

*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



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

I recently visited family in Denmark and went to see a place which I hadn't seen since my childhood days: The original Legoland in Billund where Lego was invented. In my memory, Legoland was a huge place with a tall tower, rides, and endless model houses of Danish landmarks, Norwegian, Scottish, and Alpine landscapes. A place to tire out a child. We would go once a year with a packed lunch – a real treat in the days before we could afford our later holidays in the car to rainy summer cottages and even, once, via various static caravans to France. But I digress. In my mind, Legoland was a huge place, but when Elsa and I got to the place I had wanted her to see, I think we almost felt like Gulliver in Lilliput land. It's all about perspective. A lot of people say they feel similar when they see The Little Mermaid in Copenhagen for the first time – how small she looks on her rock in the water surrounded by tourists who emerge out of coaches and soon leave again the same way they came, their Instagram moment captured, filtered and hash-tagged. We, too, secured a picture.

Right now, lots is going on in the world with the potential to confound and confuse us and evoke concern and compassion in equal measure, such as the situation in the Middle East. Add to that all the conflicts taking place without much media coverage at all. Perhaps especially around the time of Remembrance, it can make us feel rather overwhelmed when we stop to think about it, longing for peace but feeling a bit powerless and small, like the 8-year-old me in Legoland, thinking I might get lost in the crowds and the queues in this huge place that turned out to be small to the adult eye.

The atrocities and suffering in Israel/Palestine are very real as are the tensions surrounding the area from other nations who, please God, will choose their words with great care to avoid adding fuel to the fire. We all share hope, I think, that a future can be built, not out of Lego but out of people as living bricks who share some of the image of the divine and practice their faith and values for the good of all people and the earth itself.

I firmly believe that in Jesus we see most clearly what both God and true humanity are like. Even now, Christ walks with us in our suffering, offering us hope and redemption even amid what seems unbearable – in our own lives and in the wider world. Something changed on that Easter morning which made a whole new world possible, one that is promised, on its way, here now, but not yet fully. One where God is bigger than your greatest fear and more beautiful than your sweetest dream. A different perspective. You may share my belief in God, or you might find that your box of Lego doesn't come together that way at the moment. Whichever way, shall we build together, as best we can, something that looks like a future? **-Misha**

SERVICES AT PENTREF



Sunday	5th	November	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)
			6:30pm	Reflective Service
Sunday	12th	November	10:45am	Remembrance at <u>All Saints</u>
			6:30pm	Taizé Service
Sunday	19th	November	10:30am	Rev Paul Tarling
			6:30pm	Bring and Share Service
Sunday	26th	November	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			6:30pm	Traditional Service (Communion)
<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 December				
Sunday	3rd	December	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			6:30pm	Evening Service

Everyone is very welcome to join any of these services. If you have any questions, please contact the secretary: elsa.harflett.eh@gmail.com.

We normally sit around a big table in the vestry and listen to readings and a message about faith, sing songs (some modern, some hymns), pray together and share a cup of tea and coffee after the service to allow us to catch up with news from the week. Sometimes, we have children with us in the morning. Our communion services are 1st Sunday AM and 4th Sunday PM. All welcome to join us at any time. It'd be great to see you.

What's on at Pentref?

Date	Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Wednesday 1	Coffee Morning	The Chosen		
Thursday 2		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday 3				
Saturday 4				
Sunday 5	Morning Service		Zoom Church	Reflective Service
Monday 6				
Tuesday 7				
Wednesday 8				Shared Meal
Thursday 9		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday 10				
Saturday 11				
Sunday 12	Morning Service		Zoom Church	Taize Service
Monday 13				
Tuesday 14				
Wednesday 15		The Chosen		
Thursday 16		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	WI in vestry
Friday 17				
Saturday 18				
Sunday 19	Morning Service	Vestry engaged	Zoom Church	Bring and Share
Monday 20		<i>Newsletter Deadline</i>		
Tuesday 21				
Wednesday 22				
Thursday 23		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday 24				
Saturday 25				
Sunday 26	Morning Service		Zoom Church	Communion
Monday 27				
Tuesday 28				
Wednesday 29		<i>Church Outing and Christmas Meal</i>		
Thursday 30		Creative Group	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.

First of the Month:

There is also a service at All Saints Church 5th November 11:00

NEXT COFFEE MORNING 1st NOVEMBER 10:30



The last two months' Coffee Mornings were very successful, and people seemed to enjoy themselves. Donations were received for the new Aberithon Village Nature Reserve, owned by Llanyre Community Council, and for the refurbishment of the Pentref Chapel kitchen respectively.

These charity Coffee Mornings are a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones while trying some of the cakes, biscuits and other goodies provided. Your generous donations help us help others.

