PENTREF BAPTIST CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

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

The weather has been a bit of a mixed bag recently. Bad weather is one thing when you have a roof over your head but can be something else entirely when you are more exposed to the elements. Since the last newsletter, I have had a very special visit from my brother, who has been on a rather epic bicycle journey, off-roading and camping in a tiny tent all the way from Stansted Airport via Exeter, Minehead and Gospel Pass to visit me in Newbridge. He has just gone back to Denmark on the plane with his bike in a huge cardboard box! The experience, I think, was mostly worth it for him, but there were times when he got wet and cold, and the hills were too overgrown in bracken, bramble and nettles to be passable.

My brother's experience was one that he had chosen, although perhaps not being able to gauge exactly what it would entail at every turn, yet it did make me think of those hundreds and thousands of people who are hurled into lifechanging experience without having done anything to deserve such adversity. From natural disasters and unrest abroad to tragic events on the national news, there are people who not long ago simply went about their business but who now find themselves without a home, without supplies, without a future for their children – or without a child whom they dearly love. Few things are as simple as we would like to believe, and at times, it is easy to jump to conclusions. Not always helpful!

Jesus told a story once, about a man who travelled on the A470 from Newbridge-on-Wye to Builth, when he fell into the hands of robbers. Those who were meant to help passed by, leaving the man for dead, thinking it would be better to not get involved at all. Then someone travels along the road who is frowned upon by others – you can fill in the blank here: "I'd rather die than have *that person* help me!" Someone from a different town, with different views, different skin colour, culture – yet, that person is the one who stops and helps and leaves a blank cheque to cover the cost of surgery, support, temporary accommodation. Go and do likewise, Jesus says. Be a neighbour to others. Of course he didn't tell the story about the A470, but about a well-known road in his own area. Be that as it may, the story tells us that even when we don't want to get involved, we are already part of the story. It also reminds us that when we are lying in the ditch, the distance between one human being and another is not as insurmountable as we can make it sound in our rules and polemic around others at times.

In September's Harvest Thanksgiving, we pause to say "Thank you" for all the things we have been blessed with over this past year: Homes, friends, safety, crops, memories – unexpected kindness. Do come and share in a few moments of gratitude for the goodness we enjoy from God and others.

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**1st**	**Sept**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**8th**	**Sept**	**10:30am**	**Rev Andrew Wyton**
			5:00pm	**HARVEST – Ifor Williams (followed by supper at 6pm)**
Sunday	**15th**	**Sept**	**10:30am**	**Rev Andrew Wyton**
			6:30pm	**Bring & Share Service**
Sunday	**22nd**	**Sept**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Communion Service**
Sunday	**29th**	**Sept**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**How Great Thou Art – Testimony and Song**
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 October				
Sunday	**6th**	**Oct**	**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.

Date		Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Sunday	1	Morning Service		Zoom	Taizé Service
Monday	2				
Tuesday	3				
Wednesday	4	Coffee Morning			
Thursday	5		Creative Group		
Friday	6				
Saturday	7				
Sunday	8	Morning Service		Harvest + Zoom	Harvest Supper
Monday	9				
Tuesday	10				
Wednesday	11				Shared Meal
Thursday	12		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	13				
Saturday	14				
Sunday	15	Morning Service		Zoom	Bring-and-Share
Monday	16				
Tuesday	17				
Wednesday	18				
Thursday	19		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	WI in Vestry
Friday	20				
Saturday	21				
Sunday	22	Morning Service		Zoom	Communion
Monday	23				
Tuesday	24				
Wednesday	25				Window o t World
Thursday	26		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	27				
Saturday	28				
Sunday	29	Morning Service		Zoom	Testimony & Song
Monday	30				

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 Bronwen Jenkins

You may remember reading about Bronwen and her stitching skills in a previous edition of this newsletter? Well, Bronwen is a longtime member of our chapel here in Newbridge, having come to live in the area in 1989 and becoming a member in 1993.

Bronwen tells us that she grew up in a chapel-going family. Her parents were the pillars of the URC church where she grew up with her sister, getting involved and especially enjoying the singing. She's one of those people who simply continued to come, finding that it was right for her to worship and serve in a church environment. After moving a couple of times and looking for a suitable place to worship, Bronwen ended up in a Baptist church in Chichester and then in Newbridge-on-Wye Baptist Church, where she has served many cuppas and done a lot of washing up, helped in numerous ways and serves as a deacon.

She has a lifelong love for the outdoors and especially for plants and insects. Every Wednesday, Bronwen counts moths trapped overnight in order to help keep an eye on the population and diversity. She tries to share her love and knowledge of botany, something which has been accumulated over a long life of practice and appreciation and says that she sees a little bit of God in the intricacies and diversity of flowers and wildlife. One of her favourite hymns, Great is Thy faithfulness speaks of exactly that: How nature reminds us of God's sustaining love:

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Bronwen explains that some of what she really likes about the chapel is the people and the way that there is a real sense of belonging and fitting with the people there. Oh, and the singing is still good, she laughs, before she goes inside to put her feet up. She has been doing a lot of outdoor volunteering these past couple of months, surveying fields to see which plants are there – and of course, helping at the chapel and with the stitching group, all full of different people and different places to belong.

