PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

Newbridge-on-Wye Newsletter
Pentref Baptist Church
April 2026

Easter is just around the corner. Lambs are leaping about, a friend told me that they'd turned the calves out the other day, bucking and bounding, and as I look down towards the river, more and more branches have got a green mist of new leaves on them. It is that time again when I feel like I can breathe more freely. The birds are chirping away, the bumble bees are definitely bumbling, and another friend who does a weekly moth count has actually had something to count these past few weeks! Have you, like me, taken a moment to turn your face towards the sun to feel those warming rays? I hope so, because it really is spring now. Perhaps you have even found time and energy to potter in the garden or for planting a few seeds?

Jesus once said: Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains just that single seed, but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Like seeds, we as human beings often have to "die" in some sense of the word to achieve great things. Parenthood is one such example, where there are times when sacrifices have to be made and when love needs to extend beyond what we feel we can muster at 3am, for instance. The things that really matter in life seem to have a similar pattern: We need to lay down some of our own comfort, preference, or immediate desires to gain something on a longer horizon – or simply because it is the right thing to do. Relationships, volunteering, gardening, learning a new skill... A lot of what is really worth it in life requires that sort of "falling into the ground" and perhaps, a lot of it is done in a hidden place without much fanfare, like the wheat that is in the ground, unseen, until the shoots come up later.

I am sure that when Jesus spoke those words, he was also thinking of himself. Easter is the time of year when Christians remember how Jesus died and rose again, around 2000 years ago outside Jerusalem. Christians believe that Jesus took upon himself all the selfishness, pain and deep estrangement of humanity, and that as he died and rose again, he broke the power that those things had over our lives, meaning we do not need to be defined by our past, our flaws or our self-focus. Death will never have the final word, and ultimately, God will restore the world, like that first garden in which God walked with human beings and talked like friends.

When you notice new growth, remember that something new and good is growing stronger in another sense too: God's new world is quietly coming. You can be part of it, if you want. When Mary Magdalene went to the grave, very early in the morning on that first Easter day, she went through a garden to get there, and heard her name called by a voice she suddenly recognised. It may be dark around us at times, but light is coming and God is planting a new garden with room for everyone. Happy Easter! **-Misha**

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**5th**	**April**	**10:30am**	**Easter Service with Misha**
			4:00pm	**Easter Egg Hunt for all children**
Sunday	**12th**	**April**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**19th**	**April**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Bring-and-Share Service**
Sunday	**26th**	**April**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Rev Misha Pedersen: Communion**
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 May				
Sunday	**3rd**	**May**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Evening Service**

Everyone is welcome to join us for any of these services, most of which are held around a table in the chapel vestry. We always finish with a cuppa, and a chance to catch up with each other.

THIS MONTH'S DIARY OVERVIEW

What's on at Pentref?					
Date		**Morning**	**Early afternoon**	**Late afternoon**	**Evening**
Wednesday	1	Coffee Morning			Window on the World
Thursday	2		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	Maundy Meal
Friday	3				
Saturday	4				
Sunday	5	Easter Service		Easter Egg Hunt	Soup and Rolls
Monday	6				
Tuesday	7				
Wednesday	8				Shared Meal
Thursday	9		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	10				
Saturday	11				
Sunday	12	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Taize Service
Monday	13				
Tuesday	14				
Wednesday	15				
Thursday	16		Creative Group	Iona Prayerrs	W.I. in vestry
Friday	17				
Saturday	18				
Sunday	19	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Bring-and-Share
Monday	20				
Tuesday	21				
Wednesday	22				
Thursday	23		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	24				
Saturday	25				
Sunday	26	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Communion Service
Monday	27				
Tuesday	28				
Wednesday	29				Window on the World
Thursday	30		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	

The exact times of these events are in this newsletter. If you want more details or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Misha, or Elsa, our church secretary, using the details at the back of this newsletter.

The Good News of the Risen Christ

The angel said to the women at the grave, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."
They left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. *Matthew 28.*

COFFEE MORNING: Weds 1st April 10:30

Support local charities while catching up with friends and neighbours on Wednesday 1st April in the chapel vestry. If you can, bring a couple of small coins for charity; currently we are collecting for the Farming Community Network. There's always a nice atmosphere and it's great to hear all the laughter and lively conversations across the room.

