

*He is not here:  
for he is Risen,  
as he said.*

--MATTHEW 28:6

## **Pastor's Study – “Thy kingdom come”**

<sup>9</sup>Pray then like this: “Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, <sup>10</sup> Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.” (Matthew 6:9 -10 RSV)

The breadth and depth of the Lord’s Prayer allows us to find within its words, new blessing and guidance each and every time we come to it and allow it to speak into our hearts. My Lent studies this year have focussed solely on the 3-word phrase at the centre of the introduction to the prayer: “Thy Kingdom come”. Consider how these words alone give us a prayer that is prophetic, encouraging, comforting, trusting and energising.

Above all, and in leading us on our way to our Easter celebrations, these words motivate us to take the Gospel of eternal salvation in Christ Jesus deeper into our own hearts: “For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness into the kingdom of the Son He loves.” (Col 1:13) Surely that must drive us also to reach out to the lost with renewed urgency.

Praying these words should remind us of our role in bringing God’s Kingdom to its completeness. Jesus said: “The kingdom of God is near, repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:15). At Easter, God’s kingdom comes especially close, within touching distance. Any and all can look to Jesus sacrifice of himself on that Cross of Calvary – his taking the penalty for all sin – and can turn from the ways of this world, accepting the gracious gift of forgiveness that has been bought for them. And then, on Easter Sunday morning, we will rise with Him to share in His glory; Lord, let your Kingdom come!

On hearing from their father of great holiday plans, the excited family exclaimed: “Florida, here we come!” We should be far more excited with anticipation when we say: “Thy kingdom come”. But now our anticipation is not just for our own blessed eternity, but we are part of a kingdom journey that will bring on-board all of those whom God will call to himself, through our witness and outreach.

With every blessing to us all this special Easter time,

*Pastor Robbie*

## Pastor's Diary: Easter 2019

Can it be that Easter is upon us already? This most special and moving time each year, when we contemplate afresh Jesus' journey to Jerusalem: to the Cross, to the tomb, to His glorious resurrection and His ascension to the glory of Heaven. We know this journey well, it is the way of salvation, the way our Lord defeated sin and death for all who will turn from the ways of the Christ-rejecting world and follow Jesus on the way that leads to life.

We will all be blessed as we experience Easter together in Hope this year. Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday will all be special for us. But this is such an important time of opportunity also. Let us all overcome timidity and invite family, friends and neighbours to join with us in Hope, meet with God's people and be blessed, and hear the Good News of everlasting life. I have the privilege of preaching at the Good Friday open-air service in Bridgend and ask for those who are able to support this outreach event, come and be part of a warm, welcoming Christian presence in the town.

Thinking to the future. we are exploring the possibilities of Hope being involved in providing a Food Bank outlet, with a linked Café Church for one or two days in the week. It is early days, but this could be an excellent opportunity to meet a real need in our community and open our doors to many more people in Bridgend. If you would like to be involved in this project, please let me know so that we can put the team together if and when this comes to fruition.

I was grateful for the support and blessing of the Church Meeting for my joining the team of Visiting Chaplains at the Princess of Wales' hospital. Another opportunity to meet a genuine need in our community and be a presence for Jesus where there is anguish and pain.

A final word on our Buildings Committee. We have started our work and some of the urgent matters are already being attended to. There are a number of issues, but we praise God for a sound, well-built church that will stand proudly for very many years to come. It just needs a bit of love and attention for now.

All blessings as always, *Pastor Robbie*

## ***HIS NAME TO ME***

Lord, how precious is your name to me,  
Who broke my chains and set me free.  
The sweetest kiss I've ever known  
When you descended from your throne.

My stony heart you turned to flesh  
Your life bestowed your righteousness;  
Your grace, your mercy and your love abounds,  
In your presence I stand on holy ground.

Your salvation, Lord, so replete  
That lets me sit at Jesus' feet.  
Your closeness, Lord, my heart does seek,  
With you only do I feel complete.

Your sweet tenderness gives me rest,  
Your sacrifice has made me blest,  
Your spirit, Lord, my thirst does quench.  
Your Comforter was Heaven sent.

