

*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



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

And breathe... September has been full of travel with lots of conferences and training events scheduled. One of them took me to Durham, where I found myself in a short lunchtime communion service at the cathedral, surrounded by locals and other travellers. A gentleman wasn't sure how communion was going to happen and turned to me for a bit of advice – I must have looked 'vicarish'. I offered him a few hints, but truth be told, I wasn't entirely sure either. I sometimes visit churches quite different from this little local Baptist church because it keeps me aware of how hard it can be to 'try church' or be new to how it's all done! Please know that you are always welcome – there is space and time for you too at Pentref.

One thing which I found really moving in Durham Cathedral was that all the used tealights people had lit in the cathedral had been gathered in a bowl which was put on the alter as the priest prayed and offered to God "all these silent prayers". All the prayers we simply sigh or shout, even if we aren't always aware that it is prayer or quite sure to whom we are addressing them, the prayers we *cannot* speak... There is something about prayer which is almost like breathing – it's built in and just happens.

At the same time, I find it really helpful to be part of a community of people who try to listen to God together. Strange as it might sound, prayer isn't simply me talking and asking for things. God does speak to us in various ways too. Through the Bible of course, complex as it is (start with Mark's Gospel, I'd say). But prayers are answered directly too and sometimes a nudge may be divinely inspired. I can't count the times when a sudden urge to approach a stranger in the street or at a table in a café, led me to someone with a real need for a chat about something deeply troubling them, when a little bit of my time proved to make a real difference. People's honesty, pain, and trust, make me feel extremely privileged to be allowed to listen and to help others listen for God in the midst of all that is happening in their lives. I too have people who help me listen when I need a little help. Perhaps all this shows is that we all need a listening ear?

Well, I am sure some of these are a nudge from God because most of the time, our answers to prayer come through people not miraculous interventions. Even if you wouldn't use that language though, I have seen how attentive people really brighten someone's day with a small 'random act of kindness'. The recipient of the free coffee, the envelope through the door, the contribution towards a school trip for the kids they can't afford, often doesn't know who has done them a good turn, but the idea then is to 'pay it forward' rather than try to pay it back. Go and bless someone else. Can we make the world a kinder place together? Why not try? **-Misha**

SERVICES AT PENTREF



Sunday	1st	October	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen (Baptism)
			6:30pm	Reflective Service
Sunday	8th	October	10:30am	Rev Gareth Davidson, Knighton
			6:30pm	Taizé Service
Sunday	15th	October	10:30am	Rev Paul Tarling
			6:30pm	Bring and Share Service
Sunday	22nd	October	10:30am	Rev Steve Wallis
			6:30pm	Traditional Service (Communion)
Sunday	29th	October	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			6:30pm	United Service
<i>Every Sunday afternoon, there is a Zoom service at 4:30. For details please contact Rev Steve Wallis via steveoncomputer@aol.com</i>				
First Sunday in November				
Sunday	5th	Nov	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
Sunday 1	Morning Service		Zoom	Reflective Service
Monday 2				
Tuesday 3				
Wednesday 4	Coffee Morning	The Chosen		
Thursday 5		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday 6				
Saturday 7				
Sunday 8	Morning Service		Zoom	Taizé Service
Monday 9				
Tuesday 10				
Wednesday 11				Shared Meal
Thursday 12		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday 13				
Saturday 14				
Sunday 15	Morning Service		Zoom	Bring-and-Share
Monday 16				
Tuesday 17				
Wednesday 18				
Thursday 19		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	WI in vestry
Friday 20				
Saturday 21				
Sunday 22	Morning Service		Zoom	Communion
Monday 23				
Tuesday 24				
Wednesday 25				Window o-t World
Thursday 26		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday 27				
Saturday 28				
Sunday 29	Morning Service		Zoom	United Service
Monday 30				
Tuesday 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.

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

NEXT COFFEE MORNING 4th OCTOBER 10:30



Most of our coffee mornings collect funds for local charities such as the Red Cross, Bracken Trust etc. This coming month, however, we are asking for a small donation towards the refurbishment of the chapel kitchen. We find ourselves using the space more, so we are looking to increase storage space and worktops to allow us to continue serving coffee, cake, meals and much more throughout the week – including making a bit more room for our material for Spotlight, our Sunday School.

As always, our Coffee Morning is a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones as we chat and try the cakes, so we hope to see you on Wednesday 4th October before noon.

United Service on the 29th October



Our next 5th Sunday special service will be a United Service together with Franksbridge and Howey Chapels, hosted here at Newbridge.

Rumour has it that it will be a very special service where some Breconshire Puppets and some West Country Farmers will come and add to the fun, among the items from the participating chapels and of course, music new and old!

