

*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



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

I was woken up around 4.30 this morning by squabbling seagulls. A pair of them with juveniles were on the roof of the buildings at the Baptist College in Cardiff where I have stayed for the past couple of days on a study break. I am sure there are scientists out there who are able to tell us what these winged creatures were trying to say to each other (and everyone else), but to my untrained ears, it just sounded like SQUAWK, SQUAWK, WHINGE! It seemed to me that they didn't have much to say and yet were trying to say it again and again with great conviction.

Jesus once told his disciples that it's not saying things over and over, or loudly, in many different ways, or in the town square that made God listen. "Don't go on and on", he said, "like those who don't know God. God already knows what you need, before you ask". Prayer is about trust and relationship and, mysteriously, about working together with God in bringing about a better world.

Most times, prayer is about spending time with God in secret and in quiet, to tune into what God is like and what he dreams about for this world, which he loves so much. Prayer is also to discover, in the light of God's presence with us, what we are called to be and what we truly need. Then we can pray short prayers, alone or together with others, which line up with God's big heart for us.

I don't know if you ever think of God as a dreamer? As someone with desires and plans? A bit like a wonderfully excited parent or grandparent who wants a young person to do really well when they start school or go into big school, only wanting what is truly good for everyone and for the whole world. Peace with justice.

"I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope". (NLT) God spoke these words at a time when his people would still have to stay in exile for years, so he also told them this: "Work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare". We all inhabit communities together, live in this place together and whether we pray or not, I hope we can wish each other well. God does, and Jesus showed us what that looks like.

SERVICES AT PENTREF



Sunday	3rd	August	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)
			6:30pm	Reflective Service
Sunday	13th	August	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen (Baptism)
			6:30pm	Taizé-inspired service
Sunday	20th	August	10:30am	Rev Steve Wallis
			2:30pm	United Service @ Franksbridge (no evening service)
Sunday	27th	August	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			6:30pm	Traditional Service (Communion)
Every Sunday afternoon, there is a Zoom service at 4:30. For details please contact Steve Wallis via steveoncomputer@aol.com				
First Sunday in September				
Sunday	3rd	Sept	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			6:30pm	Evening Service

Everyone is very welcome, and we'd love to see you! If you have any questions, please contact the secretary: elsa.harlett.eh@gmail.com. We normally have a cuppa after the service in the morning, giving us a chance to catch up too.

What's on at Pentref?

Date		Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Tuesday	1				
Wednesday	2	Coffee Morning			
Thursday	3		Art	Iona Prayers	
Friday	4				
Saturday	5				
Sunday	6	Morning Service		Zoom	Reflective Service
Monday	7				
Tuesday	8				
Wednesday	9				Shared Meal
Thursday	10		Art	Iona Prayers	
Friday	11				
Saturday	12				
Sunday	13	Morning Service		Zoom	Taizé Service
Monday	14				
Tuesday	15				
Wednesday	16				
Thursday	17		Art	Iona Prayers	
Friday	18				
Saturday	19				
Sunday	20	Morning Service (Franksbridge)		Zoom	No Service
Monday	21				
Tuesday	22				
Wednesday	23				
Thursday	24		Art	Iona Prayers	
Friday	25				
Saturday	26				
Sunday	27	Morning Service		Zoom	Commuion Service
Monday	28				
Tuesday	29				
Wednesday	30				
Thursday	31		Art	Iona Prayers	

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. You can find our details on the back of this newsletter.

COFFEE MORNING 2nd AUGUST 10:30

The Pentref Coffee Morning always takes place on the first Wednesday of the month and is a great opportunity to catch up with people from the village and further afield.

Last month, we had visitors between the ages of 6 months and 94 years.

A lot of nattering was going on while cake, scones and biscuits disappeared. We raised a bit of

money too. At the moment, we are

collecting for the Newbridge Carnival and will soon move on to another charity – we do try to keep them local and relevant to the village. If you know of any good causes, please do let us know so we can consider them for one of the next coffee mornings.



We hope to see you on Wednesday 2nd August before noon.



Shared Meal – Pizza and Ice Cream



Our first barbecue in June was a great success as the weather was with us, and so we thought we would do another similar thing in July, only this time with hotdogs, pizzas, and ice cream.

Once again, a nice group of people turned up, including a few who were with us for the first time. It was lovely to meet them!

At the moment, we haven't set the menu for August, but it is sure to be a delicious meal and an enjoyable occasion when we meet on **Wednesday 9th August at 6pm.**

Who knows, maybe we can be outside again? Come, enjoy the company and the food. You'd be very welcome. Donations appreciated, but not required.

If you know you are coming, could you let us know using the details on the back of this newsletter. Look forward to seeing you!

New Chapel Website

We are working with a developer on a new chapel website as the old one is a bit out of date. As part of making the website reflect what the chapel is really like – on weekdays as well as Sundays – we would like to take a few photos of the activities in the chapel, so you may be asked if you're okay to be in the picture. Please do feel free to decline if you would rather not – but it would be wonderful if you said yes! That way, people can have a genuine idea about what it might be like if they popped in.

