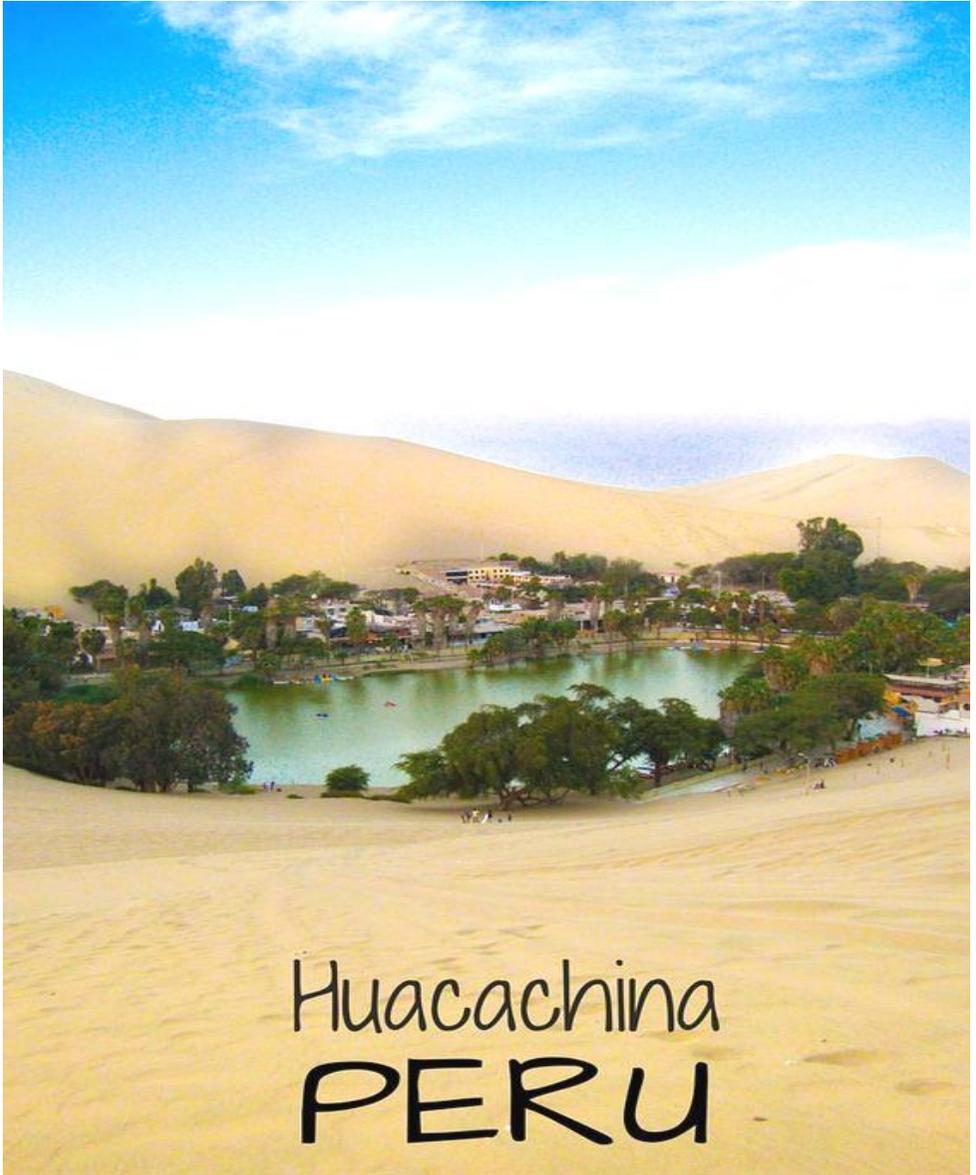


February 2020



# Huacachina PERU

***“The Lord will comfort Zion .... He will make her deserts like Eden ... Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing” Isaiah 51. v1-3.***

