

*PENTREF  
BAPTIST  
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



*Sheep in wintry field near Tyncoed. By Elsa Harflett.*

**The Newbridge-On-Wye Newsletter  
Pentref Baptist Church  
January 2023**

## IN A WORLD WHERE YOU CAN BE ANYTHING... -by Misha

Some people find that the beginning of a new year offers an opportunity for a fresh start. Making new year's resolutions is common – have you made any this year? You may be a better person than me; I find that my fresh start lasts about a week or so...

I wonder, were you among those who watched the wonderful short film this Christmas "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse" based on the illustrated book by Charlie Mackesy about friendship and a boy's search for home? I loved the book. The film was lovely. At one point during this moving story, the mole asks the boy: "What do you want to be when you grow up?". The boy, sat on a branch with his new friend, the mole, answers: "Kind. I want to be kind." Not a fireman, a nurse, or a dancer, but "kind".

Kindness is such a powerful force, especially at those times when we feel we have run out of resources and feel weak and challenged. At those times, kindness can make us feel seen and valued again, and we often remember those people who have been especially kind to us for many years to come, warming ourselves at the glow of their kindness as we remember that time, even decades later.

There's an old joke which goes a little like this: *"Dear God. Thank you that so far today, I have been kind and patient and loving. However, in a moment, I will have to get up... Then I'll really need some help!"* It may be easy enough to be kind until life's demands and disappointments come to test our patience. I am only too aware of the limits of my own resolve at times. Sooner or later, my best intentions have to get out of bed and the rubber has to hit the road.

When I am faced with my own shortcomings, I find great comfort in knowing that God looks at me with compassion, always ready to forgive and set me back on my feet. Left to myself, I would never grow up to be kind. If we ask, slowly and gradually, God will help us 'grow up' to be more like Jesus. These words comfort me. *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning. Great is his faithfulness."* (Lam. 3:22-23) Even when my resolve is weak, God's kindness never fails. It is from that place that I might hope to love myself and others, too.

# SERVICES AT PENTREF



<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b> <b>Breakfast at 10am</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Rev Misha Pedersen</b> <b>(Communion)</b>
	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Service on Zoom</b>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Rev Misha Pedersen</b>
	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Service on Zoom</b>
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Rev Paul Tarling</b>
	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Service on Zoom</b>
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Rev Andrew Wyton</b>
	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Service on Zoom</b> <b>(Communion)</b>
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Rev Misha Pedersen</b>
	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Service on Zoom</b>

*Wishing everyone in Newbridge and beyond every blessing for 2023!*

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Rev Misha Pedersen</b>
	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Service on Zoom</b>

To get a link to join the Zoom Meetings please email the secretary at:  
[elsa.harflett.eh@gmail.com](mailto:elsa.harflett.eh@gmail.com)

# *COFFEE MORNING*



**First Wednesday  
of the month  
10:30 – 12ish**

**The next Coffee Morning will be on  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
Coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits provided.  
We'd love to see you.**

**Donations gratefully received  
towards the work of the local women's refuge, CALON DVS.**



## **USED POSTAGE STAMPS**

Pentref Chapel collects used postage stamps which are sold to support the work of the Leprosy Mission.

The Leprosy mission works in countries all over the world bringing support to those who

are suffering from leprosy.

If you have any used stamps, please drop them into the chapel or give them to someone you know who goes to the chapel.

Thank you in advance for your support.

- Stamps, GB and foreign (even the very common ones). Please leave approx. 5mm of the envelope around the stamp.
- Postcards (GB and foreign, posted or unused)
- Coins and bank notes
- Cigarette cards
- Old matchboxes
- Medals

# *SIARAD CYMRAEG?*

After a lovely introduction and reunion meeting of Welsh Learners new and old in the chapel vestry in December, the group decided to continue learning together. It is not too late to join us! In fact, you would be given a very warm welcome.

Mrs Nelda Foster will be leading our group which will be meeting weekly on a Monday evening at 7pm in the chapel vestry and will give space for complete beginners as well as people looking to practice the Welsh they already know.

Small donations towards tutoring and materials appreciated but not required. We look forward to seeing you from 9<sup>th</sup> Jan.



**Welsh Mondays 7pm**

# Shared Meal

Please join us on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January in the chapel vestry for another shared meal. A warm welcome and a simple meal available for all who would like a bit of company with their supper. If you know you are coming, could you let the minister know on 07432 530983 or by email: [mishatheminister@yahoo.com](mailto:mishatheminister@yahoo.com), but don't worry – you're also welcome to just drop in. Everything is free. Donations welcome.

*Clive Barrett writes about the Shared Meal:*

25 people gathered in the chapel vestry in November for the new Shared Meal initiative with a lovely buzz in the room while mains and deserts were enjoyed.

On the second Wednesday of December, Pentref members again organised a similar event. Despite the bitterly cold conditions there was a good attendance to try Danish sandwiches, soup, and cake.

We wish to offer a warm welcoming space to anyone, not necessarily with a chapel connection, especially those people who often eat alone and would enjoy a bit of company over a meal.



