PENTREF BAPTIST CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

Foxgloves.

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

This year has been an amazing year for foxgloves! Wherever I have gone, rows and clusters of foxgloves have lined the road, leaning over the verges, reaching up into the blue of the sky as if on tippy-toe, and I have been literally clapping my hands with joy. You might have noticed the big daisies on the way to Builth or the many tall buttercups – but have you noticed that we don't have many dandelions this year? I'm not sure why, but it seems they're having a less good year. Perhaps if you like your lawn green and grassy, you don't mind so much! I'm sure they will be back.

It is amazing how things have evolved into little ecosystems within other larger systems. Sometimes these get upset, perhaps at times due to our forgetting that we depend on these surrounding networks to survive, let alone to be happy, but these intricate networks speak to me about a caring creator and about the role of human beings to look after things and enjoy them. I think that God rejoices when we notice the beauty around us. You may not think about things exactly that way, but I hope you still enjoy the deep pinks and purples, the stunning blue of the sky (when it's not raining) and the tweeting and buzzing and bustling of all things alive – including carnival goers, three-legged racers and 500 yellow ducks in the river.

This poem was written a couple of years ago, on a hill above Erwood, after seeing a bee's bottom sticking out of a foxglove, snug as a sleeping bag. It captures some of my sense that there is more… More than meets the eye.

The God who cares so much about the sparrow
and speaks the language of the distant owl,
the God who lifts a thundercloud so sunsets can be seen
and clothes even dirt in a thousand shades of green…

The God who put the hills on the horizon
made summer evenings, full of loveliness.
The God who keeps the stars in place as diamonds in the dark
and put an extra thrill in the song of the lark…

The God who holds the universe together
and taught the spider how to make a web.
The God who shaped the river and invented the breeze
has even made perfect sleeping bags for bees.

The God who cares so much about the sparrow
and splurges on a daylily's dress
was generous enough to give His only Son for you,
knowing nothing but perfection would do.

-Misha

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**7th**	**July**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)**
			6:30pm	**Pause and Pray**
Sunday	**14th**	**July**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**21st**	**July**	**10:30am**	**Rev Steve Wallis**
			6:30pm	**Bring and Share Service**
Sunday	**28th**	**July**	**10:30am**	**Misha**
			6:30pm	**Communion Service**
Rev Steve Wallis hosts a weekly Zoom service with communion twice a month. It's on Sundays 4:30pm. Details: steveoncomputer@aol.com				
First Sunday in August				
Sunday	**4th**	**August**	**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
Monday	1				
Tuesday	2				
Wednesday	3	Coffee Morning			
Thursday	4		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	5				
Saturday	6				
Sunday	7	Morning Service		Zoom	Pause and Pray
Monday	8				
Tuesday	9				
Wednesday	10			Evening Prayer	Shared Meal
Thursday	11		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	12				
Saturday	13				
Sunday	14	Morning Service		Zoom	Taizé Service
Monday	15				
Tuesday	16				
Wednesday	17				
Thursday	18		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	WI in Vestry
Friday	19				
Saturday	20				
Sunday	21	Morning Service		Zoom	Bring-and-Share
Monday	22				
Tuesday	23				
Wednesday	24				Window o-t World
Thursday	25		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	26				
Saturday	27				
Sunday	28	Morning Service		Zoom	Communion
Monday	29				
Tuesday	30				
Wednesday	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: 3rd JULY 10:30

On Wednesday **July 3rd 10:30 am till noon** in the chapel vestry, the monthly coffee morning will continue collecting for good causes, mainly in the local community. Do let us know if you have any local charities in mind for future coffee mornings as the list is updated every few months.

The Coffee Mornings take place on the 1st Wednesday of the month, and they provide a nice opportunity to catch up with friends and the latest news and of course, to try the various cakes and biscuits on offer – we have a couple of very kind people who bring cake, scones and other yummies for you to try, and one or two of our usual ladies will be happy to serve you tea and coffee. I cannot help but be amazed at just how many of the hot drink preferences these dear folk have memorised by now!