## **Pastor's Study – The Ups and Downs of the Antioch Chronicles.**

<sup>44</sup> *On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.* <sup>45</sup> *When the Jews saw the crowds they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.* (Acts 13:44-45)

It is amazing to think of the impact of the preaching of just two men, hundreds of miles from their homes, deep in the vast expanse of Asia Minor, beyond the Taurus Mountains. By the time of their third sabbath teaching about Jesus in the (Pisidian) Antioch synagogue, Paul and Barnabas had almost the whole city in their hearing. Many would come to faith in Christ and *'were filled with joy'* (V52), while many others turned against our intrepid missionaries and had them expelled from the region.

The pattern continued over a vast area, impacting many communities. Outstanding success for the Gospel and new Christian churches established in the most unlikely places. At the same time there was fierce opposition. In a town called Lystra, Paul was stoned and left for dead, only to get up and go back into the City to preach again!

Clearly God had a plan and a purpose for this and all the missionary journeys of Paul. The ground was prepared, word of the converted Pharisee Saul of Tarsus had spread widely and there would have been great anticipation and expectation in the diaspora Jewish communities even before Paul arrived. Why then does this great message of Jesus prove to be so divisive? Why is it not just 'plain sailing'?

The answer is quite simple, and yet unfathomable. It is for the same reason we will also experience acceptance and rejection, blessings and suffering, even times of great joy alongside trials and much grief.

Accepting the Gospel message is a decision of the heart, allowing us to rise with Jesus to everlasting life (see V48). For those whose heart remains stubbornly in the world, the very idea of everlasting glory in God's Heaven is incomprehensible and there is a compulsion to oppose those for whom: *"The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the Glory that will be revealed in us."* (Romans 8:18).

*Pastor Robbie*

## **Pastor's Diary: Into 2020!**

What a lovely Christmas time we had in Hope! It was so encouraging to see many visitors among us, a number of whom came in response to receiving one of the invitation cards that were produced – we shall do that again this year, but even earlier. Let us all plan ahead, invite many and fill the church! It may be the only occasion for many to hear about Jesus.

As expected, these first few months of 2020 will be working around my treatment programme – which seems to be going very well and with not too many side-effects. I am so very grateful for the understanding and support of this wonderful Church community. Our collective prayer is that we can be (pretty much) back to normal by Easter this year. I fully intend to take all of our Easter services.

After some delay on the Foodbank project, we have stirred up the supporting contractors and are putting some 'fizz' back into getting the refurbishment work on the Crèche Room, downstairs loo and the café area, back on-track. We are using the downstairs area for storage of food already, but will not be starting full distribution until the refurbishment work is completed. Prayer target timing for this? I would love to see us in operation by Easter, but May is probably more realistic. For those who expressed a willingness to be involved as Foodbank volunteers, please come and discuss when we might complete the obligatory training in these next months.

Our building committee has had a great deal on its plate these last few months. Dealing with the dry rot has been a huge task. The Diaconate has decided to put a temporary hold on the Schoolroom (outside toilet and kitchen) refurbishment as 'one task too many' for the time being. The time-frames being imposed by the Welsh Assembly for the funding grant were not achievable for us. Please pray that the agreed funding will still be forthcoming in the next financial year.

Last but (definitely) not least we still have a vision for the youth work this year. Watch this space. All blessings as always,

*Pastor Robbie*

## *Today's Blessing*

May God Himself restore to you something you lost and never thought you'd get back again. May He heal a soul wound you thought you'd never get over. May He pour out an abundance of joy and hope that makes you celebrate before the answer comes. And may thriving, rich faith mark your life in every way. You have access to the Most High God. May you live accordingly. Remind your soul what's true about your life. Let your ears hear your mouth declare what's true about Jesus. His truth will set you free.