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN

NEWBRIDGE-ON-WYE PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

AT NEWBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL EVERY
FRIDAY FROM 9.30AM TILL 11.15AM
(TERM TIME ONLY)

£2 PER CHILD
£1 FOR EACH
ADDITIONAL CHILD



SNACKS AND DRINKS FOR
THE CHILDREN

TEA & COFFEE
AVAILABLE FOR PARENTS
& CARERS

WHY PLAY?

AS A PARENT BEING A
PART OF A COMMUNITY
ACTIVITY CAN HELP YOU
FEEL LESS ALONE AS YOU
ARE AMONGST PEERS.
CHILDREN WILL HAVE FUN,
MAKE FRIENDS AND GROW
IN THEIR SOCIAL SKILLS.



Questions to Leighanne, preferably via their Facebook Group

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Thanks ever so much to the kind neighbours and other good Samaritans around the village who came to our aid when our drains were blocked recently. Really appreciate all your efforts and hard work!
-Misha

The Village Defibrillator

The Defibrillator is situated on the side wall of the Post Office. Using it is self explanatory. The defibrillator can be used by any person on the scene of a cardiac arrest.



There is now also a defibrillator on the hill at Llysdinam. It is situated on the wall beside the road at Cefn y Maes.

NEED A VENUE?

Does your group need a place to meet? Your choir need a place to practice? Your meeting need a calm setting? The chapel vestry is often free for community groups to use (The WI are already using it once a month). The chapel sanctuary is often vacant too and could be used for music or choir practices.

If you would like to enquire about cost and availability, do get in touch with us. You'll find contact details on the back of this newsletter.

The Women's Institute are on a trip in August but will be back in the chapel in September. Questions to Lyn on 07393 602896

USED POSTAGE STAMPS AND COLLECTIBLES



There's a box at the Chapel for used postage stamps for **The Bracken Trust**. You can bring all stamps, UK and foreign, even very common ones, leaving a bit of the envelope around the stamp. If you have collectible items such as cigarette cards, coins, medals or postcards, we are also happy to receive those and will forward them to charities who will benefit from them. Please drop your items into the chapel or give them to someone you know who is going. Thank you in advance for your support.

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NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

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



**Bring whatever you're working on and share coffee and company.
For more information, contact Vanessa Wallis 01597 860185**



Each Sunday a small group of people from across the country meet on Zoom for a service with communion once a month.

The service is slightly different from a traditional service in a chapel. We aim to get to know one-another and to share and pray for each other.

WHAT WE DO

- * We pray together.
- * We read the Bible together.
- * We discuss together – trying to hear what God might be saying to us through the passage.

WHAT WE DON'T DO

- * There is no singing of hymns.
- * There is no music.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND JOIN US

This service may be particularly helpful if you are stuck at home for any reason or if your chapel only meets occasionally.

SPOTLIGHT

*Sunday School
but not Sunday School*

Fun and playful 'Sunday School' at 10am on the 2nd and last Sundays of the month at the chapel. All children welcome to join us.

We play games, dress up and dramatize one of the great stories from the Bible. We also sing songs with actions, do a bit of craft and write our own prayers. We want things to be fun, engaging, and practical, so sometimes, we will go outside too. We really hope your child or grandchild would want to join us. We currently have 3-4 children joining our small group but we really want more friends!

The next dates will be **13th and 27th August and 10th September at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

On the **13th of August**, something really special is going to happen! We will join the rest of the church at the river to experience a baptism together. Someone is going to get very wet. What does "baptism" mean?

Ragdolls and Jumping Jacks! On the **27th of August**, we explore how the church is sort of like a body with arms, legs, eyes and ears... We have different talents and all of us are needed for the church to work well. What's your talent? Can we make a body out of different parts? What's the secret ingredient that will make it work?

September 10th is Harvest at Pentref and we're going to think about how the church can be decorated to celebrate. We have an evening service at 5PM too – can you manage Spotlight TWICE in a day? There will be a bit of supper at least, so you won't go hungry!

It's always better with friends, so if you know of a primary school aged child who would like to come, please bring them along so they can see whether they like it.

Children need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Hello there! I'm Misha, the minister at Pentref Baptist Chapel. Please get in touch if I can be of help in any way. Life as well as faith, humdrum or crisis, there isn't anything too big or small.



If you'd like a chat or need support, please don't hesitate to contact me and we can arrange a visit to your home or a meeting in a neutral location if that suits you better.

I'm happy to pray for you, your family, or any concerns you might have – simply send a message, give me a ring, or drop a note in. Likewise, if you would like us to pray together, I'd be delighted to do so.

If you or a relative are going into hospital and would like a pastoral visit, please let me know and we can arrange that, or where it is not possible, I can help liaise with my chaplain colleagues in the NHS to make sure you have the support you need.

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 if we can help. All messages will be treated with discretion.

Tel: 07432 530983 or 01597 821581

Email: 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

elsa.harflett.eh@gmail.com

You can also find us on the internet at:

www.newbridgebaptistchurch.co.uk

or on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/pentrefnewbridge

September Edition Deadline: Friday 18th August 2023

Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com