

February 2019



“I will give them a heart to know me...I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart” (Jeremiah 24 v.7)

Pastor's Study – What kind of love is this?

'Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.' (1 Peter 1:8-9)

There are four Biblical Greek words that translate to the English word love, and each has a quite different meaning: sexual love, family love, and love for close friends. But by far the most frequently used word for love in the New Testament is *Agapé*. This love is not a sentimental feeling or abstract idea, but the deliberate, wilful act of sacrificial love that God bestows on all people, without condition or favour. God loves the unlovable not because we deserve to be loved but because it is His nature to love and He is always true to his nature. This is the love that drove Jesus to the Cross to bear our sin, and has made available to all the loving offer that Peter describes as: *'the salvation of our souls.'*

The Apostle Peter also uses *Agapé* to describe our right response to God's loving offer of salvation. Our love is similarly deliberate and wilful, expressed by our faith. Despite never seeing Jesus physically, our belief allows us to know him and to share His presence spiritually, as we learn to trust our lives to him and follow him in willing obedience. *'If you love me, keep my commands.'* (John 14:15).

To know and to share love in our everyday lives, is a wonderful blessing. Sometimes a little effort is required for loving relationships to endure: sometimes forgiveness or humility and the acceptance of people just as they are. In this there is great joy and blessing. But the *'inexpressible and glorious joy'* that is ours when we respond to the *Agapé* love of God is at another level. Our prayers and our songs of worship will sometimes move us greatly, but there is always a greater depth to our praise than can be said or sung.

This is so because the joy of salvation is unbound by time and space. Our salvation is eternal, it is perceptible in our walk with Christ here and now, but as the Scripture so often tells us, His love endures for ever. (Psalm 107:1)

Every blessing, *Pastor Robbie*

Pastor's Diary: January - February 2019!

All of our Christmas services were a great blessing for our church family and I know were appreciated by the many visitors amongst us. I would not change any of the services for next year, but would want to build on the opportunity we had with a church stall at the Christmas market in the town. We could do more in the weeks leading up to Christmas to share greetings with many folk, inviting them to join us at Hope for the various events. Big thanks to all who worked so hard to make Christmas such a success!

The Churches Together Nativity play is a most worthwhile effort also, an important opportunity to share with many schoolchildren in the area something of Jesus' story. It is a sad fact of our time that so many children up and down our land never experience this. I have a plan to follow-up with an "Easter Experience", again focussed on the schools; more to follow on this.

A buoyant Christmas is often followed by 'the January blues' with the winter weather and long, dark nights dampening enthusiasm. None of that this year! What a great start we had with our illustrious six braving the cold water in the baptistry. Again I would not want to change anything about the process; baptism classes, testimonies and so on, but perhaps we could do more to bring visitors to join us for such important occasions (and Gospel opportunities) as this. Let us be in prayer for more to come forward for baptism this year.

It is great to be a part of the many mid-week activities going on in Hope. The craft group is our latest initiative, and there is room for more if anyone has an idea. Our aim should always include bringing others into the church who would not normally come into the building.

With our priorities rightly focussed on spiritual development and outreach, there is a tendency to overlook our responsibilities for this great building. We really must establish a programme of works, repairs and redecoration to keep on top of this, before things degenerate significantly. Some work to be done here.

All blessings as always, *Pastor Robbie*



God's message of love
for you and me!

Ten ways to love

1. Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)
3. Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering. (Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)

I read an article in The National Geographic over Christmas. (December issue 2018) titled The Global Peril of Inequality. It's subtitle read , "Life on earth is at risk from climate change, nuclear attack, dwindling resources – and the chasm between rich and poor". The measure and relevance today of the appropriateness of the word 'chasm' is both scary and seemingly insurmountable. It is asking us to put our foot on a very long bridge which is wobbling precariously - life-defying. We are standing right on the edge!

