

*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



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

On the front of this month's newsletter is a little clump of snowdrops. I saw some the other day and I am sure by the time you hold the printed version of the newsletter between your hands, you will have seen your own as well, tucked away under a hedge or catching the sun under your window.

There are some flowers which speak to my imagination. Daffodils for instance. They look to me like 'spring trumpets' announcing the coming of warmer days, and for me as a Christian, the news of an empty tomb. Then there are the foxgloves, which have developed to snugly fit a single pollinator, ensuring, I am guessing, that as much pollen as possible covers the helpful visitor. Often in the late evenings, you can see a bee bottom sticking out of them – that's why I call foxgloves "sleeping bags for bees". They remind me of the care that is built into certain elements of our world. For someone like me, who believes someone has an ultimate plan for that world, this fills me with warmth and hope. I hope you also sense some of the awe at how things have developed together. Oh, and then there are the sunflowers – the French call them tournesols – "turn with the sun"... Those remind me of how the warm sun feels on my face and how the experience of sunbathing is not too unfamiliar from that type of prayer that doesn't use words, but just enjoys being in the presence of the divine, daring to let oneself be loved, daring to belong, to just be...

Sometimes, that can be a bit daunting – daring to be loved by God. A lot of the time, I suspect, our image of God can be of someone who is cross with us or someone we simply don't know all that well. That's where the snowdrops help me a bit, because they remind me of little bells and what I sometimes imagine them ringing out to the world are the words most of us know well: *Calon lân yn llawn daioni, tecach yw na'r lili dlos: dim ond calon lân all ganu canu'r dydd a chanu'r nos*. Only a pure heart can sing...and the writer of this hymn, Daniel James (1848-1920), knows where for him that sparkling clean, snowdrop pure heart comes from: *Hwyr a bore fy nymuniad gwyd i'r nef ar edyn cân ar i Dduw, er mwyn fy Ngheidwad, roddi i mi galon lân*. A pure heart is a gift, given by God for the sake of Jesus and it is a gift that will last infinitely longer than any earthly treasure.

This pure heart is a gift God is happy to give those who ask him – all it takes is a 'Sorry!'. In the book of Isaiah, God says this: "Come now, let's settle this," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool." I rejoice as spring comes, that God continues his work to grow something beautiful, also in my sometimes frozen heart. Whether you share my faith in Jesus or not, I hope we can share the joy of spring.

SERVICES AT PENTREF



Sunday	4th	February	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)
			6:30pm	Reflective Service
Sunday	11th	February	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			6:30pm	Taizé Service
Sunday	18th	February	10:30am	Rev Janet Russell
			6:30pm	Bring and Share Service
Sunday	25th	February	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 March</p>				
Sunday	3rd	March	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.

Most of our Sunday worship services take place around a table in the vestry – especially during colder winter months. This also makes it easy for us to catch up with each other’s news and to worship together as a group of people who want to be more like Jesus. Often, there is a talk or sermon, sometimes a bit of discussion – always hymns, songs and prayers. You are very welcome to join us, whether you are used to church/chapel or not. We are quite a diverse group of young and old. We’d love to see you.

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 Worship	Zoom Service	Reflective Service
Monday	5			
Tuesday	6			
Wednesday	7	Coffee Morning		
Thursday	8		Creative Group	Iona Prayers
Friday	9			
Saturday	10			
Sunday	11	Morning Worship	Zoom Service	Taize Service
Monday	12			
Tuesday	13		Vestry Booked	
Wednesday	14			Shared Meal
Thursday	15		Creative Group	Iona Prayers
Friday	16			WI in vestry
Saturday	17			
Sunday	18	Morning Worship	Zoom Service	"Bring and Share"
Monday	19			
Tuesday	20			
Wednesday	21			
Thursday	22		Creative Group	Iona Prayers
Friday	23			
Saturday	24			
Sunday	25	Morning Worship	Zoom Service	Communion
Monday	26			
Tuesday	27			
Wednesday	28			Window o-t World
Thursday	29		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.

