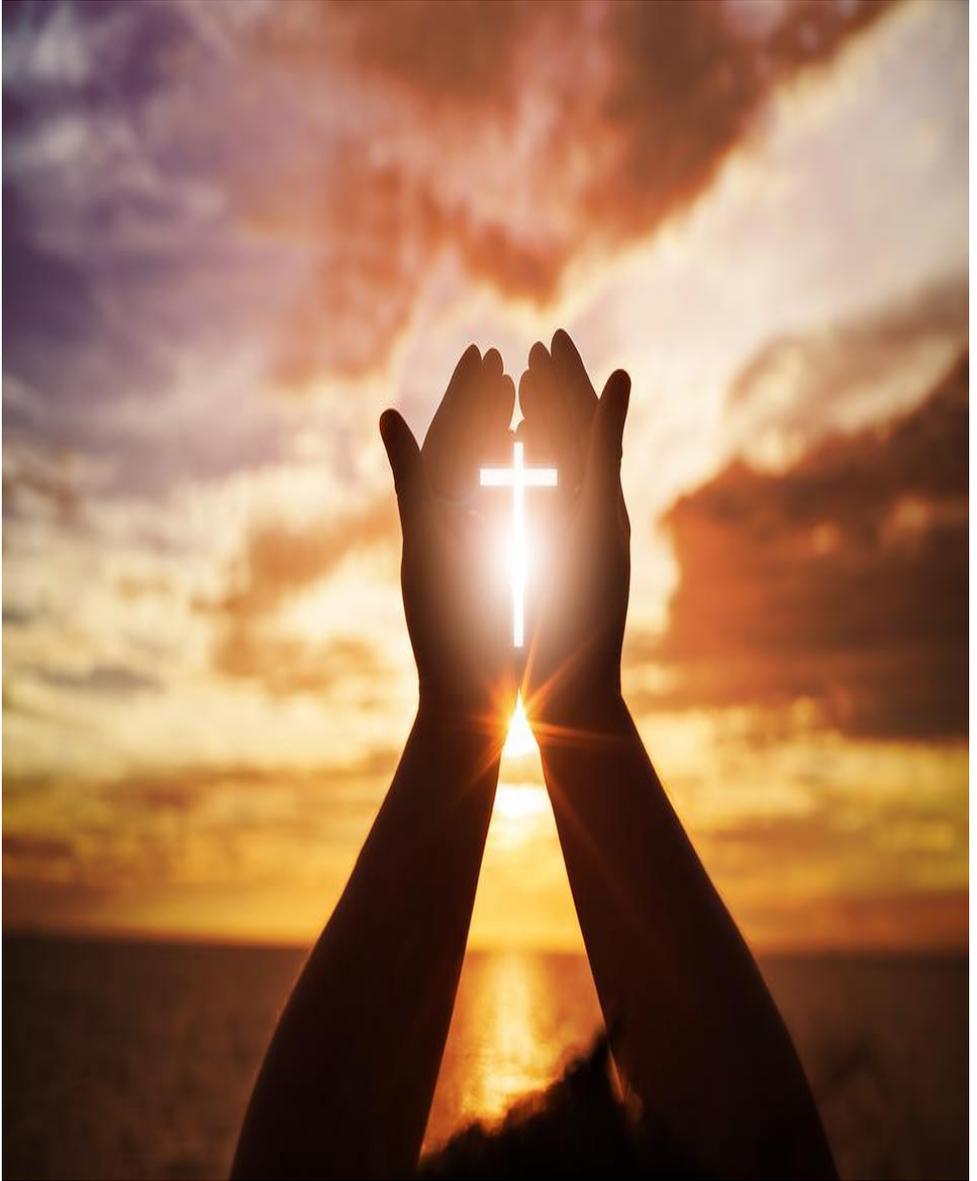


August/September 2018



"You came from Heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay ..."
"Lord, I lift Your name on high."

Moses: An example of a true Servant Leader

Moses was the first and greatest example (bar one) of a true servant leader we find in Scripture. He continued to lead Israel up to the moment they were ready to take possession of the Promised Land of Canaan - even though he knew his LORD was going to take his life, and the privilege of leading Israel over the Jordan, would pass to another.

Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said 'I will give it to your descendants. "I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it".
(Deuteronomy 34:4)

We can easily misunderstand this transition of leadership from Moses to Joshua as being a bit of a rough deal for Moses. It even seems that God is being vindictive to poor Moses in taking him up Mount Nebo to view the Promised Land, only to be told that rather than cross the Jordan with the people, his life would end there in Moab, as it did. To see these events in this way would, in my view, be a great misunderstanding of how the LORD calls His servants to fulfil distinct roles and purposes as part of His great and eternal plan for His people. The LORD not only calls, but He also prepares and equips leaders for the tasks they will face.

Moses' role and purpose was huge! He had been prepared very specifically through a unique upbringing in Pharaoh's household to enable him to lead the people out of Egypt. Perhaps even his own wilderness experience helped prepare him for leading the people through the wilderness years. The LORD even prepared him in his character and nature, that he would endure the disobedience and constant complaining of this "stiff-necked people". But leading the conquest of Canaan needed a different type of leader - enter Joshua: soldier and tactician, and one who had learned well to depend on the LORD in strict obedience and faith, and deal severely with those who were disobedient and self-serving. So when the LORD took Moses to the top of Mount Nebo and showed him the expanse of Canaan, He was commending His servant for a job well done and granting him rest from his labours.

So here we are 'Hope!' God has called us to be His team for the Gospel in Bridgend. Ours is not to know how God has prepared us and equipped us for the tasks that lie ahead, but we must know that called, prepared and equipped we are. Let us trust in Him who has a greater plan and purpose than we can possibly know. Just in case anyone thinks they are too old to

be serving the Lord in any new way, remember that Moses was almost eighty when he first led Israel out of Egypt. We do not have the luxury of knowing how long the LORD will keep us together and use us for His Kingdom. For me, I intend to get up each new day and serve Him with all my heart, while He gives me the energy and ability to do so. That is my promise to the LORD and to Hope Baptist Church.

I mentioned in the first sentence that Moses was the greatest example, bar one, of a servant leader. That 'one' of course is Jesus, the true servant leader. Moses' life ended as the LORD called him home when his work was done. Jesus gave his own life as an act of amazing service, to pay the price of sin, that we can have eternal life in Him.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

With love in the Lord Jesus,

Pastor Robbie



Are you ready for Autumn? - Cooler weather? - Walks in the park and blackberry and apple picking days! The poet Keats certainly was. In the opening lines of his poem 'Autumn' he lures us into a ...

“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun:
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run:
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core:”

Provision, Providential abundance! Mother Nature yields her bounty. Sand castles are abandoned as children revel in parkland fun, running happily on carpets of gold. An extra layer is donned and sturdier shoes are worn. We nestle into Autumn ...and her arms embrace us, loving our attention as we gasp at her variety of colour and generosity of spirit.



Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;

Proud and majestic Autumn pays due homage to both the hand that sowed the seed in faith and the Lord of Life who nurtured it through the heat of Summer. Go out and see her in her beauty. Do what children do with such gay abandon.



The power of a sermon

A young couple went to church for the first time, and received a very warm welcome. They survived the notices, and enjoyed the opening worship. Half-way through the sermon, the young man got up out of his seat, walked down the aisle, and left. He didn't speak, or look around, or catch anyone's eye. He simply got up and left.

At the end of the service the minister met the young woman at the door. "I was surprised to see your husband walk out during the sermon", he said. "Did I say something that upset him?"

"Oh it was nothing like that," replied the young woman. "Since childhood, my husband has always walked in his sleep".

Falling asleep in sermons, It's nothing new. The Apostle Paul was preaching in Troas, when a young man called Eutychus fell asleep. Mind you, I have some sympathy for him. The report says that "Paul went on and on" (Acts 20:9). Can you imagine someone going on and on in the pulpit!?

The meeting was being held in a third-floor room, and the young man was sitting in an open window. Unfortunately, when he fell asleep, he also fell out of the window ... crash landed below, and died. I expect the Health & Safety Officers would have had a field day, had they existed at the time. Undeterred, Paul went downstairs, prayed over the young man, and saw him return to life. Then Paul went back upstairs, and continued his sermon until daybreak! Until daybreak! Some sermon!

