

*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



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

FROM THE MINISTER

I noticed recently how easy it was to get irritated by small things. I also noticed a tendency in myself to dwell on the things that irritated me. This did not do my disposition much good. Dwelling on the irritation didn't really put me in a bad mood, but I did notice that I was not experiencing the peace and joy that are promised by Jesus to his followers.



As I was thinking about it, I turned to the Bible to see what it had to say about irritability. A quick glance at a concordance told me what I already thought, it didn't seem to say anything directly on the subject.

I then googled it to see what other Christian writers had to say on the subject. Most of them seemed to equate irritability with anger. The Bible has a lot to say on that subject and it is mostly against it.

I did not find this way of looking at being irritable particularly helpful, as I do not get angry about small things. Big things like government ministers making rules which they think they can break with impunity make me angry, but that is not the problem. I am not angry, just irritated by petty things that I ought to be able to shrug off, but for some reason I can't.

I tried turning to prayer and asking God to take away the irritability and restore my peace. It didn't work. I persisted in prayer. Maybe it was something wrong in me, a failure to forgive, a failure to love. I tried repentance. It still didn't work. I was still irrationally irritated by something petty. My Father taught me that you do not really know what you think until you write it down, so I am writing it down and hopefully someone out there is reading it. As I am writing the answer has come to me and I will share it with you. The answer is found in a letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi:

"Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

In the end the answer was simple, I was just meditating on the wrong things, I was allowing petty things to irritate me and get me down, when a quick change in the direction of my thoughts to the things that are worthy of praise, (the crowd at Wimbledon giving a standing ovation to the those who developed the vaccine for instance) has easily restored my joy and my peace.

I feel better now that I have got that off my chest – hope someone else has found it helpful.

Steve



Big Questions

During the Pandemic

I came across the above recently. It is a five-week discussion group. Each week starts with a twenty-minute video which is followed by a discussion.

The five questions that it covers are:

Does life really have value, meaning and purpose?

How can we know if God exists?

If there is a God, why does he allow bad things like the Coronavirus pandemic to happen?

How can we make sense of death – and is there anything afterwards?

How can I make the most of my life (when I can't get out of my house)?

There is an introductory video available to watch at the following link:

<https://wallsendbaptistchurch.org.uk/big-questions>

I thought if there was anyone interested, I would facilitate the discussion group via Zoom.

If you are interested, please email me steveoncomputer@aol.com putting "Big Questions" in the subject box, and if there are enough people, I will arrange it. Please give an indication of your availability – when would be good for you – afternoon or evening, Mon – Fri.

Look forward to hearing from you

Steve



This Year's Annual Meeting of the Baptist Union of Wales was held via the medium of Zoom.

At the Meeting Rev Steve Wallis of Pentref, Newbridge-On-Wye was inducted as the President of the English Speaking Wing of the Baptist Union of Wales by the General Secretary the Rev Judith Morris

**Pentref Baptist Chapel
Meets at 10:30 am every Sunday
for worship**

Communion is held on the second and fourth Sundays

All other meetings are held on Zoom

**Sunday 5:00pm Evening Worship
(with communion on the first and third 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**

**The deadline for the August Edition is Monday 19th July
Please send to steveoncomputer@aol.com**

This newsletter is aimed to let the whole village know what is happening at the Baptist Church.

We intend to continue putting this newsletter out monthly to every home in the village.

We would like the newsletter to be a service to the village and will happily publicise events organised by other groups. If you have an event you would like included in future issues, please contact either Steve or Elsa.

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You can also find us on the internet at:

www.newbridgebaptistchurch.co.uk

or on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/Pentref-Baptist-Chapel

Cover picture: "Smile" an original artwork by Vanessa Wallis