Harvest Service with Supper

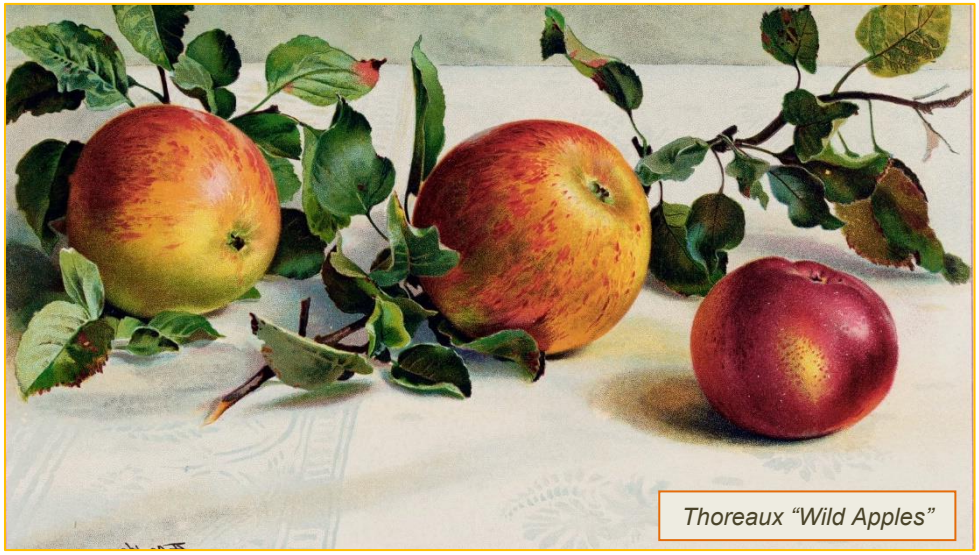
On Sunday 8th of September, we gather at the chapel to give thanks for all the bounty and blessings of the farming year and our personal lives. While the sky is still high and blue above us, we decorate the chapel with produce, flowers, foodbank donations and much more, and tune in to a sense of gratitude for a while as we sing harvest hymns and share in a story of faith. Rev Ifor Williams, a good friend of the chapel, leads us through the service, where all are welcome, young or old, farmer, fisherman, postman, WI member or runner bean grower. Give thanks for tomatoes, for blackberries, for sunshine and memories, for all the things that make life sweet – and help us pray for those who are less fortunate.

After the service, we will share together in a harvest supper and have time to catch up with each other.

It would be brilliant if you could join us on 8th September at 5pm.

If you wish to donate to the foodbank or you have produce which you'd like displayed in the chapel, please could you arrange (as far as possible) for these items to be delivered to the chapel Thursday, Friday or before noon on Saturday 7th of September to allow us time to arrange them nicely! Bags and boxes of a good quality would be very welcome too.

Thanks in advance for your help and donations.



Thoreaux "Wild Apples"

NEXT COFFEE MORNING: 4th September 10:30

August 7th 10:30 am till noon. The Newbridge-on-Wye chapel coffee morning takes place every 1st Wednesday of the month and supports local charities. Our current cause is the Salvation Army whose work among some of our most vulnerable citizens is truly inspiring. We also hope to be able to soon present a cheque to Friends of Newbridge School, our previous cause. If you've contributed to this collection, thank you very much! It is great to be able to support those who support our community.

We look forward to seeing you if you are free and fancy some cake, biscuits, cuppas and a chat with friends new and old.

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 1st of September.

Lance also informs us that All Saints will have their Harvest Service on the 6th of October – more details to follow.

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 need periodical checks and some of the pads need replacing. It is good to know that someone has taken on this task. Many thanks!

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 meets at Pentref chapel every third Thursday of the month, with the next meeting on the 19th of September, where Ray Rand comes to share about the work of the Blood Bikes. In October, the topic is "Cruising Holidays" with Dawn Gill.

If you have any questions, please contact Lyn Davies, who is also this year's **Poppy Appeal Coordinator.** She will be delivering poppy boxes to the usual village locations soon. 07393602896

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfils the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.
Psalm 145: 18-19

SHARED MEAL 11th SEPTEMBER

The next shared meal will be **Wednesday the 11th of September 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. We will be serving lasagne and a choice of puddings.

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.

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 25th of September at 7PM in the chapel vestry where we hear about the work of the Mission Aviation Fellowship who fly medical supplies and people around remote places around the world. 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 again on the **24th of September at 2:30** with videos, prayer, a practical action and light refreshments afterwards. All welcome to join with no obligation to pray out loud – just come along.

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: **8th September, 29th September and 13th October at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

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. This is also Harvest – so we may be helping to decorate the chapel for later.

On the **29th September** and **13th October**, we continue to explore some of the special stories about faith and Jesus together. We use craft, colouring in and music to learn more and have fun.

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).
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

October 2024 Edition Deadline: Tuesday 17th Sept 2024
Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com