PENTREF BAPTIST CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

Poppies by Sigita Paulauskiene

The Newbridge-On-Wye Newsletter
Pentref Baptist Church
November 2024

We are rapidly approaching those last few months of the year when things go darker and the days shorter. By the time you read this newsletter, it won't be long until the clocks go back – if they haven't already! I am always surprised when we get to this point, as it seems as if summer has been and gone before I properly realise it. This year, it seemed like we hardly had a summer at all. Because I grew up in Scandinavia, I suspect I am used to even greater seasonal variation than we get here – 5 hours of near-darkness in summer and 5 hours of near-daylight in winter – and so, every year in Wales, I seem to still be waiting for summer to peak when autumn comes! This year, I think we have all felt a bit like that, though?

In my native Denmark, people have ways of coping with the darker months, and the now-famous word "hygge" captures some of it. It is a term which is hard to define, but it may involve curling up on the sofa with a blanket, a couple of candles flickering and perhaps a bowl of sweets on the coffee table. Or it might be getting a few friends together for a nice, but informal meal. Or putting one's favourite music or television programme on and being kind to oneself. Maybe a cup of hot chocolate, a walk on a crisp snowy day, or a natter on the phone with a good friend – whatever you can do to keep warm, recharge your mental batteries and ensure that you light a candle instead of (or at least as well as) moaning about the darkness.

There is enough darkness and unrest out there at the moment, and at times it's hard to find words… As a minister, I have to find *some* words sometimes, and so at the chapel, we are praying for peace in this troubled world and in those close relationships that make up the fabric of our own daily lives. Not a cheap, glossed over peace, but peace with justice, real deep lasting peace that leaves plenty of space for life to flourish. As we approach Remembrance Sunday too, and remember lives lost and altered in decades past, we remember with them those still working to ensure some measure of safety and calm in a troubled world. We also pray and long for for the day when wars end and the voice of violence is silent.

When days get darker and the headlines seem bleaker than ever, I often return to words which are found in the very poetic beginning of John's Gospel in the New Testament. John retells the story about why we are here, ultimately because we are wanted and loved. At the heart of the creative act, John says, was Jesus – the one who gives meaning and life to us all. And, John says: *"In Him was life and that life was the light of humankind. And the light shines in the darkness, and darkness has not overcome it.*" When you next light a candle or turn on the fairy lights, remember that – there is always hope. It is built into the very fabric of life.

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**3rd**	**Nov**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)**
			6:30pm	**Pause and Pray**
Sunday	**10th**	**Nov**	**10:45am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
Remembrance Sunday			**6:30pm**	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**17th**	**Nov**	**10:30am**	**Rev Andrew Wyton**
			6:30pm	**Bring & Share Service**
Sunday	**24th**	**Nov**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Communion 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 December				
Sunday	**1st**	**Dec**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Evening Service**

Everyone is very welcome to join any of these services. If you have any questions, please contact the secretary: elsa.harflett.eh@gmail.com.

What's on at Pentref?					
Date		Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Friday	1				
Saturday	2				
Sunday	3	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Pause and Pray
Monday	4				
Tuesday	5				
Wednesday	6	Coffee Morning			
Thursday	7		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	8				
Saturday	9				
Sunday	10	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Taizé Service
Monday	11				
Tuesday	12				
Wednesday	13				Shared Meal
Thursday	14		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	15				
Saturday	16				
Sunday	17	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Bring-and-Share
Monday	18				
Tuesday	19				
Wednesday	20				
Thursday	21		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	WI in vestry
Friday	22				
Saturday	23				
Sunday	24	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Communion Service
Monday	25				
Tuesday	26				
Wednesday	27				
Thursday	28		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	29				
Saturday	30	Christmas Fayre 10,30 till 4pm			

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.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE FOR NEWBRIDGE
10th NOVEMBER 10:45am AT THE CHAPEL

NEXT COFFEE MORNING: 6th November 10:30

November 6th 10:30 am till noon. Every 1st Wednesday of the month, the coffee morning supports local charities. We look forward to seeing you if you are free and fancy some cake, biscuits, cuppas and a chat with friends new and old. We are currently collecting for the Scouts, who need new equipment.

