PENTREF BAPTIST CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

Newbridge-on-Wye Newsletter
Pentref Baptist Church
February 2026

Well, I don't know what your expectations were for 2026, but I am baffled at the events we have seen recently, in Iran and the US. I am unsure whether this newsletter will go to print before these words are overtaken by further events in a world that now seems to need a new kind of order.

I have seen messages from clergy in the USA saying that sermons based on the words of Jesus, for instance from the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus says: "Blessed are the peacemakers" and instructs his followers to "turn the other cheek", get them accused of being leftwing or weak. The Bible consistently puts the concerns of the poor and the marginalised on the agenda. Perhaps you'll remember the good Samaritan who stopped to help a man who had fallen into the hands of robbers and needed care, not first conducting a lengthy calculation to determine if this man was his race, group or responsibility. He was there, so saw it as his task to provide care.

This is not to be party political, but it is to say that there are certain values and ethics that have always been understood to go with the gospel and more broadly, with the legacy of living in a country where Christianity has been influential, which seem to be under pressure in some circles. Certain groups have always tried to disguise their hunger for power under a thin religious veil, and sad as it is, that is still so. It is worrying when those whose voices are so loud care so little about the Jesus they claim to be shouting for, and who would never shout like that himself. None of us get it right all the time, but there is something much more important than being able to say all the right things, pray all the right sort of prayers and know what everyone else ought to be doing, and that is knowing what *I* ought to be doing. Jesus once told a story to illustrate what counted for him.

Jesus told a story about how, when he returns, he will separate people "like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats" and he will say to one group: "Well done, come and join me, because you cared for me and fed me and visited me when I was sick." Those people will say that they never once saw Jesus sick, hungry or naked and helped him, but he will explain that whatever they did for a fellow human being, they have done for him. Likewise, he will say to the other group: "You completely missed the point, go away from me, because you never helped me when I needed you", and they too will be surprised, and say they never saw him needy anywhere, and he will say that what they did not do for the poor and marginalised of this world, they failed to do for him.

May we, followers of Christ or not, help where we can and show kindness and compassion. May we see in the faces of others great dignity and worth, a spark of something divine worth defending and caring for. **-Misha**

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**1st**	**Feb**	**10:30am**	**Rev Janet Russell with Misha (Communion)**
			6:30pm	**Quiet Service**
Sunday	**8th**	**Feb**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**15th**	**Feb**	**10:30am**	**Rev Andrew Wyton**
			6:30pm	**Bring-and-Share Service**
Sunday	**22nd**	**Feb**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Rev Steve Wallis (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 of 2026				
Sunday	**1st**	**Mar**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Evening Service**

May the God who dances with creation; who embraces us with human love and shakes our lives like thunder, bless us and drive us out with power to fill the world with justice.

From a URC service

THIS MONTH'S DIARY OVERVIEW

What's on at Pentref?					
Date		Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Sunday	1	Morning Service		Zoom	Quiet Service
Monday	2				
Tuesday	3				
Wednesday	4	Coffee Morning			
Thursday	5		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	6				
Saturday	7				
Sunday	8	Morning Service		Zoom	Taizé Service
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	W.I. in vestry
Friday	20				
Saturday	21				
Sunday	22	Morning Service		Zoom	Communion Service
Monday	23				
Tuesday	24				
Wednesday	25				
Thursday	26		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	27				
Saturday	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.

FEBRUARY COFFEE MORNING: Weds 4th 10:30

Support local charities while catching up with friends and neighbours every 1st Wednesday of the month from 10:30 till noon. Hot cuppas, plenty of biscuits and cake, small groups of people chatting away around the chapel vestry on Wednesday 4th February. If you can, bring a couple of small coins for charity; currently we are collecting for Blood Bikes Wales.

JANUARY SHARED MEAL: Weds 11th at 6pm

This month's shared meal will consist of a variety of soups, bread and cheese, so do come along for a free meal (donations always welcome). We often have some very nice puddings too, 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 on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm in the chapel vestry. A bit of their exciting 2026 programme is here with more to come. Come along and try it out.

Feb 19th	Rachel Palmer. Women's Land Army
March 19th	Show items/judging/ planning

Hello February

Supporting your local doesn't have to mean drinking alcohol. We've got a great range of 0% lagers & ciders, soft drinks ,hot drinks and delicious food.Pubs bring the community together and this is our aim at The New Inn.

Some of the things we have on in February are :

- SUNDAY LUNCH 1PM-3PM
- THE SIX NATIONS RUGBY ON THE BIG SCREEN WITH COMPLIMENTARY FOOD AT HALF TIME DURING THE WELSH GAMES.
- CHARITY QUIZ EVERY OTHER TUESDAY 7:30PM STARTING 10th FEB
- BINGO & A BASKET MEAL EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM - pre book only STARTING 4th FEB
- VARIOUS THEME NIGHTS EVERY SATURDAY FROM GAME NIGHTS TO THEMED MEALS
- FRIDAY NIGHT - CHIPPY NIGHT

FOR MORE INFO GIVE US A CALL ON 01597 860211

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 **8th & 22nd February + 8th March at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

We do a lot of craft – build models, attach stickers, play with glitter and felt tip pens. We make cards for birthdays and 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

Some of our recent activities.

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

March 2026 Edition Deadline: Thursday 19th February 2026
Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com