

*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



**The Newsletter
Of Newbridge-On-Wye,
Baptist Church,
Easter 2021**

FROM THE MINISTER

Over this period of Covid-19 and lockdown, for many people everything has changed. Some no longer go to a place of work but have had to clear a space at home for a make-shift office.

Others have found themselves on furlough, with more free time than they know what to do with and less money to do anything anyway.

Others have lost their jobs and face the uncertainty of being able to find a new one, once the immediate crisis is over.

Parents have suddenly found themselves having to take on the role of teacher and home-educate their children.

All of us have experienced changes to our social life: pubs, restaurants, cinemas, theatres and clubs have all been closed.

Even the churches and chapels have had to stop meeting, meaning they have had to find new ways to carry on and keep going.

To say everything has changed is no exaggeration.

The first Easter is a time when everything changed and they changed for good, in both senses of that word. Things were better than they were before and there was no way of going back to the way they had been.

Churches generally do something to mark Good Friday, remembering the agonising death of Jesus on the cross of Calvary.

Having remembered that, we tend to come together on Easter Sunday to rejoice at the good news of the resurrection. We seldom, however, do or say anything about Easter Saturday, but I think Easter Saturday has something to say to us in this time of Covid.

On Good Friday, everything changed for the disciples. For these men and women who had known and followed Jesus for the last three years, nothing was the same. They were bereft. They were having to think about the post Jesus era. Were they going to go back to what they did before they met Jesus. Their lives had been so transformed by the last three years that there could be no going back. In their grief and mourning on that first Easter Saturday they must have thought of the future. They may even have started making plans for it. Some of the women, we know, prepared so that they could anoint the body of Jesus at first light on Easter Sunday morning.



Whatever their plans, their hopes for the future, they were all changed when the women went to the tomb on Easter Sunday and found it empty. Whatever their plans, whatever their hopes, everything changed when Jesus rose from the grave and appeared to his disciples.

Over the last few months, we have all been waiting for the relaxation of the measures that seem to have taken over our lives. Now as it happens, things are not really going back to the way things were. We still have to wear masks, we still have to maintain social distancing, we still have to avoid unnecessary travel and wash our hands more often than we used to.

A small price to pay for being able to see our friends and families again.

I suspect that things will never be quite like they were before. Like the disciples we will need to embrace the new.

For the disciples and the whole world, the resurrection of Jesus was a turning point.

The resurrection is more than just an historical event. The point of the resurrection is that Jesus is *still* alive. He may not appear in human form as he did to the disciples, but he does make himself known to people today.

I am not one of those people who was brought up in church or chapel. But in the early 1970's, someone I worked with introduced me to Jesus – that meeting changed my life. It changed my life for good, in both senses of the word. I have had and still enjoy a richer, more fulfilled life through knowing Jesus. And it is a permanent change. Things have not gone back to the way they were before and it is truly permanent, for this life lasts forever.

Easter is a celebration of new life. If you want to know more about that new life, why not join us in the chapel on Easter Sunday Morning as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus?

Have a happy Easter.

Steve

Cover photo – Elsa Harflett
Daffodils outside the chapel in the spring

EASTER MEETINGS ON ZOOM

Maundy Thursday 1st April at 2:30pm

A short Reflective Service with Communion

Good Friday 2nd April 10:30am

A Short Reflective Service

Easter Sunday 4th April 5:00PM

A Celebration Service with Communion

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

EASTER IN THE CHAPEL

Easter Sunday 4th April 10:30am

A Celebration Service with Communion

REGULAR MEETINGS ON ZOOM

Sunday 5:00pm Evening Worship

**with communion on the second and fourth
Sundays)**

Thursday 2:30pm Bible Reflection with Prayer

A big Thank You

***To the person who kindly gave an anonymous
donation to the chapel***