The article reminds us that until recently the poorer countries posed no great threat to the more affluent ones. Not so today because the world seems a lot smaller bringing into sharp focus the consequences of globalization. The example used was – "In 1992 an Argentine airliner picked up cholera infected food in Peru and flew non- stop to Los Angeles; some passengers then flew on to Seattle, Alaska, and Tokyo, resulting in a trail of cholera cases from Japan to California. Also, alongside the challenges of health those of terrorism, born out of anger and greed raised their ugly heads. Add to these the threats of nuclear attack, climate changes, over population and source depletion and the picture is pretty bleak. The big question is "Is it possible for everyone to achieve their dream. Is it possible for every man to have enough for his needs and to live in harmony?"

Today political frenzy enters the world arena – leaving us all vulnerable. We can but turn to the Word of God which has story after story of reconciliation. It is a light that shines like a beacon, exposing rights and wrongs. Throughout the Bible God's Love is Supreme – His Master Plan is in force – and it works! – the following doesn't!



"What I really need is a translation that won't leave me feeling guilty, convicted, or in need of making some kind of decision."



February 14th 2019. There will be hearts in their thousands on everything.
Why, I ask, do we choose to symbolize love with our hearts?

Biologically our heart and our emotions belong to two different parts of the body. Surely this pumping masterpiece – a machine, has a physical existence all of its own: we can see it at work, whilst our emotions are invisible. Yet we know for certain that our emotions can influence our heart rate. Our hearts are controlled by stress, tension and extreme emotion. Our hearts beat faster in moments of panic, fear and love. The condition is called Takotsubo cardiomyopathy - now you can't get more romantic than that ... unless you use the better known term 'broken heart syndrome'.

Our heart either slows down or increases its heartbeat when we are emotionally affected, The love feelings in our brain causes an increase of adrenalin. Hence the truth of the much maligned theory that our internal thought processes, heart, brain and nervous system are closely connected; each are an integral part of the whole.

Are we, at last realizing that negativity is bad for us whilst positivity is good and actually reduces the risk of a heart attack by half!

Whilst technology has led to phenomenal advances in medicine there is now a huge shift in reclaiming medicine's more spiritual roots.



To understand the immense importance of the heart we must turn to words that Jesus used time and again. Knowing His Father and our need of Him Jesus tells us, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and all your strength”. The heart is first in line, it is the gateway to our whole being. Its emotions make us aware of who we are, how we feel, what decisions we make. Soft hearted, hard hearted, cold hearted, warm hearted - each is a term we are well acquainted with. For surely Jesus, knowing our thoughts, will ask us what He asked the teachers of the law 2000 years ago, (Matthew 9v4) “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts”?

God’s ways are so much simpler than the complexities we weave.

We see life from three angles. Helping, fixing and serving.

The helper will see weakness, and address it with his expertise.

The fixer will see brokenness and seek a way of repairing the damage.

Both can merely be the work of an ego that is rewarded because the helper and fixer knew better than us – his knowledge came to the fore.

Service, however, is the work of the soul and comes straight from a compassionate and loving heart.

Can you recall the doctor who sat and really listened to you. One doctor said that, “Serving patients may involve spending time with them – listening to what is causing that elemental fear which could be hindering complete healing”. Speaking from busy surgeries, tight operational listings they have no time to hear, let alone answer such questions as “Why me”? “Is there a God”? All too often the answers are evasive and the healing they crave seems elusive. We all ask questions, we all need healing!

But there is always healing! It comes when we find that one person who will listen, who will accept us and teach us to accept ourselves. The healing process has begun as we become aware that we are loved unconditionally. Consequently, strength, both physical and mental rise to the surface for we are in a good and Godly place, a place where love blossoms alongside self worth and quiet confidence. That is what God wants for each of us wholeness, peace and true healing.



FAMILY NEWS

Happy Birthday to **BMS Birthday Scheme Members - February**

1st Bethan Budd

3rd Phil Chamberlain

7th Delyth Ware

8th Keith Johnson

9th Poppy Felts

16th Vaughan Richards

18th Julie Brown

It seems ages (Nov 10th) since I last put pen to paper and much has happened. Christmas has come and gone and with one voice I hear of the many blessings received in each of the services. I speak on behalf of you all when I thank all who prepared and gave of their time and energy to make Christmas at Hope such a true Family, worshipping a Saviour who has given us so much this past year.

If the Nativity presentation at Tabernacle brought joy then the New Year brought delight and commitment, faith and dedication to our fellowship as six were baptized on January 6th.