NEXT COFFEE MORNING 7th FEBRUARY 10:30



The next Coffee Morning takes place on **Wednesday 7th February** from 10.30 till noon. We'll be collecting for Parkinsons UK. Several of our friends are affected by this illness or similar conditions, so it is a cause close to the hearts of many of us. Come, enjoy some cake and a chance to chat to friends and strangers alike while supporting a local charity.

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 7 PM

WINDOW ON THE WORLD GIVES UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES ON LIFE, TRAVEL, JOYS AND SORROWS BY LOCAL SPEAKERS. EVERY LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7PM



JOHN LLOYD:

A HISTORY OF THE PENTREF, NEWBRIDGE & SURROUNDING AREA BAPTISTS



NEWBRIDGE-ON-WYE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Newbridge WI meet on the third Thursdays of the month at 7pm in the vestry. The year began with a talk by Fred Slater: A wrinkly view of Newbridge and continues in February with a talk by Dawn Gill on "Cruising". It's an exciting programme this year, which you can see below. If you want to join us, you can get more details from Lyn Davies on 07393 602896.

15 th Feb	Dawn Gill "Cruising"
14 th March	AGM and Mini Show (note: 2 nd Thursday)
18 th April	Marianne Lewis "Flooding Llanidloes Reservoir"
16 th May	Andrew Tweed "The Turin Shroud"
20 th June	Bob Burson: The man who would marry a mountain
18 th July	Garden Party
15 th August	Brecon Canal boat trip
19 th Sept	Ray Rand: Blood Bikes
17 th October	Craft with Yvonne
21 st Nov	Bronwen Jenkins
19 th Dec	Christmas Party

FROM PIP SAMUEL AND THE NEW INN

Date for your diary. Due to popular demand, Pip Samuel's History Night is back at The New Inn on March 2nd at 7PM.

£10 entry to include tea, coffee and buffet. For tickets, contact Pip Samuel 07885 482830 or The New Inn 01597 860211.



SHARED MEAL 14th FEBRUARY



The next shared meal will be on Wednesday the 14th of February at 6 PM. This time we'll be serving Fish and Chips (GF option will be available). We are very grateful to those who ensure we have puddings available afterwards, too. The

meal is free, the company is cheerful, and you are very much welcome. It's always lovely to see people mixing, contributing, and having a great time – from the reception child to our dear friends in their 90s.

Clive Barrett writes about the last meal: It was a successful evening despite being bitterly cold. Around 25 people attended, who enjoyed a pork casserole, beef stew and vegetarian casserole. The recipe for the pork casserole had been passed on from one member of the chapel to others, with minor tweaks along the way, and everyone seemed to approve. There were a number of tasty desserts, brought by some of the attending guests, including chocolate cake with coconut topping, upside-

down pineapple sponge and crumble.



Clive also reports that the residents of Meadowlands had a post-Christmas lunch at The Golden Lion. They had a good time too, as you can see.

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.

OPEN DOORS PRAYER GROUP

There is a meeting of the “Open Doors” prayer group on the 27th of February 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.

The account below is inspired by the Open Doors website. The image is also from there.



North Korea is one of the most dangerous places to be a Christian. The Open Doors website tells the story of Ho Ji, (whose name has been changed for security reasons). One day, security agents burst into the family home

and eventually discover a plastic-wrapped Bible buried in the garden, a book from which her father sometimes told her stories about a holy man teaching people about kindness. She has not seen her father since that day, and she doesn't know where he was taken. Often, the whole family will be punished the same way – by death or by years in labour camps. Ho Ji was determined to find out what mattered so much to her father. A radio which the secret agents hadn't found became the way that Ho Ji learned more about Jesus, the teacher on the mountain. She had initially hoped the radio might give her information about food, maybe across the border, as many North Koreans are living close to starvation.

