PENTREF BAPTIST CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

Rocks and Sky near Garreg Ddu Reservour – by Elsa Harflett.

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

Colder months are coming, after this incredible display of autumn colours. Storm Amy has given the trees a good shake (more inside on the pictures page), but many leaves are still hanging on, as we get ready to 'hang on in there' during the winter months. In Denmark, winters are even darker, and one poet once wrote: There are 13 months in the year: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November… November... December. November can be long and dark, without the splendour of the leaves, without the cosiness of Christmas.

And yet, as we hang on and wait for brighter days, there are things that we can do to get through a month that somehow reflects the sometimes bewildering seasons of human existence: The fireworks of Bonfire Night, the sombre mood of Remembrance Sunday, the 'starting over' of the church year which comes with the first Sunday of Advent (30th November this year) and in between it all, the everyday plodding on, the occasional birthday perhaps, a few bright days and maybe a handful rainy ones too.

So, what can we do? Well, I think one thing we can do is to try to look out for each other. Check in if anyone goes quiet, pick up the phone and ask how things are going, perhaps send a card or pop in – or as some kind angels are doing, lend a hand if you see someone struggling.

Growing up in Scandinavia, I have grown up with the concept of "hygge", which is an impossible-to-translate habit of cwtching up on the settee with a blanket, putting a film on the telly or perhaps grabbing your favourite book or game, making a mug of tea or hot chocolate, lighting a candle or switching the fairy lights on and insisting on making your own little corner of the world friendly and liveable amidst the drizzle and mist outside, ensuring warmth and safety, at least for now. A small act of subversive joy.

For me, God is such a safe place of joy amidst the darkness. I know that for many, thoughts of God, if ever they think of God at all, are full of distance, something far off or maybe completely unreal. To others, God is an angry person with a long beard on a cloud, ready to send lightning bolts if we do anything wrong. Yikes! How I think of God is not like that, though.

I know God through Jesus, who spent his time meeting normal people like you and me. In our day, they'd be folk who'd slipped up and landed on the front of the newspaper, all-hope-is-out addicts, influencers, incurable folk living with long-term illnesses, clever-clog vicars, hungry kids, parking attendants, immigrants and refugees and those who are just living normal lives. I see God in Jesus' compassion towards people as I read the gospels. I hope you see God there too – and in each other – this winter.

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**2nd**	**Nov**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)**
			6:30pm	**Quiet Evening Service**
Sunday	**9th**	**Nov**	**10:45am**	**Remembrance at ALL SAINTS**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**16th**	**Nov**	**10:30am**	**Rev Ifor Williams**
			6:30pm	**Bring-and-Share Service**
Sunday	**23rd**	**Nov**	**10:30am**	**Rev Kevin Dare**
			6:30pm	**Communion Service**
Sunday	**30th**	**Nov**	**10:30am**	**Rev Steve Wallis**
			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				
First Sunday in December				
Sunday	**7th**	**Dec**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Evening Service**

This month, Sunday School will be on the 30th November (only) from 10am in the chapel vestry.

THIS MONTH'S DIARY OVERVIEW

What's on at Pentref?					
Date		Morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Evening
Saturday	1				
Sunday	2	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Quiet Service
Monday	3				
Tuesday	4				
Wednesday	5	Coffee Morning			
Thursday	6		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	7				
Saturday	8				
Sunday	9	ALL SAINTS		Zoom Service	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 Service	Bring-and-Share
Monday	17				
Tuesday	18				
Wednesday	19				
Thursday	20		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	WI in vestry
Friday	21				
Saturday	22				
Sunday	23	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Communion
Monday	24				
Tuesday	25				
Wednesday	26				
Thursday	27		Creative Group	Iona Prayers	
Friday	28				
Saturday	29				
Sunday	30	Morning Service		Zoom Service	Evening Praise

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.

NEXT COFFEE MORNING: 5th November 10:30

Come along and support local charities by donating your coins and chatting to friends at our coffee morning, which takes place every 1st Wednesday of a month from 10:30 till noon, next time on **5th November 2025.**

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.

SHARED MEAL: 12th November 6PM

The next shared meal will be on **Wednesday 12th November at 6pm** when we will serve Pasta Bolognese with bread and cheese. We always appreciate contributions of puddings, so if you have a baking talent or have opportunity to bring a sweet treat, that's always very welcome.

A huge thank you to those kind people who help to clear up afterwards and to all who join us to make it a special atmosphere for all. Thank you also to those who kindly sponsor and donate to help keep this a free meal.

