PENTREF BAPTIST CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

Newbridge-on-Wye Carnival – School Float

By Elsa Harflett

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

Recently, we had our monthly talk at the chapel, which we call “Window on the World”. Local people bring their perspective on life, travel experiences or research they have done. Sarah Jones from Abergwesyn told us about her epic walking adventure on the Spanish pilgrim route, the Camino. She told us about the people she had encountered – from South Korea, the US and Europe, sharing a day’s walking with them and making friends for life.

A couple of Sundays back, I was going to Fishguard in the morning to preach there and to reconnect with a friend and former fellow student from my time at the Baptist college. Neil is someone whose honesty and support I have always valued, among that of so many other people whom I have met along the way. I hope you have people like that around you too.

As I left home, the early morning started out quite misty, as mornings sometimes do. The hills were at first covered in low cloud, some of them barely visible at all, but then slowly, patches of bright green appeared in places. I knew then that somewhere, the clouds were parting, and I may have been singing out of the car window at the end of the journey as it turned into a sunny day full of blessings and catching up with old friends.

It is so important to have someone to share the journey with – some of them for a while, some of them for life. In the latter category, I have just had my parents on a week-long visit from Denmark. A real treat for me.

It was a quote from a friends’ 6-year-old that got me thinking. Before a visit to a dinosaur park, dad says: “If a dinosaur is chasing you, you’ll need to run away faster than the others, so it doesn’t eat you!” to which the little lad replies: “No Dad, I’ll go back and hold the slower children’s hands.”

We all need someone to hold our hand sometimes. Someone to be kind, to encourage us, to come alongside us when life is tough, which it can be for us all at times for various reasons. We also need people to celebrate with when life is good, people to enter three-legged races with, someone to witness our successes and our greatest joys. We need someone to walk with us on life’s journey and there is much we can do to help each other.

In Psalm 121, the one about ‘lifting our eyes to the hills’, God says that he will be with us always and keep watch over our lives. It is part of the Christian story that God, in Jesus, shared in our suffering and our joy and ultimately not only held our hand while we were eaten by dinosaurs, but took all evil upon himself and defeated it with a love which was stronger than death. I find a lot of strength for the journey there – and in the closeness of friendship and family. Where do you find yours? **-Misha**

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**6th**	**July**	**10:30am**	**Gina Ayling with Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Quiet Evening Service**
Sunday	**13th**	**July**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**20th**	**July**	**10:30am**	**Morning Worship**
			6:30pm	**Bring and Share**
Sunday	**27th**	**July**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**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 July				
Sunday	**3rd**	**August**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Evening Service**

May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.
Nelson Mandela

THIS MONTH'S DIARY OVERVIEW

Date		Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Tuesday	1				
Wednesday	2	Coffee Morning			
Thursday	3		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	4				
Saturday	5				
Sunday	6	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Quiet Service
Monday	7				
Tuesday	8				
Wednesday	9				Shared Meal
Thursday	10		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	11				
Saturday	12				
Sunday	13	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Taizé Service
Monday	14				
Tuesday	15				
Wednesday	16				
Thursday	17		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	WI in vestry
Friday	18				
Saturday	19				
Sunday	20	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Bring-and-Share
Monday	21				
Tuesday	22				
Wednesday	23				
Thursday	24		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	25				
Saturday	26				
Sunday	27	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Communion Service
Monday	28				
Tuesday	29				
Wednesday	30				Window o-t World
Thursday	31		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	

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.

VILLAGE DEFIBS

If you ever need to use the village defibrillator, it's on the side wall of the Post Office. There is another on the hill at Llysdinam, next to a gate a bit further up than Cefn y Maes. A voice will guide you through the process, so don't be afraid to use them if needed – you could save a life!

NEXT COFFEE MORNING: 2nd July 10:30

July 2nd 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 local causes and make a little difference while having an enjoyable morning in the company of friends. Do pop along.

BRING AND SHARE MEAL – 9th JULY 6PM

Come along to the chapel vestry and chapel grounds for the next shared meal on **Wednesday 9th of July at 6pm** where we will enjoy a bring-and-share meal. If you are able, we'd love for you to bring a small dish of food, such as sausage rolls, sandwiches, fruit or a sweet treat – anything sweet or savoury suitable for sharing. We really look forward to seeing you there if you are able to join us. There'll be an outside table if the weather's fine.

NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

This group, which is open to all, is facilitated by Vanessa Wallis.

