PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

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

At this time of writing, I am in my native Denmark, where daylight hours are even fewer than in Wales during winter months. I don't know whether you have had a busy Christmas or a quieter one, but I know a few people who have felt like they ran out of time in December – not enough hours in the day, so to speak! So, we're taking a break from a few things for a couple of weeks in January, to allow us to rest and breathe slowly.

At the chapel, we have been fortunate enough to be able to host the school for their annual Christingle service. Some of you will know the "Christingle" – an orange, symbolising the world, with a red ribbon around it to illustrate God's love, a candle on top that reminds us how Jesus is the light of the world – and then the cocktail sticks with sweets, for all God's goodness to us. Whether it's a decorated orange or something else, we all need reminders sometimes that we are loved, held and part of something.

I thought that maybe at the beginning of a new year, I could take the opportunity to make sure you know that too, that you are loved. That in the beginning, before any of all the "stuff" we see around us even existed, when God was pondering creating things, living and inanimate, God thought to Godself: It would be wonderful to have someone just like **you**. It's not an accident that you are here, you are wanted. You belong.

It can be difficult, even for those of us who are supposedly 'fluent in God-speak' to put into words exactly what big words like "salvation" cover. I suspect that is in part because that word covers so many things, but I sometimes like to think of it a bit like this: There's a wholehearted welcome awaiting us, a way to share in the single-minded commitment to love and deep justice that we see in Jesus, a deep peace and liberation from the awkwardness, evil and alienation we can sometimes experience. There is a coming home that is possible when we agree to let what Jesus did speak for us too, and to begin the difficult work of setting the world free to thrive, experience dignity, equal opportunity, fair demands, lots of growing pains, much joy, and a definite belonging in God's family that cannot be undone.

That sort of worth, from being human, from being made in God's image, comes way, way before we do anything or say anything clever, or prove ourselves. It is a fundamental thing that goes with being human and it's one of the things we can learn in practice from taking a break and seeing that the world still revolves. Most things can wait at least a little while.

So, have a good January, perhaps a slower one. Allow yourselves to know and experience that you are loved, even before you DO anything. **-Misha**

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**5th**	**January**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)**
				Pause and Pray
Sunday	**12th**	**January**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**19th**	**January**	**10:30am**	**Rev Janet Russell**
			6:30pm	**Bring & Share Service**
Sunday	**26th**	**January**	**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 February				
Sunday	**2nd**	**February**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Evening Service**

Happy New Year!
Thank you for all your support, visits and engagement in 2024.
May your 2025 be blessed with joy!

What's on at Pentref?					
Date		Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Wednesday	1	Coffee Morning			
Thursday	2		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	3				
Saturday	4				
Sunday	5	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Pause and Pray
Monday	6				
Tuesday	7				
Wednesday	8				
Thursday	9		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	10				
Saturday	11				
Sunday	12	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Taizé Service
Monday	13				
Tuesday	14				
Wednesday	15				
Thursday	16		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	WI 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
Monday	27				
Tuesday	28				
Wednesday	29				
Thursday	30		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	31				

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.

NEXT COFFEE MORNING: 1st January 10:30

January 1st 2025 10:30 am till noon. Every 1st Wednesday of the month, the coffee morning supports local charities. If you are free and fancy some cake, biscuits, cuppas and a chat with friends new and old, then please drop in at any point between 10:30 and 12. The next charity on our list is the British Heart Foundation. We always have a great time, so if you aren't all partied out after the New Year, please pop along. It'd be good to see you.

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

Newbridge WI meets in the chapel vestry every third Thursday of the month at 7pm. On the 16th of January, the speaker will be Pip Samuel, talking about village life in the past. The meeting is open to anyone who would like to come along. There will be a raffle and light refreshments. If you have questions or want to get involved, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Lyn Davies on 07393 602896 for further information.

NO SHARED MEAL IN JANUARY

There will be no shared meal in January, but we will return in February.

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.

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.

Christingle with Newbridge School

This year's Christingle was meant to be at the chapel, but miserable weather and staff shortages meant we instead visited the school. It was a pleasure to hear Christmas songs and readings from the children while talking about the Christingle symbols for love and light. We wish staff and children a very happy Christmas after what sounds like a very busy term!

We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2025.

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 **12th and 26th January 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

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