Falling asleep in sermons. An older mother in the church where I ministered, told me that if she couldn't get her baby boy to sleep, she would play him one of my sermons. "It never failed to lull him to sleep", she assured me. I never knew which sermon it was.

Oh well, it's August; it's a holiday month; we are all relaxed and looking forward to the arrival of our new pastor. In the meantime, let's hope the preacher this month is worth listening to, and doesn't go on and on and on and on

Rev. Mike Weldon

Resilience

I wrote it in bold to try and convey its meaning because saying it out loud doesn't quite hit the mark for me. It isn't a word that's used much in general conversation yet it draws us towards it promising to amaze us with its meaning and message.

For help to understand I asked our physicist, Gareth James to explain - "Ah, resilience encompasses elasticity and a resistance to wear. It has an ability to return to its structural integrity". This word has depth ...

Next, I turned to Steve George another member who is an experienced Structural Engineer,

"Resilience is the ability of a material to absorb energy when it is deformed elastically, and release that energy upon unloading. The modulus of resilience is defined as the maximum energy that can be absorbed per unit volume without creating a permanent distortion."

All I can say is that I feel clever copying both down!!

Happily taking it out of its scientific context there is one definition that I understand a bit more. It intrigues and fascinates me in equal measure.

In general terms, resilience describes ***the power or ability to return to its original form after being bent or stressed***. Just like a reed blowing in the wind – it bends but it doesn't snap; or the tree that bends making it better able to withstand heavy winds.

P.G.Wodehouse wrote, "There is in certain men a quality of resilience, a sturdy refusal to acknowledge defeat". We understand when we see it first hand in countless acts of courage and fight (never flight). Such men and women confound medical science, they achieve the impossible and survive.

It has always been the devil's mission to convince us that the battle is lost. Sometimes we believe him even before the battle has begun!! Yet, seemingly out of the blue, we see people pick themselves up as an inner strength and determination kicks in. There she is – resilience, in all her glory – the reed had almost touched the ground but she had not broken.

Our hearts and our faith, remind us that God has spoken, “Do not be afraid”. Did you know that that phrase is written in the Bible 365 times – a daily reminder of the power that is gifted to us each day, gifts of forgiveness, grace and hope each a component of the spirit of resilience which we can harness in every situation.

It doesn't mean that we won't feel rejection, opposition, pain or loss. Jesus Christ was the most resilient of all men yet he endured searing pain and anguish of heart. Where's resilience? There she is, “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do”. What an example to us. Life is doable at all times.

I wonder what is happening in your life that calls you to draw on your reserves of resilience? I have seen each of you doing just that many times. – often on a daily basis and thanked God for your example to your family and friends.

A church is the sum total of her members. I have to ask the question. Has Hope been resilient these past three interregnum years? I believe she has. We have endured much. The bigger, even more important question, however, is “Will the ‘tree’ have **“the power or ability to return to its original form after being bent or stressed”**”.

I could be glib, shrug my shoulders and say, “We shall see” – but this is no time for glibness. This is the time to straighten our backs, to gaze ahead and see new possibilities, new opportunities for growth as individuals and as a church.

We have never walked alone and we never will. It is one of God's greatest promises, “I will never leave you or forsake you”. The doors of Hope will never be closed nor will the ministry of our new pastor, Rev. Robbie Hall be silent. God centred, we will keep each other strong - we will continue to ‘hold the line’, around Hope, Bridgend and beyond our knowing..

Rhonwen

Month of Sundays...

	5 th August	12 th August
DUTY DEACONS	Hannelie Jonas	
	Rev. Mike Weldon	Rev. Mike Weldon
	Rev. Huw Stephens (Rogerstone)	Mrs. Rhonwen Miles
	Lynne Chamberlain	Adrienne Haines
 AM PM	NO TEAS	NO TEAS
	COMMUNION PM Prep: Alison Evans	

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Richard Germain

10-27-2008

I REALLY LIKE YOUR BIBLE, DAD ... HOW DO YOU TURN IT ON?

