

*PENTREF
BAPTIST
CHAPEL*



The Chapel at the Heart of Newbridge



**The Newsletter
Of Newbridge-On-Wye,
Baptist Church,
January 2020**

Happy New Year

FROM THE MINISTER

Recently while tidying up some files (late spring cleaning!) I found the notes of a talk I gave in 1992. It was a talk given to a men's meeting and the subject that I was given to speak on was: 'Why believe in Jesus in 1992'. Having re-read the notes I find that if asked to give the same talk in 2020 I would say the same things and so at the beginning of 2020 I will share with you the talk I gave some 28 years ago.



There are only six important questions to ask on any subject, these questions are: How, when, what, where, who and why.

Today I only intend to try and address three of these questions: Who, what and why.

- *Who do we mean by Jesus?*
- *What do we mean by believe?*
- *Why believe in Jesus in 1992/2020*

The reason that I am taking this approach is because we cannot answer the question as set without first defining the terms.

So to start – Who do we mean by Jesus?

At the very basic level we believe that there was a man called Jesus; who wandered around Palestine in the first century AD creating quite an impression. That much has to be accepted as historical fact, the evidence to support such a claim is beyond doubt and not to believe it would be as illogical as to say that you did not believe in the existence of Julius Caesar. But such a definition of who we mean by Jesus does not get us very far. The fact that you believe in the existence of an historical character does not change your life. When I talk about Jesus in relation to this question I do not mean the picture that men have created of him in their own image: The great teacher, the political revolutionary, etc. What I do mean when I talk about Jesus is that he was who he claimed to be as recorded in the

gospels. That he was who the disciples believed him to be as recorded in the New Testament.

Jesus makes many claims about himself in the gospels but I only intend to look at two of them which I think will serve our purposes.

1) He claims to be God. Not just sent as a messenger from God, not someone who does great wonders by the power of God, but God himself. He is God revealed to man. If you want to know what God is like then look at the man Jesus.

2) He claims to be the only way to God. If you want to know God then the only way is through Jesus.

The disciples believed these claims to be true; I will give two illustrations of this:

1) When Jesus asked them who do you say that I am? Peter replied "you are the Christ, the son of the living God". The disciples clearly believed that there was one amongst them who was more than just a man.

2) On another occasion when many were deserting Jesus, he asked them "will you also go?" and the reply came back "to who shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." The disciples believed the claim that Jesus was the way to God and to eternal life.

There is one more important point that needs to be made when we talk about who Jesus is, and that is that his disciples proclaimed that he was risen from the dead, that they met with him after the resurrection, that they saw him ascend into heaven and that he still lives both in the heavenly places and in the hearts and lives of men and women who give their lives to him.

We have defined in a very sketchy fashion who we mean by Jesus. You will have to wait until next month for the answer to the second question: *What do we mean when we use the word believe?*

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy New Year and to pray God's blessing on all who live in Newbridge.

Steve

The Men's Fellowship

**There will be no meeting
in January**

COFFEE MORNING



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

The next Coffee Morning is on Wednesday February 5th
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

(see last month's newsletter for details of their work)



**Action on Hearing Loss will be providing a Hearing Aid clinic: Repairs, batteries, and cleaning tubes.
(NHS Hearing Aids only)**



Thursday Afternoons
2:00pm – 4:00pm



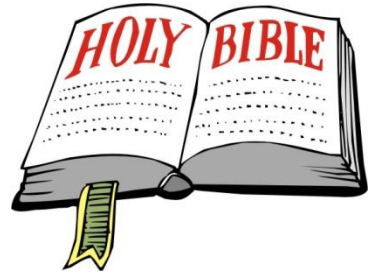
Do you, paint, draw, sculpt, knit, crochet, do macramé, or anything else creative?
If you do, you would be more than welcome to come along and join the group.
Come along to share your skills in a group where we learn from each other.

Refreshments provided.

More Info: Vanessa 01597 860185

The Group will not meet on the first Thursday in January

Bible Study



On Tuesday 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 January we will continuing our series on the Lord's Prayer. If you would like to come along we will be meeting on Tuesday 14th & 28th at 10:30am, in the Baptist Church hall.

A few of us go to lunch in Rhayader after the meeting. You would be more than welcome to join us. (2 courses for only £5.50)

SERVICES AT PENTREF



Sunday 5 th January	10:30am	Rev Ian Sim
	5:00pm	Mr Tom Harflett
Sunday 12 th January	10:30 am	Rev Steve Wallis (Communion)
	5:00pm	Rev Steve Wallis
Sunday 19 th January	10:30am	Rev Steve Wallis
	5:00pm	Rev Steve Wallis
Sunday 26 th January	10:30am	Rev Steve Wallis
	5:00pm	Rev Steve Wallis (Communion)

**The deadline for the February edition is:
Wednesday 22nd January
Please send to steveoncomputer@aol.com**

**Cover picture 'Harbour Lights' by Vanessa Wallis
– a member of the Newbridge Creative group**

NEWBRIDGE NEWS – Clive Barrett
VILLAGE LIGHTS & DECORATIONS.

