

*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



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

Well, I am meant to be writing a piece for the newsletter, but my attention keeps getting grabbed by the birds flying around outside, landing on fences, darting in and out of the yew trees. They seem to have flight corridors that take them from one place to the next. I like watching them, as it gives me a little 'brain break'; a sense of 'just being'. I'm not good at identifying the different species but I know some people who can. I wonder how the world might look with that level of detail, whether your passion is birds, flowers, lichen, or anything else for that matter. It must be like watching colour TV for the first time, or like going from a grainy image in a newspaper to a full HD surround sound film at the cinema. Perhaps you can appreciate things more when you can see them better and know them better?

We all need time to 'stop and stare', as the old poem goes. At times, we get busy and think that if we stop for a breather, everything grinds to a halt. Ancient wisdom, however, teaches us that if we trust that the world will still go round while we rest, we may just find, suddenly blooming, what some call grace – a spaciousness in which peace can sneak up on us and creativity and life return as we stop trying so hard. Maybe something or even someone is holding things together while we rest?

That's not to deny that life can be tricky in the current economy, in busy families or lonely hours, but rather that the part of us which isn't simply chasing the next goal, might be fertile ground in which seeds of joy, hope and even belonging can grow – on a walk, on the bus or while doing the washing up, and I know a lot of people find that the hills, the rivers, the trees, the landscape or even the plants on their windowsill help them connect with God – without words, just with the heart, mostly in silence. These everyday spaces, these green places become little doorways in the ordinary through which something very special can enter.

I hope that in the silence as well as in the words, you may catch glimpses of that, and that you will find God's heart as big and as compassionate as I have. May we all find time to rest, to wonder, to marvel, to trust, to be refreshed. I pray that for us all. **-Misha**

SERVICES AT PENTREF



Sunday	3rd	Sept	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)
			6:30pm	Reflective Service
Sunday	10th	Sept	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			5:00pm	Harvest – Gareth Evans followed by Harvest Supper
Sunday	17th	Sept	10:30am	Rev Andrew Wyton
			6:30pm	Bring and Share Service
Sunday	24th	Sept	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 Rev Steve Wallis via steveoncomputer@aol.com				
First Sunday in October				
Sunday	1st	October	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.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
Friday	1				
Saturday	2				
Sunday	3	Morning Service		Zoom	Reflective Service
Monday	4				
Tuesday	5				
Wednesday	6	Coffee Morning			
Thursday	7		Art	Iona Prayers	
Friday	8				
Saturday	9				
Sunday	10	Morning Service		Zoom + Harvest	Harvest Supper
Monday	11				
Tuesday	12				
Wednesday	13				Shared Meal
Thursday	14		Art	Iona Prayers	
Friday	15				
Saturday	16				
Sunday	17	Morning Service		Zoom	Bring-and-Share
Monday	18				
Tuesday	19				
Wednesday	20		The Chosen		
Thursday	21		Art	Iona Prayers	
Friday	22				
Saturday	23				
Sunday	24	Morning Service		Zoom	Communion Service
Monday	25				
Tuesday	26				
Wednesday	27				
Thursday	28		Art	Iona Prayers	
Friday	29				
Saturday	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.

COFFEE MORNING 6th SEPTEMBER 10:30

The Pentref Coffee Morning is a great opportunity to meet friends and make new ones while trying some of the cakes, biscuits and other goodies that have been provided. There's always lots of chatter and sometimes, we share pictures whether new (like here) or older ones from the past of the village, when things looked very different.



The next Coffee Morning collects for the Aberithon Turbary as a little acknowledgement of all the work that has been done there which benefits many people in the village on their daily walks.

We hope to see you on Wednesday 6th September before noon.



United Service at Franksbridge 20th August

Folk from Newbridge and Howey gathered at Franksbridge on a sunny afternoon for a joint service. It was good to see young people present, some of whom had come from Rhayader.

The service was led by Rev Ian Sim, whose subject for the address was 'Unity', a very appropriate topic. All believers have unity in Christ, but that does not mean that all have to worship in the same way or have the same form of organisation.

Several 'old favourite' hymns were sung, and after the service, tasty refreshments were served.

Bronwen Jenkins

Shared Meal – The Chapel Chippy



At the last shared meal, around 30 people joined together for an evening of food and fun. Many thanks to those who came, cooked and cleared up, as well as to those who donated munchies and money. It is truly appreciated.

The September edition of the shared meal will feature a variation on the theme of fish and chips, with a few extra options available, including a gluten free choice. We trust that there will be a few gorgeous puddings to follow. The past few times, we have been really spoiled with a lovely variety.

As always, the meal is free, so there is no obligation to give. Just come and be part of the atmosphere and enjoy the evening.

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!

Newbridge W.I.: No meeting in August.

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.

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.

PRAYING FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Louise Tarling coordinates a group which meets once a month at the St Francis Centre in Holy Trinity Church in Llandrindod Wells.

The next Open Doors meeting will be on **Tuesday 26th September from 2:30-4:00pm** and will finish with refreshments. Louise can be contacted on 01597 822615 if you would like more information about the meeting or the work of Open Doors, a charity which works to protect and encourage persecuted Christians around the world. Or you can find more information here: <https://opendoorsuk.org>

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



HARVEST

It would be great to see you at our Harvest Service at 5pm on the 10th September, which promises to be a joyful occasion of giving thanks to God for the abundance around us.

Donations gratefully received towards local Foodbanks.

Please bring fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers on the Friday or Saturday if you can, so they can be used to decorate. Non-perishable food items can be brought at any time. All are welcome to come and pause and be thankful.



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NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

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



THE JOY OF A BAPTISM

On Sunday 13th August, Alan was baptised in the River Wye. A good crowd came out to celebrate this special day with us with some watching from the bridge and others in the field. A van even stopped on the bridge to ask what was the occasion!

We began in the chapel vestry before all moving down into the field from where the river was accessed and the act of baptism took place to the sound of singing, before we went back for tea, cake and a dry set of clothes for some of us!

Below, Alan tells us about his experience of coming to Pentref for the first time – do read his account.

I would like to thank those who allowed us access to land and river and went out of their way to help. **-Misha**

Alan writes:

Finding my faith again after moving to Newbridge found me wanting to enter into our local chapel to start a re-connection with God.

We all have trepidation whenever we do something new or unfamiliar, however after walking up to the big red doors and around the side of the chapel, my hand made contact with the Suffolk door latch, and I was in through the door into a light airy space surrounded by fellow worshippers.

I joined the service and throughout felt comfortable, During my visit, there was complete empathy, genuine warmth and a feeling of care. No one judged me or asked awkward questions, everyone welcomed me, and I left with a feeling that both those present and God had wrapped their arms and hands around me in a loving and warm way just like holding a cup of warm soup or coffee.

My journey started there that day and, like being on a railway, I bought a ticket to an on-going destination. I am still on that train and those initial feelings haven't changed.

Alan

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 and we really want more friends!

The next dates will be: **10th September, 24th September, and 8th October at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

September 10th is Harvest Day 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!

On the **24th of September**, we talk about having enough, but not too much, and how God looks after us in all sorts of ways. Have you ever heard about "manna"? What is it?

Are the leaves falling yet? What can we learn from what Jesus says about vines, tree, branches, and fruit? On the **8th of October**, we will do a bit of craft using leaves that we find – and talk about being 'plugged in' to God's power supply.

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.

JESUS SAYS: LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

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).

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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

October Edition Deadline: Monday 18th September 2023

Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com