*Weds 11 January 6pm*



WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
FROM  
THE NEW INN

Our events for January include :

Jan 11th	Bingo & Basket Meal
Jan 14th	Generation Game Fun Night
Jan 18th	Quiz night
Jan 25th	Bingo & Basket Meal
Jan 28th	Gin & Tapas night

Our events for February include :

Feb 1st	Quiz night
Feb 8th	Bingo & Basket Meal
Feb 11th	Valentines Afternoon Tea
Feb 12th	Valentines Sunday Lunch
Feb 14th	Valentines Night Special Menu
Feb 15th	Quiz
Feb 22nd	Bingo & Basket Meal

FOR FURTHER DETAILS GIVE US A CALL ON 01597  
860211 or CALL IN TO SEE US



# Open Doors

Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

Prayer Afternoons 2.30-4 pm

St Frances Centre, Holy Trinity Church

All are very welcome to come to this informative time, with films, opportunity to pray, making of cards to encourage persecuted believers, and light refreshments

Dates for 2023

<u>Tuesdays</u>	24 <sup>th</sup> January	28 <sup>th</sup> February
	28 <sup>th</sup> March	25 <sup>th</sup> April
	23 <sup>rd</sup> May	27 <sup>th</sup> June
	25 <sup>th</sup> July	26 <sup>th</sup> September
	24 <sup>th</sup> October	28 <sup>th</sup> November

## The first Open Doors Afternoon of 2023!

*2.30-4pm Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. St Frances Centre, Holy Trinity Church*

All are most welcome to come along to find out about our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world, with film clips, prayer tips and, of course, refreshments!

Many of those we pray for report that knowing we are praying makes an enormous difference to them. This is so humbling! Prayer, of course, can be out loud or quietly in your heart, so please come if you can.

Amazingly, we so often find that WE go home encouraged by how those we pray for are hanging on to their faith in Jesus even in the face of unbelievable difficulties.

*'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble' Ps 42:1*

Louise Tarling 822615



## THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON – By Clive Barrett

The annual village Christmas light switch-on took place in the early evening of Friday December 9th 2022 outside the Golden Lion.

There was a good attendance despite the very cold weather. Carol singing was followed by hot refreshments to help keep the cold at bay, included hot dogs, hot chocolate and hot toffee apple cider. Most importantly, especially for some of our younger citizens, there was a special visit from Santa!

Many thanks and congratulations to the organisers of this year's lights, which have again gone a long way as in previous years in brightening up the village during the dark and gloomy pre-Christmas days and evenings.

## CAROL SERVICE AT PENTREF – By Clive Barrett

Pentref Baptist Chapel held their annual "Carols by Candlelight" service on the second Sunday of December and were pleased to see a good number of people despite the icy weather.

There were well-known carols, Christmas readings and a poem by members and friends. With flickering candles and beautifully decorated windows, the advent candles on the table also helped the congregation connect with the warmth and joy of Christmas.

As well as two short talks, more unusually a slice of fun was provided by Church deacons, Elsa and Bronwen, who portrayed two local shepherds, present at the time of Christ's birth in a short skit entitled "The Great Big Light". Misha hiding in the pulpit played the angel announcing the Christmas good news of peace and goodwill to man. (Thanks to the kind lender of a powerful flood light!)

Following the service seasonal refreshments were served in the adjoining chapel vestry in a lovely atmosphere of chat and laughter.

Thanks to all who helped, contributed and made the service and the fellowship afterwards a really special time tuning into the message of Christmas.

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# NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

**Thursday Afternoons  
2:00pm – 4:00pm**



Do you, paint, draw, sculpt, knit, crochet, do macramé, or anything else creative?  
If you do, you would be more than welcome to come along and join the group.

Come along to share your skills in a group where we learn from each other.

Refreshments provided.

More Info: Vanessa 01597 860185



**Newbridge on Wye WI**  
meet at the Community Centre on the  
third Thursday of the month @ 7pm.

The next WI meeting will be at the  
Community Centre  
Thursday 19th January 2023 @7:15pm.

Our speaker will be Powys Road Safety Officer,  
Miranda Capecchi who will be updating us on the  
Highway Code.

Anyone interested in coming along to the meeting  
please contact Lyn on  
07393 602896.

## ***BINGE WATCHING JESUS?***

Yes, really...

A new crowdfunded series explores the life and relationships of Jesus. **The Chosen** is excellent! A small group will be watching an episode a week together.

Want to join us? Please come along on Wednesday  
**4<sup>th</sup> January at 1pm**. There will be bread etc available for you to make a sandwich – or bring your own!

You can watch a clip here to get an idea:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1-FoFj8Jbo>

I'm Misha, the minister at Pentref Baptist Chapel. I'm available to anyone in the village who needs support or simply a chat.

- Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like a chat and we can arrange a visit or a meeting in a neutral location.
- I'm happy to pray for what is on your heart and if you would like us to sit down and talk to God together, I'd be delighted.
- If you are going into hospital and would like a pastoral visit, please let me know and we can arrange a visit or, where that is not possible, I can help liaise with my chaplain colleagues in the NHS to make sure you have the support you need.



The minister of the chapel is here as chaplain to the village, so if I can be of help in any way, please do get in touch. Life as well as faith, humdrum or crisis, there really isn't anything too big or small.

Equally, if you would like me or a small group of us to pray for you or anything that is on your heart, please do not hesitate to drop a note through the letterbox at The Manse (next to the chapel) or to send an email, text, or WhatsApp message. We will of course treat your requests with discretion.

Tel: 07432 530983 or 01597 821581

Email: [mishatheminister@yahoo.com](mailto:mishatheminister@yahoo.com)

If you would like to include an event in future issues, please contact either Misha (minister) or Elsa (church secretary).

[mishatheminister@yahoo.com](mailto:mishatheminister@yahoo.com)

[elsa.harlett.eh@gmail.com](mailto:elsa.harlett.eh@gmail.com)

You can also find us on the internet at:

[www.newbridgebaptistchurch.co.uk](http://www.newbridgebaptistchurch.co.uk)

or on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/pentrefnewbridge](https://www.facebook.com/pentrefnewbridge)

**February Edition Deadline: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

**Please send to [mishatheminister@yahoo.com](mailto:mishatheminister@yahoo.com)**