	19 th August	26 th August
DUTY DEACONS	Hannelie Jonas	
	Rev. Mike Weldon	Rev. Mike Weldon
	Pastor Robbie Hall	Rev. Stephen Pare
	Pat and Ron Fairfax	Clarice Fewkes
	NO TEAS	NO TEAS
	COMMUNION AM Prep: Pam Jones	

23rd August at 7.30 - Prayer meeting specifically for the Ministry

1st September at 2.30 Induction of our new Pastor – see Invitation

Month of Sundays...

	2nd September	9th September
DUTY DEACON	Maureen Turner	
	Rev. Robbie Hall	Mr. Mike Thomas (Swansea)
	In memory of Tony & Grace Lewis	In memory of Beverly Brown
 AM PM	Ros Hogg & Val Jenkins	Mary Johnson & Rosemary Rowe
	Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	Margaret Francis & Rhyl Coleman
	COMMUNION PM Prep: Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	

Ladies Guild

10th Rev. Robbie Hall

We are now only meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

16 th September	23 rd September	30 th September
Maureen Turner		
Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Robbie Hall
HARVEST	Julie Brown & Noreen Parsons	Pam & Owain Jones
Mel Denning & Joan De Vera	Chris Burn & Eva Evans	Enid James & Pat Fairfax
Pam Jones & Judith Jakob	Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	Margaret Francis & Rhyl Coleman
	COMMUNION AM Prep: Alison Evans	

Women @Hope

- 12th Welcome back
- 19th Pastor Robbie Hall (tbc)
- 26th Keith Johnson

July at 12 noon followed by cremation at **1.15**. Her grandson the Rev. Rhodri Walters will be officiating.

If only they could find a cure for arthritic joints. It is so frustrating not being able to help the many of you who suffer. We can pray that the right and suitable medication is found for each of you. For all who are suffering in many and varied ways we pray for 'resilience and calm'.as you absorb the love of your Heavenly Father – one day at a time.

We pray for all who cannot attend church. Edward and Anita come immediately to mind. Their daughter, Kathryn, got married in Hope on Saturday, July 28th at 10.am. We wish bride and groom God's richest blessing on their marriage but we were equally delighted to see Anita present in church with Edward at her side. (I am writing this 'prayerfully' – July 12th today) Will you please try and clear your diary and support them all.

We are also thrilled for Hilary and Don, their son, Darral is marrying Helen on Saturday, 24th August. We wish them both a lifetime of love and happiness.

It is mid July and I am preparing to visit my family in Los Angeles on Friday 13th. I arrive home August 6th, as Helen and Robbie turn the manse key at **7, Tremains Court, Brackla, Bridgend. CF31 2SR.** Yet I am confident in thanking you for the work that is yet to be done before August 6th. To all who have worked towards the preparations of manse, church and ahead to the Ordination/Induction day ensuring that all logistics run smoothly. It has been a team event.

To those who cannot help physically I am grateful for monies received towards the 'big day'. Through your generosity we will be able to witness our faith in a future for Hope. Please allow me a very personal word of thanks for the love and support I have received over the past three years of interregnum. So many have stayed close; you have prayed for me, encouraging me to trust in my Lord. My prayers have been answered and my love for you has deepened.

Now there is a window in time where we can relax. We can sit down and smell the roses ...!

WHAT'S OCCURRING!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

10TH SEPTEMBER - The next Nativity meeting will at 6pm - in Tabernacl

16TH SEPTEMBER – Our Harvest services

26TH SEPTEMBER - Stuart Townend Concert in Gilgal Baptist Church Porthcawl for details please follow the link

www.gilgalbaptistchurch.co.uk

(Deacons' meeting possibly to be re-arranged to accommodate the above)

SUNDAY'SCOOL NEWS

It has been a privilege to see our children growing up and doing so well both in school and their hobbies. Congratulations to Izzy on being awarded "Spirit of Brynteg" Year 7. We also congratulate Martha Sanders and Nia Ward on their graduation and we wish them every success and God's blessing on the next stage of their journey. We finished Sunday'scool on the 22nd July with a party and will start again on the **2nd September** and ask that God will keep the children and their families safe during the holidays.

Pam Jones

BMS

Hannelie has received this message from Mac and Lucy

"Thanks for the warm welcome and for all your prayers, we very much appreciate it! See you again in the future. We hope all goes well with the new minister! Blessings to you all".

