

*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



The Newbridge Creative Group
See inside for details

The Newsletter
Of Newbridge-On-Wye Baptist Church
July 2022

FROM THE MINISTER

In June of 2019, those dim distant days before the pandemic, Pentref Chapel held a Memorial Service for all those who had lost a loved one. This was intended to be an annual event, but the restrictions surrounding the outbreak of Covid has meant that until now we have not been able to hold another. On the 17th July we will be holding the second of these services (details on the back page).



The time of lockdown and other restrictions surrounding the outbreak of the Coronavirus has proved very difficult for many people.

As we were unable to see friends and visit relatives many began to feel lonely. This was especially true for those who were living on their own. As the more draconian restrictions were relaxed and we were allowed to mix with a few other people, we had to make difficult choices about who we would include in the 'bubble' that we were allowed and who we would leave out.

For many who were ill, this meant they could not see the people that they wanted to. It was an especially difficult time for those who had loved ones who were in the final stages of life. I conducted a number of funerals where the grieving family had not been able to see their loved ones in their last days. Some of those services were very short with a very few people attending and all spread out to comply with the social distancing regulations. All of this increased the pain of grief for many.

After this, many were further hurt and enraged by the revelation that the very people who had made the rules failed to abide by them. An apology and a statement that we now need to put these things behind us and move on is not enough. For those who kept the rules at immense personal cost, the only way we will put these things behind us and move on will be when those who made and broke the rules are no longer in office.

There is little that we can do to ease the pain of those who lost loved ones during the pandemic, but we hope that people will find a little comfort as we come together in our Memorial Service to remember those we have loved and lost.

Steve

SERVICES AT PENTREF



Sunday 3rd July	10:30am	Rev Steve Wallis (Communion)
	5:00pm	Service on Zoom
Sunday 10th July	10:30am	Misha Pedersen
	5:00pm	Service on Zoom
	6:30pm	Songs of Praise (See next page for details)
Sunday 17th July	10:30am	Rev Steve Wallis
	2:30pm	Memorial Service (See back page for details)
	5:00pm	Service on Zoom
Sunday 24th July	10:00am	Rev Steve Wallis
	5:00pm	Service on Zoom (Communion)
Sunday 31st July	10:00am	Rev Ian Sim
	5:00pm	Service on Zoom

To get a link to join the Zoom Meetings please email the secretary at:
elsa.harflett.eh@gmail.com

Pentref Baptist Chapel
Newbridge-on-Wye

Songs of Praise

Sunday 10th July 6.30p.m

Leader Rev. Andrew Wyton

Soloist Miss Holly Richards

followed by refreshments

All are welcome.

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NEWBRIDGE CREATIVE GROUP

**Thursday Afternoons
2:00pm – 4:00pm**



Do you, paint, draw, sculpt, knit, crochet, do macramé, or anything else creative?
If you do, you would be more than welcome to come along and join the group.

Come along to share your skills in a group where we learn from each other.

Refreshments provided.

More Info: Vanessa 01597 860185

NEWBRIDGE NEWS – Clive Barrett

JUBILEE COMMUNITY PICNIC

This event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee took place on Saturday June 4th on the Recreation Field adjacent to the Village Green. Local residents were able to get together with other members of the community, bring their own picnics and have a fun afternoon. There was a prize for best dressed (Primary School aged) King or Queen, a Raffle (Proceeds going to friends of Newbridge on Wye C in W School) a bouncy castle and an Ice Cream van were also present. Celebrations also took place at other Newbridge venues including the Golden Lion Inn, where on the Friday evening a very successful Jubilee Party took place, and some residents held their own private family parties.

MEADOWLANDS PLATINUM JUBILEE STREET PARTY

On the Friday afternoon and evening of the 3rd of June the residents of Meadowlands held their own Street Party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Amid the excellent Meadowlands display of decorations, the event's venue was on the corner of the estate. It was a very successful informal bring and share buffet, and the weather was kind for the duration of the event. The recognised success of the event was shown by the fact that at the end several residents were saying "We will have to do this again"! Over 30 people attended, including the most senior over 90 years old resident of the estate, who joined the group for the afternoon. Many commented on the friendliness of the occasion, and what a gathering does for community spirit, especially after the two year restrictions of covid.

LLYSDINAM GARDENS OPEN DAY

On Thursday afternoon June 2nd the Llysdinam Gardens were open to the public to raise money for the National Garden Scheme. There were also teas, plant sales and activities to raise money for charities, including the local branch of Cancer Research who organised the teas and cakes. The weather was fine, and it proved a very successful afternoon for the organisers.

NEWBRIDGE THURSDAY MORNING WALK

Newbridge Walkers normally meet at the car park by the Village Green on Thursday morning for a 4-to-5-mile walk. Thursday June 9th was organised as a walk with a difference, because the ten in number strolled to the Aberithon Nature Reserve just outside the village on the minor Brynwern road to meet Dr Fred Slater. He gave a talk about the local wildlife and plants, and he also explained about the history of "the local Bog", from which residents extracted peat in years gone by. However, he mainly spoke about the progress of the present project to clear the area to provide a path and boardwalk for local residents and visitors to enjoy. Most of the walkers led by Pentref's very own Elsa Harflett and Bronwen Jenkins then continued their morning walk in the Brynwern area for a further four miles.