It would be lovely to see you on Wednesday, if you are free.

At All Saints:

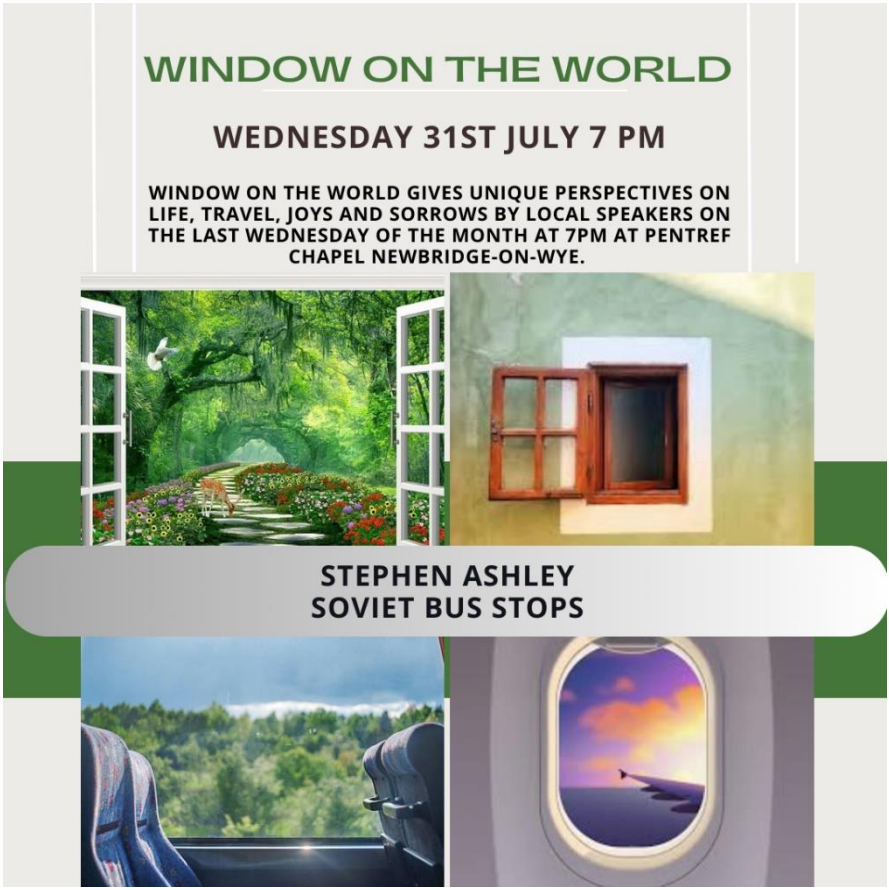
At All Saints, there is a service on the 1st Sunday of the month at 11am, and you would be very welcome to join the next one on 2nd June.

You can get more details from Rev'd Lance Sharpe (9 Cae Nant) whose mobile number is 07938 762570.

DEFIBS AROUND NEWBRIDGE

The village defibrillator is on the side wall of the Post Office. Another is 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, so you have the best chance of making a huge different in an emergency.

The defib now has someone looking after it again, so that pads and other items will be checked and replaced. Thank you.



And breathe!

The 2024 Newbridge-on-Wye Carnival is just about to take place at the time of writing and when you receive this newsletter, it will all have happened. We hope to be able to bring you some pictures in the next newsletter, but we wanted to take a moment to say a huge ‘Thank you!” to the committee and wish them a good rest after all their hard work. Well done!

NEWBRIDGE-ON-WYE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Newbridge WI meets at Pentref chapel on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm, next time on the 18th of July. If you would like to come and meet us (with no obligation to join, cook or sew!), please get in touch.

In July, we will have our annual garden party, and you can see the next few events listed below.