With thanksgiving, I call to you  
Who gave your life and made me new,  
I look up to your cross and always sing,  
Praise my Lord who has dealt with sin.

Thanks to Wendy Carver who wrote this poem and shares her faith.



## **PERMISSION, PLEASE, TO DO NOTHING**

A little girl with pretty freckles and National Health glasses just loved books and she loved writing stories. She wrote her first 'book' at the age of six, a story about a rabbit called 'Rabbit'. When she was just eleven she wrote a novel about seven cursed diamonds and the people who owned them. One day the train that she was travelling on from Manchester to London, was delayed. As she stared out through the window – not thinking of anything in particular an idea suddenly formed – it was a great idea!!

The year was 1990: the little girl was now 25 years old. Over the next five years she began to plan out a series of seven books. She wrote in cafes, anywhere - mostly in long hand and amassed a mountain of notes many of which were on scraps of paper. In 1993 she arrived in Edinburgh with three chapters of her book, 'Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone'. Her name? – J.K. Rowling – the rest is history!!!

Who would have thought that those moments of seeming 'nothingness' – idly gazing through a carriage window would result in the Harry Potter books now published in 80 languages. Over 500 million copies have been sold worldwide. J.K Rowling received the OBE for her services to children's literature. Subconsciously she had given her imagination permission to 'wander off' - just look where it took her. When did you last give yourself permission to switch off? We might think that we are doing nothing but the brain is busy at work



We might think all this talk of doing nothing is plain idleness. Not so, as clinical psychologist Dr Jessamy Hibberd said. "We're not machines. Rest and recovery are essential parts of a healthy life. Our minds need space and time to order our thoughts". It is when we are relaxed that we know ourselves best.

Technology is an arch enemy of 'nothingness'. Here's an alarming fact. The average person checks their mobile phone around 150 times a day – and touches it 2,500 times? That is crazy...

We need those time gaps, deep, meaningful thoughts born out of the still moments tell us and others who we truly are.

***Rhonwen Miles***

## **LOOK AROUND AND SEE HOW PEOPLE LIVE THEIR LIVES....**

Be amazed - for far too many live their lives from a 'balcony' perspective. They look down onto the road - they watch people pass by. They themselves don't go anywhere, they are content just to be spectators.



You see, the road is the place of journeying; a place where we are affected by the movements and circumstances of other people. We are inevitably, a part of their journey too....

Jesus walked many roads whilst here on earth but few were as dangerous as the road leading from **Jericho to Jerusalem**. It was hot, narrow and steep – a breeding ground for thieves and robbers. Jesus tells the story of a man who had been robbed, left for dead and helped by a surprising source, a foreigner simply and aptly named 'The Good Samaritan'.

I am sure that we too have inwardly walked that 'Jericho Road' If not physically then mentally and spiritually. Do you remember that time when you felt abandoned, even left for dead? As followers of Jesus we may be forgiven for thinking we would have a 'cosy ride'. At times we found Jesus to be walking at a faster pace than we thought; the direction He took us to led us into more trouble than we had bargained for.

We rejoin the disciples who have climbed the last 3000 feet and are standing on the summit of the Mount of Olives. They gaze in awe at the splendour of the Holy City. With not a little trepidation they know that hostility towards Jesus waits within its walls. They had no way of knowing the extremes of that hostility for they would soon be stripped of everything – we could say, "Left for dead"...by the 'robbers and thieves' who served in The Temple, the Sanhedrin, the laws of their making and The Roman Rule carried out by Pilate, the Governor. Things looked grim. Who will save them? ...

Where, oh where is the Good Samaritan who heals and provides ...

R.M.

**Father**, soon will come the best day of all time, for on Easter Day we find that Jesus, who was dead, is alive again . How glad we are for the light and hope you have given us. There is nothing that can come between us and your love, not even our sins, because, in Jesus, you won a great victory forgiving everyone who is sorry for their misdeeds. We want to live as He lived and listen to what He has to say to us.



