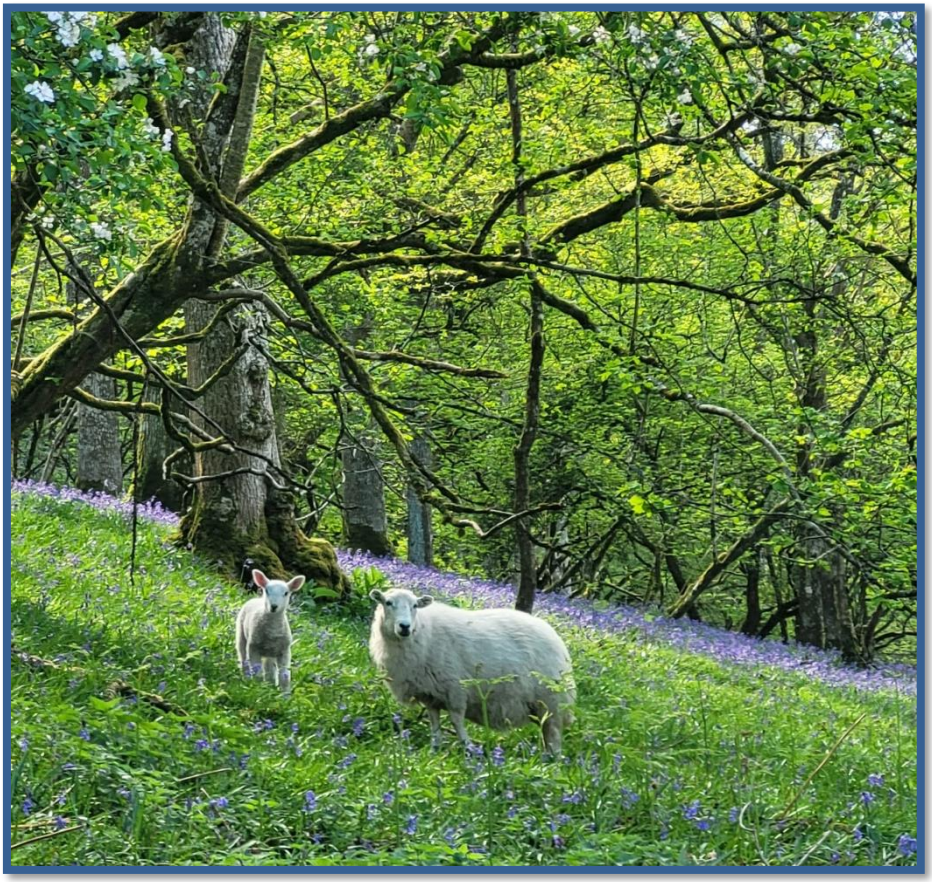
PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



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

When I was a kid, both sets of grandparents lived in the same village as us. One grandfather was in a wheelchair after a stroke, and his wife, my paternal grandmother, sometimes needed a break, so we would go down the meadows where the local train would go past. We'd often pick flowers for pressing and making cards. My maternal grandmother lost her husband when I was a young teenager and afterwards, I would often visit on an afternoon for cups of tea, a game of cards and a natter.

Well, one afternoon, in November, I expect, I was leaving her house and decided to go the long way around – towards the sea on the flat bit of land around the campsite. I was on my pushbike, and we'd not long had one of those stormy days where the spray flies over the sand dunes – and on this particular occasion, water had flooded into the low salt marshes. The road on which I was pedalling away was only about a foot above the water, and as, alas, the light began fading away more rapidly than I had expected, I literally couldn't see a hand in front of me for hail and rain, and only the few scattered and rusty fence poles gave me any idea of where the road was. I felt like I was going to go off the edge of the world as I cycled through what seemed like the Dead Sea, as far to go as was behind me.

Sometimes, life is like that: The unknown surrounds us, perhaps even tragedy, and the way markers are few and far between. Life is beating at us like November hail and it all seems pretty dark. Those times can be lonely and scary. When we are in the midst of them, they seem endless.

After a while on my cycle journey through the flooded landscape, my eyes slowly got used to the darkness. It didn't help much, but it made a bit of difference. Something else that helped me, oddly enough, was all the hymns I had memorised. They seemed to come into mind, to whisper to me words of comfort and of hope: ♫ The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want… My feet would stomp the pedals in sync with the melody. ♫ A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing… It is good to have something to hold onto when things get dark. In Sunday School at the moment, one of the favourites is ♫ Our God is a great big God!

