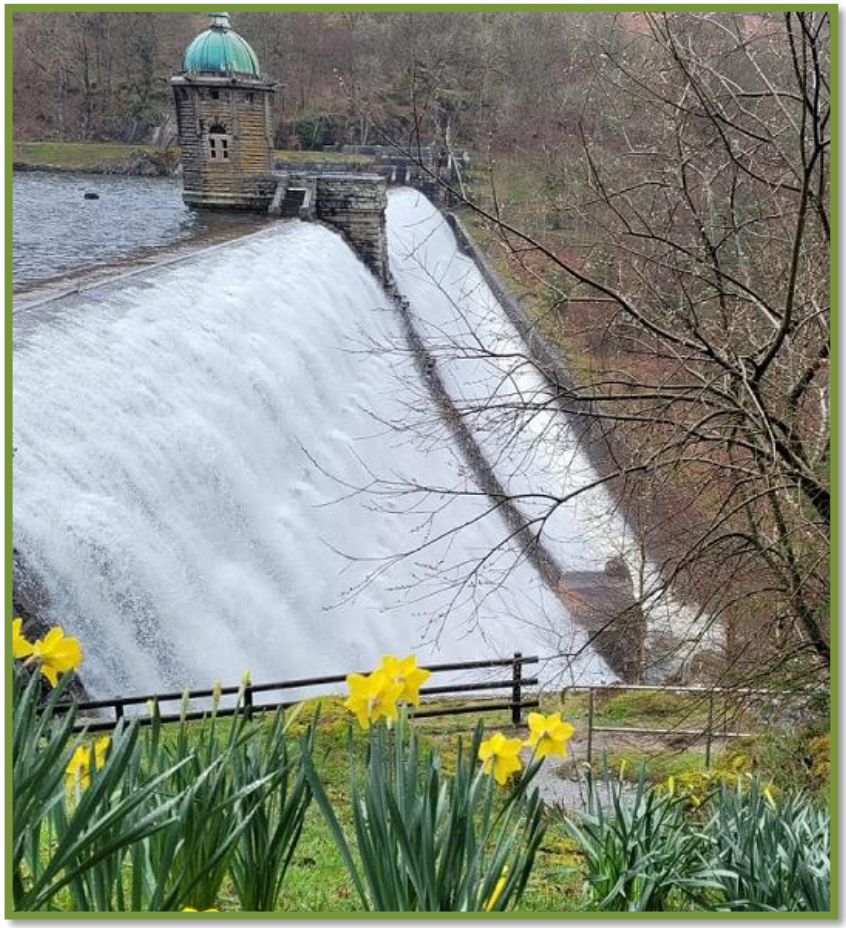
PENTREF BAPTIST CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



The Newbridge-On-Wye Newsletter
Pentref Baptist Church
March/April 2025

I have been wondering lately what has happened to the truth. It seems that just about anything can get twisted to fit the agenda of those who have power or someone to impress. Even the things we once considered hard facts, numbers and figures for instance, seem to be endlessly misquoted and obfuscated, until everyone's heads are spinning. It is not only insulting and infuriating, it's deeply sad and damaging to so many relationships. It could easily make a person wonder who dances to whose tune and why. In a sense, it seems unprecedented, and in another way, it is nothing new.

Just over 2000 years ago in a small, occupied corner of the Roman Empire, a man was on trial for claiming to be the Son of God. He said that all who were open to the truth would be able to hear the heartbeat of God in his voice. The Roman governor coldly asked: "What is truth?" A short while later, he washed his hands of the whole affair, and Jesus, the prisoner, was led to his death. Pilate evaded the invitation to listen for the rhythm of the Divine and instead signed on the dotted line for another death sentence typical of the bully Roman Empire: Crucifixion.

There is much in life that is not numbers and figures. Things that go beyond what immediately meets the eye and indeed some that seem to go against our expectations. That does not make them untrue. It just makes them part of the mystery of life, part of those bits of the picture which we capture better by way of story and narrative than by statistics and mere lab-controlled experiments. They belong to the sort of truth that we have to live with and love or loathe to truly know, the sort of truth that once we see it, the world is forever changed. We are changed. We walk a different way.

Some people who had known Jesus claimed to have seen something which changed their lives for good. They asserted that a few days after the cruel crucifixion, they had come to the tomb where they had seen Jesus' body laid. A stone was rolled in front of the grave on the Friday evening, a guard was put in place, the whole place was sealed and shut and silent - that is, until the early hours of the Sunday morning when the women disciples came to complete the burial rites cut short earlier by the fact that it was getting late and the Sabbath was starting. They arrived to find the tomb empty, bright white messengers telling them that Jesus was alive again, and some even saw Jesus himself there and then. Others saw him later – speaking, eating, able to be touched and felt, yet also somehow different. Appearing in places behind closed doors, the same, yet different, himself, yet mysterious, but very much alive. The Easter message rings out even now, that the callous powers of evil and indifference won't have the last word. Grace and truth will. Power looks different around here now.