What an encouragement it was to us all. As each gave their testimony we were filled with a feeling of being one family, ready to share, “...to love one another as I have loved you”. Three, - Judith Jakob, Madeliene Drew and Dinlle John Francis were professing a lifetime of faith and assurance of the hand of God present through all of life’s trials, whilst three young people, standing on the threshold of their careers, energized by the vitality of the dreams of youth were professing their utter dependence upon their

Lord and Saviour. We were justifiably proud to stand by them all, promising them our love and support at all times. But allow me to acknowledge the pride and joy of our Sunday's cool staff as they watched and heard Joni, Clyde and Hee Chan give thanks to all they had received from Hope Sunday's cool over the years. The diligence, loyalty and commitment of our teachers shone like beacons. Be proud, each one of you, it's allowed on such occasions. Hope has pride in all that you give and do for our children. Your work is ongoing for God calls the young people who have learnt of Him at your feet.

If I was hearing happy news from back home I was (in Los Angeles) celebrating my own as we welcomed, with such joy the birth of Lula Carys, a sister for a very proud 5 year old brother. Prayers abound for Zephyr and Lula in turn. Good news! - I was also hearing of not so good news too. Colds and infections were rampant as cold winds and rain dampened the most hardy. The virus is still hovering stubbornly on the fringes.

We are so grateful that surgery is complete for Cyril Jenkins who has been in such pain with his hand. He is well on the road to recovery. We pray for renewed physical strength for Cynthia and Cyril – their trust and faith in their Lord is their inner strength. We thank God for their prayer ministry.

We were saddened by the passing of Mrs Isabel Coleman. Many may remember her several years ago when she attended Hope and Ladies Guild. Her husband was baptized in Hope. Isabel has not enjoyed good for many years but her faith was buoyant. We send our sympathy and love to her son Huw and the family.

We want to wish Mrs. Clarice Fewkes a very Happy Birthday as she celebrated her 80th on the 21st January. Her health over several years has called for much endurance as pain has, and still is, a constant companion. We cannot but look back and thank our Lord for all that she and Geoff has given us at Hope. Geoff kept Hope strong as a Moderator as we looked for a Minister. We keep you in prayer, Clarice.

We were sorry to hear that Mr. Ken Roberts, husband of Mrs. Marion Roberts has been in hospital for several weeks. His strength has been depleted over the past few years but his determination to do as much as possible remains. We pray for you Ken and Marion, too.

Month of Sundays...

	3 rd February	10 th February
DUTY DEACONS	Philip Hogg	
	Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Robbie Hall
		Rev. Stephen Pare
	Ladies Guild	Mrs. Jean Langdon in Memory of Cyril
 AM PM	Mary Johnson & Rosemary Rowe	Joan de Vera & Delyth Ware
	Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	Margaret Francis & Rhyl Coleman
	COMMUNION PM Prep: Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	

Ladies Guild

11th

55th Anniversary Lunch

	17 th February	24 th February
DUTY DEACONS	Philip Hogg	
	Rev. Robbie Hall	Visit of Jane Edwards From Mozambique
		Rev. Robbie Hall
	Mrs. Iris Best	Mrs. Christine Burn
	Chris Burn & Eva Evans	Enid James & Pat Fairfax
	Pam Jones & Judith Jakob	Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh
	COMMUNION AM Prep: Rosalyn Howells & Val Jenkins	

Tuesday@Hope

- 5th Pastor Keith Johnson
- 12th Pastor Mark Thomas
- 19th Mrs. Christine Judd
- 26th Pastor Kristian Diamond

WHAT'S OCCURRING!