A friendly group of people meet in the chapel vestry every Thursday afternoon between 2 and 4 PM and enjoy the company of other creative men and women – and a cuppa and biscuits halfway through!

There is plenty of space for laughter, sharing and making space for the craft or art project you have been wanting to finish. Why not join? For more details, phone Vanessa on 01597 860185.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Congratulations to Newbridge on Wye WI for winning the Powys Radnor Federation annual quiz. Good luck to the team as they go on to Llandeilo for the inter-federation quiz in July.

Interested in coming along to the WI? Message or call Lyn on 07393 602896.

There are many interesting events planned for the remainder of the year.

EVENTS, IDEAS OR NOTICES?

We'd love for more people to use the chapel, especially the vestry, during the week, so if you are looking for a small venue (for around 20 people or so), then don't hesitate to get in touch. We have a small fee, but should be manageable.

Also, do let us know if you have any events which you'd like published.

ZOOM SERVICE

Stuck at home? Chapel not meeting this week? Fear not, because 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 and you are more than welcome to join. 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 with no singing, nor a long sermon.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Steve Wallis on steveoncomputer@aol.com to be added to the list so you receive the Zoom details for the meeting. You would be very welcome.

OPEN DOORS

A small group of people meet monthly in the St Francis Centre in Holy Trinity Church, Llandrindod, to pray and get updates from the persecuted 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 hear about hope, faith and joy. Sometimes we act by writing cards used to encourage especially children who find themselves displaced or fearful, and of course we pray together – and share a cuppa.

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 22nd of July at 2:30 PM. Do join if you're free.

You can read more about the charity at https://www.opendoorsuk.org/

PRAYER

The days are full of sunshine; the world is full of pain.
Some people want a tan while some farmers need the rain.
The blackbird wants my strawberries! The owl wants to be fed…
The moth is flying round my lamp; the thoughts fly round my head.

The world is surely spinning; its orbit seems quite set.
There are a lot of places I haven't seen just yet…
Some folks have seen more unrest than anyone can bear.
Some seem to always struggle. God, I know you deeply care.

The global politicians, the factions and the wars…
The hidden complications. The memories. The scars.
I cannot see the answer to all the agonies,
but I know Jesus listens and makes sense of wordless pleas.

Into the hands of Love, I commend the world tonight.
Somehow at work behind all that I cannot put right.
Into the hands and heart of God, when I can do no more,
I place the world, its people and the folk who live next door.

Window on the World is our series of talks given by people who have seen the world from an unusual or novel perspective and are willing to share their views and experiences with folk like you and me.

Come along. It's free but we always appreciate it if you are able to donate a few coins to the upkeep of the chapel.

Refreshments will be provided – tea, coffee, biscuits etc all await you, along with an interesting talk.

PICTURES FROM THE CHAPEL

Stephen Ashley joined us in May to give a talk titled “Look Up!”, showing us the most fascinating insights into the architecture of Llandrindod.

In June, Sarah Jones shared her experiences of walking the Spanish Camino, where she had met people from all over the world and walked with them. The pictures were stunning too. Many thanks to them both!

Our little Sunday School is slowly growing, and it is great to welcome more children. We talk about the week that has gone, share a story about Jesus, colour in and create. On Pentecost Sunday, we talked about ‘hearts’ – how our hearts can be filled with love, how we can give our hearts away, and what shapes our hearts.

We were fortunate to have Misha’s Mum and Dad helping us create little heart-shaped ornaments that we could take away with us.

We meet at 10am on the 2nd and last Sundays of the month in the chapel vestry to have a bit of time to talk about today’s story before the service, which will be followed by coffee, tea and biscuits before we finish. All welcome to join us, but please bring a grown-up with you.

NEWBRIDGE ON WYE C. in W. SCHOOL

CAN YOU HELP?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR RESOURCES TO HELP ENRICH OUR CLASSROOM PLAY AND LEARNING!

IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AT HOME THAT YOU ARE NO LONGER USING, WE WOULD BE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR DONATIONS:

- Small World (farm, jungle, sea)
- Jigsaws & Games
- Fancy Dress Costumes
- Mud Kitchen Resources (pots, pans, utensils)
- Construction Resources (LEGO, duplo, blocks etc.)

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. A handful of children join our small biweekly group, and we really want more friends!

The next dates are **13th and 27th July 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, cut out, colour in and go on treasure hunts, of course. And we pray together and listen to stories.

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, 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).
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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