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**2nd**	**March**	**10:30am**	**Rev Steve Wallis (Communion)**
				No evening service
Sunday	**9th**	**March**	**10:30am**	**Rev Steve Wallis**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**16th**	**March**	**10:30am**	**Rev Ifor Williams**
			6:30pm	**Bring & Share Service**
Sunday	**23rd**	**March**	**10:30am**	**Misha with Mission Update**
			6:30pm	**Communion Service**
Sunday	**30th**	**March**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Evening Praise**

Rev Steve Wallis hosts a weekly Zoom service with communion twice a month. It's on Sundays 4:30pm. Details: steveoncomputer@aol.com

Jesus says: Whoever comes to me, I will never turn away.

MARCH 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				
Saturday	29				
Sunday	30	Morning Service		Zoom	Evening Praise
Monday	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.

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**6th**	**April**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)**
				Pause and Pray
Sunday	**13th**	**April**	**10:30am**	**Rev Simeon Baker**
			6:30pm	**Songs of Praise w. Ian Sim**
Thursday	**17th**	**April**	**6:30pm**	**Maundy Meal at the Manse**
Sunday	**20th**	**April**	**10:30am**	**Rev Ifor Williams**
			4:00pm	**Easter Egg Hunt by Chapel**
			5:30pm	**Soup, roll but no evening service**
Sunday	**27th**	**April**	**10:30am**	**Rev Steve Wallis**
			6:30pm	**Rev Andrew Wyton**
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 May				
Sunday	**4th**	**May**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Evening Service**

APRIL DIARY OVERVIEW

What's on at Pentref?					
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	Pause and Pray
Monday	7				
Tuesday	8				
Wednesday	9				Shared Meal
Thursday	10		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	11				
Saturday	12				
Sunday	13	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Songs of Praise
Monday	14				
Tuesday	15				
Wednesday	16				
Thursday	17		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	Maundy Service
Friday	18				
Saturday	19				
Sunday	20	Morning Service		Egg Hunt	No Service
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				

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: 2nd APRIL 10:30

2nd April 2025 10:30 am till noon. We had a nice, small coffee morning in March and invite you to come along in April 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 plenty of cake, biscuits, coffee, tea etc. It'd be great to see you as we collect for the Bracken Trust and British Heart Foundation.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Newbridge WI meets in the chapel vestry every third Thursday of the month at 7pm. The April meeting will be on 17th at 7PM with a mini show taking place, whereas the May meeting explores the history of Rocking Horses with Rachel Palmer. 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 9th of April at 6PM

Come along to the chapel vestry and join us for the next shared meal on **Wednesday 9th of April 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!

A RECIPE FOR YOU

At our February Shared Meal, we enjoyed a lentil soup, which, despite being super easy and cheap to make, was really delicious.

For 4 people, you'll need:
6 carrots, peeled and in small cubes
2 leeks, cleaned and chopped small
150-200g of red lentils
2 litres of ham stock (4 cubes) or vegetable stock if you prefer.
A small handful of chopped parsley to top, if you like.

Heat the stock in a large pan and add the lentils, allowing them to soften for a few minutes. Add the carrots and leeks, bring the soup to the boil before reducing the heat and allowing the soup to simmer for 45 minutes to an hour, until the lentils have broken down completely. Season with pepper, and if using vegetable stock, perhaps a little salt. Top each bowl with parsley if you like (but don't add parsley to the pan if you intend to reheat your soup). Voilà. Enjoy – perhaps with fresh bread and butter?

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Newbridge-on-Wye Community Hall is in dire need of new committee members to help keep the hall running. While the hall is in a sound financial position, there is a need for a small management group of people to commit to helping run the hall and exploring how it can be a future sustainable asset to the community. Penni Stevenson, Chairman of Llanyre Community Council and member of the current emergency management group for the Hall invites all those from the village and surrounding area interested in the future of the Community Hall to **attend a meeting on Wednesday the 26th of March at 7PM in the Community Hall**.

She says: "The hall has been a part of the fabric of community life. It'd be sad if the opportunity was lost for community members and volunteer groups to be involved with management of the hall. If we don't act now, the chance may not come again." PAVO (Powys Association of Voluntary Groups) and the Community Council will be at the meeting to help explain what is required to safeguard for the future. Do come along if you are free and help make a difference to your local community.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday
20th April 4:00 PM
in the chapel graveyard.
Free Easter Egg for all children.

Craft Table
Music
Stories

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 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 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 meetings will be on the 25th March and 22nd April at 2:30 PM. Do join us! 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 **30th March and 27th April at 10am in the chapel**, plus the **Easter Sunday Egg Hunt at 4PM on the 20th of April** – come in through the vestry door for some songs, colouring in, craft, prayers, and treasure hunting.

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 and to share creative fun and Jesus stories together.

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

May 2025 Edition Deadline: Thursday 17th April 2024
Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com