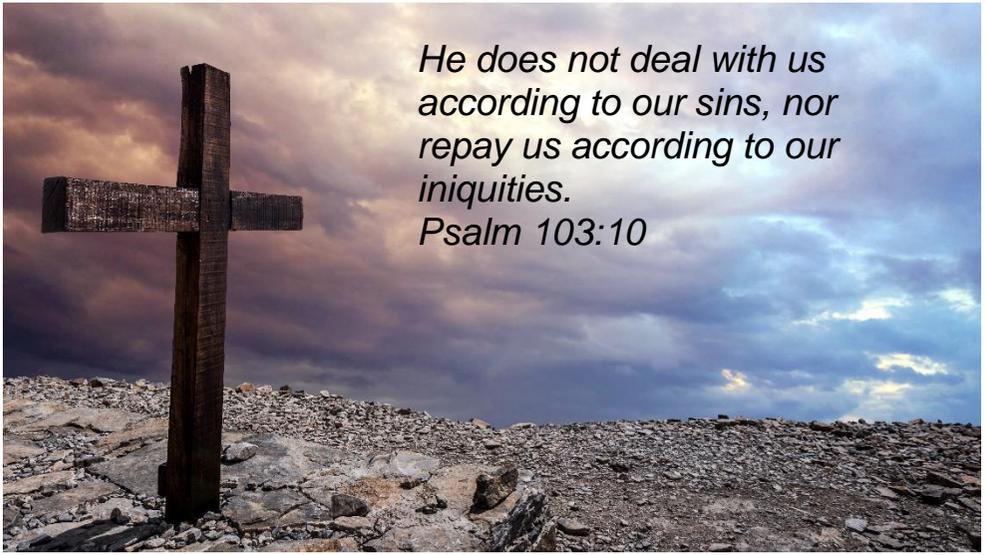


*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



*He does not deal with us
according to our sins, nor
repay us according to our
iniquities.
Psalm 103:10*

**The Newsletter
Of Newbridge-On-Wye Baptist Church
April 2022**

FROM THE MINISTER

*"He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities."*

Psalm 103:10



One of those phrases that parents and teachers alike have come to hate is: *"It's not fair."* If you are looking for a good response to this, I recommend you watch the YouTube video of P J O'Rourke. It is only about 30 seconds long and comes about 3½ minutes in. P J O'Rourke puts a new perspective on things 'not being fair'.

One word that I have really come to dislike is 'deserve'. It is often used in the same way as the phrase 'it's not fair'. Sometimes we say that a person 'has got what is coming to them' or they have got their 'just deserts'. Other times we bemoan the fact that they have not 'got what is coming to them'.

Adverts tell us that we 'deserve' things.

The Easter message is about the opposite of 'deserve', it is about grace. Grace means 'undeserved favour'. The Bible is clear in its teaching. It tells us that: *"The wages of sin is death"*, It also tells us that *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* Those verses from the Bible are about 'deserve'. But the good news is: *"The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"*.

Easter is not about 'deserve', Jesus did not deserve to die, Easter is about grace, Easter is about love. The events of the first Good Friday show God's love for each one of us. To quote another verse from the Bible: *"By this God demonstrated His love for us, that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us"*.

I am with P J O'Rourke: 'let us get down on our knees and thank God that we do not get what we deserve'.

If you want to know more about the greatness of God's love and grace, why not join us at Pentref or go to one of the other local churches this Easter.

Steve

SERVICES AT PENTREF



Sunday 3 rd April	10:30am	Rev Steve Wallis (Communion)
	5:00pm	Service on Zoom
Sunday 10 th April	10:30am	Misha Pedersen
	5:00pm	Service on Zoom
EASTER		
Sunday 17 th April	10:30am	Rev Steve Wallis (Communion)
	5:00pm	Service on Zoom
Sunday 24 th April	10:00am	Rev Steve Wallis
	5:00pm	Service on Zoom (Communion)

