

*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



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

FROM THE MINISTER



A month or so ago I was stuck in a traffic jam on the M25. I am not noted for my patience and was starting to get a bit annoyed at the slow progress that I was making towards my destination. I had been driving for 3 hours and was nearly on the last leg. I should have been no more than an hour and a half away from the finishing line, but it felt like I would still be on the M25 long after that.

As I was getting more irritable with the situation, that old cliché that people trot out came to mind: *“There are other people worse off than you.”* I have never liked this saying, because the idea that I should cheer up because there are others suffering more than I am seems to me to be a completely depressing thought.

Anyway – as the thought came into my mind, I reflected on the news that I had heard on the radio that there were hundreds, perhaps thousands of people, queuing at the airport in Kabul attempting to flee for their lives. There is no doubt that their situation was worse than mine. Failure to get to my destination at worse would mean that I would arrive after the restaurants had closed and I would have to cook for myself. For families that failed to get through the gates at Kabul, the consequence was imprisonment or even death.

Having contemplated this for a while I turned to prayer, because obviously as I was sitting in a traffic jam on the M25 there was nothing I could do about the situation, but prayer is the one thing that you can always do.

Yes, there were other people worse off than me and that thought led me to pray. But did it make me feel better about being stuck in a traffic jam? No, it did not.

Did contemplating the state of the world make me feel better? No, it just added a sense of depression to the irritation that I was feeling as I was making progress at a snail’s pace towards my destination. I am not sure what the point of this ramble is – but as I prayed about what I should say in this letter it was what came to mind.

May God richly bless you all.

Steve



ARRANGEMENTS FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2021

Remembrance Sunday is on November 14th. As usual All Saints Church and Pentref Baptist Chapel will be having a joint service.

Due to the social distancing regulations the service will not be held inside. Instead, we will gather together on the village green at 10:30am, where the main part of the service will be held. Towards the end of the service, we will move to the front of All Saints, where people who wish to lay wreaths or bring poppies will be able (one at a time) to lay their tributes at the war memorial. If you need to sit for the service, please bring your own chair. If the weather looks inclement, remember to bring an umbrella.

The Members of Pentref Baptist Chapel would like to thank an anonymous giver for their very generous donation.

Aberithon Turbary Heritage Lottery Funding Bid.

You may recall a note in the Newsletter some six or seven months ago that I was putting a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (on behalf of Llanyre Community Council) to put in a path around Aberithon Turbary (aka "The Bog") to make it an accessible village nature reserve. Quite a number of people have asked me how the project is proceeding so this is just a short note to bring you all up to date. On 6th April Heritage Lottery contacted us to say that bid had been successful and now the Community Council are waiting the formal go-ahead for the project which we hope, with luck, will be underway before the weather turns against us (it's a very wet site even in dry weather!) Thank you all for your support to date.

Fred Slater.

PENTREF CHAPEL GRAVEYARD



We would like to make our graveyard suitable for a greater variety of wildlife (biodiversity), without detracting from its main purpose or atmosphere. Already more than 70 species of plants have been recorded, and there are undoubtedly more present. No survey of animals has been carried out, but many must be present, particularly invertebrates ('bugs').

Graveyards are important for wildlife because they often represent the remains of traditional hay meadow grassland, the vast majority of which has been lost, by ploughing, or the application of artificial fertilisers. One notable feature of old grassland is the presence of waxcap fungi. These colourful toadstools are visible in our graveyard most years in the autumn, though the numbers vary.

One way of achieving our aim is to let the grass in some areas to grow longer. This allows plants to flower and set seed, encouraging pollinating insects, and providing shelter for small animals. The grass would be cut in August or September, and the cuttings raked up and removed, so that they do not make the soil more fertile. Greater fertility encourages the growth of plants such as nettles and hogweed, which then smother the more interesting plants.

In the first instance we propose to stop cutting the grass in the area at the bottom of the graveyard, alongside the path leading to the old railway arch. This area will be monitored to see what changes take place. Some of the trees and bushes will also be pruned, or even cut down if they are damaging graves. If anyone would be interested in helping with the management of the graveyard, please let us know.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

6, Meadowlands.

November 2021.

Dear Rev.d Steve,

Following my recent major operation, I feel that I am now progressing well towards a good recovery. Therefore I wonder if you could publish this letter in the next issue of the Newbridge Newsletter. I would like to thank all members of Pentref, neighbours and friends in the village and surrounding areas, for all the cards, messages of good will and telephone calls, I received before, during and after my period of illness. Further I wish to add my grateful thanks to local friends who were so kind in taking and fetching me to hospital in Merthyr Tyfil. Annette and myself, the fact that she is always my rock will come as no surprise to those who know her, are very grateful for your thoughts and prayers.

I would add that I went into hospital in a positive mood, and determined to be co-operative, which I am convinced paid dividends. My faith was so important to my wellbeing during my darkest hours following surgery. At the time I just wanted to speak to myself and God, say the Lord's Prayer, sing a couple of well-known hymns, and more especially repeat my favourite, and I am sure of many the 23rd Psalm.

Yours sincerely,

Clive Barrett.

I am sure you would all like to join with me in thanking God for Clive's ongoing recovery, we continue praying for him and hope that he will soon be able to return as this Newsletter's 'Roving Reporter'.

Editor

**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 December Edition is Monday 22nd
November**

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