PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

Newbridge-on-Wye Newsletter
Pentref Baptist Church
January 2026

More or less wise men and women are predicting the kind of year we will have. Economic projections are being made, budgets are now settled, tax returns due, and the last bits of Christmas will be on their way out in just a few short days. Traditionally, Christmas would last until Epiphany, the Feast of the Three Kings/Magi/Wise Men, celebrated on the 6th of January.

We don't actually know if there were three of them, but so tradition has it. Perhaps you have heard the joke, that if it'd been three wise women, the gifts would have been different: Casseroles, nappies, that sort of thing, but really the point about the gifts Jesus is presented with is that they give clues to his future: Frankincense for a God, gold for a king, myrrh for someone who would eventually die and need to be wrapped with such spices. You may remember "We three kings of Orient are…" and how the verses there explain it. Or you could look it up if you like and hum along.

The magi didn't get to Bethlehem in a straight line – their star-powered GPS system sent them to Jerusalem first, before they were able to reroute and find the young Jesus, likely by then a 2-year-old toddler.

Perhaps you have arrived at your destination for life. If so, I am very pleased for you. I suppose, however, that most of us find that things tend to change as different chapters of our lives unfold, even if for a time we feel comfortable and content. Kids come; kids move away, grandchildren appear... Friends arrive, parents pass away, retirement comes… And sometimes, things happen which really rattle us and make us reconsider our choices. Sometimes, the New Year in itself can be enough to make us think about our priorities, what we do with our time, money and energy.

I don't know what kind of season you find yourself in, but from a natural viewpoint, the days are now officially getting longer and brighter, and from a Christian perspective, we have been reminded in the reliving of Advent and Christmas that God wants to be with us in the ups and downs of life.

This next season is called Epiphany, a season for rediscovering with the magi, the first disciples of Jesus and the whole world who the Christmas baby was born to be. German priest and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, murdered by the Nazi regime, wrote these words about Christ: "He comes in the form of the beggar, of the dissolute human child in ragged clothes, asking for help. He confronts you in every person that you meet. As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbour." Whether you follow Jesus or not, may you discover in your neighbour someone worthy of love and dignity, and may you find yourself among these neighbours too, deeply valued and treasured by God and others. **-Misha**

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**4th**	**Jan**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)**
			6:30pm	**Quiet Service**
Sunday	**11th**	**Jan**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**18th**	**Jan**	**10:30am**	**Rev Andrew Wyton**
			6:30pm	**Bring-and-Share Service**
Sunday	**25th**	**Jan**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Evening 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**	**Feb**	**10:30am**	**Rev Janet Russell w. Misha**
			6:30pm	**Evening Service**

Happy New Year to you from us all at the chapel. We wish you and your family and friends every blessing for 2026.

THIS MONTH'S DIARY OVERVIEW

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

JANUARY COFFEE MORNING: Weds 7th 10:30

The chapel coffee morning gives you a chance to support local charities and catch up with friends every 1st Wednesday of a month from 10:30 till noon, so do join us if you're free.

The buzzing atmosphere is always lovely and warm – thanks to the people who attend.

JANUARY SHARED MEAL: Weds 14th 6pm

This month's shared meal will consist of lasagne with garlic bread, so do come along for a free meal (donations always welcome). We are blessed with people who make nice puddings, and those sweet treats put a nice finish to the evening. There's normally around 20 of us, of all ages. You'd be very welcome to join us.

VILLAGE DEFIBS

There are two defibrillators around Newbridge – one by the Post Office and another on the Llysdinam road. If you ever need to use them, you'll be guided through the process by a recorded voice and by 999 call handlers.

NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

Art Group this month only on 15th, 22nd and 29th.Thursday afternoon group meet between 2 and 4 PM for a bit of craft and art among other creative men and women with a cuppa and biscuits halfway through. Bring your own project along. For more details, phone Vanessa on 01597 860185.

ZOOM CHURCH

Every Sunday at 4.30pm, a small group of people meet on Zoom. Rev Steve Wallis coordinates the group where people from near and far pray together and look at a Bible passage. If you'd like to join, don't hesitate to 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 each month at the chapel vestry and have got a new exciting programme for 2026, starting with a talk from Yvonne on Musicals in South America. Do come along and see.

PICTURES FROM THE CHAPEL AND BEYOND

Big congratulations to the Hall Committee for the great success that was the Afternoon Tea on the 7th December. We heard that it was quite a party! We hope you have recovered and had a lovely Christmas, and simply want to join with everyone else in saying: “Thank you for reviving this lovely event for Newbridge.”

It was also a real joy to welcome the children from Newbridge School for the annual Christingle Service at the chapel this year, along with some grandparents and parents. There was excellent singing, including a solo, and even some bell-like carol xylophone playing going on. Excellent service led by the children themselves in festive dress and good spirits.

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 **11th and 25th January + 8th February 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

February 2026 Edition Deadline: Monday 19th January 2026
Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com