MISSION HOME & AWAY

Petr Jasek

It was wonderful to see the church full downstairs on the evening of Sunday 8th July with members of our congregation and friends from the other churches in town. We were all truly inspired and encouraged by Petr's testimony of his time spent in prison in the Sudan and work since, as a Global Ambassador for Voice of the Martyrs. A collection was taken for the work of Release International who supported Petr and his family while he was in prison, and we have since received an email from Petr

saying how much he enjoyed the meeting and thanking the Church for its generous support both in prayer and financially

Harvest Walk and Tea – Saturday, 22nd September

We have decided to hold a more local Sponsored Walk, instead of Roath Park. We will start from the Church and walk to the Dipping Bridge at Merthyr Mawr, leaving the Church in Derwen Road at 2.15pm prompt, and returning for refreshments. Cream Teas will be on sale at £3 for adults and £1.50 for children. It will be a fairly easy walk for everyone and a chance to enjoy fellowship together and a walk through the countryside. Friends and dogs will be very welcome to join us and the proceeds will be shared between Mercy Ships, which uses hospital ships to deliver free vital medical care to some of the world's poorest countries, and SASRA (The Soldiers' & Airmen's Scripture Readers Association) which is the charity nominated by our Pastor. Please come along on the walk or join us in the church for the cream tea from 3.30pm. Sponsorship forms for the walk are available from Mary and Neil, and from the Church Vestibule and Prayer Room, or you can just make a donation to any of the committee if you prefer. It would be good to know numbers for the catering if you can let us know by at least a week before. Thank you.

Neil Jenkins

CHRISTIAN AID – Delyth writes

“Once again a big thank you to all who supported and helped with the Christian Aid lunch on July 8th. You will know by now that we raised £482 which was wonderful and a great encouragement. The plight of refugees and displaced people has touched everyone's hearts and your support enables Christian Aid to help them in a practical way. Thank you again”.



Ffald-y-Brenin (Shepherd of the fold)

Recently Philip and I enjoyed a Monday to Friday conference at Ffald- y-Brenin entitled: Family, deeper, wider, joyous. What is this you say?

Roy Godwin the director of Ffald-y-Brenin writes. Some years ago ‘God graciously decided to pour out His presence and blessing in an amazing way at Ffald-y-Brenin, a remote Christian Retreat Centre and House of Prayer in Southwest Wales. Since then, the Holy Spirit has been moving here in increasing power. Many of the people who are touched by God’s grace at Ffald–y-Brenin sense that He is calling them to connect with us more deeply’.

Those who wish to follow our Way of Life sharing our Vision and Values; our daily rhythm of praise, prayer and Bible reading; and are determined to bless and be a blessing - are encouraged to prayerfully explore the possibility of joining The Caleb Connection.

The Caleb Connection is an expression of the life poured out at Ffald-y-Brenin. In a nutshell we are “a supportive network of renewed, prayer-based, missional Christian Contemplative Activists”.

Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to Him those He wanted, and they came to Him. He appointed twelve - designating them apostles - that they might be with Him and that He might send them out.

Mark 3:13-15

The vision is to be a fellowship of people who seek the King and His Kingdom first, live prayer-based lives, establish Christ-based community wherever possible, and impact their neighborhoods, regions and nations for Jesus; who powerfully proclaim the blessings of heaven so that praise rises to God as heaven touches earth, resulting in captives being released, the oppressed set free, the lost found, the sick healed, the broken–hearted mended and the poor hearing good news. We want to press deeper into the heart of God and further out into the world as co-workers for the Kingdom, living Kingdom cultural lives from which prayer and worship pour upwards and words, works and wonders flow outwards as part of our witness to the good news of Jesus.

