PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

The Newbridge-On-Wye Newsletter
Pentref Baptist Church
February 2025

Last year came and went without any real summer, I felt, or was that just me? In the past week or so, several people have exclaimed to me: “Look! There are snowdrops – still just about budding, but they are there! And the wild primroses!” The joy was tangible in their voice. I was blessed recently to receive a bunch of daffodils from a kind member of the congregation, and I have enjoyed watching them as they opened in a vase in my living room. We all, I suspect, search for signs of hope and new beginnings.

With the political situation as it is around the world, I expect some of us will have watched the news with increasing worry recently – not all new beginnings are necessarily good ones, nor all returns to “how it once was” desirable. Amidst all that, it has always been the business of the church to engage with the world around it, to ‘speak truth to power’ and to stand up for those among us who are disadvantaged. How to best do that, and where to find the courage at times can be tricky. You may have seen in the news recently that the Episcopal Bishop of Washington, Mariann Edgar Budde, pleaded with the US President to protect those groups who could become the targets of hate crimes and hostility and would be feeling fearful. She did not, I think, gain popularity with Mr Trump, but perhaps her measured encouragement to ‘have mercy’ resonated with others, who are unsure of their future and indeed, perhaps, their safety. Perhaps she managed to please God, who encourages us to welcome the stranger, protect the weak, and to speak the truth in love. Maybe she did do that.

When we look at world events, it can be hard to hold onto hope. I think we can all agree that much remains to be done before we see a fair world, where all can flourish and fulfil their potential, where there is equal access to opportunities, where everyone’s unique gifts and personalities shine, where we curb our selfishness, care for each other and for the planet we inhabit; where we manage to build bridges instead of digging trenches.

As a person of faith, I have hope: I have a quiet certainty about a future that hasn’t yet fully come. I trust that one day the peace which now seems so elusive, will come. That Jesus who allows me to call him ‘friend’ will one day bring a real reality of peace, of joyful life and calm activities to benefit us all. I trust that although at present we’re not there yet, this Jesus whom I know and love is at work to bring it about and is starting with my own old stubborn heart and using us all to bring good to this world. Whether you share my faith or not, I hope that the tiny nodding snowdrops will give you hope, too, that perhaps, the world will soon thaw and blossom. **-Misha**

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**2nd**	**February**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)**
				No evening service
Sunday	**9th**	**February**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**16th**	**February**	**10:30am**	**Misha with Mrs Karen Kaneen**
			6:30pm	**Bring & Share Service**
Sunday	**23rd**	**February**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			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 March				
Sunday	**2nd**	**March**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Evening Service**

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

THIS MONTH'S DIARY OVERVIEW

What's on at Pentref?					
Date		Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Saturday	1				
Sunday	2	Morning Service		Zoom	No Service
Monday	3				
Tuesday	4				
Wednesday	5	Coffee Morning			
Thursday	6		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	7				
Saturday	8				
Sunday	9	Morning Service		Zoom	Taizé Service
Monday	10				
Tuesday	11				
Wednesday	12				Shared Meal
Thursday	13		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	14				
Saturday	15				
Sunday	16	Morning Service		Zoom	Bring-and-Share
Monday	17				
Tuesday	18				
Wednesday	19				
Thursday	20		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	W.I. in vestry
Friday	21				
Saturday	22				
Sunday	23	Morning Service		Zoom	Communion Service
Monday	24				
Tuesday	25				
Wednesday	26				
Thursday	27		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	28				

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.

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.

NEXT COFFEE MORNING: 5th FEBRUARY 10:30

February 5th 2025 10:30 am till noon. Come along and support local charities by donating your coins and chatting to friends at our coffee morning, which takes place every 1st Weds of a month from 10:30 till noon. We always have a lovely crowd and plenty of cake, biscuits, coffee, tea etc. It'd be great to see you as we collect for the British Heart Foundation.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Newbridge WI meets in the chapel vestry every third Thursday of the month at 7pm. The next meeting on the 20th of February includes a talk about the Epynt Trail by Paula Lee, while the meeting in March has a Lampshade making workshop by Becca. Many more events are planned for 2025, with a good mix of talks, workshops and outings. What's not to like? Do pop along and see for yourself.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Lyn Davies on 07393 602896 for further information.

FEBRUARY SHARED MEAL 12th FEB at 6PM

Come along to the chapel vestry and join us for the next shared meal on **Wednesday 12th of February at 6pm** where we'll serve soup, rolls and puddings. We're normally around 25 people from the village and beyond who gather around the tables – old and young. We always have a good time and talk to so many different people around the tables, getting to know new people and catching up with old friends. Everyone is more than welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there!

NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

Bring your own creative project to the chapel vestry on a Thursday afternoon between 2 and 4 PM 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.

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.

OPEN DOORS

A small group of people meet monthly in the St Francis Centre in Holy Trinity Church, Llandrindod Wells, to pray together and watch updates from the persecutred church around the world. This is a time for some sobering information about the difficulties faced by some people because of their faith in Jesus, but also a time to join together in writing cards and creating other craft which are used to encourage especially children who find themselves displaced or fearful, and for praying together and sharing refreshments. There is room for everyone at the meeting, whether you are comfortable speaking your prayers or you prefer to pray quietly. The next meeting will be on the 25th of February at 2:30 PM. Do join if you're free. You can read more about the charity at https://www.opendoorsuk.org/

EVENTS, IDEAS OR NOTICES?

Don't forget that you, too, can get your event in this newsletter if you want. A lot of us use Facebook etc, but not all of us do. The newsletter is delivered to all households in the village and freely available at NOW Post Office and Shop. See the back of the newsletter for details.

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 **9th and 23rd February 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. It seems to have a lot to do with glue, stickers, felt tip pens and glitter, cutting, pasting and colouring in.

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.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch, using the details at the back of this newsletter. It would be great to welcome you to our little group.

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

March 2025 Edition Deadline: Monday 17th February 2024
Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com