Be blessed this day! Susie Larson



**“The foundation of the House of the Lord was laid”. Ezra 3 v 9-13**

### **Our place of recognition.**

Fewer and fewer of this generation will be able to say that they have lived in Bridgend all their lives. Work, technology, ease of travel all these things have played their part in our life changing decisions. But there is much to be said for stability. Bridgend is situated in beautiful surroundings. Our church is a fine example of both truths.

Here is a photo of the laying of the foundation stone on July 17<sup>th</sup> 1906. Fuelled by the Great Revival and evening services being held in the Town Hall it was time for a new church building. “A splendid site was secured on the Dunraven Estate with an annual rental agreed at £20”. It is cruciform, Gothic with traceried windows in the front - “the building will be of imposing appearance. The greatest innovation was the cantilevered balcony in the sanctum itself. This will remove the need for supporting pillars. It will cater for a congregation of 692 and the whole site would be built at an estimated cost of £8,800”.



You might say that the photo shows little detail. “All I can see is a sea of faces” – purposely so for this article. What you see are Faces of Faith, ordinary people who stand as one – confident and courageous, trusting in their Lord who was worthy of the best: this House of Prayer and Worship.

Moving swiftly on we find ourselves standing on that same site. Today the building is calling out for repair work amounting to thousands of pounds. We are applying the same confidence, making decisive and courageous decisions trusting that our Lord will work with us in the same practical way providing generous hearts and skilled labour. Materials and skips are evident as is our resolve and prayers.

We honour the legacy of faith that we have enjoyed and turned to time after time. We look at our church building. It is has been our Place of Recognition, we vow to hand it on to the next generation, housing a living faith – just ordinary people who stand as one. Please come and share the adventure of faith with us.

## ME FIRST!

If there's a month that gives us permission to say, "Me first" – then it's February. (all others are spoken for)

It is especially so this year. Wearing by an abundance of rain, dark evenings, colds and political fevers of all kinds, our one wish is to hibernate.

My windows are saying, "Forget about us" (no problem): the garden is sleeping contentedly, whilst soups and casseroles nudge salads into touch.

What is left to do? You might well ask...

Whilst making room for Christmas presents you will have made decisions. What am I going to throw out? (chuck out is by far the operative word). You may have refined a cupboard or two but what about that list that is in your hand! Depressingly long it is guaranteed to make you overpromise and under deliver. Aim to cut that list by half.

Important issues. = Appointments - hospital/doctors/hair/ dentist.  
Are there any others??? – Petrol for car plus tax etc.

Unrealistic paranoia. To clear every cupboard and drawer including the garage. Decide on the ten books you are going to read before Easter. Understand the intricacies of on-line banking and the amazing world of 'Amazon', e-mails and beyond.

Thank you, February, for making just the one demand – that we look at precisely where and who we are. In all probability you are physically at home - warm and *sufficiently* well fed. (I am on a home devised diet).

Home? In essence defined as 'a place where you are comfortable and feel free, safe and secure". It is an oasis of calm, for it brings to mind the very factors that make for a resting place, a place of sustenance for us weary travellers... hence our unusual cover! – a heart shaped oasis.

An oasis is a fertile spot in the desert, irrigated by natural springs of underground water sources with clusters of date palms, olives, figs and citrus fruits as well as the essential wheat and corn ie essentials for

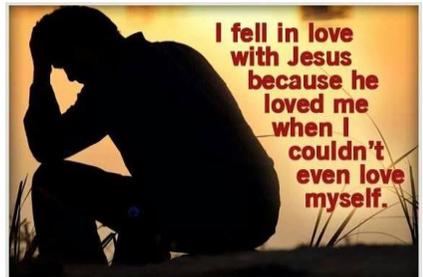
everyone with added delicacies. I was home – totally relaxed and armed with coffee and chocolate.

