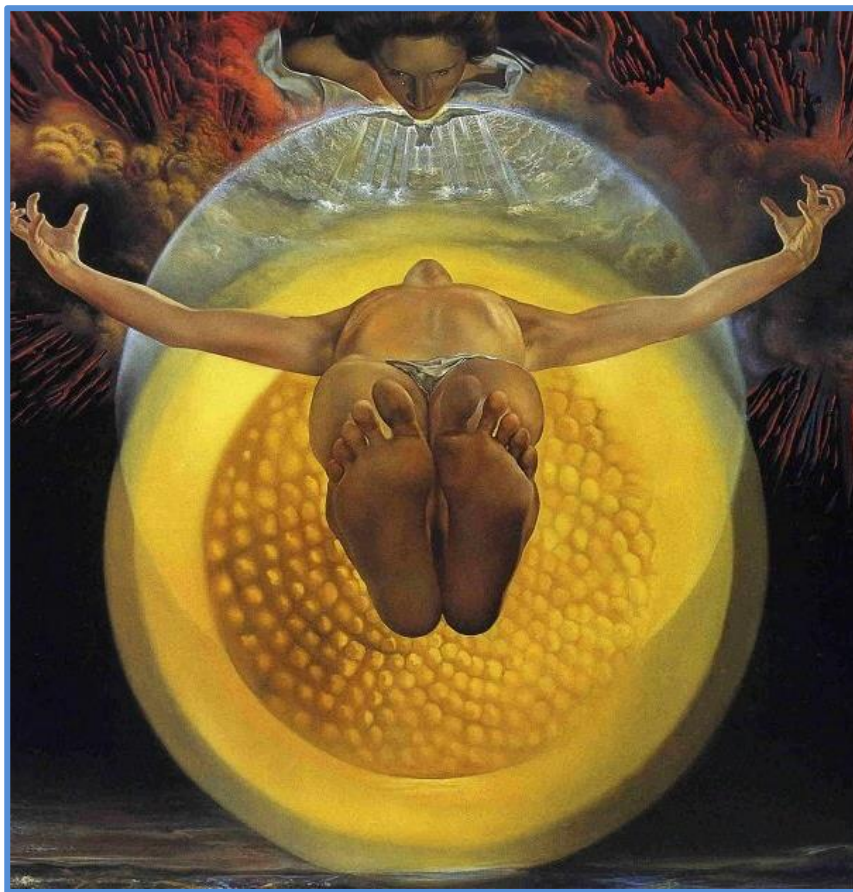


*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



Ascension of Christ – by Salvador Dali

The Newbridge-On-Wye Newsletter
Pentref Baptist Church
May 2024

All of a sudden, it seems, spring is here. The trees are filling in with more and more green, the bluebells are on tippy-toe ready to start their sweet-smelling chiming and the birds are getting up earlier and earlier each day, singing their songs at me as if I am already late before 6 in the morning! I suppose there is always something to do, in the garden, at the chapel, on the computer... But fortunately, there are times of rest too. Hopefully, for those who have been lambing, a little breather will be possible soon.

Remember the epic story about how God wanted to make a world with people in it. At the end of all God's creating, God rested. Everything was finished. The last little bit of dust sprinkled on the butterfly's wings, the Fibonacci sequence put in the sunflower and the Romanesco, the rivers set to run... Then, God walked in the garden with human beings created for relationship and enjoyment, talking face to face and heart to heart, spending time together. When you potter around in the garden, walk the dog, fight the cobwebs, or light the barbecue, I suspect you don't think about that, but we were made to be together and to be connected to God, saying to God what it seems the birds say: "Alive, alive, alive, thank you, thank you, thank you!" At least, it's something like that which I hear my own heart chirping when spring comes. "Hallelujah, finally it's here."

