

*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



We three kings of Orient are...

**The Newbridge-On-Wye Newsletter
Pentref Baptist Church
January 2024**

Do you ever feel like things haven't quite turned out the way you would have liked them to? Maybe a coincidence set things on a different course than you had imagined or perhaps something you did meant life took a turn. Choices, chances taken or ignored, challenging circumstances... Something in life always threatens to thwart our best laid plans or to take them to a new level of amazing mystery. Here, at the beginning of a new year, I wonder what your "hope-O-meter" looks like. Are you stepping into 2024 full of expectation or are you feeling worn out from disappointment?

I know a lot of people have found 2023 difficult in many ways, from events on the global horizon to those closer to home, even at times within our own families and circles of friendship. For some of you, there has been a lot to carry. One of the messages of Christmas, just past, and of the Christian message is that we are not meant to carry these things alone, but rather, we are supposed to help each other carry those things that are too heavy for one person to bear on their own. We have to carry our own rucksacks, the Bible says, but the really heavy burdens, we should share. That's what we have friends, family, and community for. I have been very thankful for friends and colleagues who have helped me when my health took a turn for the worse this autumn. I hope you have friends like that too.

And we don't only have each other. We also have the promise of Jesus that he will help us when we feel overloaded, weighed down and worn: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Jesus will walk with us if we want him to, and what he is asking of us is gentle discipleship, not keeping endless lists of rules.

In churches and chapels, we're entering the season of Epiphany, retelling the gradual revelation in the gospels of who this Jesus is who came at Christmas. In Steve and Vanessa Wallis' window, the Jelly Babies on the front cover are dressed up as three wise men – the traditional story of Epiphany itself. Following that, we'll hear of Jesus being baptised, calling his first disciples, praying, and healing people. In many cases, people are astounded by Jesus' power, teaching, and purity, but also challenged when suddenly Jesus says: We may have understood God one way in the past, but there is a better, fuller way. One of rest, of closeness to God, of mercy, of being near to the marginalised, and of forgiveness for wrongs. Jesus tells us that God is always ready to give us a fresh start if we ask him. I wonder where you'll find solidarity and new beginnings this year? I pray that you'll discover somewhere a light in days dark or delightful.

SERVICES AT PENTREF



Sunday	7th	January	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)
			6:30pm	Reflective Service
Sunday	14th	January	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			6:30pm	Taizé Service
Sunday	21st	January	10:30am	Rev Paul Tarling
			6:30pm	Bring and Share Service
Sunday	28th	January	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			6:30pm	Communion Service
<p><i>Every Sunday afternoon, there is a Zoom service at 4:30. For details please contact Rev Steve Wallis via steveoncomputer@aol.com</i></p>				
<p>First Sunday in February</p>				
Sunday	7th	February	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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL FROM EVERYONE AT PENTREF!



What's on at Pentref?				
Date	Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Monday 1				
Tuesday 2				
Wednesday 3	Coffee Morning			
Thursday 4		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday 5				
Saturday 6				
Sunday 7	Morning Service		Zoom	Reflective Service
Monday 8				
Tuesday 9				
Wednesday 10				Shared Meal
Thursday 11		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday 12				
Saturday 13				
Sunday 14	Morning Service		Zoom	Taize Service
Monday 15				
Tuesday 16				
Wednesday 17				
Thursday 18		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday 19				
Saturday 20				
Sunday 21	Morning Service		Zoom	Bring and Share
Monday 22				
Tuesday 23				
Wednesday 24				
Thursday 25		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday 26				
Saturday 27				
Sunday 28	Morning Service		Zoom	Communion
Monday 29				
Tuesday 30				
Wednesday 31				Window o-t World

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 3rd JANUARY 10:30

The next Coffee Morning takes place on **Wednesday 3rd of January** from 10.30 till noon, where we will be collecting for **Builth Wells Community Support** who offer a transport scheme, prescription services, befriending and a foodbank etc which all cover the Newbridge area too. Come and enjoy some cake and a chance to chat to friends and strangers alike.