Over Christmas I had more time to think and was surprised at how many questionnaires were thrown at me via differing publications. The very best was the questionnaire on the back page of Vanity Fair. Devised by the French Author Marcel Proust, hundreds of famous people have been drawn in, providing us with fascinating and humorous truths about themselves. With such high profiles we may have already decided 'what makes them tick' well, we are often wrong - very wrong indeed! Perhaps our answers would surprise many (see page 14!)

It's a fun exercise but questions can prove to be more than thought provoking. They can cause us to face our demons simply because they come out of the blue. I read magazines to relax but here comes Proust with a grilling! Thank goodness there's no one about to hear my answers.

I would never allow myself to be interviewed by Piers Morgan.

How about an interview with God Himself? - about life in general and mine in particular. He is my Friend, my Saviour, the one who has loved me when I haven't been able to love myself. He invites me to sit down and relax. There is pure joy for us all when we look up and see Him, hear His voice, look at His hands – hands that healed and feet that walked our earth. He doesn't have to ask any of us one single question – all is laid bare. Is that a frown that creases His brow?



Fear begins to well up within me. I am expecting a barrier but there is none, for He sees how sorry I am, He knows that I have longed for Him. He knows we all long to be perfect and worthy of His Perfect Love. We don't have to fret. We are already 'perfect' - perfect and fit for the work he has planned for us to do. He believes in us.

An oasis never fails to refresh the traveller. God will see that we are all refreshed as He pours His Spirit into us.

**Rhonwen**

We cannot control the physical beauty of our face but we can control the expression on it.

## Month of Sundays...

	2 <sup>nd</sup> February	9 <sup>th</sup> February
DUTY DEACONS	Philip Hogg	
	Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Robbie Hall
		Mrs. Rhonwen Miles
	Mrs. Rhonwen Miles	Mrs. Jean Langdon in Memory of Cyril
 AM PM	Rosalyn Hogg & Val Jenkins	Mary Johnson & Rosemary Rowe
	Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	Pam Jones & Rosalyn Hogg
	<b>COMMUNION PM</b> Prep: Pam Jones & Nyfain Pugh	

**Readers: February** 2<sup>nd</sup> Linda Wright  
 9<sup>th</sup> Neil Wright  
 16<sup>th</sup> John Ware  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Madeleine Drew

### Deacons' Communion Rota

**February** 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhonwen Miles/Philip Hogg  
 16<sup>th</sup> Mary Johnson/Margaret Francis  
 John Ware/Maureen Turner

	16 <sup>th</sup> February	23 <sup>rd</sup> February
DUTY DEACONS	<b>Philip Hogg</b>	
	Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Robbie Hall
	Mr. David Drew	Rev. Dai Davies
	Mrs. Margaret Francis in memory of her late Father	Mrs. Christine Burn
	Joan Devera & Delyth Ware	Eva Evans & Madeleine Drew
	Margaret Francis & Rhyl Coleman	Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh
	<b>COMMUNION AM</b> Prep: Irene Griffiths	

### ***Tuesday@Hope***

- 4<sup>th</sup> To be arranged
- 11<sup>th</sup> To be arranged
- 18<sup>th</sup> To be arranged
- 25<sup>th</sup> To be arranged

## **FAMILY NEWS**

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

1<sup>st</sup> Bethan Budd

3<sup>rd</sup> Phil Chamberlain

7<sup>th</sup> Delyth Ware

8<sup>th</sup> Keith Johnson

9<sup>th</sup> Poppy Felts

16<sup>th</sup> Vaughan Richards

18<sup>th</sup> Julie Brown

Who hasn't had a cold? The nasty ones have taken weeks to go away. I pray that you are all recovering well as the sunshine has decided to pay us a visit.

It is an answer to many prayers that our Pastor is weathering the storms of his treatment and witnessing to his faith in and out of Velindre. We pray on with God-given confidence for healing. God is ever present - reminding us that there is always more balm to heal than pain to suffer.

(I want to thank the men who have stepped up to the mark and are taking the Sunday services as Robbie's needs dictate on a weekly basis).

