PENTREF BAPTIST CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

Detail from Harvest Display “Loaves and Fishes” by Sue Straw.

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

How do we ensure sufficient food for body and brain, not only for our own school children here in Wales, but for those families around the world who walk the poverty line like a daily tightrope? How do we ensure a fairer world? How do we play our part in mitigating what seems like such an insurmountable problem of inequality and lack of opportunity for some?

While hedgerow berries return some of summer's sunlight as sweetness; as crumbles are served at Harvest Thanksgivings around the country, among the "scattered seed" and "thankful people", such questions must be part of our conversation, as we celebrate with gratitude all that we have.

The Bible is often (rightly) seen to deal with spiritual matters, but if you look through the pages of Scripture, you'll find that in the understanding of those who wrote the books of the Hebrew and the Christian parts of the Bible, you could not easily separate the issues of justice, peace, kindness etc from those of worship. Doing what's right *is* worship!

The prophet Amos asks what good it is to be all dressed up, while others have nowhere to go. Mary sings her song of joy while pregnant with Jesus about rich people toppling off their thrones and the lowly being lifted up. In the gospels, one day Jesus gives his disciples a practical test: "How do you feed an enormous crowd of people in the middle of nowhere with practically nothing?" The baffling answer becomes: "With Jesus and a school-boy's packed lunch, everything is possible!" (John chapter 6).

Jesus didn't feed the multitudes with promises of bread, or with the smell of bread, or by having the many watch the few eat a packed lunch stolen from a child. He fed them with real bread until they couldn't fit any more in.

These events of course carried promises and brought back memories. Stories long told about manna in the desert, times of safety and bread fresh out of the oven, and of a time (soon!) when the world will be fair and all be fed. It's not a random account. As well as being very real, it's also a very real sign of who Jesus is and what God wants for his world: Justice.

I wonder what little things we can all do to make the world a fairer, warmer, kinder and more welcoming place? And I wonder whether it helps you as much as it does me knowing that 'Someone' knows my longings, my fears, my reservations, my worry whether there will be enough? And knowing, too, that this 'Someone', behind and underneath the everyday events of life, encourages, blesses and sustains us and loves us more than we can fathom. I hope you know that "real bread" too. From there, we can better share – and imagine a world that is generous and safe for all. **-Misha**

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**5th**	**Oct**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen (Communion)**
			6:30pm	**Quiet Evening Service**
Sunday	**12th**	**Oct**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Taizé Service**
Sunday	**19th**	**Oct**	**10:30am**	**Rev Andrew Wyton**
			6:30pm	**Bring-and-Share Service**
Sunday	**26th**	**Oct**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**United Service: Beti Wyn James**
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 November				
Sunday	**2nd**	**Nov**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Evening Service**

Sunday School on the 2nd and the last Sunday of the month from 10am in the chapel vestry.

Then Jesus declared,
"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."
John's Gospel chapter 6 verse 35

THIS MONTH'S DIARY OVERVIEW

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

CHIPPY FRYDAY

THE NEW INN MENU

ORDER : 01597 860211

FROM THE FRYER

BATTERED COD	7.50
BREADED SCAMPI (8 PIECES)	5.50
FISH CAKE	2.50
JUMBO SAUSAGE	2.75
JUMBO BATTERED SAUSAGE	3.15
CHICKEN CHUNKS (5 PIECES)	4.20

CHIPS

SMALL	3.20
MEDIUM	3.60
LARGE	5.35

BURGERS

BEEF BURGER	5.50
SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN BURGER	5.50
CHEESEBURGER	6.50
VEGGIE BURGER	6.50

JACKETS

BUTTER	3.00
CHEESE	3.50
BEANS	3.50
CHEESE & BEANS	4.50
CURRY SAUCE	3.50
TUNA MAYO	4.50

SPECIALS

CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA , RICE & CHIPS	11.50
BEEF MADRAS , RICE & CHIPS	11.50
FAGGOTS , MUSHY PEAS & CHIPS	11.50

EXTRAS

MUSHY PEAS	1.70
GARDEN PEAS	1.70
GRAVY	1.70
CURRY SAUCE	1.70
BAKED BEANS	1.70
BUTTERED ROLL	1.00
SIDE SALAD	2.50
ONION RINGS (6)	2.00
POTATO FRITTER	2.50

PLEASE SPEAK TO OUR STAFF IF YOU HAVE ALLERGIES

AVAILABLE EVERY FRIDAY 4PM -8PM

EAT IN OR TAKE AWAY

NEXT COFFEE MORNING: 1st October 10:30

October 1st 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 local causes and make a little difference while having an enjoyable morning in the company of friends. Do pop along.

