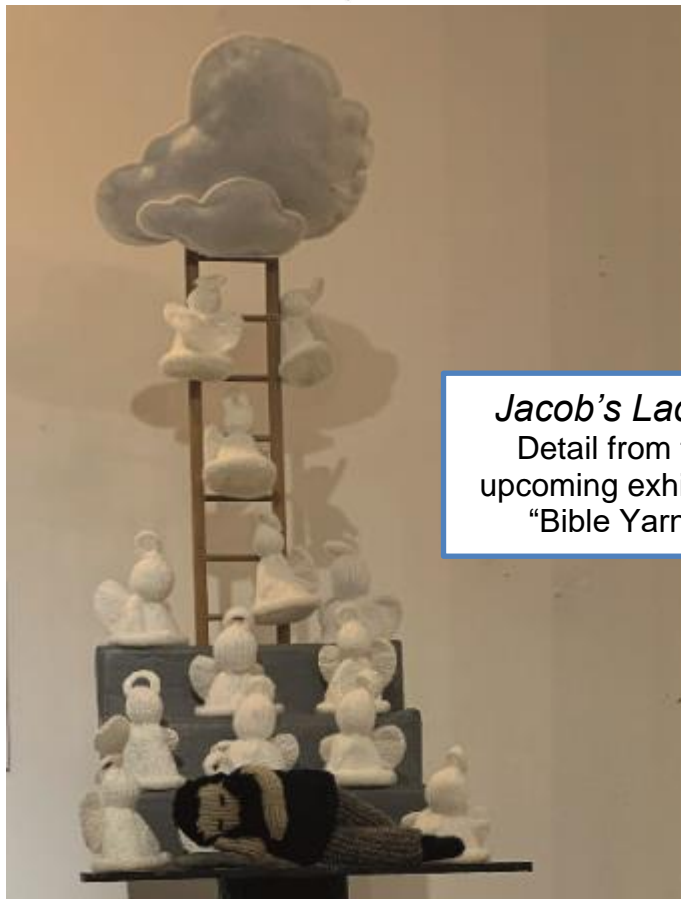


*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



Jacob's Ladder
Detail from the
upcoming exhibition
"Bible Yarns"

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

FROM THE MINISTER

Everything seems to finally be waking up again. The big clumps of snowdrops have been stunning for the past few weeks and the other day, I spotted some purplish-blue crocus under the hedge. The daffodils are on tippy-toe, having held their breath until Saint David's Day, of course! All in bud and a few have opened too. Not long now before the hedgerows and verges are covered in yellow "spring trumpets" heralding that winter is over – well, if it wasn't for the forecast for this coming weekend – brr!



Being a Christian is a bit like that. We are scouting for the signs that God's big dream for the world is budding and blooming, even in the midst of turmoil and dire forecasts. Spring is coming.

On the front page of this newsletter, you'll see one of the pieces from the coming exhibition "Bible Yarns" in which Jacob from the Old Testament falls asleep in a remote place and has a dream about angels, leading him to conclude that God was right there with him, and he hadn't even noticed! To be honest, it's often like that, isn't it? Kindness, love of neighbour, forgiveness, joy – often they twinkle at us in places other than church or chapel, and we sort of stumble upon them and are reminded that God is at work here too, amid the challenges, shining through in the ordinary and the mundane.

Jesus often tended to be where the established religious leaders felt he shouldn't be. Perhaps if we look under the hedges and other hidden places, we may be surprised at what is bursting into life around us and we didn't even know it. What have you noticed lately?

I wonder what your dream is for your own life and for our community? I know God's dream is to be allowed to offer us all life that is strong, fulfilling and eternal. As I join him in that dream, I'm sure you'd expect me to remind you that Jesus came to show us that God's dream is open to us all and won't be the same without you. Not only is it my job, it is my firm belief that that is the case.

Whether you share my faith in Jesus or not, I do hope that you will join me in looking for signs of spring and of goodness, joy, community and healing as it happens around us, and join in. **-Misha**

SERVICES AT PENTREF



Sunday 5th March	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)
	5:00pm	Service on Zoom
Sunday 12th March	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
	5:00pm	Service on Zoom
Sunday 19th March	10:30am	Rev Ian Sim
	5:00pm	Service on Zoom
Sunday 26th March	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
	5:00pm	Service on Zoom (Communion)

First services in April:

Sunday 2nd April	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)
	5:00pm	Zoom
	6:30pm	Songs of Praise

To get a link to join the Zoom Meetings please email the secretary at:

elsa.harflett.eh@gmail.com

What's on at Pentref?

Date		Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Wednesday	1	Coffee Morning	The Chosen		
Thursday	2		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	3				
Saturday	4				
Sunday	5	Morning Service		Zoom	
Monday	6				Welsh
Tuesday	7				Sing along
Wednesday	8				Shared Meal
Thursday	9		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	10				
Saturday	11				
Sunday	12	Morning Service		Zoom	
Monday	13				Welsh
Tuesday	14				
Wednesday	15		The Chosen		
Thursday	16		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	17				
Saturday	18				
Sunday	19	Morning Service		Zoom	
Monday	20				Welsh
Tuesday	21				
Wednesday	22				
Thursday	23		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	24				
Saturday	25				
Sunday	26	Morning Service		Zoom	
Monday	27				Welsh
Tuesday	28				
Wednesday	29				
Thursday	30		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	31				

The exact times of these events can be found in the newsletter. If you would like more details or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the minister or the church secretary.