Last time, we were able to forward your most recent donations to the Salvation Army. After accepting and thanking the coffee morning visitors for the money, Samantha briefly outlined some of the work of the Salvation Army in Newtown. She especially mentioned their Church in the town, and Charity Shop. The latter includes “a quiet space” for prayer if desired or just for rest and relaxation. She was thanked by Misha. October coffee morning again had more than 20 local residents attending.

Long-standing church member Clive Barrett with Samantha Jones from Salvation Army (Newtown)

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.

Window on the World

There won’t be a talk in November (or December), but we’ll be back in January with more interesting speakers. If you’ve heard about someone whom you think it would be good to hear, please do let us know, we’re always looking for more speakers with different perspectives on life.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Newbridge WI meets in the chapel vestry every third Thursday of the month at 7pm. The next meeting is on the 21st of November, when Bronwen Jenkins shows some of her stitching work. If you have questions, please get in touch with Lyn Davies on 07393602896.

SHARED MEAL 13th NOVEMBER

The next shared meal will be **Wednesday the 13th November at 6PM**. We always have a good time, not least due to the folk who attend from near and far and of all ages, from toddlers to those in their 90s. This time, there will be a bring-and-share supper, so if you would like to contribute, please bring a dish, a few baby tomatoes or some cake/puddings.

While donations are always much appreciated, please just come as you are. You can always phone Misha: 07432 530983 if you have any questions. Looking forward to seeing you.

NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

Bring your own creative project to the chapel vestry on a Thursday afternoon 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.

OPEN DOORS PRAYER GROUP

The monthly meeting of the "Open Doors" prayer group at the St Francis Centre at Holy Trinity takes place on the **24th November at 2:30 PM** with videos, prayer, a practical action and light refreshments afterwards. All welcome to join us with no obligation to pray out loud – just come along.

The group is quite small and welcoming and the updates from the charity are informative and often quite encouraging, despite the topic being the unfair treatment of believers in Jesus in many places around the world. You can find more information at https://www.opendoorsuk.org/

Are you an "easy" God, transparent, clear
with answers always narrowly defined?
Or are you Someone living neighbour-near,
not "same" but Other, awe-full and yet kind?

Are you the God of black and white and lines
drawn ruler straight to keep all things apart?
Or are your colours more than sight defines
and battle lines drawn through this calloused heart?

Are you the God who sees? Who hears? Who stayed
to free us from the sticky-weed of sin?
Then Lord, you must have heard me when I prayed...
Make this place glory-heavy, whole and thin

and let me hear in owl and yew and stream
that heartbeat which is like a bell, and deep.
O let me hear the sunshine of your dream,
the joy which makes the dancing Godhead leap.

Painting by Fr. Sieger Köder

Christmas Table Centre Workshops

Your hosts, Pat and Jenna, will guide you through creating your own perfect **floral Christmas table centre** to take home.

Family Friendly Session – Monday 2nd December 3.45pm

Adults/Open Session – Thursday 5th December 7pm

Newbridge-on-Wye Community Centre

Tea/coffee provided, but feel free to bring snacks etc

All materials provided. Just bring along your scissors!

Adults £8 (all adults to pay)

Children £4 if they want to do a table centre (otherwise free)

Prebooking and prepayment essential by 12th November

Please put CASH in a sealed envelope stating names & which session, and hand in at the School Office,

or

give to Christina Nixon or Jenna Smith (we need payment to be cash to get match funding!)

Proceeds to The Friends of Newbridge-on Wye School – Registered Charity 1032235

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 30th November 2024

10.30am – 4.00pm

at Pentref Baptist Chapel, Newbridge on Wye

Drop by for a tea or coffee, mince pie or cake and enjoy the company and festivities!

Lots of lovely Christmas gifts, decorations and a crafting area for children

Tables are £5.00 with all proceeds going to the chapel.
If you would like a table, please contact Kathy on 07879 623959

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

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.

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 **10th November (Remembrance Sunday), 24th November and 8th December at 10am in the chapel** – come in through the vestry door.

We are super pleased that we now have Gina helping us with Sunday School and look forward to what she and her creative companions come up with. It seems to have a lot to do with glue, stickers, felt tip pens and glitter, cutting, pasting and colouring in.

On the 10th of November, Remembrance Sunday, we have a short session for the children before the official Act of Remembrance. Children can remain for the more solemn remembrance service together with their parents, if they want.

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 need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

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

December 2024 Edition Deadline: Monday 18th November 2024
Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com