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

PRAYER & BIBLE REFLECTION

Thursday 7th, 21st & 28th April 2:30PM on Zoom

**Open Doors UK,
serving
Persecuted Christians
around the world**

April Prayer Afternoon

St Frances Centre, Holy Trinity Church

Tuesday April 26th

2.30-4pm

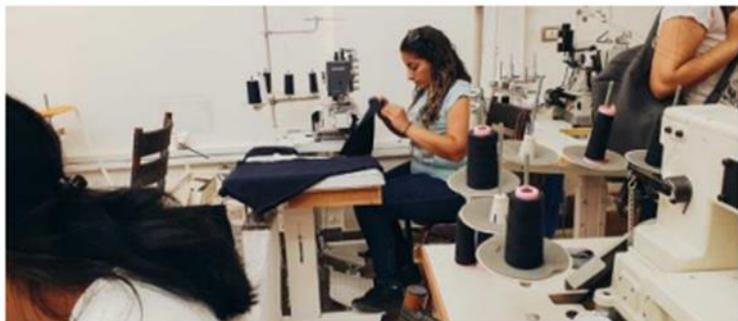
All are very welcome to:

**Light refreshments
will be served**

For more information, please contact
Louise Tarling (822615)

Open Doors Update on Syria

In Syria, many women have been left behind - here's how your gifts and prayers are supporting them. One example is in providing vocational training.



Every single day, a young Christian mum, Elham, waits in a long queue in her hometown, Aleppo, to buy the little bread she's entitled to with her quota. Then, she joins another queue, to buy fuel to cook for her little children, as they get only two hours of electricity a day. Next, Elham needs to carry the gasoline cylinder, weighing 40 kilograms, to her home, all alone.

That is a typical daily life episode of Syria's women who have been left behind by their husbands who either died in the civil war or fled the country for a better life, without them, and never came back. Every day they queue for hours for food and wondering where next they can move after they are evicted, because they cannot pay the rent.

How do Elham and other Christian single mothers survive in a country devastated by the 10-year war? The very limited support that the Syrian government provides goes to only those women whose husbands died in the war fighting for the Syrian Armed Forces.

For those who do not receive it, life is a daily challenge, explains Nour, a local Open Doors partner, based in Aleppo. The main source of support for Christian women is the church in Syria, which provides the essentials for their survival, she says. "There are many internally displaced women in Syria at the moment. They had to run to safer places during the war and every time they had to start all over again, often on their own with no support," says Nour. "Especially those who came to Aleppo from the north, they arrived just with only the clothes they were wearing, nothing else." "With no man in the family, single mothers have accepted the reality of being the breadwinner. If they do any job, the typical monthly salary is around £40 and 20 per cent of it is spent on bread alone." "With high inflation, everything is so expensive. Some women are not able to wait in the long queues for hours because they need to look after their children, and so they have to buy fuel, for example, from the black market and it's very, very expensive," says Nour. Thanks to your thoughts and prayers, Open Doors' local partners reach out to these 'left behind' Christian women with food, clothes, furniture, rental fees as well as vocational training for them to be able to find a job and sustain themselves in the long-term future. "These women have nothing of what they used to have," Nour says. "Our main focus is how to equip them to become independent and build their future for themselves and their children."

Please pray *For women in Syria to be seen, heard and empowered to live their God-given potential *Praise God for the support that women and girls are receiving from Open Doors partners *That lasting peace and stability would come to the region.

COFFEE MORNING



First Wednesday of the month 10:30 – 12ish

**We are pleased to announce
the return of the monthly Pentref Chapel Coffee Morning.**

**The next Coffee Morning will be on
Wednesday May 4th.**

**We will supply the coffee and tea – the cakes and biscuits
And you can come along to supply the good-humoured company**

**No charge, but donations gratefully received in aid of:
Tools with a Mission**

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 would like to include an event in future issues, please contact either Steve or Elsa.

Steveoncomputer@aol.com 01597 860185

Elsa.harflett@hotmail.com

You can also find us on the internet at:

www.newbridgebaptistchurch.co.uk

or on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/Pentref-Baptist-Chapel

**The deadline for the May Edition is Thu 21st April
Please send to steveoncomputer@aol.com**