Deacons' Meeting on 6th February
Church Meeting 21st February

SUNDAY'SCOOL NEWS

Thank you all for your prayers and support when we shared our nativity presentation with the Church on 16th December. It was with great sadness and regret that we have said goodbye to Delyth Ware, who has taught the children in her class with dedication, having been in Sunday'scool for more than 7 years. We thank Mel for agreeing to take her place. We are now looking forward to the year ahead and our new teaching material. As ever, we would ask that you remember the work of Sunday'scool in your prayers

Pam Jones

BMS

Jane Edwards - serving with BMS in Mozambique - is to visit Hope during the morning service on Sunday, 24 February 2019. This is to be an all-age service. Please bring lunch along to church, so that we can share a time of fellowship with Jane after the service. This is the first time we'll get to meet Jane, and we're looking forward to getting to know her better. Every blessing,

Hannelie

LEPROSY MISSION

Yes, we are still supporting and collecting donations for Leprosy Mission. For the next few months the British government will match all donations pound for pound so now will be a good time to send money to them. You can donate directly or I will be more than happy to send on your behalf. Trevor Grant, the regional representative for Leprosy Mission will again be speaking at [Tuesday@Hope](#) soon and everyone will be very welcome to come and listen to him.

Watch this space!!! Thank you in advance

Mary J.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2018

These are the final figures and destinations for this year's campaign.

Liberia	8,212
Romania	5,614
Belarus	<u>2,978</u>
Total	16,804

Once again, thank you to everyone who donated boxes, fillers and money. The monetary donations were used to buy extra fillers, to buy 4

online Shoeboxes which will be sent to Moldova and 4 Greatest Journeys. This is a 12 week Bible study which children are invited to attend

Lynne Chamberlain

THE BIBLE SOCIETY

We wish to thank everyone for their support of the Coffee and Cake morning, which took place in our home. The final total raised was £740 (plus a few extra calories for those of us who partook of the cakes) and this has been sent to the Bible Society.

Rosalyn & Philip Hogg

Editorial: Please convey our congratulations to Abigail on the birth of her daughter. A niece to be proud of and loved.

HELEN'S CRAFT SESSION is on the road!

8 intrepid crafters met last Wednesday the 16th January for the 1st time. It is a great opportunity as we are going to knit for the needs of our Premature Baby Unit at the hospital and also for the Shoebox Appeal. We learned a lot from each other in just 2 hours. (Not mentioning any names but two of us are really into our knitting after a break of many years but like riding a bike it soon comes back!) Please come and join us on a Wednesday afternoon at 2pm. Helen will teach you to quilt beautifully and other talents in craft have surprised us – see front cover!

A TESTAMENT OF FAITH AND A SURPRISE TO US ALL

Let me explain our front cover and why the quotation is so apt .

At the above meeting, Adrienne Haines brought 3 books of the craft which is becoming more and more popular, colouring books for adults. The books are therapy and proven to relax and heal and Adrienne is proof that they helped her when she was in hospital. The book that she used was called “Colouring Books for the Soul – Sacred Nature”. Adrienne’s work is beautiful in all the 3 books. We are thrilled to see the visible improvement in Adrienne’s health and thank God for her loving, generous heart

WHAT’S OCCURRING?

An ever increasing awareness that it is not “just about us” but a part we are called to play within the community of Bridgend. Our Pastor is getting to know the varying aspects of Bridgend Town, seeking ways to witness and issuing invitations to come to Hope. What’s occurring! – we are praying for our community and possibilities of witness

TWO FIRSTS FROM THE BMS FOR 'HOPE'

Privileges to serve world wide crowd into BMS offices at Didcot and they seek partners to shoulder the immense challenges facing our missionaries out on the field. As Lucy and Mac have finished their work for BMS we have been given the immense responsibility to partner, pray and support **ANDREA AND MARK HOTCHKIN.**



They are based in N'Djamena the capital of Chad (2010). Both are highly skilled surgeons: Mark is a specialist in emergency medicine and Andrea in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Our concern deepens as we learn that they have chosen to go to 'The Wild North'. Leaving the relative safety of urbanized N'Djamena they go to Bardai, a kind of mountain fortress to pioneer health care in the middle of the Sahara Desert. BMS writes, " ..4x4's thunder through the rocky dessert and men carry Kalashnikovs – it is probably the roughest place we work. Populated by a tribe of fearsome reputation, the Teda, are fiercely independent, not open to outsiders and will not be dictated to. It takes a special kind of person to gain their respect". Health care here involves treating gunshot wounds and torture burns – to name but two!