COFFEE MORNING



**First Wednesday
of the month
10:30 – 12ish**

**The next Coffee Morning will be on
Wednesday July 6th.**

**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 relief work in the
Ukraine**



**THE NEW INN
NEWBRIDGE-ON-WYE**

.....
OUR TEA ROOMS ARE NOW OPEN
A variety of hot & cold food and drinks
are now available daily between
12 - 9 PM

Afternoon Teas are
available with 24 hr notice
please

Call us to book on 01597
860211

10% DISCOUNT with this voucher



Golden Lion Inn

Newbridge on Wye

01597 860392



Now Open during the Day!

**Wednesday to Saturday from 12pm
for Lunch, Snacks, Coffee & Alcohol
Booking not required**



**Open Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays
for Evening Meals from 5pm Full Menu
& Specials board Available**



**Carvery Available on Sundays
Vegetarian option available to pre order
Book Now!**

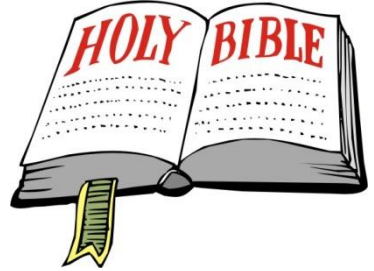


Bible Study

On Wednesday mornings a group of us get together to look at a particular part of the Bible. This is an informal gathering where all are encouraged to take part. We are not a bunch of academics debating the finer points of a text, but a group of people who want to hear what God has got to say to us through His word.

In July we will be looking at a couple of Psalms.

If you would like to come along we will be meeting on Tuesday 13th & 20th at 10:30am, in the Baptist Church hall.



Following the meeting a few of us will be going to lunch at the Golden Lion. You would be more than welcome to join us.

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

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.eh@gmail.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 August Edition is Monday 25th July
Please send to steveoncomputer@aol.com

Open Doors News

How a church community in Nigeria encourages us not to give up



We all need good news – especially at the moment with all that is happening around the world. But when we think about good news how do we picture it? In Isaiah 61:1-4 the good news which the prophet proclaims to the poor looks like lots of different things. “...a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.” (Isaiah 61:3). Most of all, for the exiles and captives who knew that Jerusalem lay in ruins, good news looked like rebuilding. And that’s certainly what good news looked like for Pastor Andrew in Nigeria. For him and his traumatised congregation, good news looked like some burnt zinc roofing materials perched precariously on some poles. When the Nigerian village of Guyaku was attacked by Boko Haram extremists, Pastor Andrew could only watch on in horror as the village burned. When they returned, several believers had been killed, and all but six of the houses in Guyaku were burned down, including the church. “We lost everything,” Pastor Andrew says. “The persecution was so much that I never imagined we would come together again to worship in the church.” Many people decided to leave. But Pastor Andrew and other church leaders chose to stay to serve the community and rebuild the church. “I called the attention of some of the church members, and we brought all our burnt zinc together and some sticks to make a worship place,” he says (pictured above). As you can see, it’s just a shelter, there was so little left to build with. And yet this single, defiant act of rebuilding

was good news. It gave a shape to hope. These sheets of burnt zinc and rickety poles became a sign that the church could not be destroyed. And with the help of Open Doors local partners, the people of Guyaku were able to receive not only emergency relief and food aid, but also trauma counselling and support for the longer-term. **What does hope look like for you today?** When Jesus returned to Nazareth and spoke at his home synagogue, it was this passage from Isaiah that He used. And His life and teaching showed that the good news takes many different forms. Indeed, the ultimate expression of good news looked for all the world like failure, like the death of a man on a cross. The good news might not look much in worldly terms. Isaiah talks about ‘oaks of righteousness’ but even oak trees don’t look like much at the beginning. So, what does the good news look like for you today, I wonder? Be encouraged by the words of Isaiah and by the faith of Pastor Andrew. Boko Haram thought they were wiping out Christianity in Guyaku. But God had other plans. The exact opposite has happened: the church is growing, and they’ve had to build a bigger place to worship. “Because of you,” says, Pastor Andrew, “my church is living hopeful, thinking of the kingdom of heaven. “Perhaps ‘thinking of the kingdom of heaven’ is the key to ‘living hopeful’. Thinking in worldly terms might only leave us seeing see ashes, rubble and ruin. But in the kingdom of heaven different rules operate. A church can be made with just some sticks and old roofing. Ruined cities – and ruined lives – can be rebuilt. And a spirit of despair can be replaced with a garment of praise.

Open Doors UK,
servicing Persecuted Christians around the world

All are very welcome to:

The July Prayer Afternoon
St Frances Centre, Holy Trinity Church
Tuesday July 26th
2.30-4pm

Light refreshments will be served

For more information, please contact Louise Tarling (822615)

MEMORIAL SERVICE



***A SERVICE
TO REMEMBER
AND
GIVE THANKS
FOR THOSE WHO
WE HAVE LOVED
AND ARE NOW
NO LONGER
WITH US.***

SUNDAY 17th JULY 2:30PM

Have you lost a loved one?

Do you tend a grave in the chapel graveyard?

Do you just want the opportunity to remember and give thanks?

You are invited to a service of quiet and reflection.

If you have a poem or reading that is meaningful to you – then please bring it along and time allowing we will try to include it in the service.

If there is a particular hymn that you would like us to sing then there will be an opportunity at the service for it to be sung.