Despite the initial bliss, today birds fall to the ground, and not everyone has someone to share a meal with each day. Some of us feel a lot less alive than we once did, and some of us acutely miss someone who is no longer with us. Things aren't as they should be, and if we are honest, we realise that we aren't as we should be either. We can be selfish, impatient, cling to wrongs, get things muddled... In the midst of it all, God cares about our difficulties, deeply, intimately and continually. Sometimes, it's through the actions of other people who sit with us, phone us, or make life a place full of imagination and belonging, that we discover God's care. Occasionally, we know God's presence in more immediate ways, too.

Easter tells the story of a love so stubborn it would not quit, so strong it could not stay dead. A love, as seen in Jesus, which keeps reaching out to likely and unlikely folk, offering a transformed life, a place at the table, a meaningful future starting in the midst of pain, today. Something brand new was created on that Easter morning when Jesus walked into that garden in which the rolled-away stone landed. Like all good creation, it is still unfolding, but also finished, perfect, ready to live in. Jesus-in-a-body returned to God, but is always at work by his Spirit, calling, challenging, and changing people to co-create this new world with Him for all to enjoy, in carnivals, Christmas lights, after-school clubs, shared meals and smiles.

SERVICES AT PENTREF



Sunday	5 th	May	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			6:30pm	Taizé Service
Sunday	12 th	May	10:30am	Mrs Sue Wilson (Communion)
			6:30pm	Bring and Share Service (1)
Sunday	19 th	May	10:30am	Rev Janet Russell
			6:30pm	Bring and Share Service (2)
Sunday	26 th	May	10:30am	Rev Misha Pedersen
			6:00pm	Joint Service at Howey Baptist
<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 June				
Sunday	2 nd	June	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
Wednesday	1	Coffee Morning	SENANA CYMRU	SENANA CYMRU	
Thursday	2		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	3				
Saturday	4				
Sunday	5	Morning Service		Zoom	Taizé Style
Monday	6				
Tuesday	7				
Wednesday	8				Shared Meal
Thursday	9		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	10				
Saturday	11				
Sunday	12	Morning Service		Zoom	Bring+Share
Monday	13				
Tuesday	14				
Wednesday	15				
Thursday	16		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	WI in vestry
Friday	17				
Saturday	18				
Sunday	19	Morning Service		Zoom	Bring+Share
Monday	20				
Tuesday	21				
Wednesday	22				
Thursday	23		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	24				
Saturday	25				
Sunday	26	Morning Service		Zoom	6pm Howey Baptist
Monday	27				
Tuesday	28				
Wednesday	29				Window o-t World
Thursday	30		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	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.

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

NEXT COFFEE MORNING 1st MAY 10:30



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 **May 1st 10:30 am till noon**, where we will collect for our next cause, Friends of Newbridge School. It would be great to see you there.



During the April coffee morning, chapel deacon Mr John Lloyd presented a cheque to Martin Streat, Finance Officer for the South Powys Parkinsons UK branch. Thanks to you all for your contributions. – by Clive Barrett

At All Saints:

At All Saints, there is a service on the 1st Sunday of the month at 11am, and you would be very welcome to join the next one on 5th May.

You can get more details from Rev'd Lance Sharpe whose mobile number is 07938 762570.

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

WEDNESDAY 29TH MAY 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



MIARA RABEARISOA, MONTGOMERY
ORIGINALLY FROM MADAGASCAR
NOW MISSION WORKER WITH THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WELL DONE!

£1300 was raised
after Pip's interesting
history talks and
distributed to the
school, the carnival,
and the Christmas
lights. What a great
achievement. A
massive well done to
all involved!



NEWBRIDGE-ON-WYE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Newbridge WI normally meet on the third Thursdays of the month at 7pm in the chapel vestry. At the next meeting on the 16th May, Andrew Tweed will enlighten attendees on “The Turin Shroud”. More details from Lyn Davies on 07393 602896.

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

SHARED MEAL 8th MAY



In April, more than 25 people enjoyed cottage pie and puddings and the next shared meal will take place very soon, namely on **Wednesday the 8th of May at 6PM**, as a “Bring-and-Share” supper.

