

*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



Sheep in Field – by Elsa Harflett

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

It's raining again! Just a couple of days ago however, we had one of those lovely days with an impossibly blue sky and chirping, busy birds. It has been a delight lately to be able to feel the warmth of the sun on one's face and to stand for a moment in a sheltered corner with one's eyes closed, just about able to believe that it will, once again, be summer soon.

The world is full of tension and heartbreak. Faraway wars may not be as far away as we've been used to. Farmers have protested against rules that may not be feasible. A newly crowned king has been diagnosed with cancer. Many more things which we never hear about... An impressive effort is made every day by diplomats, charities, doctors, friends, and family to push back dark forces and provide relief and solidarity to those whose lives have been unsettled by loss, doctor's letters, loneliness, or financial difficulties. Hope amidst challenges. Light breaking through fog.

In the calendar of church and chapel, Easter is on the horizon. Holy Week begins with a king entering on a donkey – a sign of peace – to the shouts and cheers of followers and ordinary folks. You may know the story of that last meal together that Jesus shared with his disciples, how he washed their feet even though one would betray him, and all the others run off or even say they never knew him. You may have heard how badly they treated Jesus, and perhaps you have even heard the claim that Jesus allowed this to happen so that as he walked that long heavy way to the cross, he could carry all our brokenness, pain and the evil which lives, not only out there, but sadly also on the inside of us at times; carry it all to the cross and drag all of it down into death with him to overcome it, so we could be free again. Perhaps you have also heard how a few days later, the disciples were adamant that Jesus did not stay dead but rose again to give eternal life to those who believe. Hope that one day all will be restored to a very good order because a sinless man, Jesus, gave his life.

I really do believe in the resurrection: That Jesus did not stay in the grave but rose in a physical body and was seen first by a woman, then by other disciples, then by groups and even a crowd of people, fully alive, fully real.

While it is still early days, when I feel the sun against my face, I know summer is coming. While there is still much that is broken in the world, the resurrection of Christ which we celebrate at Easter is a foretaste of what is offered to us all by faith in Jesus: That we can share in a future where all wars will stop, illness and suffering will be no more, and the last tears have dried. A day when the summer sunshine of God's glorious new world will break through, a new world which began when that stone rolled away and which will be fully realised when God makes all things new. Happy Easter!

SERVICES AT PENTREF



Sunday	3rd	March	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)
			6:30pm	Reflective Service
Sunday	10th	March	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			6:30pm	Taizé Service
Sunday	17th	March	10:30am	Rev Ifor Williams
			6:30pm	Bring and Share Service
Sunday	24th	March	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			6:30pm	Songs of Praise w/Ifor Williams
Sunday	31st	March	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			4:00pm	Easter Egg Hunt
			6:30pm	Easter Celebration
<i>Please see separate notice for Holy Week services.</i>				
<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 April				
Sunday	7th	April	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.

It'd be great to see you!

What's on at Pentref?				
Date	Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Friday	1			
Saturday	2			
Sunday	3	Morning Service	Zoom Service	Reflective Service
Monday	4			
Tuesday	5			
Wednesday	6	Coffee Morning	The Chosen	
Thursday	7		Creative Group	Iona Prayers
Friday	8			
Saturday	9			
Sunday	10	Morning Service	Zoom Service	Taize Style
Monday	11			
Tuesday	12			
Wednesday	13		The Chosen	Shared Meal
Thursday	14		Creative Group	Iona Prayers
Friday	15			WI in vestry
Saturday	16			
Sunday	17	Morning Service	Zoom Service	"Bring and Share"
Monday	18	Newsletter Deadline		
Tuesday	19			
Wednesday	20		The Chosen	
Thursday	21		Creative Group	Iona Prayers
Friday	22			
Saturday	23			
Sunday	24	Morning Service	Zoom Service	Songs of Praise
Monday	25			
Tuesday	26			
Wednesday	27		The Chosen	Window o-t World
Thursday	28		Creative Group	Iona Prayers
Friday	29			Maundy Meal
Saturday	30		Event in Chapel	Short Reflection
Sunday	31	Morning Service	Zoom + Egg Hunt	Easter Celebration

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.

It's always lovely to see everyone who comes to help make these events what they are.

NEXT COFFEE MORNING 6th MARCH 10:30



The latest charity Coffee Morning was held on the first Wednesday of February, when over 25 people attended. During the morning a cheque for £100 from previous Coffee Mornings was presented to Cathy Warlow, Manager of Builth Wells Community Support. With Bev Stafford from Builth & Llanwrtyd Wells Home Support, Cathy gave us an insight into their work, which covers an area including Newbridge. They told us about the transport they are able provide to hospital appointments and the support they offer in the community and in people's home. Some leaflets were left at the chapel for those who might like to learn more.