SHARED MEAL: Weds 8th April at 6pm

This month's shared meal offers you a choice of meat and veggie lasagne, bread and cheese, so do come along for a free meal (donations always welcome). There will be a choice of afters, donated by some of our attendees. There's normally around 20 of us, of all ages. Do pop along.

VILLAGE DEFIBS

There are two defibrillators around Newbridge – one by the Post Office and another on the Llysdinam road. Do note their location, just in case.

NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

The Creative Group meets each Thursday afternoon between 2 and 4 PM. Bring your own project along and enjoy a chat and a cuppa halfway with likeminded folk. For more details, phone Vanessa on 01597 860185.

ZOOM CHURCH

Every Sunday at 4.30pm, a small group of people meet via Zoom. Rev Steve Wallis coordinates the group where people pray together and look at a Bible passage. Contact Steve Wallis on steveoncomputer@aol.com to receive the Zoom details for the meeting. You would be very welcome.

NEWBRIDGE W.I.

Newbridge W.I. meet next time on Thursday 16th April in the chapel vestry. Why not come along and find out more? Rachael Blakeley shows how to make pictures from recycled materials, with more talks and excursions to take place in the coming month, including a visit from Brecon Mountain Rescue and a talk later in the year about Roman Cirencester.

UPDATE ABOUT UGANDA

EASTER EGG HUNT

Do you have children or grandchildren who would like to join us for an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday? You'd be more than welcome.

There will be eggs (of course), colouring in and games, music and some light refreshments, so please come and join us for a bit of fun and exercise on Easter Sunday.

We exchange plastic eggs for goodie bags and it's free to take part. Small donations always appreciated if you would like. See you there!

Friends of the chapel who are based in West Africa will be with us for an extra edition of "Window on the World", where you can learn a little more about their work with anthropology and translation of Scripture in this fascinating part of the world. You will also have the opportunity to experience first-hand some of their workshop material which they use to help people explore their views of the world. Who knows what we might learn about ourselves as well as others? Do come and join us at **6.30pm on 1st April at the chapel vestry**. Tea and coffee to follow afterwards.

Please note that there is also a "Window on the World" at the end of the month, on the **29th April with Ray Rand from Blood Bikes Wales**. Do reserve the date, and we will tell you more in the next newsletter.

COULD YOU HELP THE SCHOOL?

EASTER AT PENTREF (AND BEYOND)

Apart from our Songs of Praise service, which takes place on Palm Sunday, 29th March at 6:30, there will be a Maundy Thursday light supper with communion in the chapel vestry at 6:30 on Thursday 2nd April.

On Easter morning, we will meet at 10am for breakfast in the vestry, followed by a service in the chapel sanctuary at 10.30 where we get the chance to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and sing some of our favourite Easter hymns, sharing the good news with each other.

Our Easter Egg Hunt then takes place at 4pm on Easter Sunday, where we burn a bit of energy finding eggs in the graveyard, swapping them for chocolate ones, taking time for a cuppa and a biscuit while some of us colour in, do crafts and listen to songs.

There are a number of services announced for those who would like to attend Tenebrae services and other events over Holy Week, for instance the Good Friday Walk of Witness starting from Holy Trinity Llandrindod at 10:30 and finishing with Hot Cross Buns, the 6pm Tenebrae service at St Llyr's, Llanyre, also on Good Friday 3rd April, and the Holy Saturday Vigil Praise at 7pm at Holy Trinity. Also, there is an Easter Sunday Eucharist at All Saints at 11.15, led by Rev Andrew Perrin.

SPOTLIGHT

Sunday School
but not Sunday School

There is a small group of children meeting at the chapel once or twice a month to learn more about faith while having fun with craft, games and stories. We're always looking for more young people to join our friendly little group, so do come and try it out if you'd like.

The next dates are **12th & 26th April at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door. We also have our **Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 5th April at 4pm** in the chapel grounds.

We do a lot of craft – build models, attach stickers, play with glitter and felt tip pens. We make cards for birthdays and for those who aren't well. We cut out, colour in and go on treasure hunts, of course. And we pray together, listen to stories and sometimes have competitions.

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 will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult. There are always two DBS-checked adults present in addition to this.

We occasionally have a few young teenagers join us too, which is really lovely, so if you are in that age group, do come along with your family.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch, using the details at the back of this newsletter. It would be great to be able to welcome you and your child or grandchild to our little group.
-Misha

By the way: You can still bring stamps to the chapel – there is a box in the vestry. Or send them with a friend. Thank 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, nothing's 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

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Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com