We shall greet the risen Jesus whose love was not a dead end leading only to a cross but a way of life. His suffering was not pointless for now we can see the Father's purpose.

Often we have to wait a long time for the things we would like to happen but there are some things that we have to learn slowly. We remember how patient Jesus was when He explained things to His disciples.

Father, forgive those who are slow in believing and have difficulty in understanding the mystery of Easter. We are so used to the powerful mysteries of our age. These things the scientists can explain to us. It is not easy to understand how You came to live on earth and rose from the dead – but that is what you did and we know that Jesus is with us today.

Accept what faith we have, O Father, and strengthen it day by day. Please help us when that faith falls short.

Jesus showed Himself to men and women who thought He was shut up in a tomb. We know that He is not in that tomb nor shut in the past but He is with us now and always will be, to the end of time.

Help us to continue His wonderful work, Father, so that Jesus did not die in vain. Take our hands and use them for your purpose; use our voices to speak out against injustice; make our eyes notice pain and poverty. Let us always remember our Lord as He was – but always worship Him as He is now. Amen.

Thank you, Eva. We are blessed by your prayer.





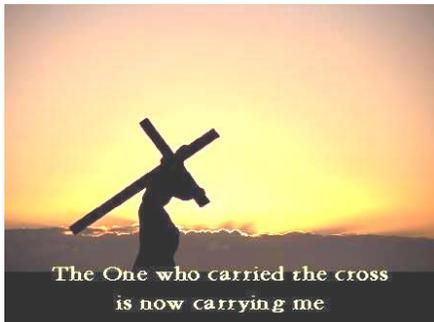
Once inside Jerusalem, Peter's trepidation grew – with just cause. The narrow streets were teeming with Passover pilgrims. Each disciple would be asked to travel uphill on the road to Calvary. We soon find who walked all the way for each would walk it at his own pace. All four gospel writers take us with agonising detail - assuring us of glorious victory...if we are brave enough to follow.

This thoroughfare road of Jerusalem is a road of contrasts. There had been a Triumphal entry, crowds had hailed Jesus, "Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord", soon to change to shouts of "Crucify".

There is an intimate Passover meal where bread and wine are sanctified; a road leading across the Kidron Valley to a garden where prayer between Son and Father are replaced by the clashing of Roman swords and the stench of betrayal; finally the road leads directly up the hill to Calvary where a Roman cross, erected to disgrace and ridicule bears the Prince of Glory who was looking out at the world – victorious over death. This was the loneliest road in History and Jesus had walked it alone in agony of spirit to enable us "to see God".

Of the twelve only John had walked its length, he was at the foot of the cross, his presence making Peter's absence all the more glaring, the others were nowhere to be seen. John takes Mary

to his home. Jesus is in dire need of a Good Samaritan! – and here they come, relatively unknown nevertheless they are courageous followers of Jesus Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. They lay his body lovingly in the tomb just a stone's throw away. Surely this was the end of the road. No, the road doesn't end at Calvary. Jesus took to the road on the third day, alive and meaning business. Jesus hasn't given up on them – nor does He give up on us. "Follow me – Peter, feed my sheep"... They have to walk another road with Him but how? He says He won't be with them for long.



## Month of Sundays...

	7 <sup>th</sup> April	14 <sup>th</sup> April
DUTY DEACONS	Mrs. Maureen Turner	
	Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Robbie Hall
	Pam & Mike Weldon (Golden Wedding Anniversary)	Hilary & Don Thomas
 AM PM	Chris Burn & Eva Evans	Enid James & Pat Fairfax
	Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	Margaret Francis & Rhyl Coleman
	<b>COMMUNION PM</b> Prep: Pam Jones & Nyfain Pugh	

## Ladies Guild

8<sup>th</sup> Easter Celebration

**Maundy Thursday** : 7.30 Communion Service

**Good Friday:**

10.30 Communion Service

11.45 Open Air Service at Cenotaph (led by our Pastor)

**No Prayer Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April**

	21 <sup>st</sup> April	28 <sup>th</sup> April
DUTY DEACONS	Philip Hogg	
	Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Brian Evans
	Mrs. Marion Roberts	Mrs. Eva Evans
	Lynne Chamberlain & Elaine Jenkins	Yvonne Matthews & Margaret Francis
	Pam Jones & Judith Jakob	Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh
	<b>COMMUNION AM</b> Prep: Alison Evans & Pam Jones	

