PENTREF BAPTIST CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

Visitor to A Greenhouse – *by John Richards*

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

A friend sent me the photo on the frontpage of the newsletter a week or two back. This toad had made an appearance in his greenhouse of all places. I was quick to send back the picture on the left, which, as you might be able to tell, shows one of this fella's relatives, hiding in my shoe! My surprise was audible when I tried to put my shoes on in a hurry, not noticing the visitor inside! Toad in the sole!

I haven't put the picture on the frontpage because the toad is pretty, nor because the photo of it is amazing. My friend admitted it was taken in a rush before Mr or Mrs Toad hopped or waddled off. I put it there for two other reasons.

Firstly, to say that we all have surprise visitors sometimes. People who turn up when we least expect it or circumstances which we did not ask for which suddenly present themselves and we have to try to make the most of them. We may have to make a few 'snap' decisions or we may just 'snap' when it all gets too much – we are only human after all.

Secondly, to remind us that although we aren't perfect, God loves us 'warts and all' as they say. We don't have to iron out all our wrinkles first, nor do we have to tidy up every little fleck and botox away every sign that we have lived, and cried, and laughed… No, first we are loved and then, well, maybe there are a few things that require some work. But it's not about being good enough – it's about daring to believe that God will meet us where we are, as we happen to be, and that God is pleased to see us.

There's a story in the Bible about how a Pharaoh would not let the worshippers of God go, and so a few different methods of persuasion were tried: Water to blood, grasshoppers and well, not toads but frogs! Frogs everywhere – in the cornflakes, in the teacup, in the boot of the car (well, you get the idea) – and Moses, the leader at the time offered to help, if only Pharaoh would let the Israelites go. What did Pharaoh say? Well, he didn't say "Oh, yes please!". Instead he said: "Come back tomorrow".

It's difficult to embrace change, whether it comes unexpectedly as a visitor we did not invite, or whether it is the sort of risky business of imagining that perhaps God could make us even more beautiful if we allowed God to do a bit of work on us. I know I've got a fair way to go but I do appreciate knowing that I am loved now, warts and all. So are you. **-Misha**

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**4th**	**August**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen and Rev Ian Sim (Communion)**
			6:30pm	**Pause and Pray**
Sunday	**11th**	**August**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**18th**	**August**	**10:30am**	**Rev Steve Wallis**
			2:30pm	**Joint Service at Franksbridge**
Sunday	**25th**	**August**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			7:00pm	**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 September				
Sunday	**1st**	**Sept**	**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
Thursday	1		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	2				
Saturday	3				
Sunday	4	Morning Service		Zoom	Pause and Pray
Monday	5				
Tuesday	6				
Wednesday	7	Coffee Morning			
Thursday	8		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	9				
Saturday	10				
Sunday	11	Morning Service		Zoom	Taizé
Monday	12				
Tuesday	13				
Wednesday	14				Shared Meal
Thursday	15		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	16				
Saturday	17				
Sunday	18	Morning Service	Franksbridge	Zoom	No Service
Monday	19		Newsletter Deadline		
Tuesday	20				
Wednesday	21				
Thursday	22		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	23				
Saturday	24				
Sunday	25	Morning Service		Zoom	Communion Service
Monday	26				
Tuesday	27				
Wednesday	28				
Thursday	29		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	30				
Saturday	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.

Meet Lyn Davies

Lyn is one of the few Welsh speakers in the chapel. She grew up near Pumsaint and recalls walking along the fence of the goldmine during the war. She trained to be a teacher and worked as such for many years, and I've heard from several of her former pupils how grateful they are for her positive influence on them in their younger days.

When it comes to faith, Lyn started out in one type of chapel – the Calvinist Methodist, now called Presbyterian – but ended up in Pentref along the way. Lyn says that for a while she would go to Alpha in Builth and that she had also been teaching the Sunday School at All Saints for a while, but then-minister Rev'd LM Richards persuaded her to give the Baptist chapel a go. She quickly settled there. She chuckles and says she isn't sure if it helped that LM spoke Welsh – but maybe.

It wasn't long after that, when Lyn was playing for a choir concert in Rhayader, that the chapel organist Glithin Powell approached her and said: "Well, you can play!" and then before long, Lyn was taking it in turns with a few others to play on a Sunday morning with someone on duty to pump the organ too. It sounds like a vigorous job altogether!

Listening to Lyn, it seems like a busy time with young children, parents living with her and her late husband Derek, and work too but Lyn had many happy days at the chapel, making friends with fellow believers, She is fond of her native language, Welsh, and enjoys opportunities to speak it.