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

A SERIES OF TALKS IN 2024

DIFFERENT SPEAKERS SHARE THEIR UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES
ON LIFE, TRAVEL, JOYS AND SORROWS.
LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7PM



**THIS MONTH WEDS 31ST JANUARY:
STEVE WALLIS SHARES EXPERIENCE FROM WITHIN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Newbridge WI meet on the third Thursdays of the month at 7pm in the vestry. The year begins with a talk by Fred Slater: A wrinkly view of Newbridge. There is an exciting programme for the year, and you can get more details from Lyn Davies.

SHARED MEAL 10th JANUARY



Last month, on 13th December, again over 20 people attended the free shared meal in the chapel vestry. Young and old enjoyed themselves and we even managed to celebrate a 12-year

birthday with a big cake. Other puddings were available after the sausage and potato dauphinoise main.

The next shared meal will be on Wednesday the 10th of January at the usual time: 6 PM. This time we'll be serving slow-cooked pork casserole with rice and a vegetarian option. We hope puddings will appear as they usually do, in which case you are welcome to come and help them disappear again – it would be great to see you.

The meal is free, the company is cheerful, and you are very much welcome. So are donations from those who wish and are able.



OPEN DOORS

There is a meeting of the "Open Doors" prayer group on the 23rd of January at 2:30 in the St Francis Centre at Holy Trinity where a small group of people pray for persecuted Christians and watch videos from around the world. You are very welcome to join them for prayers and refreshments if you would like. There is no obligation to pray or speak.

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.

More community groups and independent activities use the facilities – from WI to workshops to exhibitions and fayres. Please do enquire or come and have a look around. We have comfortable seating for around 40 people in the vestry, kettles, microwave, fridge – just about everything you need for a cosy meeting or enjoyable activity.

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

DEFIBS AROUND NEWBRIDGE

The village defibrillator is on the side wall of the Post Office. Another defibrillator has been placed on the hill at Llysdinam, next to a gate a bit further up than Cefn y Maes.

If you ever need to use them, a voice will guide you through the process.

STAMPS AND COLLECTIBLES

There's a box at the Chapel for used postage stamps for **The Bracken Trust**. Likewise, collectible items can be forwarded to charities who will benefit from them. You can drop them in to the vestry or give them to someone else who is going. Thanks in advance for your donations.



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NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

Thursday Afternoons
2:00pm – 4:00pm



Carols by Candlelight

BRACKEN TRUST SINGERS VISIT PENTREF FOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The first Wednesday of December was busy at the chapel! In the morning the monthly charity Coffee Morning, raising money for the Builth Wells Community Support, followed in the evening by the Bracken Trust Singers lead by Christine Clarke. This was the Singers' first visit, and they gave the participating audience an hour and a half of well-known seasonal songs and carols. There was a very friendly atmosphere, with singalong songs mixed in. The Bracken Trust Singers gave a really lovely performance despite the absence of their accompanist Bev Nethercoat due to illness.

The proceeds from the evening were shared between the Chapel and the Bracken Trust. Thanks to everyone who came in support.



We are always happy to hear about community events and to publicise as many as we can in the newsletter, so please get in touch if you would find that helpful – it is a great way to reach folk within the village of Newbridge and for everyone to be made aware of new initiatives, especially those who don't use Facebook.

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.

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: **14th and 28th January and 11th February at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

14th January: Does God speak to children? What does the voice of God sound like? What would you do if you heard it?

28th January: Jesus healed a lot of people one evening and then He took the morning off to talk to God. But do you know WHY Jesus healed people? Was there something He was trying to say?

On the **11th of February**, we hear an incredible story about how amazing God is. Did you know that God is bigger than the universe? And that God is more excellent than anything we can imagine? Someone called Isaiah once saw God 'high and lifted up'...

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. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

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

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Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com