We were not able to write of the suddenness of the passing of our friend Mrs Jean Richards in the Christmas issue but we are still so very conscious that we have lost a loyal member who brought her faith 'out into the open' – wherever she went Jesus was seen by all. She made us smile, she showed us how to endure surgery and pain with a peace that comes easily to one who believes in God's ultimate authority. May the family know how much we miss her – you have our love. Thank you for your card to us all at Hope.

I want to reassure Edwina Best and all the family that Hope has been remembering all that your mum gave us over the years. Iris was quietly strong and talented. Her era valued much that has been lost these days – we learn from her sewing skills, her eye for detail and her lightness of touch. We pray that her legacy will stand you in good stead in all that you undertake as you bring her to mind with gratitude to God for her love and care.

Our thoughts and prayers reach out to Richard Girdlestone who has a big mountain to climb. The battle for health is a daily struggle: we pray for you, Richard. Sue also has her own health concerns and prayers for you too come freely.

Rev. Mike Weldon's testimony in our Christmas issue touched the hearts of so many. How we pray that 2020 will bring relief from pain, that its seasons will bring the blessings of Springtime and new life, Summer sunshine to your very soul and that in the mellowness of Autumn you will harvest the fruits of your patience, endurance and regained strength. We long for you to come through our sanctuary door - we will sing with joy and gratitude.

More is asked of Mrs Rhian Henderson as her treatment challenges her in the weeks to come. She has long since turned to her Lord. We will support her and Russell in any way we can. Please hear our prayers, Rhian – God certainly does.

Hilary Thomas has been in considerable pain of late. We pray that the cause will be found and relief given in the very near future. We remember Don too and send our love to you both.

Mrs Clarice Fewkes has been given a diagnosis that was possibly expected but equally as unwelcomed. Arthritis in her spine and hips asks much of her, affecting her mobility. Would that a cure could be found for this disease that affects so many.

Chris Burn would say "Amen" to that. Please assure Quentin that he is in our prayers as he is facing possible heart surgery.

Margaret Morton writes in to "thank her many friends who so kindly sent me such lovely Christmas cards and good wishes. Love to all".

It is hard not to write more as I am aware that so many of you are facing challenges. The best news is that you are being prayed for in our church services - also in the quiet 'room', in secret. Our Father sees and hears our prayers for He knows what we need before we ask him – that is our comfort and strength.

'Through' is one of God's favourite words. Through the waters, through the fire. The best way is always through – with God beside us all the way.

*God's love is stronger and deeper than human emotions – He hears all, sees all; depending not on our words but on our searching, believing and trusting hearts".*



Let your light shine so brightly that others can see their way out of the dark

## **WHAT'S OCCURRING!**

**Deacons' Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> February**

**Church Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> February**

## **SUNDAY'SCOOL NEWS**

We are looking forward to the year ahead with optimism and faith. We are blest with a great group of children who are a pleasure to teach each week. Congratulations to Conor who has been picked to fight for Wales in Kyokushinkai Karate and also to Eloise who is in rehearsals for her performance in Guys & Dolls in the Grand Pavilion. Please continue to pray and support the work of Sunday'scool.

***Pam Jones***

## **THE FRIENDS OF HOPE COTTAGE**

On **Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2pm – 4.30pm** we are holding a Tea Party to celebrate all the building works so far completed and to raise funds to help pay for new laminate flooring to the cottage. Please come and join us if you can for an afternoon of tea, entertainment, quizzes and Bring and Buy. Please see Rhyl Coleman if you would like to help with:

- Making sandwiches or cakes
- Entertainment – musicians, singers, comedians and poets etc.
- Donating items for the Bring & Buy sale

Please come and join us for an afternoon of entertainment and fun and help raise funds towards our target of £1,285. Thanks to an anonymous donation received of £500 we are already well on the way! Tickets priced £5 on sale from Rhyl and Nick & Linda Wright.