Why not join us for this event? There will be a cuppa after the service to allow us all to catch up with each other. It would be great to see you!



Shared Meal



Thank you so much to everyone who helped make the fish and chips meal such a success – no end of helpers made chips, provided puddings and helped with the clearing up. You people are such a blessing.

In October, our shared meal falls on Wednesday 11th, and we will gather at the usual time of 6 pm, this time for a hearty bowl of goulash soup (or tomato, if you prefer) with rolls, cheeses and hopefully a few nice puddings once again.

We are always thrilled to see new faces and hear familiar voices, so whether you have been before or not, it would be lovely to have your company. No need to bring anything and the meal is free, but if you have a few coins rattling around in your pocket, donations are welcome. But please, just come and join us.

Need some space?

If you need somewhere to have a meeting or a choir practice, the chapel and the vestry are often available for community groups. Please enquire about availability and our reasonable prices by using the contact details for the secretary or the minister at the back of this newsletter.

Jesus says: I am the good shepherd; I lay down my life for the sheep.



MEET THE DEFIBS!

The green defibrillator is on the side wall of the Post Office and his yellow friend is on the hill at Llysdinam, situated by the gate beside the road a bit further up than Cefn y Maes. Should you ever need to use them, the device itself will guide you through the whole process.

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 "**Open Doors**" which meets monthly at the St Francis Centre in Holy Trinity Church in Llandrindod Wells.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday 24th October from 2:30-4:00pm**, with short films and prayers, and will finish with refreshments. For more information, contact Louise on 01597 822615 or see the Open Doors website: <https://opendoorsuk.org>

Each Sunday a small group of people from across the country meet on Zoom for a service. We share 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 IN IMAGES

Impressive donations were collected and passed on to our local Foodbanks. Thank you to all who were so generous! The service, led by Rev Gareth Evans, was uplifting and the tea which followed provided nourishment and natters aplenty. Window decorations included some themed around the hymn “We plough the fields and scatter” created by members of the art group which meets in the chapel vestry on a Thursday.



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NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

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



Why not join the Newbridge Creative Group? Bring whatever you enjoy doing and share your skills and a cuppa with others.



WINDOW ON THE WORLD

A SERIES OF TALKS IN THE NEW YEAR
WITH A TASTER SESSION ON
WEDNESDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2023 | 7PM

REV IFOR WILLIAMS, ERWOOD
ON THE TOPIC OF RELATIONSHIPS AND MENTAL HEALTH
AND HIS WORK WITH THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK



A series of enlightening talks which allow us fascinating glimpses of the human experience – or to open a portal to go to places far and wide. “Window on the World” takes place on the last Wednesday of the month in the vestry at the Baptist chapel with engaging speakers who share their experience and unique viewpoints. Everyone is very welcome. There will be a chance to have a chat and a cuppa too.

Newbridge WI meet again on the 19th of October at 7pm at the chapel vestry when Penny Lewns talks about bats and their conservation.

Dr Fred Slater is asking whether anyone has got a little time and energy to spare to help with a few small jobs at the Aberithon Turbary? A small work party will take place sometime during the month. If you can help and want to hear more, please get in touch. Fred's email is slaterfm@cardiff.ac.uk Many thanks!



For more information, see towards the end of this newsletter.

Golden Lion Inn
Newbridge on Wye

Fish & Chip Night

Thursday 5th October

Available 5.30pm - 8.30pm



**Crispy Hand Beer Battered Cod, Mushy or
Garden Peas, & Homemade Chips with
Free Drink**

£12.50

Book your table now!



THE NEW INN CHRISTMAS PARTY MENU

STARTERS

SMOOTH BRUSSELS PATE OR MUSHROOM PATE
- Served with side salad , onion chutney & crusty
baguette.

HOMEMADE SWEET POTATO SOUP -Served with a
rustic roll & butter

SMOKED SALMON WITH PRAWNS - Served with a
punchy horseradish cream , lime , honey & ginger
dressing and leafy salad

HALLOUMI FRIES - Served with sweet chilli sauce

MAIN COURSES

JUICY TURKEY , SLOW COOKED
GAMMON OR ROAST BEEF - Served with
roasted and mashed potatoes, Yorkshire's,
pigs in blankets , stuffing , seasonal
vegetables, homemade gravy or parsley
sauce.

NUTROAST - Served with roasted and
mashed potatoes , seasonal vegetables
&vegetable gravy.



DESSERTS

CHRISTMAS PUDDING - Served with
Brandy sauce.

HOT CHOCOLATE BROWNIE - Served
with vanilla ice - cream & hot chocolate
sauce.

