

*PENTREF  
BAPTIST  
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



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

This year, I experienced a bit of the Newbridge Carnival. I arrived back home from a residential course to a village transformed! People were sat on the grass chatting and enjoying a drink, kids were playing and trying the rides, and our oldest residents were there too, conversing and rejoicing. I had never before seen floats up close, but there they were, tractor-pulled and full of fun and colour. The traffic had been stopped to allow them through. It was a marvellous experience to see all the work and creativity. I don't think I am the only one who would like to extend a massive thank you to the committee and all their many helpers, and indeed to everyone who came and made it a special day. I was quite moved, and as someone beside me remarked: "I don't think Newbridge has ever had so many people in it!" It was lovely to see the whole community enjoying the day together. Just wow.

A few weeks ago, at the chapel we had a small-scale version of the same experience – that people turned up from all over for the barbecue and added their own special vibe to the evening. Young and old, chapel and certainly-not-chapel folk, children playing and helping out, friends pitching in to get things done at the last minute, stories and experiences told, all different, yet sharing food and time together... Thank you too to those who came and those who helped. It is often a bit of organised chaos, and it is wonderful. The next shared meal is on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July.

There are many stories about weddings, parties, and feasts with food among the parables that Jesus told, and Jesus himself did not say no to a dinner invitation. In fact, he often got in trouble for having his tea with 'the wrong crowd'. There is something about sharing food and drink (and music and conversation) which creates community and transcends those differences which we might sometimes get stuck on. Perhaps that's why my heart is so happy when people get together and perhaps that's why Jesus says that the kingdom of God is like a big dinner party. God invites not only the rich, but also the poor, not only the pretty parts of us, but also those things we would rather hide. In that welcome, we are transformed as we realise that we too belong in the picture, called to much more than we could ever imagine.

# SERVICES AT PENTREF



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>July</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)</b>
			<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Reflective Service</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>July</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Rev Misha Pedersen</b>
			<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Taizé-inspired service</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>July</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Rev Paul Tarling</b>
			<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Bring-and-Share Service</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>July</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Rev Steve Wallis</b>
			<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Traditional Service (Communion)</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>July</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Rev Misha Pedersen</b>
			<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Worship and Word</b>
Every Sunday afternoon, there is a Zoom service at 4:30. For details please contact Steve Wallis via <a href="mailto:steveoncomputer@aol.com">steveoncomputer@aol.com</a>				
<b>First Sunday in July</b>				
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>August</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Rev Misha Pedersen</b>
			<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Evening Service</b>

Everyone is very welcome, and we'd love to see you! If you have any questions, please contact the secretary: [elsa.harflett.eh@gmail.com](mailto:elsa.harflett.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
Saturday 1				
Sunday 2	Morning Service			Reflective Service
Monday 3				Welsh
Tuesday 4				
Wednesday 5	Coffee Morning	No 'Chosen'		
Thursday 6		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday 7				
Saturday 8				
Sunday 9	Morning Service			Taizé Service
Monday 10				Welsh
Tuesday 11				
Wednesday 12				Shared Meal
Thursday 13		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday 14				
Saturday 15				
Sunday 16	Morning Service			Bring-and-Share
Monday 17				Welsh
Tuesday 18				
Wednesday 19		The Chosen		
Thursday 20		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday 21				
Saturday 22				
Sunday 23	Morning Service			Trad. Communion
Monday 24				No Welsh - break
Tuesday 25				
Wednesday 26				
Thursday 27		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday 28				
Saturday 29				
Sunday 30	Morning Service			Worship + Band
Monday 31				No Welsh - break

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.

*"Bring and Share Service": Bring a hymn, a poem, a prayer, not food.*

# SIARAD CYMRAEG?

The Welsh learners' meet Mondays 7pm in the chapel vestry. The next dates will be 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July followed by a few weeks' summer break. You'd be very welcome to join the group. Small donations appreciated but not required.