Those passing through Newbridge and local residents could not fail to be impressed with the village lights and decorations again this year. So, congratulations to all involved with the festive light-ups around the village green, near the New Inn, and also near the Golden Lion and Post Office & Stores. The official switching on took place earlier the same evening following the Santa Run.

SANTA RUN.

The Newbridge Santa Run took place on the first Saturday of December. It returned after



a break of some years, and there were nearly 70 entries of children and adults of most ages. Prior to the start of the run at the New Inn, there was a Zumba session to enable the competitors to warm up. After the four mile course around the lanes near the village, those taking part finished at the Golden Lion for seasonal mince pies. The event was organised by Jim & Jan Jones and the money raised will go to Wales Air Ambulance.

PENTREF CAROL SERVICE.

Pentref Baptist Chapel held their annual Candlelit Carol Service on Sunday evening December 15, in the traditional form of a carol service, including congregation singing, a Christmas carol by the Pentref Singers, and Bible readings by church members. The carols and readings were interspersed with prayers. The Minister Rev Steve Wallis led the service, and in his message spoke about the Nativity Story and whether it made any difference that Jesus was born in a stable or a palace. In the event he was born in Bethlehem, coming gently and in humility. The fact is that it is the same Jesus we worship today, and he comes in honesty, humbly, and seeking people to follow him. It is clear that because the shepherds came representing the working people, and the Kings came from the East representing the rich, he came for everyone. Rev Steve concluded that the story will finish at some point in the future, when he comes again, and fullness in life in him is achieved.

January Open Doors Prayer Afternoon

2.30-4 pm
January 28th 2020

St Francis Centre, Holy Trinity Church

Thinking of making a New Year's resolution? How about resolving to come along to this monthly afternoon of chat, information, prayer and refreshments? You will be most welcome to join us, and there is no obligation to pray aloud. Finding out about our brothers and sisters living under persecution is inspiring, challenging and often encouraging.



Each January, Open Doors produce a new 'World Watch List' of the 50 places of most persecution. This booklet will be available (free), early in the New Year and certainly by our January meeting we should at least have news of what the 2020 list looks like.

Louise Tarling (822615)



Newbridge on Wye WI

meet at the Community Centre on the third Thursday of the month @ 7pm.

Newbridge WI is a small group of ladies who enjoy listening to interesting speakers and taking part in county WI activities such as Quizzes, Bowling, Murder Mystery, Poetry and Prose, Darts and Dominoes.

In 2019, the WI highlighted the need for planting and preserving our trees. Our WI purchased and planted trees in Newbridge school and Bracken Trust, Llandrindod.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 16th January 2020 @ 7pm.

We will be recycling old books to create and decorate 3D models.

Find out more about the WI on the website:

<https://www.thewi.org.uk/>

or contact Lyn on 07393 602896



Builth Road Community Group

Winter Warmer Bramble Bashing

Two days of community spirited destruction
4th and 5th January 2020
Details TBC

*Clearing brambles to install
community herb planters*



Contact: builth.road@outlook.com

At the end of one year and the beginning of a new one it seems to be a good time to say



There are so many people in the village who freely contribute their time and effort to making life in the village so good, it seems invidious to single anyone in particular out.

But I would like to express appreciation to all those involved in putting up the great display of Christmas lights this year.

Also I think that everyone in the village would like to express their thanks to Stuart Jones and his friends who do so much to keep the village tidy and beautify it with flowers.

I know the school has already expressed its thanks to the Speed Awareness Group and I would like to echo that thanks to all those who stand out in the cold and rain in an attempt to keep the village safe.

I know there are so many unsung heroes who contribute so much to village life, even though you have not been named individually, we would still like to say a big thank you to you all.



PRAYER

Each month at various times people from the Chapel get together to pray. If you have any prayer requests you can email them to me at steveoncomputer@aol.com putting 'Prayer Requests' in the subject bar. Alternatively put them in an envelope marked 'Prayer Requests' and put it through my letter box. 'Cartref' (On the main road opposite the mile post.)

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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Elsa.harflett@hotmail.com 01597 860894

You can also find us on the internet at:

www.newbridgebaptistchurch.co.uk

or on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/Pentref-Baptist-Chapel