PENTREF BAPTIST CHAPEL

The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge

Stitched image by Bronwen Jenkins

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

When I was young, computers were just becoming mainstream. Before that, I had had an electrical typewriter, which my granddad had given me for writing my poetry. I had had typewriting lessons at school, would you believe it, learning how to touch type and so on. Occasionally, the old typewriters at school would run out of ink, or the little hammers that held each letter would get jammed up. Sometimes, it was easier to move to a different machine, as sorting it out was too time consuming. It was at the same sort of time that I took a class which seemed rather mysterious, like magic: Coding lessons, that I did not understand and which seemed to mainly consist in copying very carefully some pre-written text into a very small computer, which would then output a smiling face or some big bubble letters onto one of those pieces of paper with holes at the side!

Nowadays, I am showing my age in new ways by still working at a gaming laptop from (drumroll!) 2013, preferring print to on-screen and even most times, writing my notes by hand with a calligraphy pen, as I seem to remember things better when I have actually written it out by hand.

Being old, my computer now has certain quirks, which are not too different from my own: It takes a long time to wake up. It sometimes goes blank. Odd sounds are coming from different moveable parts and of course, like most of us, it only wants to do what *it* wants to do, in its own good time! Recent reminders that the operating system support will be discontinued have made me seriously consider what I already know: I need a new laptop. The only problem is that I have become attached to my old one, which has a Danish keyboard that my hands immediately remember how to use – but no one else can work, as the “?” and the “@” etc are all in different places. That’s why I can’t really face changing to a UK one!

Sometimes, when life changes, we can find ourselves a bit uncomfortable. Sometimes, big things change – health, loss of a loved one – and we are naturally distraught, scrambling for some routine in a world that is now so different. Sometimes, it’s a minor thing, like a new routine, yet it will still take conscious effort for a while. Even good things, like a new relationship or becoming a parent change the way we live, necessitating a rethink of certain things. Crises, good or bad, jolt us awake from sleepwalking.

Becoming a follower of Jesus is also a bit like that: God changes our “operating system” to a Holy Spirit powered one, giving us increased love for others and a desire to be more like Jesus. Sometimes, alas, it takes time to learn how it all works, and I’ll be the first to admit that not only will my big fingers get the typing wrong on my new laptop; I will sometimes put my foot in it too. Nevertheless, let us keep practising life together. **-Misha**

SERVICES AT PENTREF

Sunday	**7th**	**Sept**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			6:30pm	**Quiet Evening Service**
Sunday	**14th**	**Sept**	**10:30am**	**Rev Misha Pedersen**
			5:00pm	**Harvest Celebration + Supper**
Sunday	**21st**	**Sept**	**10:30am**	**Rev Janet Russell**
			6:30pm	**Bring-and-Share Service**
Sunday	**28th**	**Sept**	**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 October				
Sunday	**5th**	**Oct**	**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.

One day, when the disciples wanted to send away some people asking Jesus to bless their children, Jesus said: "Let the little children stay and don't prevent them from coming to me. God's kingdom is made up of people like these."

Matthew's Gospel Chapter 19 verse 14

THIS MONTH'S DIARY OVERVIEW

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

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.

If you can, please bring donations for the harvest display by Friday 12th to allow for setup. Additional tins, jars etc welcome on the day. Thank you.

NEXT COFFEE MORNING: 3rd September 10:30

September 3rd 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: 10th September 6PM

Come along to the chapel vestry and chapel grounds for the next shared meal on **Wednesday 10th September at 6pm** where we will enjoy a bring-and-share supper together. Often, a few puddings magically appear, and we always appreciate those sweet contributions along with savouries.

We look forward to seeing you there if you can join us for a chat and a bit of food. There'll be an outside table if the weather's fine.

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.