In "Great big God", we sing "God has known me, and he's loved me, since before the world began! How wonderful to be a part of God's amazing plan!" Whatever we go through, God will be there with us, willing to cry with us, rejoice with us and to offer us a part in all that he gets up to. Whether your role today is to pedal through the flood, be a fence pole to guide others or even to build coastal defence, God is always near. **-Misha**

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**4th**	**May**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)**
			6:30pm	**Pause and Pray**
Sunday	**11th**	**May**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**18th**	**May**	**10:30am**	**Morning Service**
			6:30pm	**Bring & Share Service**
Sunday	**25th**	**May**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:00pm	**United Service in Howey**
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 June				
Sunday	**1st**	**June**	**10:30am**	**Rev Paul Smethurst**
			6:30pm	**Evening Service**

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

THIS MONTH'S DIARY OVERVIEW

What's on at Pentref?					
Date		Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Thursday	1		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	2				
Saturday	3				
Sunday	4	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Pause and Pray
Monday	5				
Tuesday	6				
Wednesday	7	Coffee Morning			
Thursday	8		Creative Group	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	Service in Howey
Monday	26				
Tuesday	27				
Wednesday	28				Window o-t World
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.

♫ STAYING ALIVE, STAYING ALIVE ♫

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: 7th MAY 10:30

May 7th 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 the British Heart Foundation.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Newbridge WI meets in the chapel vestry every third Thursday of the month at 7pm. The next meeting on the 15th of May presents the history of rocking horses in the words of Rachel Palmer, while in June, Yvonne shares about her trip to Poland. 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.

SHARED MEAL 14th MAY at 6PM

Come along to the chapel vestry and join us for the next shared meal on **Wednesday 14th of May at 6pm** where we'll serve fish and chips, sausages and nice 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!

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! There is plenty of space for laughter, sharing and making space for the craft or art project you have been wanting to finish.

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

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 to join.

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 join together in sometimes writing cards used to encourage especially children who find themselves displaced or fearful, and for praying together and sharing refreshments.

One of the more recent news stories from the Open Doors charity website tells of Christian homes being looted in Bangladesh after Christians and other minorities emerge who were forced into hiding last year after a period of political unrest. Former Muslims and people from tribal backgrounds who have converted to Christianity have faced attacks on homes and businesses, caused by false information about their faith and strong pressure from Islam to re-convert or isolate believers in Jesus.

Bangladeshi Christians ask for our prayers as the country faces elections in in the next year. A current concern is whether new leaders will keep the current secular constitution which at least formally offers religious freedom. There are fears this could be lost if Islamic religious-based political groups assume power. It is hoped that if a more liberal government is formed, things might improve, but it is a very uncertain time for minorities there.

One Bangladeshi Christian whose life has been threatened because of his faith.

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 27th of May at 2:30 PM. Do join if you're free.

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.

From a thankful resident:

Mr Gwyn Jones wishes to thank everyone for their visits, calls, cards and greetings on his recent 90th birthday. You all helped make it a very special day. Diolch yn fawr iawn!

From the chapel:

Thank you to all who joined the collection towards the Christian Aid appeal to help the Myanmar earthquake victims. We sent £221 to this cause.

Easter is always a time of joy, and it was particularly lovely this year to welcome 17 children to the Easter Egg Hunt – with their adult companions.

After a time of Lent and the stark days of Good Friday and the very quiet Holy Saturday with the 'old rugged cross' fresh in memory, on Easter Sunday morning, the whole world burst into bloom as Jesus burst out of the tomb.

Here is the decorated floral cross from this year for you.

The owl came up to the house last night
to say "sleep well" to me.
Now all the birds of Wales have come
to call from memory
with choral joy, kaleidoscopes,
and rainbow sprinkled praise
out of the grave of rolling earth
another of God's days.

The rain had pitter-patter feet
and tiny little hands
that tapped upon my windowpane...
Outside the yew tree stands,
as it has done for centuries
to see us come and go
in death, in life, in war and peace,
with joy-sprung steps -- and slow.

The stars have humbly hid themselves
as day begins to break.
A shape of light is on the lawn:
The house is now awake.
The hollow owl in hootless tree
asleep with eye ajar;
a door to wide-eyed awe – and see!
God has not wandered far.

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY 6:30PM

WINDOW ON THE WORLD GIVES UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES ON LIFE, TRAVEL, JOYS AND SORROWS BY LOCAL SPEAKERS ON THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.
ALL WELCOME AT PENTREF CHAPEL NEWBRIDGE-ON-WYE.

STEPHEN ASHLEY BRINGS AN INFORMATIVE TALK ON THE ARCHITECTURE OF LLANDRINDOD WELLS: "LOOK UP!"

COME, JOIN US FOR ANOTHER TALK FROM LOCAL PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES! REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW. FREE; DONATIONS WELCOME.

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 **11th and 25th May at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

We do a lot of craft – think 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, 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

June 2025 Edition Deadline: Monday 21st May 2024
Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com