In Bardai they live in a two room, mud and stone house with a reed roof, no windows and no running water. They sleep on the floor in sleeping bags zipped up to guard against the scorpions that pay the occasional visit. Under such conditions they perform miracles and save lives. All that is sent to them is used to the glory of God. Hope – in our way travels to Bardai and plays a very real part in Andrea and Mark's work - ...

STOP PRESS. Due to more conflict they are back in N'Djamena learning the language Teda having learnt Arabic. They have been advised not to return to Bardai until the government resolve the disputes and grant permission for a safe return.

Another first. Jane Edwards, who replaces Kathy Russell, will be with us 24th February - Jane will tell us all about the team (see below) in Mozambique.

We look forward to meeting her.



The Darby's are returning to Gulu on the 22nd January, after an 11 week home assignment. They return needing the support of a new Year 2 teacher in the school and a Director. They, too, are assured of our prayers.

The Douglas' Our Sunday'scool, who keep in close contact with the Douglas Family were so pleased to hear that they had enjoyed a family Christmas with Helen's parents visiting them in Techo, a new neighbourhood for them all. Helen writes "on December 2nd we threw open the gates of our courtyard and invited friends and neighbours to join us in western and Nepali carols around the bonfire...I prayed for those listening, looking around there were over 50 people, including approximately 20 neighbours, many of whom we had never met before. It was very special to be singing songs celebrating the birth of Jesus within sight and sound of the local Hindu temple. Jesus Immanuel, God with us – whoever and wherever we are. We at Hope are also with you and always share the joy of faith.

Why didn't someone tell me !!!

Ann went to all the ante-natal classes going. She wrote lots of lists. There was nothing she did not know about giving birth. In the event, she was heavily sedated and missed most of it. There were no classes at all about what to do next! ...

Babies do not talk. They will not tell you what they want. A parent has to listen for noises, be aware of smells, and look when their child's face changes suddenly from happy to upset, if they want to avoid a nasty scene. This stage is repeated at teenage.

What was that noise? Cats fighting, a dog howling, a creak on the stairs? Better go and see - just in case. You can always sleep when your child goes to university.

A baby cannot walk but has elaborate shoes. These are for kicking out of the buggy so that they can be hung from railings by strangers.

Harriet is trying to get Oscar off to sleep by taking him for a little drive. She runs out of petrol just as Oscar nods off. She tries to phone the AA but she doesn't know the code from Catalonia!



We were always well behaved for grandma. She was kind, caring and held a black belt in Karate.

Grandma found that the most time consuming part of online shopping was scrolling down to the year of her birth.

All grandfathers should own a shed.

Sheds were important to primitive man, since they provided much needed shelter from primitive family life. Their rudimentary shed is made from sabre-toothed rabbit pelts, mud pies and sticks.

After a meal of mammoth and roots, men would hide here until all the flints were washed up.

If the shed at the end of the garden does not feel far enough away you can get a second garden, called an allotment. John has a shed on his allotment, nine miles from his home.

He also has an emergency shed in Italy, for when his wife finds this shed.

The explorer Robert Falcon Scott had the most famous shed of all time. Scott's second expedition to the Antarctic was a disaster, but his shed was a triumph.

“ I'm going outside; I may be some time” are inspirational words that men quote to this day, as they unbolt the back door and vanish down the garden path! .



“We women have always believed that conversation keeps the dust from settling on our minds....”

TRUE LOVE

Love can always conquer whatever discord brings
And love can also cover a multitude of things
Don't you under estimate what love can ever do,
For love is God eternal and His love can renew

What is cold and lifeless lost all hope and died,
love can breathe new meaning and give it back new life.

Please don't give up on love when it seems that all is lost,
For there is always hope if we're prepared to pay the cost.

For love is always worth it, no matter how much the price,
For love will be much stronger when we trust in Jesus Christ.

So let God have full reign, let Him live within your heart
Then you will know true love, for this He will impart.

M.S.Lowndes.



Sharing God's Love...

"Love never gives up, never loses faith,
is always hopeful, and endures through
every circumstance."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:7 (NLT)

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:

Craft Group	2- 4.30pm	Mrs. H. Hall	(01656) 224015
-------------	------------------	--------------	----------------

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
CHURCH PASTOR:	Rev. Robbie Hall	07486655189
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...