

*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



Heath Spotted Orchid at Cors-y-Llyn – by Elsa Harlett

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

Over the past little while, I have been peering into small black plastic containers with great expectations, hoping to see plants emerging. The Manse porch has been transformed into a small greenhouse and during a recent holiday, watering was temporarily outsourced to a good friend. I am greatly enjoying the excitement of cornflowers, sunflower seedlings, and next year's peach-coloured foxgloves, which I often call "sleeping bags for bees". The fruit cage behind the house has now got some fruit plants in it, thanks to the encouragement from Mark & Ruth across the road. Theirs is the tomato plant as well which I was given. Rumour has it that my strawberries will be tastier for growing next to a thyme – I never knew that. Nevertheless, the lemon-thyme is going in.

Not only our gardens, but also the lawns and hedges are full of flowers. Just a few days ago, another friend sent me photos of lovely mountain pansies growing quietly out of view at Gilfach. Meanwhile, in my own life and travels, I sometimes get to see something similar in my own journey and the lives of the people I meet, that among life's difficulties and tragedies, something is growing which reminds me of the beauty of life and the power of the strongest force of all – love, which never quits.

A lot of the stories we tell about the divine take place in gardens. There, life begins. There, we meet and talk in peace, humans tenderly caring for creation and walking hand-in-hand with Godself. There, when things go wrong, are strong promises made that things will be redeemed, and relationships restored. Pictures of water, of thistles, of weeds, of fruit, of harvest run through all our best stories of who we are and what we are about – all pictures which perhaps you can relate to as you tend your planters, train your roses or try to cope with hay fever symptoms. It was in a garden too that the first disciples at the Easter grave found it empty and saw things that boggled their minds.

With Pentecost upon us, God's dream for us all goes from being localised in one place in Jesus to being global, present in many places and many people by the Holy Spirit, but it is the same dream: That all people may flourish, flower and bear fruit. That all people everywhere might have life in all its fulness, unfolding day by day into depths of relationship and meaning which are fruitful and truly, vibrantly, alive.

Whether you share my belief that life's fullest expression is found in Jesus, please know this: You are precious. Inside you, something good and beautiful lives, with echoes from a distant garden; a divine dream of flourishing calling your name. Can you hear it? Can you believe it?

SERVICES AT PENTREF



Sunday	4th	June	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)
			6:30pm	Reflective Service
Sunday	11th	June	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			6:30pm	Taizé-inspired service
Sunday	18th	June	10:30am	Rev Andrew Wyton
			6:30pm	Bring-and-Share Service
Sunday	25th	June	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 July				
Sunday	2nd	July	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			6:30pm	Evening Service

Everyone is very welcome to join us, so feel free to pop in whatever your background or story. If you have any questions, please contact the secretary via elsa.harflett.eh@gmail.com and we'll try to help. We're quite informal and would love to see you. 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
Thursday	1		Creative Group	Iona Prayers
Friday	2			
Saturday	3			
Sunday	4	Morning Service		Reflective Service
Monday	5			No Welsh - break
Tuesday	6			
Wednesday	7	Coffee Morning		
Thursday	8		Creative Group	Iona Prayers
Friday	9			
Saturday	10			
Sunday	11	Morning Service		Taizé Service
Monday	12			No Welsh - break
Tuesday	13			
Wednesday	14			Shared Meal
Thursday	15		Creative Group	Iona Prayers
Friday	16			Women's Institute
Saturday	17			
Sunday	18	Morning Service		Bring-and-Share
Monday	19			Welsh
Tuesday	20			
Wednesday	21			
Thursday	22		Creative Group	Iona Prayers
Friday	23			
Saturday	24			
Sunday	25	Morning Service		Traditional Service
Monday	26			Welsh
Tuesday	27			
Wednesday	28			
Thursday	29		Creative Group	Iona Prayers
Friday	30			

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.

COFFEE MORNING



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

**The next Coffee Morning will be on
Wednesday 7th June 2023
Coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits provided.
We'd love to see you.**

Donations gratefully received for Red Cross Local Branch.

COFFEE MORNING IN MAY

The May Coffee Morning on the first Wednesday of the month had a good attendance of over 20 people, some of them new to the coffee morning. Senior residents of the village John Lloyd, Robin Powell and Trevor Hughson, brought along old photos of the village and residents of years gone allowing people to share their memories with those present. There was lively chat about life and characters in the village in



the early and middle of the 20th century, including the old Central Wales railway line, buildings and businesses which were present at the time. The combined age of the three mentioned total 274 years, all either born in the village or moved to the Newbridge area when they were youngsters.

SIARAD CYMRAEG?

The Welsh learners' meet Mondays 7pm in the chapel vestry. The next dates will be 19th and 26th June. You'd be very welcome to join us. Small donations towards tutoring and materials appreciated but not required.



Welsh Mondays 7pm

Shared Meal



Our next shared meal will be on **Wednesday 14th June at 6pm** when we will be having a barbecue – come rain or come shine! There's always a nice atmosphere in the chapel vestry when we get together, and it would be great to see you there.

The meal is free; donations are always welcome but of course, no obligation.

Why not come and join us? People turn up from all over the village, from Rhayader, from Llandrindod etc, so there is always a bit of news to be shared and new people to meet.