Ffald y-Brenin has become an award –winning Christian retreat Centre in the Presili Hills near the sea in southwest Wales which has become internationally renowned through the hundreds of remarkable encounters

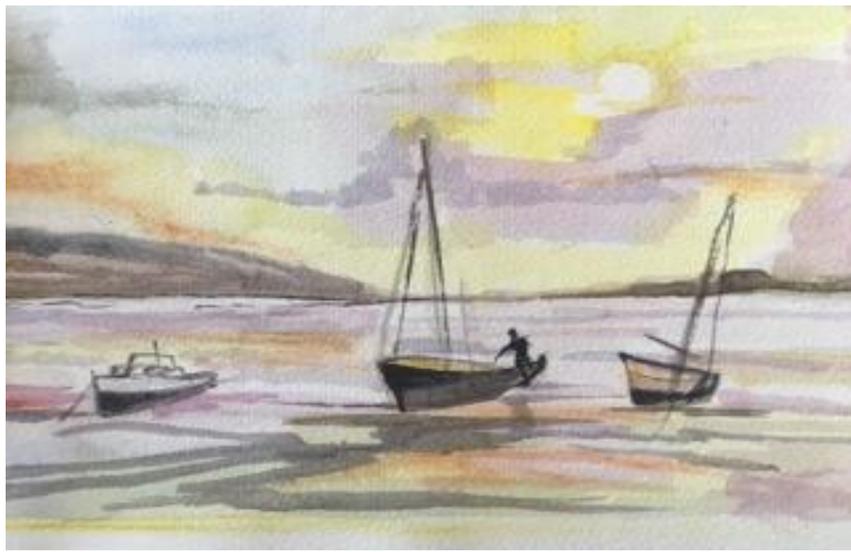
visitors have experienced with the Lord. The books; 'The Grace Outpouring' and 'The Way of Blessing' recount some of the stories and are available post free from the resource section. They live with a rhythm of prayer and guests and visitors are welcome to join with them.

Ffald -y- Brenin has become a Christian ministry that reaches out across the world with a message of hope, life and liberty because of the Father's amazing saving gift of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the home of the global phenomena called Local Houses of Prayer. They regularly welcome a mix of guests from many nations who visit, stay or attend conferences or monthly prayer days. For more information. see the website:

www.ffald-y-brenin.org

Rosalyn and Philip Hogg

With a mission heart, Rosalyn painted this picture. Thank you for letting us share your talent and faith



“Come, follow me”, Jesus said
“and I will make you fishers of men”.

Slow walking talker,

If I allow Jesus to love me, He will guide my walk
He will permeate my heart, the way I talk,
My inner softness he will surely unlock.
His words not mine will become my lead.

It's not about doing,
It's more about being.

His way is the way of helping and seeing,
By letting Him lead it will be more freeing.
The more I witness the more I'll be believing
Walking and talking but more importantly – listening.
Debbie Guzzis



They are all in the crowd as are we, young and old - all listening...

OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE

For more information on any of our activities, please get in touch with the contact shown.

MONDAY:

Ladies Guild	2.30pm	Mrs P. Jones	(01656) 655142
Bible Study	7.30pm	Mrs. M. Denning	(01656) 767381

TUESDAY:

Ladies' Prayer Group	9.30am	Mrs R Rowe	(01656) 654881
Women@Hope	11.00am	Mrs M Johnson	(01656) 656346

THURSDAY:

Baby & Toddler Group	9.30am	Dr D. Ware	(01656) 662948
Prayer Meeting	7.30pm		

SUNDAY:

Sunday'sCool	10.00am
Morning Service	10.30am
Evening Service	6.00pm

WHO TO CONTACT AT HOPE

CHURCH CONTACT:	hopebaptist@hotmail.co.uk	07866 746851
SECRETARY:	Rhonwen Miles	(01656) 654169
TREASURER:	Paul Evans	(01656) 661986
CARETAKER:	Seung Ho & Yun Hee Kang	(01656) 646911
USE OF PREMISES & SAFEGUARDING	Sally George	(01656) 668791
NEWSDESK:	mag4hope@yahoo.com	Rhonwen Miles/ Pam Jones

HOPE

BAPTIST CHURCH

OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

(Church Meeting 010503)

We will EVANGELISE our community & beyond.

We will encourage people to become more Christ-like through
DISCIPLESHIP.

We are committed to meeting the needs of those inside & outside
our walls through MINISTRY.

We will value FELLOWSHIP, recognising that it is a divine gift to the
church.

We will come before the Lord in obedience to WORSHIP Him.

Hope Baptist Church operates a safeguarding children and
adults at risk policy

www.hopebridgend.co.uk

Hope English Baptist Church Bridgend

Affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) & South Wales
Baptist Association

Registered Charity: No. 1133067

Thanks to our printers: **kk**solutions
more than just design & print...