Our next cause is Parkinson's UK. As several of our friends are affected by Parkinson's or similar conditions, it is a cause close to the hearts of many of us.

The monthly Coffee Mornings give everyone the opportunity to enjoy tea, coffee and some cake, and a chance to chat to friends and strangers alike,



while supporting a local charity. The next Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday **March 6th 10:30 am till noon.**

It would be great to see you there.

Ann Corfield (left) presenting the cheque to Cathy Warlow (Manager of Builth Community Support).

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH 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



MISHA PEDERSEN
GROWING UP DANISH - PICTURES AND POEMS FROM "NOT FROM AROUND HERE"



In January, Rev Steve Wallis spoke about his work with the "Langley House" charity working to rehabilitate ex-offenders, some of them deemed "hard to place" and dangerous. Langley House is a Christian charity with a focus on close support and ensuring people have access to the benefits and follow-up they need to succeed. Some had become Christians in the process, and many had not afterwards reoffended. Thanks to Steve for sharing with us!

In February, John Lloyd gave a very interesting talk about the history of the Non-Conformists around Newbridge, taking us on a whistlestop tour of the Pentre Farm, Rock Chapel, Pentref Chapel, Newbridge, Pysgah and Pantycelyn, Abergwesyn and their associated preachers and ministers from the 1640s onwards. The audience had the chance to see the original chapel book with its neat handwriting dating back to 1717. Thank you, John Lloyd!

NEWBRIDGE-ON-WYE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Newbridge WI normally meet on the third Thursdays of the month at 7pm in the chapel vestry. This month the meeting will however be on **Thursday 14th March** due to Easter, with our AGM and Mini Show. The exciting programme for the year is below. More details from Lyn Davies on 07393 602896.

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.



The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
Psalm 23.

Do you have any stories or notices for the newsletter?
Please get in touch and we will see what we can do.

SHARED MEAL 13th MARCH



The next shared meal will be on Wednesday the 13th of March at 6 PM. This time we'll be serving lasagne (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 small child to our dear friends in their 90s.

Clive Barrett writes about the last meal: The February Shared Meal took place on Wednesday 14th (Ash Wednesday & Valentine's Day). Again it was a successful event, with nearly 30 people attending. This month there was fish, chips, and peas on the menu as well as a number of tasty desserts, brought by some of the attending guests..

We would like to extend a “Diolch yn fawr iawn” to the Llysdinam Trust for their support, which will allow us to keep these occasions going to benefit and bless us all. Many thanks indeed!

At All Saints:

Rev'd Lance Sharpe tells us there is a service at 11am on Easter Sunday morning 31st March at All Saints, Newbridge-on-Wye.

The normal format for All Saints is that there is a service on the 1st Sunday of the month at 11am. You can get more details from Lance.

Frederick Buechner:

“The resurrection of Jesus means the worst thing is never the last thing.”

OPEN DOORS PRAYER GROUP

There is a meeting of the “Open Doors” prayer group on the 26th of March 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 out loud.

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. 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

If you would like to support the **Bracken Trust** with your used stamps, please bring them to the chapel where there's a collection box waiting – or give them to someone who's going.

Many thanks in advance for your donations which will help provide advice and care to people affected by cancer.

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NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

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



IONA PRAYERS

After the Creative Group on a Thursday afternoon, a small group gathers for Celtic prayers in the chapel vestry. A few candles, a couple of quieter songs, a Bible reading and a page or two of structured prayers which we read out in turn. This is followed by an opportunity for those who wish to say how their week has been. A really lovely half hour together to tune into a more peaceful rhythm.



Why not come and join us?

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

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.



Coral, the crisp bag eating fish, has moved on, but please keep up your recycling efforts.

Easter at Pentref



Palm Sunday 24/03

Morning Service 10:30

Songs of Praise 6:30

Maundy Thursday 28/03

Evening Service 6:30

Good Friday 29/03

Evening Service 6:30

Easter Sunday 31/03

Breakfast 10:00

Morning Service 10:30

Easter Egg Hunt 4:00

Easter Celebration 6:30

All welcome to join

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

Matthew's Gospel Chapter 28 Verses 5-7

EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday
31st March 4:00 PM
in the chapel graveyard.
Free Easter Egg for all children.



Craft Table
Music
Stories



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: **10th March, 31st March and 14th April at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

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.

31st March: If you come in the morning, you can help us celebrate that Jesus has risen from the dead! You can also help us prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt which will take place later. The main Spotlight event is at 4PM when we have music, stories, and egg hunt!

14th April: Jesus is back. Is he hungry? Well, the disciples struggle to understand that Jesus is not a ghost, so he asks them if they have something to eat. It's not the only time he eats with his followers...

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 resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, will live, even if he or she dies."

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

April 2024 Edition Deadline: Monday 18th March 2024

Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com