### **Tuesday@Hope**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Pastor Robbie Hall
- 9<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Paula Cundell
- 16<sup>th</sup> Mr. Jim Cole MAF
- 23<sup>rd</sup> No Meeting
- 30<sup>th</sup> Mr. Keith Johnson

## **FAMILY NEWS**

### Happy Birthday to **BMS Birthday Scheme Members - April**

4<sup>th</sup> Madeleine Drew

21<sup>st</sup> Tom Chamberlain

7<sup>th</sup> Conor Davies

15<sup>th</sup> Brinley George

18<sup>th</sup> Paul Evans

As I prepare this month's 'news' I am deeply conscious that Mr. Derrick King, is very poorly. He has amazed us all with his intrepid courage over the past five years. Battling cancer with such determination he has witnessed to his faith in His (and our) Lord. His road has been harrowing but it has been lightened by his family and a host of friends from all walks of life who have walked beside him. His love of sport and his ability to inspire so many has been his encouragement. He has shared his courage with a large measure of humour at the time they needed it most. Today we pray, tomorrow we give thanks.

Rev Mike Weldon's March road has been strewn with acute pain, endured until the diagnosis was finally made. Mike, you surely know how much you are being prayed for – not the least being the prayers of us all here at Hope. May the joy of Easter bring healing on its wings as you recover your strength. We give back in prayer and love a measure of what you have so generously given us. Our love is for you too, Pam. We pray that Mike will be well on the road to recovery by April 7<sup>th</sup> for there will be great celebrations as you celebrate your Golden Wedding Anniversary. Long years of service shared and God's blessings realised are yours. We add our love and support to the many kind wishes most certainly coming your way.

These prayers extend to all of our members and friends who are a part of Hope. Unfortunately pain, and severe illness bring frustrations and restrictions, both are unwelcomed and constant companions. We feel the helplessness as we cannot bring you physical relief – therein lies our frustration – but our prayers remain fervent.

The list is a long one but I will concentrate on those who cannot attend the services. I am well aware that there are many who come but whose health is an equal cause for prayer. They are Edward and Anita, Hilary and Don, Brenda Cadogan and her sister Olwen Martin, Iris Best, Clifford Stratford Davies, Marian Roberts looking after Ken, Pearl Phillips, Cynthia and Cyril Jenkins, Lynwen Bye, Shirley David and Iris Davies.

How we trust that as the Summer lightens our spirits so will you all feel it's warmth reflecting the presence of your Loving Heavenly Father in your homes. Many read this magazine which prompts me to mention how encouraged we have been by their loyalty. I send special prayers to Mrs Esme Daniels and to Vic Greenwood, both of whom are unwell at present.

Mrs Margaret Morton writes...

"I would like to thank the members of Hope who so kindly sent such lovely cards for my 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday". Every blessing, Margaret.

We send our best wishes and our love to Lynne and Phil Chamberlain who are about to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary and thank them for all that they do.

We trust that all our members are aware of prayers being said throughout the year – most especially at Eastertime.

There are many others, be they family or friends, who keep a steady contact with us at Hope; you too are in our thoughts.

We would now embrace an even wider family, we include our link missionaries, especially Jane Edwards, who is based in Beira, Mozambique. We cannot imagine the scenes of devastation she must be witnessing and the loss of many friends and colleagues. Jane is safe in Maputo and we thank God for her commitment to the needs of justice, one that she is addressing so well.

Pam and I send you our Easter greetings and thank you for all the help we are given. We are so grateful to those who send articles in, you all know who you are! Please continue to support the magazine. If a piece of prose or a poem touches your heart, please share it with us. Happy Easter one and all.

April is such a busy month and to add to our Church diary will be the dates of our Annual Deacons' Meeting on the **3<sup>rd</sup> April** and Annual Church Meeting on the **11<sup>th</sup> April**. These have a special importance as they include an election of deacons. Please make every effort to attend.

