PENTREF BAPTIST CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

Hedgehogs and Apples – Harvest Window Display by Sue Straw

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

This week, I was at an anniversary service at a lovely old chapel at Abergwesyn, called “Pantycelyn”, probably the only Baptist chapel in Breconshire who still have their services in Welsh – or bilingually. For 250 years, there has been a building for worship on that hillside. The interesting thing for me was that the chapel at Abergwesyn had started as a daughter chapel of Pentref, our very own Newbridge Baptist chapel, the same way that Pisgah chapel, just down the road from us towards Beulah had done. They had a service to mark this special day, and it was good to hear our very own John Lloyd explain a bit about the history. The event was combined with harvest thanksgiving.

Harvest always features apples, also at the recent service at the chapel here, where we were blessed to have some really lovely window displays. The abundance of fruit reminds me of something Jesus said when people were grumbling at the good things he was doing because it wasn’t done within the narrow confines of the rules and technicalities of the religious ideas at the time. He told one of his little stories, telling them that “a tree is known by its fruit” and asked his listeners: “When was the last time you picked apples from a thornbush or made blackberry crumble from what you picked from a nettle?” Pay attention, he said, to the fruit of someone’s life and actions. Just like a tree is known by its fruit, so people are known by the result of their actions, the fruit of their efforts.

I find it really remarkable, that things which took place more than 250 years ago, when a congregation decided to plant another church in that chapel up on the hill by Abergwesyn, still move and affect us today. I wonder what good has been done, what hymns have been sung, what people have heard a bit more about Jesus because of that chapel.

And I wonder, too, when people look back at us today, you and me, going about our daily business here in this small village in Wales, what the impact of our actions will be years down the line. The children we raise, the kindness we share, the things we build and tend and care for. Will they be sweet juicy apples or stinging nettles, tasty crumble or sour grapes? In all those many years, who knows what the ripple effect of it all will be…

Sometimes, as a Christian, I find it helpful to know that I don’t work all alone on producing this fruit which is pleasant and wholesome. The Holy Spirit helps make us kinder, more joyful, more loving – not holier than thou people who know what everyone else should be doing, but real, humble people who know all of us need a helping hand at times. Whatever source you are plugged into, may you find blushing red apples among the branches of your tree, and may they be lifegiving for you and others.

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**6th**	**October**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)**
			6:30pm	**Pause and Pray**
Sunday	**13th**	**October**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**20th**	**October**	**10:30am**	**Rev Ifor Williams**
			6:30pm	**Bring & Share Service**
Sunday	**27th**	**October**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**United Service with Franksbridge & Howey**
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 November				
Sunday	**3rd**	**Nov**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Evening Service**

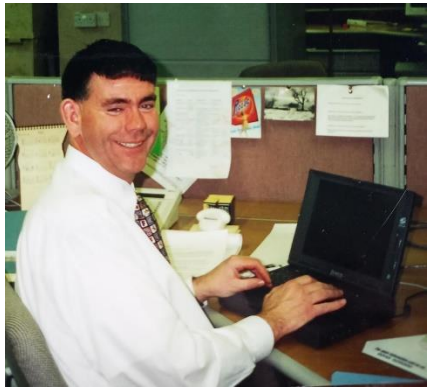
Everyone is very welcome to join any of these services. If you have any questions, please contact the secretary: elsa.harflett.eh@gmail.com.

What's on at Pentref?					
Date		Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Tuesday	1				
Wednesday	2	Coffee Morning			
Thursday	3		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	4				
Saturday	5				
Sunday	6	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Pause and Pray
Monday	7				
Tuesday	8				
Wednesday	9				Shared Meal
Thursday	10		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	11				
Saturday	12				
Sunday	13	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Taizé Service
Monday	14				
Tuesday	15				
Wednesday	16				
Thursday	17		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	WI in vestry
Friday	18				
Saturday	19				
Sunday	20	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Bring-and-Share
Monday	21				
Tuesday	22				
Wednesday	23				
Thursday	24		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	25				
Saturday	26	Tabletop Sale at the Chapel			
Sunday	27	Morning Service		Zoom Service	United Service
Monday	28				
Tuesday	29				
Wednesday	30				Window o-t World
Thursday	31		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.

Meet Alan Brooks

You may remember Alan writing about his first visit to our chapel and about his baptism in the river Wye back in August last year. His baptism followed a re-connection with God after being drawn to the chapel by an encounter with the Holy Spirit. Alan is a relatively new member of our chapel. He moved to Newbridge almost 4 years ago from a Northamptonshire Shoe town. One of a family of three, Alan was raised in a village in North Buckinghamshire, deep in the heart of open countryside and introduced to the Methodist chapel in nearby Hanslope by his mother. His relationship with chapel life lapsed during his school years and was briefly re-kindled during his work in the Police service and the NHS, before he moved into a career in marketing. Above, a picture of a younger Alan around this time.



Country boy Alan made his first connection with Wales in August 1976 attending a month's course at the 'Outward Bound' School in Aberdyfi and when an opportunity arose to realise a dream of living in Wales, he grasped it with both hands. Alan's love of animals, flora and fauna is well catered for here and incorporated into his daily life. He enjoys non-league football and attends different matches each week throughout Wales and the borders following his membership of the 92 club. Recently retired, Alan is exploring future ways in which he can use his skills to help others voluntarily in the wider community.