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!

NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

This group, which is open to all, is facilitated by Vanessa Wallis, and is friendly group of people who 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.

ZOOM SERVICE

Every Sunday at 4.30pm, a small group of people meet on Zoom to talk about a text from the Bible and pray together. 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'd like to join, do contact Steve Wallis on steveoncomputer@aol.com to receive the Zoom details for the meeting. You would be very welcome.

This year's Remembrance Service: All Saints Church Sunday 9th November 10:45

Newbridge W.I.

Newbridge WI meet in the chapel vestry on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 7pm onwards. This year's programme has included speakers, craft demonstrations and outings. In November, Ruth Crabb will lead a Christmas craft activity on Thursday 20th November. Come along and see what it's like.

Poppy Appeal

Don't forget to take a look around the village and at the chapel to have your chance to support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

News from All Saints

Some of you will be aware that a meeting took place at the community hall on 15th October to discuss the future of All Saints, which is facing dwindling finances and a small congregation. Rev Jonathon Copus, Team Lead for West Radnorshire Ministry Area, joined by Rev Meinir Ronicle, school liaison based in Rhayader, explained that as well as funds, the church also needs people who will help to invigorate the community around the church, bring 'good news' to others in practical ways, and who might be interested in using the church building during the week.

The roughly 30 people present in the meeting were asked to fill in a questionnaire to indicate how important the church was to them as a place of Sunday worship and for 'occasional services' such as weddings and funerals, as well as the value they placed on the church graveyard. Suggestions were made for possible uses of the church, including a help-yourself café in the tower, as a meeting place for a proposed community gardening group and more. It was also expressed by some, that it would be good if the school felt able to go into the church building more frequently. Get in touch with Rev Jonathan Copus with ideas or for further information on 01597 888023 or jonathancopus@cinw.org.uk .

Rev Jonathan Copus promised that if anyone were to sign up using the form in this newsletter to pledge an amount to help the church, no payments would be taken until it was determined that the future of the church would look sustainable with the total income pledged. Completed forms should be sent to Ann Williams, Ministry Area Administrator c/o Holy Trinity Church, Llandrindod Wells, marked "All Saints".

Standing Order Mandate

Send Money From:

Name of your bank: .....

Branch Address: .....

.....

Sort Code: .....

Account Number: .....

Please pay To:

The All Saints Church Newbridge On Wye

Sort Code: 20-61-08

Account number: 83766810

The Sum of: (in figures) £.....

(in words) .....

Repeat: Monthly/Quarterly/Yearly *(delete as appropriate)*

Start date: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

PICTURES FROM THE CHAPEL AND BEYOND

Storm Amy came and went, and in the process, she did a bit of apple scrumping in a neighbour's garden! On the left, a significantly lighter apple tree with a great ring of fallen apples beneath it. We hope you were all safe in the gales!

Also, we now also have a little box outside the chapel gates on the wall by the Llanafan road. In it, you can find Bibles and other things to read in case you want to become more familiar with the Christian Scriptures and tradition. Do help yourselves to whatever you think you might enjoy. Thanks to Len who has made the box for us – much appreciated!

Outside the vestry door, a 'snake' of painted pebbles and rocks is forming. Our Sunday school children have created some interesting rock paintings and would like other children and adults to add to the snake. Use it, if you like, as a place to put a memorial pebble, add a litlte stone that's been in your pocket for a bit or a small rock to symbolise a prayer or a good wish. We look forward to seeing your designs and watching the prayer snake grow longer.

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER
2:30 PM

TO ALL OUR WISE FRIENDS AGE 65+

YOU ARE INVITED TO AFTERNOON TEA

AT NEWBRIDGE ON WYE VILLAGE HALL
FUNDED BY N.O.W. VILLAGE HALL
AN AFTERNOON OF FUN INCLUDING CAROL SINGING, BINGO , QUIZ, RAFFLE & A CASH ONLY MINI BAR FOR THOSE WHO FANCY A LITTLE TIPPLE
PICK UP YOUR FREE TICKET FROM THE POST OFFICE, THE CHAPEL OR THE NEW INN

TICKETS TO BE COLLECTED BY MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER
ANY DIETARY REQUESTS PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOU PICK UP YOUR TICKET.KEEP YOUR TICKET FOR ENTRY INTO THE RAFFLE.

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 **26th October, 30th November & 14th December 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).
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 2025 Edition Deadline: Monday 17th November 2025
Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com