SHARED MEAL: 8th October 6PM

Come along to the chapel vestry for the next shared meal on **Wednesday 8th October at 6pm** where we will enjoy Fish and Chips. Often, a few puddings magically appear, and we always appreciate those sweet contributions, so if you have a baking talent, that's awesome.

We look forward to seeing you there if you can join us for a chat and a bit of food. We seem to always have a good time together.

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.

A friendly group of people 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.

All Saints Church
Newbridge on Wye

HARVEST
THANKSGIVING
Sunday 5th October 2025

11a.m.

Exciting RUGBY Event

Enjoy an exciting night and create unforgettable memories with us!

An evening with Welsh Rugby Legend SHANE WILLIAMS and Joe Lewis Training Coordinator with the RFU.

It's going to be a night to remember with our very own villager Elis Jones keeping us entertained with his amazing singing , food, raffle, auction and music until late.

Tickets on sale now at The New Inn , Golden Lion & Post Office in NEWBRIDGE- ON-WYE

Saturday 4th October, 2025 Doors Open at 7PM	***Newbridge-On-Wye Village Hall***	**Ticket £35**

RAISING FUNDS FOR NEWBRIDGE-ON-WYE CARNIVAL

PICTURES FROM THE CHAPEL

Recently, we've had our harvest thanksgiving at the chapel, and many had brought fruit and veg to decorate with, flowers, chutneys and jars etc for the local foodbanks. We have forwarded all these goodies and are sure they will be appreciated. Thank you to those who generously contributed, also to the collection which has gone to the Foodbank and to the work of BMS who work around the world to provide equal opportunities and good news to local populations in partnership.

Display of food and flowers (left).
"Water into wine" by Sue & friends (below).

We've also had Carol's baptism at the chapel at the end of August. Baptism is a response to all that Jesus has done, a symbol of dying to oneself and becoming alive with Christ to serve and follow him.

Rev Ifor Williams with Carol (middle) and Rev Misha Pedersen in the baptismal pool under the pulpit at Pentref (above).

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 **12th and 26th September 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

November 2025 Edition Deadline: Friday 17th October 2025
Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com

POEMS

Prayer

I went to look for Jesus where the hedgerows nearly meet,
where lanes are long and narrow, where meadowsweet is sweet,
where every little bauble of summer joy drinks sun
on every brambleberry, and ants and streamlets run.
I went to look for prayer and for time and the divine --
I found that trees have roots: Oak, ash, willow, beech and pine;
that as I half forgot what I thought I'd come to do
and I myself gave space for the space that longs for You,
then waiting breaths, still wordless, the freedom of the pure
all birthed an honest question, where answers had been sure,
and that which had been asking, found answers rooted deep
in love which filled my heart till my eyes began to weep.

Pretence

We shackle God with our own vain ambitions,
with selfish motives, undercurrents, strife.
We twist God's grace, impose false prohibitions,
and bury on the way the Prince of life.
We roll the stone back once the tomb is corpseless
and will not meet his gaze, nor touch his side
though all redeemed, we try to look remorseless
and tell each other mercy grew too wide.
Afraid that if we fail, then hope will die.
Afraid there is no kindness in God's eye.
Afraid that we are small, alone we try
to make amends. We crave, we sell, we buy...
The war machinery, the empty prayers,
the money changers, blunt tools splitting hairs.
We love ourselves too little to dare fall
into the loving hands who made us all.
It is for freedom Christ has set us free.
For Christ's own freedom, for eternity,
for love to be unbound and free to rise
as bubbling truth to burst our dam of lies.

All Saints Church – What's next?
Your local church needs you.
Meeting at the Community Hall on Wednesday 15th October 7PM.
See flyer inside or at the shop for details.