

*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



**The Newsletter
Of Newbridge-On-Wye,
Baptist Church,
December 2020**

FROM THE MINISTER

I imagine that as Joseph with his heavily pregnant wife Mary set off on their journey to Bethlehem, they thought that some idiot in government had passed a silly law, requiring everyone to go back to their home town in order to register in the census.



I also imagine that they thought that this had ruined all the plans that they had made surrounding the birth of the baby. Plans which may have involved their families being around to help and to celebrate with the proud parents.

Although Joseph and Mary may not have realised it, they were travelling to the place where the first Christmas would be celebrated. The birth of their child may not have been a time of family celebration, but the birth was accompanied by a band of angels, three wise men and a whole host of shepherds.

In the words of Robbie Burns *“The best laid schemes o’ Mice an’ Men Gang aft agley.”*

Mary and Joseph may have had their plans changed beyond recognition, but as the account of the first Christmas shows, there is nothing that can change God’s plans. The Good News of the birth of Jesus was proclaimed by angels, witnessed and celebrated by some of the poorest in society and celebrated by Kings from a far country.

2020 has been a year when it has been difficult to make plans. Early in the year before the first lock-down, the chapel had set out its calendar, marking dates for Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Carols. The things we planned did not come about. Like many people Vanessa and I made no plans to take a holiday because everything was so uncertain, but we took a few days away when the opportunity arose.

Much has been said on the media about Christmas celebrations and families getting together. Most of us are not making our normal plans for Christmas because we know that until the Coronavirus is under control, any plans that we make may have to be changed according to whatever regulations are in place when Christmas comes.

Everything may be different this year, not as we had hoped, not as we had planned, but one thing will remain the same: the birth of Christ in the stable of Bethlehem will be proclaimed by angels, celebrated not just by shepherds and kings but by people rich and poor, powerful and weak here in Wales and throughout the rest of the world.

Have a Merry Christmas.

Steve

NEWBRIDGE NEWS – Clive Barrett

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

This year's All Saints and Pentref Churches joint annual Remembrance Sunday Service was held at Pentref Chapel on November 15th, a week later than the actual day, due to the Covid 19 restrictions. The Service was led by Pentref Minister Rev. Steve Wallis, who, because of the restrictions conducted the whole service, including reading the Roll of Honour for Newbridge on Wye of those local servicemen who died in the two World Wars. Rev. Steve then invited the following to lay their wreaths on behalf of various local organisations: Clive Barrett, Pentref Baptist Chapel; Robin Powell, All Saints Church; Geraint Rees, Llanyre Community Council; Lyn Davies, Newbridge W.I.; and Joseph Forkings, 579 Squadron (Llandrindod Wells) RAF Air Cadets. As well as an address by the Rev. Steve, the Last Post and the Reveille were also played, and the service ended with the organist Mrs Nelda Foster playing both National Anthems.

I have been asked to mention that a number of residents are concerned about dog fouling in the village. I know that most dog owners clear up after their dogs, but some do not. Please help to keep the village clean and a pleasant place for everyone, by clearing up after your dogs and keeping them away from the children's play area.

Editor



RING THE CHRISTMAS BELLS

Bring back the magic of Christmas.
At 6:00pm on Christmas Eve
Let us stand on our doorsteps
and ring our bells as loud as we can
Emily Parkinson Watkins

Friends of Newbridge School

Newbridge Village

Lights

No matter how big or small,

help to light up our village

this Christmas

Gifts for the favourite decorations
will be delivered on Christmas Eve

Sponsored by The Golden Lion,

Anvic Carpets, NOW Post Office,

New Image & Beauty Salon and

The New Inn

Newbridge-on-Wye Community Speedwatch

Do you live, work or visit Newbridge-on-Wye? Perhaps you have friends or family here or your children attend the school. If so, you know what a great place it is and, perhaps, how it could be even better!

What if you could help make this a safer community?

This is a lovely, friendly, well connected village, with loads to recommend it. However, what brings good connections also brings traffic and, sometimes, the danger of speeding drivers.

I could write a whole page of figures and statistics about injuries and deaths due to speeding on the road, but, in the end, we all know that speed kills! So I'll just stick to this one thought, from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents:

"... the difference in stopping distance between 30 mph and 35 mph is an extra 21 feet or 6.4 metres, more than 2 car lengths".

With this in mind, our Community Speedwatch Scheme aims to slow things down! Although there are plenty of speed limit signs on the village roads, sometimes driver's seem unaware of them. So we want to draw attention to the those limits.

We carry out random speed checks, standing in small groups at various points by the roads around the village, recording driver speeds and reporting any speeding vehicles to the police.

Our efforts have been rewarded by some good results and recognition, but they have had to be put on hold recently, for obvious reasons. With the end of the latest Covid 19 Firebreak restrictions, sessions will soon be planned once more.

We are now looking for volunteers to join us in our mission to protect our community.

All activities are carried out in accordance with the Welsh Government guidelines on safe Covid procedures and we are fully trained to carry out the sessions by the police. Our time is given freely and we are happy to contribute to a friendly bunch, hoping to make Newbridge-on-Wye a welcoming and safe place for residents and visitors alike.

If you want more information or would like to volunteer and you have an hour to spare now and then, please make enquiries to:

newbridgespeedwatch@gmail.com

or

rhiannon.williams@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk

All enquiries about this important scheme are most welcome.

Many thanks.

REGULAR MEETINGS

In the Chapel*

SUNDAY 10:30AM Morning worship
(with communion on the first, third and fifth Sundays)

On Zoom

SUNDAY 5:00PM
Evening Worship
(with communion on the second and fourth Sundays)

THURSDAY 2:30PM
Bible Reflection with Prayer

To get a link to join the Zoom Meetings please
email the secretary at:
Elsa.harflett@hotmail.com

* Meetings in the chapel are subject to change in line with the most recent measures to limit the spread of Covid-19 taken by the Governments

CHRISTMAS DAY

**There will be a short Communion Service held
Via Zoom at 10:30 on Christmas Morning**

The deadline for the January Newsletter is December 19th
Please send all copy to steveoncomputer@aol.com