Open Doors Prayer Afternoon

Tuesday June 27th 2.30-4 pm St Francis Centre, Holy Trinity Church

Light refreshments

All are very welcome to come along to the prayer afternoon, where we will watch several short films from some of the countries in the world where persecution for Christians is severe, to inform our prayers. There will be no obligation to pray out loud.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Open Doors' research into the countries where Christians face the most persecution.



Last September we also mourned the loss of Brother Andrew. He founded Open Doors when he felt called by God to smuggle Bibles behind the Iron Curtain to strengthen the church in countries where Communist regimes were determined to stamp it out. Since the late 1950s when Brother Andrew began this work, we have seen Communist regimes come and go.

This year's Open Doors World Watch List research shows that authoritarianism is rising again across the globe with the smash and squeeze of persecution for Christians intensifying in countries such as China, Myanmar and Turkey. North Korea returns to the top of the Open Doors World Watch List and scores the highest number of points we have ever recorded. Today more than 360 million Christians experience high and extreme levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.

Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) is Article 18 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Open Doors is heartened by the work the UK Government is doing to uphold human rights globally, and particularly to uphold Article 18, upon which so many other rights depend.

We also see the Christian church continuing to grow and Christians continuing to be a force for good around the world. There is always reason to hope. Thank you for all you do to support the persecuted church and uphold freedom of religion or belief. Please keep going.

For further information, please contact Louise Tarling on 01597 822615.

**Don't forget the Newbridge-on-Wye Carnival
on the last Saturday in June!**



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.



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.

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

The recent coronation weekend saw a number of events taking place around the village – street parties, events in our pubs etc. Clive Barrett gives this account of the events in Meadowlands.

On the Sunday afternoon of the Coronation weekend, the residents of the Meadowlands estate in Newbridge on Wye organised a Celebration Street Party. The party was a bring-and-share buffet tea on a fine and dry afternoon. It proved to be a lovely get-together for the approximately 30 neighbours and friends who attended.



Did you join any of the celebrations and if so, how?

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

The WI meet every third Thursday at 7pm in the chapel vestry. Our next meeting will be on 15th June when Jayne Griffiths demonstrates flower arranging. For further information, please contact Lyn Davies on 07393 602896 and/or see www.thewi.org.uk

USED POSTAGE STAMPS AND COLLECTIBLES



At the Chapel, we have a box to collect used postage stamps, which we are forwarding to **The Bracken Trust**, as the Leprosy Mission are no longer able to receive these items. Please bring all stamps, UK and foreign, even very common ones, leaving a bit of the envelope around the stamp. Likewise, if you have collectible items such as cigarette cards, coins, medals or postcards, we are 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 goes to the chapel. Thank you in advance for your support.

THE LEPROSY MISSION – TALK AND LUNCH

For many years, we have been collecting items for the Leprosy Mission and followed their work to fight leprosy around the world. On Tuesday 30th May 10:30, engaging speaker Trevor Grant will be with us to share about the work of the charity and his recent visit to Nepal. Join us for the talk, the lunch or both. All welcome.



Come and hear about the exciting work of the Leprosy Mission. Trevor Grant shares about the life-changing work of the charity and his recent trip to Anandaban hospital, Nepal.

Pentref Chapel Newbridge
Tuesday 30th May 10:30 followed
by a bring-and-share lunch.



The
**Leprosy
Mission**
ENGLAND & WALES



Each Sunday a small group of people from across the country meet together on Zoom for a service.

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



RENOVATED WELSH WATER MILL

coffee morning

MAY 31ST, 2023

THE MILL, RHOSGOCH, LD2 3JY
10.30AM - 12PM



**IN SUPPORT OF BREAST CANCER
PREVENTION**

*PENTREFF
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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

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 – a couple of families have already enquired and we are so excited to get started.

The next dates will be **28th May, 11th June, 25th June and 9th July at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

May 28th is Pentecost and something very strange happens in Jerusalem – wind, fire and strange languages! We wonder how many languages we know between us?

On the **11th of June**, a little girl experiences a miracle. A tax collector and a woman who hasn't been well also have a very different day. How do we tell Jesus about things that worry us so he can help?

God knows every plant and every animal. He also knows and cares about us. On **25th June**, we will go outside to see what we might learn about God in nature. Members of the congregation help us identify flowers and birds – how many do we know?

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 on the **9th of July** and find out a bit more!

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.

THIS IS FOR YOU

This is for you.

You who think you might have messed it all up beyond repair

- and for you who know you have.

For you who've got it all together,

and for you who can't even begin to imagine what that means.

For you whose late nights get later trying to keep it up

trying to catch someone up who's already left and probably won't return.

This is for you. This is so for you.

For you whose box is too square, too straight, too small, too narrow...

And for you whose voice is just a little out of tune

or behind-the-beat – or silenced.

This is for you.

This is for you who love mixing your metaphors,

whose extraversion is looking at the other fella's shoes,

and for you who can play any instrument and play it well.

For you who know the name of every plant

and for you who eat them, only.

For you whose hands are too tired to scratch your nose,

legs too tired to climb the stairs, ears too full...

You are loved.

Right now, in the impossibility of it all,

in the everyday and the whatever,

in the same-old, same-old,

in the blooming marvellous

and the truly wonderful and the silence and the pain.

Just a note I was asked to pass on by Someone who cares,

and who wasn't sure if you still remembered:

You are loved.

This is for you,

just in case you need to hear it.

This is *so* for you.

-Misha

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

July Edition Deadline: Monday 19th June 2023

Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com