Through the radio, Ho Ji heard about the God who “so loved the world that he sent his only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”. Because children are trained to inform on their own parents, passing on one's Christian faith to one's children is difficult and dangerous as children learn that Christians are enemies. On the contrary, Christians in North Korea attempt to share their food with others, even when they themselves are hungry and there is a real danger of another famine in the country as any food that enters the country is given to the elite first. Despite incredible hardship and danger, the underground church

in North Korea is growing and is given the opportunity to learn about Jesus through radio broadcasts. Although North Korean believers cannot do much to help Christians in other places or even share their faith, they really want to pray for others.

Christians believe that by praying, we join God's ongoing work to make the world a fairer, more loving place. Prayer matters in God's plan.

Action matters too, and so Open Doors distribute food to the local population through secret networks, helping them to survive, especially in winter months.

Maybe you too can help, by praying or by supporting the work of Open Doors financially. There are basic human rights which we have fought hard for in the past, which sadly haven't yet been extended to the whole world: Freedom of belief and speech, the right to fair trials and basic safety... And for those of us who have been convinced that there is something very special about Jesus, we are humbled by the strength of commitment of many Christians around the world, and long to see a world where everyone can at least hear about God's love and decide for themselves what they make of the Christian message without fearing for their lives.

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.

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**



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.

NEWBRIDGE SCHOOL

We would like to thank Mrs Nixon who retired in December as Head of Newbridge-on-Wye CinW School. A wonderful 'thank you' video was posted on Facebook. And we say "welcome" to Miss Williams who is acting as Head, at least until summer. The following pages include some information from the school.

BATTERIES COLLECTION

The school's Eco Committee are collecting batteries to recycle. Please put your used batteries in our recycle box in the school foyer. Batteries included are button, AA, AAA, B and C types. Thank you.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILDREN'S LEARNING?

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE SCHOOL IS DOING
IN REGARDS TO LEARNING AND THE NEW
CURRICULUM?

We are looking for parents or members of
the community who would like to join us
on our Area Learning Team meetings to
help us make decisions for your children
on all aspects of the New Curriculum!



**EACH AREA LEARNING TEAM HAS
A MEETING ONCE A TERM!**

**OUR 4 AREA LEARNING TEAMS AND THE NEXT
DATES OF MEETINGS ARE:**

CREATIVE TEAM - THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY
TECHNOLOGY TEAM - THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY
ENVIRONMENT TEAM - THURSDAY 29TH FEBRUARY
WELLBEING TEAM - THURSDAY 14TH MARCH

**Volunteers
needed**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED,
PLEASE USE THE LINK OR QR
CODE BELOW TO FILL OUT A
SHORT FORM**



[HTTPS://DOCS.GOOGLE.COM/FORMS/
D/1DKHZBVDKN51EGP4_TO9TDMN1LV
URPUXMSQ89Q0WJKXA/EDIT#SETTI
NGS](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1DKHZBVDKN51EGP4_TO9TDMN1LVURPUXMSQ89Q0WJKXA/EDIT#SETTING)



Support the school with your
blue tokens in Tesco
Llandrindod until 31st March.

Meet "Coral" – our latest project to help save the environment!

We are lucky enough to have Coral on loan from the British Ironworks for the entire month of February.

Save up your crisp packets over the Christmas holidays, throughout January and February and pop them in Coral! The children have already started collecting and we have over 600 packets - but we need a minimum of 1000!

The collected packets will be donated to organisations who can put them to good use (for instance, turning them into survival blankets for the homeless).



Exciting project at the school, saving crisp packets from landfill and making good use of them – Coral sounds like a wonderfully hungry friend, don't you think? I never knew crisp packets could become blankets – did you?

Do you have any good stories of reuse or recycling which you could share with us? We'd love to hear what's happening.

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: **11th and 25th February and 10th March at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

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'...

28th February: What is the brightest light you have ever seen? Did you know that one day, Peter and his friends saw Jesus in a whole different light?

10th March: There is a very famous verse in the Bible which we are going to try to learn together. It tells us how much God loves us and what Jesus came to do.

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 bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

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

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Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com