HOMEMADE LEMON TRIFLE - Served with
double cream.

TO FINISH - mince pie & coffee

£25 per. person

Bookings only . Book early to avoid
disappointment on 01597 860211.

Available 24th November 2023 - 22nd
December 2023

GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE
PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF STAFF
ABOUT ANY ALLERGIES OR PREFERENCES
AT TIME OF BOOKING



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**
AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR

**GOLDEN LION INN
NEWBRIDGE ON WYE
01597 860392**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY
MENU 2023**

2 Course - £22.50

3 Course - £26.50

Christmas Menu

Starters

- Spicy Sweetcorn Fritters with
Sweet Chilli sauce (GF, V)
King Prawn Cocktail
- Chinese Duck Bon Bon With Hoisin Sauce
Leek & Potato Soup & Roll (V)

Sorbet

Mains

- From our Carvery choose from
- Traditional Roast Turkey
 - Roast Beef
 - Salmon Fillet
 - Glamorgan Sausages (V)
- All served with Seasonal Vegetables,
Roast Potatoes & all the Trimmings

Desserts

- Lemon & Raspberry Meringue Nest
- Sticky Toffee Pudding
- Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce
- Chocolate Brownie Trifle

Tea/Coffee Extra £2.50



**Newbridge on Wye
Carnival present**

An Evening of Comedy

**With 'Just Deb'
Comedian & Vocalist
Followed by a Disco**

Saturday 21st October

**Raising money for
Newbridge on Wye
Carnival**

JustDeb



JustDeb Will Invade Your
Venue Armed With Weapons
Of Humour Laughter And
Mirth Plus A Fantastic
Song Or Two
Her Act Is A Seismic Geological
Earthquake That Will Cause Effects
Such As Uncontrollable Laughter
Around The Rib Area
So Don't Miss This Show

Quote By David Gough Thomas



Doors Open at 7:00pm

Start 7:30pm

Bar

**Tickets £15 and
available from:**

Newbridge Post Office

The New Inn

The Golden Lion

**Or by calling
07415 229339**

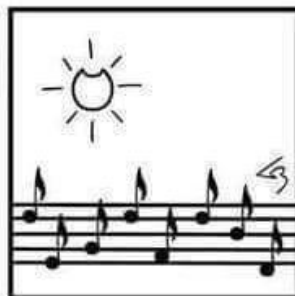
Please note, this event at the community hall is suitable for adults only.

WELCOME LANCE

There is now a vicar in Newbridge-on-Wye, Rev'd Lance Sharpe, who has come down from Rhayader to look after a few of the local churches in addition to his role at a diocesan level. We rejoice with the church and look forward to working with Lance in the future. This year, the church will be hosting the Remembrance service, so this might be one of the first opportunities for us to work jointly. If you need to reach Lance, the best way to do so is via his mobile phone: 07938 762570 or on email: lancesharpe@cinw.org.uk

I am sure everyone will be as kind and welcoming to Lance and Alison as you have all been to me.

-Misha



I wanted to tell you about something I heard from a sweet little passing tweeting bird who had heard it, I think, from an angel last week (the bird took *days* to learn to speak), but now it was ready to spill the beans. I will leave it to you to decide what it means.

The bird insisted that it had been told that God was not really a bearded man, old, who was sat on a cloud with a stern-looking face. Instead, God was a God full of justice and grace, who looked like Jesus, eating with sinners, teaching them 'Sainthood for complete beginners'.

We continue to rejoice that people are making the decision to be baptised as a sign of their decision to follow Jesus even more closely in response to the grace and love they have already experienced. Meeting Jesus doesn't leave anyone unchanged – it blesses us, it costs us something, it matters.



*Sunday School
but not Sunday School*

Fun and playful 'Sunday School' at 10am normally on the 2nd and last Sundays of the month. 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: **1st October, 29th October and 5th November at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE FROM 8th to 1st of OCTOBER – WE HAVE ANOTHER BAPTISM AND WE WILL ALL BE THERE TOGETHER. ALSO, WE WILL MEET ON 5th NOVEMBER AS 12th IS REMEMBRANCE.

1st October: David is baptised. Who remembers what baptism means? Can we memorise the verse about going into all the world and making disciples? How do we follow Jesus in Newbridge?

On the 29th of October, we talk about a Foodbank which had started soon after Jesus went back to heaven. Everyone who believed in Jesus shared everything, but some people were not entirely happy. What did they do about it?

On the 5th of November, we talk about some of the values that guide how we live and see how we can put them into practice.

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).

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

November Edition Deadline: Friday 20th October 2023

Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com