The next Coffee Morning takes place on **Wednesday 1st of November** from 10.30 till noon. Dr. Fred Slater will be around to update us on the Nature Reserve and the progress made recently towards the completion of this project. He will also receive the most recent donation from you all. Hopefully, see a good crowd there. *Written by Clive Barrett*

CHRISTMAS FAYRE SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER



On the 2nd of December from 10:30 till 4, local crafters will be at the chapel vestry with decorations, floral arrangements, and opportunities to find that special gift or card that will put a smile on someone's face this Christmas.

Please reserve the date and come in support of local creative people and the chapel who will provide light refreshments at very favourable prices, giving you a chance to warm up and natter over a mince pie and cuppa.

There will be children's activities outside to give you a "break to browse".

To enquire about tables at £5, local artists and crafters can contact organiser Kathy Woodyatt on 07879 623959.

SHARED MEAL



At the October edition of the Shared Meal, over 20 people enjoyed hearty bowls of goulash soup, with vegetarian options also available, all served with bread rolls, cheeses, and some nice puddings to follow.

A special thanks to the people who stepped in to ensure the event could go ahead despite Misha's holiday plans. You are wonderful!

On **Wednesday 8th November at 6pm**, everyone is welcome as usual at this opportunity to mix, mingle and munch. The meal is free with donations appreciated but not required. We haven't set the menu yet but we're sure it will be tasty!

Clive Barrett

NEED SOME SPACE?

We are delighted to be able to offer the use of the chapel and vestry to other groups and individuals, so if you need somewhere to have a meeting or a choir practice, please enquire about availability and our very reasonable prices by using the contact details for the secretary or the minister at the back of this newsletter.

It is lovely to begin to welcome more groups and independent activities in the chapel, from WI to workshops to exhibitions and fayres. Please do enquire or come and have a look around.

*Jesus says: Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.*



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 28th November 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>

PENTREF CHAPEL

There has been a chapel in Newbridge for a very long time, but the first gathering met in the barn at the Pentre Farm above the village, which is why the chapel is called 'Pentref'. Baptisms took place in the stream there. The building now on the site, just off the Beulah Road, is the third physical building and was built in 1879. The congregation goes way back to the 1700s when religious freedom wasn't yet established and has been part of the village for centuries with the first members' book signed in 1717 and the first chapel built in 1760. We very much hope the chapel will continue to be a resource for all.

Dog walkers are likely to be familiar with the chapel building with its red doors as there is a handy cut-through from the village under the old rail



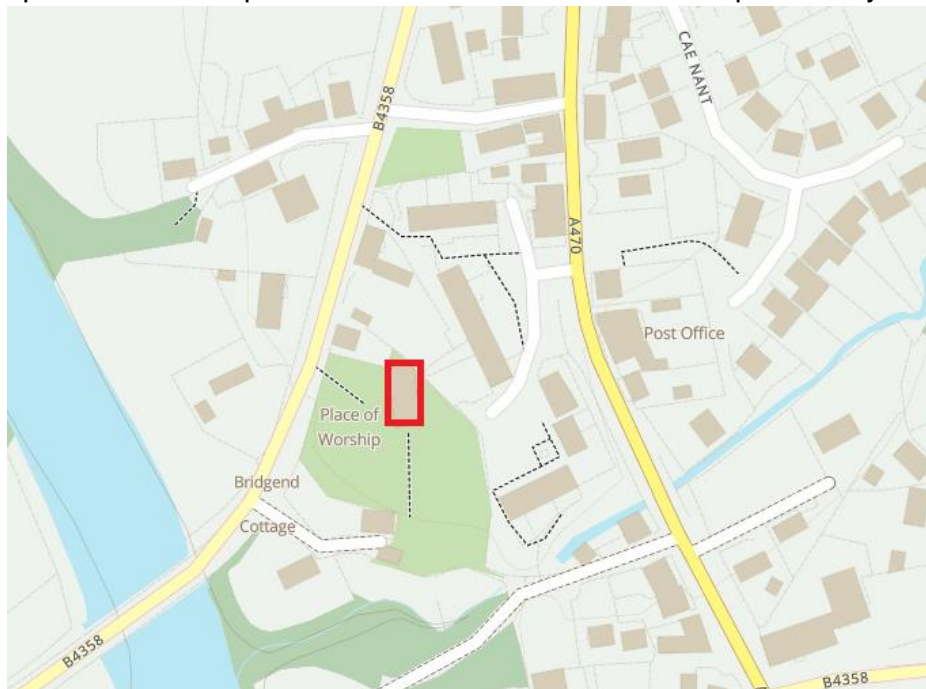
bridge, through the kissing gate to the graveyard over to the Beulah Road and river walk – or the other way around! Sometimes, we get to say hello in passing when I am outside the Manse which, as it happens, is built from the stones from the knocked-down 1828 second chapel! Talk about recycling!