Alan's journey with God and his faith means that he enjoys his time with our chapel and helping with some of the little and larger tasks that crop up here. He enjoys seeing what each day brings as each dawn breaks and new challenges and experiences are given to us, He describes his journey as being on a train ride and getting on and off that train to enjoy or deal with those new challenges and experiences. One of his favourite hymns is "How great Thou art" which apart from being rousing reminds us of the splendour and awe that God and his creation has given to us.

His love for the Pentref Chapel encompasses the warmth of our congregation and people and being surrounded regularly by a sense of joy, laughter and wellbeing which spreads throughout and is shared by the congregation in their daily lives in our wider community.

Harvest Service in Pictures

It was wonderful to gather on the 8th of September to say “thank you” for all the gifts of the earth and the year, and then to sample some of those self-same gifts – apple bakewells, berry puddings, fruitloaf… We collected for the local foodbanks and for the work of the BMS in Bangladesh.

Ifor Williams took the service and gave an uplifting harvest message in a chapel decorated beautifully and with great creativity by Sue Straw who had done the window displays for us. Thank you all for your donations, which have now been passed on to the relevant charities.

NEXT COFFEE MORNING: 2nd October 10:30

October 2nd 10:30 am till noon. Every 1st Wednesday of the month, the coffee morning supports local charities. We were blessed to be able to forward £100 to Ebony from the Friends of Newbridge-on-Wye School at the last Shared Meal (the time was more suitable). At the next coffee morning, we hope to pass on a similar cheque to the Salvation Army.

We look forward to seeing you if you are free and fancy some cake, biscuits, cuppas and a chat with friends new and old. We are currently collecting for the chapel, where works have had to be done on the building. We'd appreciate your donations before we return to supporting other local charities again from next month.

At All Saints:

We were sad to learn that Rev Lance Sharpe will be moving on to a new role in Oxfordshire. We wish him and the family all the best in their new role and location! Thank you for your time in Newbridge.

All Saints will have their Harvest Service on the 6th of October at 11am.

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 difference in an emergency.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE AND POPPY APPEAL

Newbridge WI meets in the chapel vestry every third Thursday of the month at 7pm. The next meeting is on the 17th of October, when the topic is "Cruising Holidays" with Dawn Gill.

If you have any questions or would like to join the W.I., please contact Lyn Davies, who is also this year's **Poppy Appeal Coordinator.**

Lyn will be delivering poppy boxes to the usual village locations soon. 07393602896

PLEASE HELP

Could you spare a couple of hours each month helping to run our Community Hall?

We have two roles that we'd like help with. We need someone to take and manage bookings and also someone who would be willing to clean the hall a couple of times a month.

If you would like more information on these volunteer roles, please contact:
Sophie – 07795 906180 or Geraint – 07926 359892

Advance notice:

There will be a **Christmas Craft Fair** on the 30th of November 10:30 till 4 in the chapel vestry – with refreshments and a chance to buy Christmas gifts and more. If you would like to have a stand (£5 for the chapel), please contact Kathy Woodyatt on 07879 623959 to book a spot.

More information to follow in due course about the event itself.

SHARED MEAL 9th OCTOBER

The next shared meal will be **Wednesday the 9th of October 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. This time, we will have fish and chips together.

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 01597 860185 if you have any questions.

Window on the World

On the last Wednesday of the month "Window on the World" gives us the opportunity to see the world from someone else's perspective. We have heard about conservation work around the world, about Soviet Bus Stops, about life in Madagascar – lots of fascinating talks.

The next one will be on **Wednesday 30th of October at 7PM** in the chapel vestry where we hear about Catherine Rees' work as the Environmental Officer for Powys. Come and listen to an inspiring talk and enjoy a cuppa.

OPEN DOORS PRAYER GROUP

The monthly meeting of the "Open Doors" prayer group at the St Francis Centre at Holy Trinity takes place on the **22nd October at 2:30 PM** with videos, prayer, a practical action and light refreshments afterwards. All welcome to join us with no obligation to pray out loud – just come along.

The group is quite small and welcoming and the updates from the charity are informative and often quite encouraging, despite the topic being the unfair treatment of believers in Jesus in many places around the world. You can find more information at https://www.opendoorsuk.org/

Zoom Service

Every Sunday at 4.30pm, a small group of people meet on Zoom to talk about a text from the Bible and to pray together. There is also an opportunity twice a month to take communion together. Rev Steve Wallis coordinates the group which has participants from this area and further afield. It is a service where you can share your thoughts and listen to others, but where there is no singing nor a long sermon. This service may suit you particularly well if you can't go out much or if your church/chapel only has occasional services.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Steve on steveoncomputer@aol.com to get added to the list so you receive the joining details. You would be very welcome to join.

Tabletop Sale at the Chapel
Saturday 26th October 10-3

Have you got things you no longer need which someone else might benefit from? Books, clothes, ornaments, toys? Why not get a table at the chapel tabletop sale (£5 per table) or if you only have a few things and you are feeling generous, why not donate to the chapel table, where proceeds will go to the chapel events and upkeep.

We have a limited number of tables available (including a couple of half sized tables), so please contact Elsa on 07979 961276 or elsa.harflett.eh@gmail.com to book in advance.

If you are in the market for a present, a new top or a few toys, or indeed for a cuppa and a piece of cake, why not come and join us and have a look around – it'd be great to see you.

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 **13th and 26th October and 9th November (Remembrance Sunday) at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

We are super pleased that we now have Gina helping us with Sunday School and look forward to what she and her creative companions come up with.

On the 9th of November, Remembrance Sunday, we have a short session for the children before the official Act of Remembrance.

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.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

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

November 2024 Edition Deadline: Friday 18th October 2024
Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com