Lyn is happy that there aren't such strict divisions between different chapels anymore. She recalls the days when she would be asked to leave a service in a Baptist chapel in a nearby town after playing the organ for them, so that members of the chapel could take communion together, while she would be made to wait outside. Ouch! Time has moved on for the vast majority of our chapels, fortunately, and communion is an invitation to come and meet with God, whether you are a member or not.

Lyn, while not quite as energetic as she was in her younger days, still comes to worship at the chapel about once a month, often with her daughter, Ann. Her son, David, is married to "the other Lyn Davies", whose name you will find in these pages too. *-by Misha*

Me and Jesus went for a walk
to spend time together, and laugh, and talk.
We went to the river and sat for a bit,
and as I went quiet, He said 'Out with it!'

So I told Him the thing I had wanted to say:
"I'm not quite sure how I am meant to pray!"
He looked at me like I had dropped from the sky
though that was His part, of course. Then He said: "Why?"

"Oh, I don't know, it's just that I don't get on well
with lists of names. Jesus, I'm sure you can tell?"
He stopped for a second and studied a plant,
then said: "Pray as you can, Misha, not as you can't."

So we sat there together, enjoying the view
and for just a few moments, I thought about you,
as my heart blessed your coming and going today
I stopped thinking 'bout praying and started to pray.

My eyes saw the land, every hill, every tree
and God Himself started to pray within me.
I yielded my heart to whatever the cause
and after a while, He came to a pause.

I didn't say anything, hours went by,
then I noticed my eyes had started to cry.
I asked Him gently: "Lord, what's on your heart?"
…"Oh, I wish we were not all so far apart..."

He showed me the people He loved very much
and I reached out my hand with a comforting touch.
But Jesus got up and whispered: Pray.
As He went to look for you, I whispered: Okay.

NEXT COFFEE MORNING: 7th AUGUST 10:30

August 7th 10:30 am till noon is the date for our next coffee morning in the chapel vestry. These special occasions always take place on the 1st Wednesday of the month. There are hot drinks, cake and biscuits on offer while we all have a chat and a chance to support a local charity with a pound or two in the collection box. It'd be lovely to see you if you are free.

We are currently collecting for the Salvation Army whose work among some of our most vulnerable citizens is truly inspiring. We also hope to be able to present a cheque to Friends of Newbridge School, our previous cause. If you've contributed to this collection, thank you very much!

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 4th of August.

We are so pleased to hear that there is a team of trainee bell ringers now at All Saints, and it is lovely to see the small and big jobs still being done in and around the graveyard. A massive well done to those involved.

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.

Can you help?

Easyfundraising is a website which partners with big brands like Tesco, Asda, B&Q and many, many more. When you shop through the website, retailers donate a small percentage to the Chapel, at no extra cost to you. Super easy, super fundraising.

We'd be very grateful if you would sign up and support us. Use the QR code or go to https://tinyurl.com/bde5kks6 to register.

CAUSE PAGE QR CODE
Pentref Baptist Church

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE AND POPPY APPEAL

Newbridge WI will not meet at Pentref chapel until September as they have summer outings planned, which we hope will be really enjoyable.

Lyn Davies has asked us to publicise the following message regarding the **Poppy Appeal**:

Could anyone wanting a wreath, crosses or Remembrance Day items please let me know by 15th August. I will be delivering poppy boxes to the usual village locations later in the year.

Many Thanks, Lyn Davies
(Poppy Appeal coordinator for Newbridge area) 07393602896

> The Christian does not believe that God loves us because we are good, but that God will make us good because God loves us.
> C.S. Lewis.

SHARED MEAL 14th AUGUST

At the next shared meal, we will be serving Bolognese – and no doubt some wonderful surprise puddings.

We hope to see you on **Wednesday the 14th of August at 6PM**. We always have a good time, not least due to the folk who attend from near and far and of all ages, from toddlers to those in their 90s.

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

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.

OPEN DOORS PRAYER GROUP – Summer Break

The monthly meeting of the "Open Doors" prayer group at the St Francis Centre at Holy Trinity will return in September after a summer break.

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 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.

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?

25th August: The armour of God – what's that? How do you dress to protect yourself – and from what? Are there weapons too?

8th September: We will have a new beginning. We have someone special coming to help us and together, at the start of a new school year, we think about the gift of a fresh start.

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 His children: "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

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

September 2024 Edition Deadline: Monday 19th Aug 2024
Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com