**Welsh Mondays 7pm**

## COFFEE MORNING IN JUNE

Once again, a good group of people turned up for the coffee morning in the chapel vestry which was held in aid of the local branch of the Red Cross. People from the village and from further afield enjoyed tasty refreshments and conversation, which seemed lively and joyful.

Normally, around 20 people turn up, but there is always room for more, so if you are free, please do join us on the 5<sup>th</sup> July at 10:30 in aid of the carnival. John Lloyd often brings a few pictures from Newbridge or a good story – maybe you have a good story too?

Many local charities have benefitted over the years and the cause changes every few months when the pot reaches £100. If you have suggestions for charities or causes that you feel might benefit from some encouragement, please let us know so we can consider them for future coffee mornings.



**NEXT COFFEE MORNING: 5<sup>th</sup> JULY 10.30 – 12 noon**

# Shared Meal



A barbecue was planned for the shared meal in June, so all eyes were on the weather. Fortunately, it was set fair, so tables and chairs were moved outside. Barbecues were set up and lit, though those involved were not exactly experts in these skills. People started arriving and eventually about 45 were present, ranging in age from under 5 to 90.

Cooking got under way and continued for some time. The meat had been partly cooked beforehand, to avoid any risk of giving the 'customers' food poisoning! People had the choice of burgers, chicken, sausages, frankfurters, and vegetable skewers, with bread or rolls. Bowls of salads were on the tables, together with various sauces.

It was a beautiful warm evening, and folk sat and chatted while they ate. There was of course a variety of puddings, cakes, and fruit to follow. Altogether a very successful and enjoyable evening.

*Bronwen Jenkins*

Our next shared meal will be on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm**. We are hoping again to be outside – perhaps with hotdogs, pizza and ice cream? 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!

July Open Doors Prayer Afternoon  
Tuesday July 25<sup>th</sup> 2.30-4 pm  
St Francis Centre, Holy Trinity Church

All are very welcome. There will be several short films to watch and time to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in various parts of the World. There will be light refreshments.



Every day, on average, 14 Christians in Nigeria are killed for their faith. It's a shocking statistic, but these atrocities seldom get reported in the media. Even the church around the world often doesn't know the extent of the persecution faced by our brothers and sisters in Nigeria. More Christians are killed for their faith in Nigeria than the rest of the world combined. Open Doors are raising awareness with the #14EveryDay social media campaign.

Louise Tarling recently received an informative reply from our M.P. Fay Jones, in response to an email about the issue of violence in Nigeria. If you don't 'do' social media, Louise encourages you to write to her as well to put freedom of religion around the world on the agenda.

Thank you for standing up to violent persecution in Nigeria, and across sub-Saharan Africa, with our persecuted brothers and sisters.

*Louise Tarling (822615)*

# A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Stuart Jones has asked us to include a message of thanks to Nigel Davies, manager at Huws Gray, Llandrindod, for kindly donating compost and wood chips for the four village raised flower planters, and to Llysdinam Sawmill in Newbridge for donating sawn planking for new bird nesting boxes for the Aberithon Turbary Nature Reserve.

A big thank you to both for their help making our community that little bit better and more beautiful.

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## **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.

## **NEWBRIDGE WALKERS**

The Newbridge Walkers meet on a Thursday morning at 10 am in the village carpark opposite the New Inn from where they car-share to a walk location. Walks around 4-5 miles.

Please contact Elsa for details on 07979 961276 or 01597 860894. Feel free to leave a message.



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 **9<sup>th</sup> July, 23<sup>rd</sup> July and 13<sup>th</sup> August at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

**July 9<sup>th</sup>** Difficult things get easier when we “share the load” – with friends and with God. Jesus talks about “an easy yoke” – do you know what he means by that? Come along and find out more.

On the **23<sup>rd</sup> of July** someone called Jacob goes to sleep and has a dream of angels on a ladder! It made him realise that he was in a very special place. Do you have spaces that are special to you? Where do you go to talk to God? Where does God talk to you?

On the **13<sup>th</sup> 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?

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](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.harflett.eh@gmail.com](mailto:elsa.harflett.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)

**August Edition Deadline: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

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