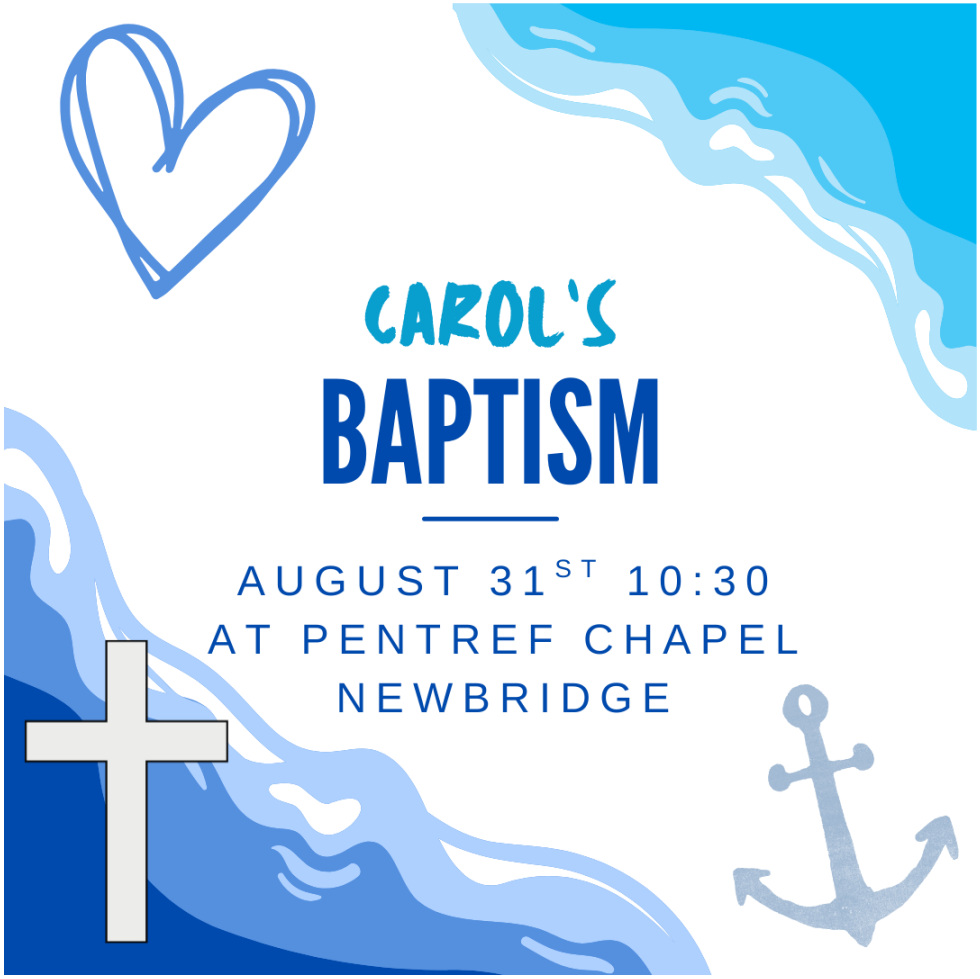
A friendly group of people meet in the chapel vestry every Thursday afternoon between 2 and 4 PM and enjoy the company of other creative men and women – and a cuppa and biscuits halfway through!

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.

BAPTISM AT THE CHAPEL LATE AUGUST



COMMUNITY PICNIC BY THE CHAPEL

We gave you a bit of a heads-up in the last newsletter, and it is now time for the short notice bit: If you are free, come to the chapel grounds on Sunday evening, 31st, and bring your own or share our picnic items – there'll be a bit of quiche, sandwiches etc. There will be something for the children to do, a few songs and the chance to have a chat with others. There will be chairs around but do bring a picnic blanket if you have one. If the weather isn't great, we'll move inside and have "picnic in the pews" where we will be out of the way of any wind or rain that may turn up. But why shouldn't it be nice?

Evening Prayer

I'd gone to talk to Jesus (I'm a minister, you see);
I had a list of woes and whys which mattered to me
and other people too who had asked me: "Can you pray?",
but after I had said it all, I had no more to say,
so I simply sat with Jesus while the daylight snuck away
and clouds turned pink and orange, then blue and dark with gold
and owl and sheep continued with their tall tales untold,
and bats came out for supper and a prowling cat all spry…
There, in the starry distance, a satellite went by
and all those tiny pin prick lights that flicker just a tad
and send us light that may have died but which they all once had.

I'd gone to talk to Jesus (which I rather like to do)
and while I sat there, in the dark, I said a prayer for you.
I said to Jesus: Listen, I do not know what they need
I do not need to know the words, nor beg or shout or plead.
You know already all these things, so I will simply ask
that you will send your Spirit here, to do this healing task:
To read the hearts and sigh the sighs and hear what's left unsaid.
To see the truth, to understand what no one seems to get.
To lift us up and iron out those things we can't repair
and when we run and try to hide, to come and meet us there.

I said these words to Jesus, not in words but in my mind
and as the moon rose full and bright, I prayed that you might find
a welcome, unexpected grace, when all seems dull and dreary…
Then I went home to bed again as I was getting weary.
But Jesus stayed behind I think, to pray for you some more
and bless us with more love and hope that we'd ever known before.

Window on the World is back! Join us on Wednesday 24th September 6:30pm in the chapel vestry. Robin Bidgood from Brecon Mountain Rescue will give a talk on the work of this important charity.

PICTURES FROM THE CHAPEL

Bronwen Jenkins delighted us with her stitching exhibition, which drew people from the Mid Wales area to enjoy intricate nature-themed displays, embroidered over the past couple of decades. The visitor book bore witness to the general awe and amazement at her incredible talent which was thoroughly enjoyed by those who visited:

"Such skill and attention to detail. Astonishing. This work is worthy of a permanent exhibition." "Wow! Absolutely amazing!"

We all congratulate Bronwen on her very successful exhibition!

Bronwen with one of her displays (left). Visitors discussing displays (below).

Bronwen has asked us to share this message:

I would like to express my thanks to all those who have helped in any way with my exhibition:

- Those who dealt with publicity while I was on holiday.
- Those who gave up their time to keep an eye on things in the chapel.
- Those who gave me lifts when my car was out of action.
- Those responsible for opening and closing the chapel.
- Those who came to visit and give donations.

I have been very touched and encouraged by the interest and appreciation shown by visitors.

Bronwen.

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 **14th and 28th 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

October 2025 Edition Deadline: Friday 19th September 2025
Please send to mishatheminister@yahoo.com