**R.M.**

## **WHAT'S OCCURRING!**

**Readers:** April 7<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Rhyl Coleman  
14<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Eva Evans  
21<sup>st</sup> Mrs. Helen Hall

## **SUNDAY'SCOOL NEWS**

We have been preparing for Mothering Sunday, the children have been making cards and gifts for their Mums. Over the next 3 Sundays we will be telling the children the Easter Story. It is good to see the children excel in their chosen sport and Conor and Ethan are doing really well at Karate (don't mess with them!) Please continue to pray for the work of Sunday'scool.

*Pam Jones*

## **MISSION HOME AND AWAY - Hilda's Walk**

A reminder that the walk will take place on Easter Saturday, 20th April 2019 at 10.30 a.m prompt from Rest Bay Car Park, Porthcawl. **(Please note change of time is half an hour later than previous years).** Jane Tyre (Hilda's daughter) has kindly booked the Atlantic Hotel, Porthcawl for refreshments. We will then walk back to Rest Bay Car Park. Please if you are able, come along and enjoy fellowship and the refreshing sea air! If you are unable to walk the distance, please join us at the Atlantic Hotel. Friends, family and dogs are very welcome to join us. If you are unable to come, please sponsor a walker or make a donation. All funds raised will be shared between United Christian Broadcasters (who supply the church with copies of the Word for the Day Bible reading notes free of charge) and the Leprosy Mission. Sponsorship forms are in the porch if you want one, or contact Neil or Mary. God bless.

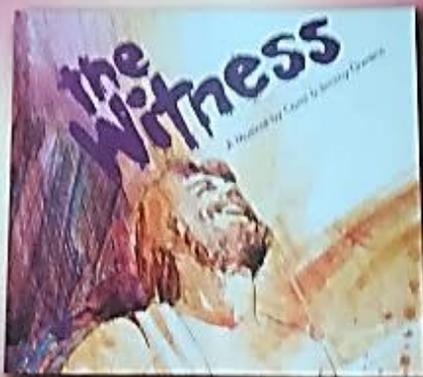
*Neil Jenkins*

## **April 13<sup>th</sup> Duckpool Road Baptist Church Newport.**

We are delighted that the Rev. Phylip Rees will be inducted into the above pastorate. He has done sterling work during his years of ministry at Tredegarville Baptist Church, Cardiff. We are so proud of both Elaine and Phylip for they have a very special place in the history of Hope. Phylip made the Cross and the Communion Table, a testimony of his faith and a legacy of his love of our Church. We pray for Pastor and people of Duckpool Road as they become one family witnessing together.

# Celebrate Easter at Highfields Church with Cambrensis

Saturday April 13th at 7.30pm



Cambrensis Choir & instrumentalists perform  
the Jimmy & Carol Owens musical, *The Witness*:  
the life, death and resurrection of Jesus  
as seen through the eyes of Peter.

**Highfields Church, Monthermer Rd, Cardiff, CF24 4QW**

**Tickets £5 (under 12's free)**  
*available from choir members*  
*or at [www.cambrensis.org.uk](http://www.cambrensis.org.uk)*

## SPELL CHECK

I have a spelling chequer  
It came with my pea sea  
It plainly marques four my revue  
Miss steaks eye cannot sea.

Eye strike a quay and right a word  
And weight for it to say  
Weather eye am wrong oar write  
It shows me straight away.

As soon as a mist ache is maid  
It nose bee fore two late  
And eye can put the error rite  
It's rarely, rarely grate.

I've run this poem threw it  
I'm shore ever pleased to no,  
It's letter perfect in its weigh  
My chequer tolled me sew.      (Sauce unknown)

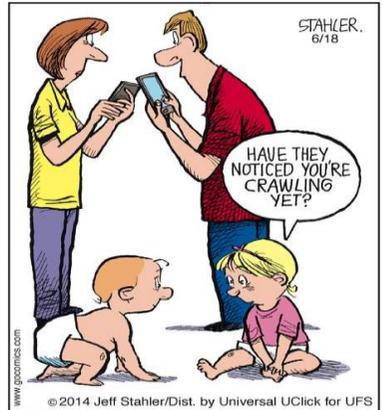
Thank you Chris – your humour is always infectious.

