they're coping/not coping. Chris observes that achieving the diploma makes this venture feel more legitimate and helps to access funding. He asks us to give thanks for the certification and a recent £400 donation for some equipment, a day out for breakfast with the lads and a portion towards renting the hall space where they train.

For more information, please see:

churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/anna-and-chris-hembury-britain/

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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)