COFFEE MORNING



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

**The next Coffee Morning will be on
Wednesday 1st March 2023
Coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits provided.
We'd love to see you.**

Donations gratefully received for The Bracken Trust.

February's Coffee Morning – by Clive Barrett

The Pentref monthly Coffee Morning took place on Wednesday February 1st. Over 25 people enjoyed the refreshments on offer.

Former long serving Church Secretary, and even longer resident of Newbridge Mr. John Lloyd had brought along some old photos of the village for those present to identify where they were taken.

The opportunity was also taken to wish Minister Misha Pedersen, a very happy birthday for the following day. Everyone was able to sample a birthday cake which was provided. The next Coffee Morning will be held on Wednesday March 1st 10:30 – 12 noon.



SIARAD CYMRAEG?

Around 12 Welsh Learners, led by Nelda, meet weekly on Monday evening at 7pm in the chapel vestry. It's not too late to join, and you'll be very welcome, whether you are a complete beginner or have some Welsh already.

Small donations towards tutoring and materials appreciated but not required. We look forward to seeing you.



Welsh Mondays 7pm



Bible Yarns – 31 March – 16 April

“Bible Yarns” – a self-guided exhibition at Pentref Chapel

Open during daylight hours. Access through vestry.

Shared Meal

We would like to offer our grateful thanks to our friends at the New Inn for providing us last month with a large pot of Leek and Potato Soup and an even larger pot of Chili con Carne, both of which were delicious. These dishes were supplemented by two different Lasagnes, one meat and one vegetarian. The whole meal was finished off with scrumptious cakes.

Once again, the room was humming with conversation while the meals were being served, but a hush fell over the proceedings when everyone tucked into the food!

Do come and join in the fun next month when we will be meeting again at [6pm on Wednesday 8th March](#) for another shared meal where everyone is welcome.



If you know you are coming, could you let the minister know on 07432 530983 or by email: mishatheminister@yahoo.com, but don't worry – you're welcome to drop in too. Everything is free, but donations welcome.

We're watching an episode a week of The Chosen. Please come along on **1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1pm in the vestry**. Bread etc is available for you to make a sandwich – or bring your own!



IONA PRAYERS

We've started meeting for just 20 minutes on a Thursday at 4PM (after the Creative Group) to say together some prayers used by the Iona Community.

Do feel free to join us as we listen to music and speak to God some pre-written words of blessing and hope.



Open Doors

Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

March Open Doors Prayer Afternoon

2.30-4pm Tuesday 28th Mar St Frances Centre, Holy Trinity Church

All are very welcome to come along to this time of learning about, and praying for, our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world. There will be no pressure for you to pray out loud, though some of us will do so. There is something very special about praying together, even if words are not said out loud.

There will be some up-to-date short films about some of the countries where it is hardest to live as a Christian. Sometimes we make and send cards to encourage our fellow Christians going through difficult times. Refreshments will be available.

More information: Louise Tarling (822615)

Launch of the 2023 World Watch List

This year's turnout at the World Watch List launch on January 19th in Parliament saw more than 90 MPs attend – all thanks to you! All those in attendance heard from persecuted Christians from North Korea, East Africa, and India. The booklet lists the 50 countries around the world where it is most dangerous to be a Christian.

Thank you so much for your prayers for the parliamentary launch of this year's Open Doors World Watch List – and for the thousands of you who invited your MP. Thanks to you, those in power across the political spectrum heard research and recommendations about Christian persecution – and, most importantly, the powerful

testimonies of persecuted believers. At the event, the Rt Hon. Stephen Timms MP opened by thanking supporters for continuing to invite their MPs to the launch. He also paid tribute to Brother Andrew, the founder of Open Doors, who passed away last year at the age of 94.



Timothy Cho from North Korea, Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP and Henrietta Blyth.

Henrietta Blyth, CEO of Open Doors UK and Ireland, started the launch by reminding MPs of the intensifying persecution of Christians across the world. “Since 1993, both the intensity and spread of persecution of Christians worldwide has dramatically increased. In the past 30 years, the number of countries in which Christians face high to extreme levels of persecution has nearly doubled from 40 countries to 76. “There is no question that life is becoming more difficult for Christians in many countries,” she continued, “and yet, against all the odds, faith continues to grow when people are forced to choose between Jesus and the death of all they hold dear. Sustained pressure is refining the church.”

Henrietta finished by asking the UK government to ‘ensure that the role of Prime Minister’s Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief becomes permanently established in statute’ – a role that is currently held by Fiona Bruce MP, who also attended the launch.

The World Watch List 2023 is available from www.opendoorsuk.org, or ask Louise as she might still have some copies available.