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A little boy announced, "God got it just right."  
His dad asked, "What makes you say that?"  
"He knew what He was doing that's for sure. ..."  
"Earth is 8,000 miles in diameter;

If it were 800 miles **larger** the weight of our atmosphere would double, producing much more water and the whole world would probably be flooded. If the earth were 800 miles **smaller**, most of the atmosphere would escape into space.

Without this warm blanket of precision and Love the earth would become too cold for life to be able to exist. This is home, beautiful in detail and purpose – and we are responsible for it! A task that is more onerous than ever.



## ***“Cross in the Mountains”***

By Caspar David Friedrich.

An artist’s eye can be controversial even offensive; it can also unveil hidden depths and bring to focus hidden truths. The latter is what the above painting achieves. Here the artist reveals God in nature’s untamed landscape. It depicts one of the “summit crosses” that have been erected on mountain peaks in the Alps since the 13<sup>th</sup> century.



The cross is placed off centre, a slender naked reed among the densely clad fir trees that flank the mountain top. The body on the cross turns away from the viewer. From the shadows the viewer lifts his eyes to Christ and sees His reflected light – depicted as polished beams. The image not only draws one to the light of Christ but instils a longing to be in the line of His gaze and within the sweep of His outstretched arms.

The trees seem to climb towards the cross with their upturned branches lifted in praise. It is as if the forest recognises the spent body of Jesus on the cross – He who is the Master of heaven and earth.

The delicate tendrils of evergreen ivy climbing up the foot of the cross recall that human frailty – man’s weakness was conquered by Christ. We are made strong through His redeeming Love.

“The God who made the world and everything in it, He who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not (merely) live in shrines made by hands”.  
(Acts 17 v 24.)



## The Emmaus Road.

Here were two men, despondent ... Jesus had been crucified ... laid in Joseph's tomb. They talked and argued out their disbelief. A stranger joins them. With eyes that pierce their very souls He explains the words of prophecy...they urged Him strongly '...Stay with us' ... "When He was at table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it ...then their eyes were opened and they recognised Him".(Luke 24 vs 29-32)



They had reached the moment of **recognition**.

There is always a moment of recognition. God comes ..

Peter had intermittent glimpses of Jesus' glory during the three years of His Lord's ministry. Of Jesus, the greatest example of a Good Samaritan binding wounds and going the extra mile.

The Roman Centurion had his moment – at the foot of Jesus' cross.

Now two men have their moment of recognition. It was through the act of receiving bread and wine that their eyes were opened.

Such is the generosity of Our Lord in that we too are given the same opportunity. We too can receive and say, as did the two men, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us along the way". For we celebrate the breaking of bread and we drink the wine, remembering The Last Supper in the Upper Room.

Be gentle, when you touch bread,  
Let it not lie uncared for, unwanted ....  
Be loving when you drink wine,  
In the spirit of Him who cared,  
Christ often blessed it... (Anon)

Come and see ... share and know the joy of being known of God. **R.M.**



**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:**

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

**WEDNESDAY:**

"Busy Fingers" Group	2 - 4.30	Mrs. Helen Hall	(01656) 224015
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**THURSDAY:**

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

**SUNDAY:**

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

**WHO TO CONTACT AT HOPE**

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<b>TREASURER:</b>	Paul Evans	(01656) 661986
<b>CARETAKER:</b>	Seung Ho & Yun Hee Kang	(01656) 646911
<b>USE OF PREMISES &amp; SAFEGUARDING</b>	Sally George	(01656) 668791
<b>NEWSDESK:</b>	<a href="mailto:mag4hope@yahoo.com">mag4hope@yahoo.com</a>	Rhonwen Miles/ Pam Jones

# HOPE

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## 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](http://www.hopebridgend.co.uk)

Hope English Baptist Church Bridgend

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

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