Do come and contribute to the atmosphere and don't feel obliged to bring anything – but if you can, then that would be lovely. Small tomatoes, grapes, cocktail sausages... Whatever you would like to bring. There might be a few quiches too! It would be great to see you there – we always have a good time, not least due to the folk who attend.

DEFIB – DO YOU KNOW?

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

Do you know who was registered as the guardian of the defib by the shop back in the day when it was first put up? We'd like to as it is registered online, and they need up-to-date details for maintenance and contact purposes. Could you let Misha or Newbridge Post Office know, please?

REFLECTIONS ON HOLY WEEK

Eleven of us met on Maundy Thursday evening to share a simple meal of bread, cheese, olives, grapes, and salad. As we sat around the table, we commented that it would have been very like this at the Last Supper, when Jesus shared the meal with his disciples before being betrayed by his friend Judas and arrested. We had a lovely time of fellowship, and the evening was concluded by sharing Communion together, as the disciples did with Jesus at the end of that meal in the upper room.

The following evening, Good Friday, saw eight of us gathered around 16 lit candles for a Tenebrae service (light into darkness). It was very moving as in turn we read the account of the passion and crucifixion of Jesus from the Gospel of John. After each reading, one of the candles was extinguished, until at the end we were in complete darkness. We all left in silence as we contemplated the words of the passage and imagined what it must have been like for Jesus and his friends and family.

On Easter Sunday we were greeted by the delicious smell of bacon and fresh coffee as we arrived half an hour earlier than usual at the chapel hall. We enjoyed bacon rolls, fruit, and yoghurt before the start of the service. Then we listened to the story of the women who went to the tomb but found it empty! They told the other disciples who also ran to the empty tomb, and Mary Magdalene found she was talking to the risen Jesus himself in the garden when he called her by name: "Mary".

Later in the afternoon, 10 children and several adults enjoyed our Easter Egg hunt and made chickens, sheep and garden tombs at the craft tables provided.

- by Elsa Harflett



Do visit our updated website: www.newbridgebaptistchurch.co.uk

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.

OPEN DOORS PRAYER GROUP – 28th May 2:30



There is a meeting of the “Open Doors” prayer group on the 28th of May at 2:30 in the St Francis Centre at Holy Trinity to pray for persecuted Christians and watch video updates. You are very welcome to join them.

In Bangladesh, a Sunday school was recently stormed by very angry women belonging to an extremist Islamist political party, who demanded the Sunday school for children from a Muslim background be shut down permanently. Unfortunately, the local authorities sided with the demands and the Sunday school is now looking for another location to gather.

The local Sunday school leader, a woman convert from Islam, has found the experience very difficult and has asked those who are involved with the Open Doors prayer network to pray for the safety and faith journey of the children as they look for another place to meet. She also asks if our local Sunday school would pray for the children who used to meet in her

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Sunday school that they will soon be able to do so again.

NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

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



CREATIVE GROUP

Do join our group of local knitters, natterers, water colouring, stitching, card making, drawing, felting and doodling artists as they meet each Thursday afternoon in the chapel vestry. Bring your own creative project and enjoy the company of others – and a cuppa halfway through!

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 want things to be fun, engaging, and practical, so we colour in, sing, act, create things and sometimes go outside. 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 May, 26th May and 9th June at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

5th May: Music is one way we can express our joy and thanks to God. Do you play an instrument? Our hearts are a sort of instrument too. God plays a tune on the strings of our hearts, called "love". What does it sound like?

26th May: It has just been Pentecost, a day of celebration that the Holy Spirit came to help all those who follow Jesus. Today, we look at a strange conversation that took place in the middle of the night because someone had some important questions to ask Jesus.

9th June: Jesus says that all those who believe in him can be part of his family. What a huge big family that is! Maybe we will do a family tree together – maybe we can do one for the church, too?

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.

God says to us: "Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you."

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, that'd be lovely.

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

June 2024 Edition Deadline: Friday 17th May 2024

Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com