Mother's Day
Sunday Lunch
at Golden Lion

Sunday 19th March

Free Present for Mums when eating in



Eat in or Takeaway

Pre Book Now
Call 01597 860392

*PENTREF
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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 will be meeting at Pentref Chapel on the third Thursday of each month at 7.00pm.

We have an exciting programme for 2023.
Women of all ages are very welcome to
come along and join us.

Date 2023	Speaker
March 16th	AGM & Mini show. Judges Lesley & Marilyn
April 20th	Sue Spicer. - Wet Felting
May 18th	Miranda Capecci - Road Safety Officer
June 15th	Jane Griffiths Flower arranging demonstration
July tbc	Garden Party at Sylvia's
August tbc	Brecon Canal and Museum
September 21st	New Age Kurling at Community Centre
October 19th	Bat Conservation - (to be confirmed)
November 16th	Craft for Christmas - Yvonne/Marilyn
December 21st	Christmas party

Find out more about the WI on the website:

<https://www.thewi.org.uk/>
or contact Lyn on 07393 602896

Next time:
16th Mar 7.15



The Iron Church in Newbridge-on-Wye (1877)

We were made aware of the above photograph which featured in the Journal of the Kilvert Society now three years ago (No. 50/Mar 2020), and we thought some of you might enjoy seeing it. It was published with the following caption:

While researching the Revd W.E.T. Morgan, John Price kindly obtained for us a photograph of the Iron Church at Newbridge. It was taken by GS Venables, and given to Mr Richard Meredith by Lady Delia Venables-Llewelyn. We are grateful to Mr Meredith for permission to reproduce the photo.

The Iron Church is mentioned twice in Kilvert's Diary. On Friday 7 May, 1875, Kilvert received *a bright letter from Mrs Venables full of hope about a new Iron Church for Newbridge. Wrote to her about it.* (Vol 3, p181). Exactly a year later, on Sunday 7 May, 1876, he *preached twice in the beautiful little iron Church. Mr Venables read prayers in the morning, and Morgan the curate in the afternoon, when there was a capital congregation.* (Vol 3, p294)

Thanks to Richard Meredith for permission to reproduce the image and to John Price for the brief article.

A Bit 'Binder' String

Doest mind Bill Bates as used to work for Drake at Badger's End?
There weren't a tool about this farm this feller couldn't mend.
From a hayfork to a harvester, or any mortal thing,
Old Bill could always fix it with a bit o' binder string.

One day the Friesian bull got out, and raged and tore around,
Nobody could go near him as he roared and pawed the ground,
Till Boss shouts *'Bill! The bull's got out and bin and broke his ring,'*
An' Bill lassoed the beggar wi' a bit o' binder string!

Bill courted Mabel seven years, and then he says *'Let's wed,
I've got a table and some chairs, and Granny's feather bed.
There's half a ton o' taters up in a field as I can bring,
And I've made some handsome doormats wi' a bit o' binder string.'*

Well, Mabel said *'we'd best get wed before they cut the hay,'*
So they had a slap up wedding on the 17th of May,
But when they got to church, Bill found they'd lost the ring.
So he had to marry Mabel with a loop o' binder string.

Next year a little daughter came to bless the happy pair,
Wi' gert blue eyes like saucers, and a tuft o' ginger hair.
An' Bill he says to Parson at the baby's christening,
'Ee, 'er 'air be just the colour of a bit o' binder string!'

Well, time went on, and old Bill died and came to Heaven's door,
He heard them all a singing there and he were worried sore.
An' he says to good St Peter, *'Sir, I've never learnt to sing,
I were always kept so busy mending things wi' binder string.'*

'Don't worry Bill' St Peter says, *'The Good Lord understands,
He been a carpenter hissself an' likes to see folk use their hands.
An' we're very glad to see you here, we've plenty who can sing,
But we need a handy chap like you, hast tha' brought some binder string?'*

So he'll do bide in Heaven and he'm very happy there,
He've got a little workshop round behind St Peter's chair.
An' while the angels play their harps, and all the saints do sing,
Bill mends the little cherubs' toys, - wi' bits o' binder string!

*Author unknown. Thanks to Di Williams for sending the poem in.
Reproduced by kind permission from the Rhosgoch Gossip.*

News from Aberithon



Water Rail from
Aberithon Reedbed

Dr Fred Slater updates us on the Aberithon project: All was going to plan until the winter rains put a stop to path making, but fencing, laying the last of the big heap of stones and getting some “rustic” seats and a picnic bench in place are now again

all happening. I hope, some timber left over from the boardwalk might span the very wet patch against the old railway line in the next week or two. A short leaflet about the site should be available quite soon and should be delivered with the next newsletter. I crossed the boardwalk on the 20th February to the lovely drone of calling frogs!



Marsh cinquefoil



Lesser bladderwort (carnivorous)

To contact the minister, Misha: Tel: 07432 530983 or 01597 821581
Email: mishatheminister@yahoo.com

You can also find us on the internet at:

www.newbridgebaptistchurch.co.uk

or on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/pentrefnewbridge

April Edition Deadline: Monday 20th March 2023
Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com