The current chapel has tall windows to span both floors, with a balcony to allow the chapel to seat around 200-250 people comfortably enough. This does sometimes happen when there is a big funeral, and at those times, we will often use the vestry too, which can fit in another 40-60 people and has sound relay. It is not often (!) that the chapel is full on a Sunday – we get around 20 people on a good day – and appreciate those who come in support at events like Harvest and Carol Services.

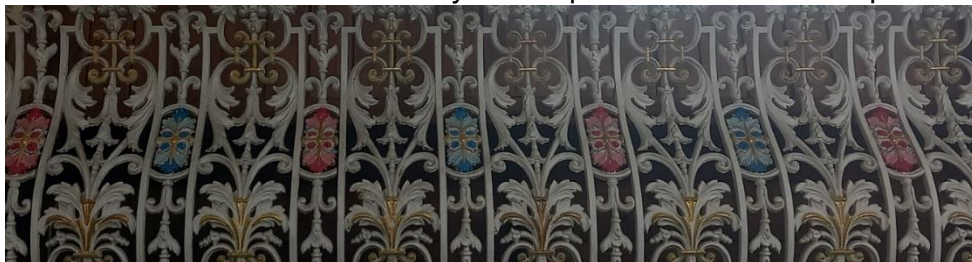
We sometimes talk about past refurbishments and rebuilds which tell us that adapting to changing times has always been part of our DNA. As we try to work out the best use of this space where so many people have prayed and sung over the years and how to make a space that is as welcoming physically as God is towards us all, we want the space to

reflect what the Divine is like without giving up too much of the heritage and memories of a place that is sacred to many.

The chapel is blessed with some really wonderful neighbours and is placed in a community which has been so supportive over the years. Hopefully, the village feels that the chapel belongs to us all – that it is ours as a community resource and perhaps, a reminder of something special hidden in plain view in the midst of all that keeps us busy.



Do feel free to take a look inside the chapel, as the decorations are quite outstanding in pastel colours and intricate paintings. We are set back a bit from the road, but you are very welcome to come up the path and take a little look around. It's your chapel too and it's often open.



Detail from the balcony painted in the 1960s by members of Pentref.

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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. There is a mixed group of people who find a break to work on their projects in a shared friendly space. The space is hosted by Vanessa Wallis.



Newbridge WI meet again on the 16th of November at 7pm at the chapel vestry where there will be a chance to do some beautiful Christmas crafts. For more info, contact Lyn on 07393 602896.

Advance notices for December:

2nd December 10:30-4pm

Christmas Fayre

6th December 7pm

Bracken Trust Choir Concert

10th December 5pm

Carol Service

25th December 10:30

Short Christmas Service



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

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.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

All Saints Church, Newbridge-on-Wye
Sunday 12th November
10:45 AM.

The Church has disabled access via a ramp.

LEST WE
FORGET



Newbridge-on-Wye School

It is a great joy, alternating with Vicar Lance, to be able to spend time engaging with children and young people at the school assembly. The teachers and children are so welcoming, and I enjoy my time with them on a Monday afternoon each month for a few songs, a story, and a prayer.

I can't help but admire the teachers who must be juggling some very long to-do lists sometimes and yet manage to put me at ease and somehow effortlessly keep the attention and, I think, affection of a whole room full of children. They make it look so easy. Thank you for all you do!

A blessing

May peace run ahead of your worry,
and joy overthrow your pain,
may your laughter linger, your sorrow hurry,
and the rainbow remind your rain.

May friends emerge among strangers,
and blessings bring delight.
May goodness protect you from danger.
May dawn always follow night.

And when the birds are singing,
and the pearls of the brook chime along
may you know that your life is bringing
greater depth to creation's song.

May He who made all things sing, too,
and give you room to grow.
With a gentle nod may He bring you
snowdrops in your snow.



*There's always one....
Moses and Aaron go fishing.*



SPOTLIGHT

*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 are: **5th + 26th November and 10th December at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

WE WILL MEET ON 5th NOVEMBER AS 12th IS REMEMBRANCE.

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. We also make poppies for Remembrance Sunday, where some of us will also be attending.

On the 26th of November, we will talk about sheep and goats. Do you have a favourite of the two? Misha is quite fond of pygmy goats. Does Jesus like sheep more than goats or is this another parable?

We are in Advent on the **10th of December** – a time of waiting. Are you good at waiting? In the evening, it's the carol service and we may be helping to decorate the chapel with candles too.

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: I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

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

December Edition Deadline: Monday 20th November 2023

Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com