PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

Newbridge-on-Wye Newsletter
Pentref Baptist Church
May 2026

Election time is nearly here. I'm sure you will have received your poll card by now. Are you going to vote? There are so many countries where fair, democratic elections are but a distant dream for people. Governments and/or dictators appear to have their own gain in mind rather than the good of the people they ought to be looking after. Hopefully, countries that have traditionally held values such as honesty, mutuality and respect will continue to do so while tackling the challenges of local and global life.

At this time of the year, in the church, we move from Easter into another season: Pentecost. We get there via a day which some chapels don't mark as much as some churches do: The Day of Ascension. It commemorates how Jesus, after his death and resurrection, returned to the heavenly realm and took his human body and his scars with him as he returned to send the Holy Spirit on his followers to empower them for good.

Big and abstract words, perhaps, but I think the essence of this day, which always falls on a Thursday because it is 10 days before Pentecost which is a Sunday, can be captured in two brief statements: "All the empires of the world come and go, but something will outlast them" and "In the midst of all that happens, we are not alone". This is good news, if you ask me, and it helps me sometimes when I find the world a bit bleak. Whether we think of it in terms of the Christian story, as I do, or understand ourselves simply to be a community of human beings which continues to work together and look for new ways to bring good into the world, I hope that we will draw the circle wide enough when it comes to deciding who deserves kindness and goodness and a helping hand when in need. We all do! We all matter.

As someone who tries to follow Jesus' path, there is something very special about the way the story unfolds in these accounts, because it reminds me that ultimately, the world will be made whole again one day by someone who loves every one of us and understands how very precious and valuable (and sometimes fragile) life is. I see Jesus in the gospels always reaching out to the weak, the outcast, the marginalised, and he is still reaching out today to show us a better way than the lonely, selfish and shortsighted ways that we all occasionally slip into, myself included, sadly.

I would say that I know Jesus from personal experience, strange as that may sound. He is worth knowing, as the most amazing human being you could imagine. And more than human too, of course. Which is why it gives me so much joy to know that when Jesus went back to his Father in that realm of glory and power, leaving the stunned disciples starting into the sky, he did so in a human body, giving us an unmistakable dignity as embodied people with hopes, dreams, agency and scars of our own.

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**3rd**	**May**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen: Communion**
			6:30pm	**Quiet Service**
Sunday	**10th**	**May**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**17th**	**May**	**10:30am**	**Mrs Sue Wilson**
			6:30pm	**Bring-and-Share Service**
Sunday	**24th**	**May**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:00pm	**United Service at Howey**
Sunday	**31st**	**May**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Celebration 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 June				
Sunday	**7th**	**June**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Evening Service**

Everyone is welcome to join us for any of these services, most of which are held around a table in the chapel vestry. We always finish with a cuppa, and a chance to catch up with each other.

THIS MONTH'S DIARY OVERVIEW

What's on at Pentref?					
Date		Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Friday	1				
Saturday	2				
Sunday	3	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Quiet Service
Monday	4				
Tuesday	5				
Wednesday	6	Coffee Morning			
Thursday	7			Iona Prayers	
Friday	8				
Saturday	9				
Sunday	10	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Taize Service
Monday	11				
Tuesday	12				
Wednesday	13				Shared Meal
Thursday	14				
Friday	15				
Saturday	16				
Sunday	17	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Bring and Share
Monday	18				
Tuesday	19				
Wednesday	20				
Thursday	21			Iona Prayers	WI in vestry
Friday	22				
Saturday	23				
Sunday	24	Morning Service		Zoom Service	United Service, Howey
Monday	25				
Tuesday	26				
Wednesday	27				Window o t World
Thursday	28			Iona Prayers	
Friday	29				
Saturday	30				
Sunday	31	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Celebration Service

The exact times of these events are in this newsletter. If you want more details or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Misha, or Elsa, our church secretary, using the details at the back of this newsletter.

Pentecost (Whitsun) falls on May 24th this year.

Pentecost in the Christian Church is the celebration, 50 days after Easter, of how the Holy Spirit came as Jesus had promised his first disciples, to give them power, wisdom, joy and connection with God.

"The Holy Spirit comes, not to decorate lives, but to transform them."

NEXT COFFEE MORNING: Weds 6th May 10:30

Help us support local charities and take the opportunity to catch up with other local people. On Wednesday 6th May, our next coffee morning will be in aid of the DPJ Foundation, a Welsh charity which works to improve farmers' mental health. Join us in the chapel vestry and if you can, bring a couple of small coins for the DPJ. There's always a nice atmosphere as people share laughter and news in different corners of the room.

VILLAGE DEFIBS

There are two defibrillators around Newbridge – one by the Post Office and another on the Llysdinam road. Both will guide you through the process if you ever need to use them. Do note their location, just in case.

NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

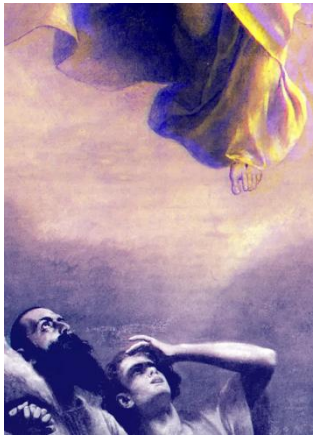
The Creative Group will be taking a break over summer.

ZOOM CHURCH

Every Sunday at 4.30pm, a small group of people meet via Zoom. Rev Steve Wallis coordinates the group where people pray together and look at a Bible passage. Contact Steve Wallis on steveoncomputer@aol.com to receive the Zoom details for the meeting. You would be very welcome.

POETRY

How did it feel for God to be a man,
confined to time and space, to limbs and skin?
Subjected to frustration, Christ began,
as babe in arms, a toddler, youth… Begin
to picture this: The One who made the skies,
spread out the heavens, now at walking pace,
among the ones he loves. See Jesus cries!
Now touch and healing speak of holy grace.
And after all the pain, the cross, the shame,
and after victory and life made new,
when Jesus went to God, from whom he came,
he went as flesh and blood like me and you.



NEWBRIDGE W.I.

Newbridge W.I. meet next time at 7pm on Thursday 21st May in the chapel vestry for a talk on Brecon Mountain Rescue, followed by a talk in June on beekeeping. Feel free to join the W.I. ladies on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Below, some images of the recent county show where the ladies from Newbridge won a shield for their creativity, craft and cookery. Well done!

SHARED MEAL: Weds 13th May at 6pm

This month's shared meal will be a bring and share supper which you are welcome to contribute to if you would like. At our bring and share suppers, we normally have quiches, pork pies, cheese, bread and a variety of other things to share, so if you want to join us last minute, don't feel you have to race to the shops, just come as you are and help yourself.

There is normally quite a lively conversation around the table and at the sink afterwards as people help each other tidy the dishes away. It would be great to see you there for a bite to eat and a bit of companionship if you are free.

By the way: You can still bring stamps to the chapel – there is a box in the vestry. Or send them with a friend. Thank you!

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 **10th & 31st May 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 for 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

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 2026 Edition Deadline: Monday 18th May 2026
Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com