***Neil Jenkins***

## **BMS BIIRTHDAY SCHEME**

A very big thank you to everyone who supports the BMS birthday scheme, A total of £700 was sent off for the year 2019. All the money is used to make medical mission possible. This medical work makes such a difference to communities all over the world. A very big thank you from all those you have helped but will never meet. If you would like to be part of the Birthday Scheme, please let me know.

***Irene Griffiths***

(Thank you, Irene, for your diligence in sending the cards on each birthday resulting in the above admirable amount)

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

The total number of boxes checked and shipped from the South Wales warehouse this year was **23,992!** This consisted of about **15,000** boxes from the South East Wales area and a further **9,000** that were brought in from other areas for checking.

The boxes were sent to **Liberia (7,861)**, **Moldova (9,581)** and **Bosnia (6,550)**. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the campaign, in so many ways.

*The OCC Team*

Pivotal to our participation in the above, is the tremendous time that Lynne and Phil Chamberlain donate (they would want to thank all the others who help). Now it is time for Phil to rest up – but not before receiving a new left hip. We cannot imagine him laid up for too long, but you must take things slowly. This is the time to read and plan several holidays. Our prayers go with you. Will you be sharing grapes and goodies with visitors!!

## **THE BIBLE SOCIETY**

Rosalyn and Phil wish to remind us that all Christian books for the Bible Society distribution must be in by the end of February. Bibles and Christian literature – all in good condition, please. No hymnals and all in English. They will be gathered and collected as and when convenient. Many thanks to you both for shouldering this responsibility on our behalf.

## **BETHEL PONTYCLUN.**

Induction service for new members of the South Wales Baptist Association Regional team will take place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February. Further details to follow.

Here are a few more questions for you to deliberate on

What is on your Bucket list?

What is your greatest extravagance?

What do you value most in your friends?

Which talent would you most like to have?

Who are your heroes in real life?

What is your motto?

## Six little Stories with lots of meanings

- (1) Once all villages decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered but only one boy came with an umbrella. **That is faith.**
- (2) When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. **That is trust.**
- (3) Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but we set the alarms to wake up. **That is hope.**
- (4) We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. **That is confidence.**
- (5) We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. **That is love.**
- (6) On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old, I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience". **That is attitude.**

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember – Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

*Thank you Pam Weldon*

## Selected questions and answers.

What's on your Bucket List? Margaret Francis writes in:-

To reach the top of Everest – by stair lift. Or she really wants to return to Alaska.

I want to visit the Victoria Falls. Delyth would have to come with me just to keep an eye on me - John Ware

What is your most treasured possession.?

The gracious gift of faith - Mr Geoff Hopkin.

What is your favourite journey?

The drive to Newgale Bay, seeing Ramsay Island in the background - Mr Gareth James.

What is your biggest trait? Spending money – fast!!

What is your biggest fear? Poverty – Gareth again!!

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference – Eva Evans

**OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE**

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

**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 pm      Mrs. H. Hall      (01656) 224015

**THURSDAY:**

Baby & Toddler Group      9.30am      Dr D. Ware      (01656) 662948

Prayer Meeting      7.30pm

**SUNDAY:**

Sunday'scoool      10.00am

Morning Service      10.30am

Evening Service      6.00pm

**WHO TO CONTACT AT HOPE**

**CHURCH CONTACT:**      [hopebaptist@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hopebaptist@hotmail.co.uk)      07866 746851

**CHURCH PASTOR:**      Rev. Robbie Hall      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](mailto:mag4hope@yahoo.com)      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)

[www.facebook.com/HOPE-BAPTIST-CHURCH-BRIDGEND](https://www.facebook.com/HOPE-BAPTIST-CHURCH-BRIDGEND)

[1699576150319699](tel:1699576150319699)

Hope English Baptist Church Bridgend

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

Registered Charity: No. 1133067

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