18th July	Garden Party
15th August	Brecon Canal boat trip
19th Sept	Ray Rand: Blood Bikes
17th October	Dawn Gill "Cruising Holidays"

Thank you

We have been asked to pass on a message: Many thanks to Nigel Davies, manager at Huws Gray, for providing compost & bark chippings for the village planters. It's very much appreciated.

SHARED MEAL 10th JULY

The next shared meal will be on the 10th of July when as usual, we will be sharing a bit of food. This time, there will be the opportunity to join us for **evening prayer at All Saints Church from 5PM**. Afterwards, we will go to the chapel to share picnic type food (provided) around tables or outside depending on the weather. We expect to be at the **chapel ready for 6PM**, so do feel like you can drop in or out, whether you wish to join the prayers or not.

We hope to see you on **Wednesday the 10th of July at 5PM and/or 6PM**. We always have a good time, not least due to the folk who attend.

Donations of coins or cake/puddings always much appreciated but please just come as you are. Misha: 07432 530983 if you have any questions.

MEET OLIVE AND TREVOR HUGHSON

Newbridge Chapel, and the Baptist cause it hosts, have a lot of history behind them, having been present in and around the village in one form or another for over 300 years. You may remember that the current chapel is the third building and that Baptists met at the Pentre farm before ever becoming ‘a church with walls’. That’s why the chapel is called ‘Pentref’.

Well, lo and behold, two of our current members, Olive and Trevor, used to live on the self-same Pentre farm. They moved to there after having been married only around 15 months and came here from Llanbister Road in 1961.

It wasn’t long at all before they joined the Baptist church. Trevor says they were “Baptists in thought” although they hadn’t been members of a Baptist church. It was a few years before they were both baptised on the same day in 1975

Olive was involved with the Sunday School, which back in those days was a lot more like school than Sunday schools and kids’ ministries today. She taught the younger children, while others took responsibility for the older children’s classes, for a while this was Frances Lloyd.

Olive had found this image from when she was younger and the Pentref Sunday School had around 20 children, who each year after taking part in Sunday School Anniversary in June, singing, reciting etc, were rewarded with a trip to Barmouth, Aberystwyth or another destination for the day to enjoy the sea air and each other’s company. A young Olive herself is at the top right of the image, above then-minister L.M. Richards.

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 30th July 2:30PM

There is a meeting of the “Open Doors” prayer group on the 30th of July at 2:30pm in the St Francis Centre at Holy Trinity with refreshments to follow.

The Open Doors charity works for human rights, especially the rights of Christians in countries where religious and political freedoms are nearly non-existent. They produce a yearly Top 50 of the countries where having a Christian faith is most dangerous.

In the recent news from the Open Doors website, stories are told about teenage boys from North Korea sentenced to decades or life in labour camps for possessing and performing songs from South Korea, and of a Christian Youth Group leader from China who was fined and imprisoned for wanting to keep his group independent of state interference. The charity attempts to support believers in places where faith in Jesus is marginalising people or putting their lives at risk.

It is not easy to put into words exactly how prayer works but Christians believe that prayer is a way to partner with God in bringing good into the world and so, the group meeting at Holy Trinity prays for safety and freedom and fulness of life for their fellow believers around the world.

NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

Bring your own creative project to the chapel vestry on a Thursday afternoon and enjoy the company of other creative and crafty men and women – and a cuppa halfway through!

The group, which is open to all, is facilitated by Vanessa Wallis who can be contacted on 07802 803652 if you have any questions.

It’d be great to see you there for some joint creative pursuits.

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: **14th July, 28th July and 11th August at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

14th July: Do you dance? King David once danced, and his wife thought he was being silly, but David was just really happy because he knew God and so had a public praise party!

28th July: Jesus feeds a whole huge crowd of people with just a few bread rolls and a couple of fish which he's borrowed from a child. And then, Jesus walks on water! Whoa! What does it all mean?

11th August: We make a timeline of some of all the stories we have heard. From Adam and Eve to Noah to David, Isaiah and the vision, and even Jesus – who came first? What is God's Big Story like, and where are we in it?

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, 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).
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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