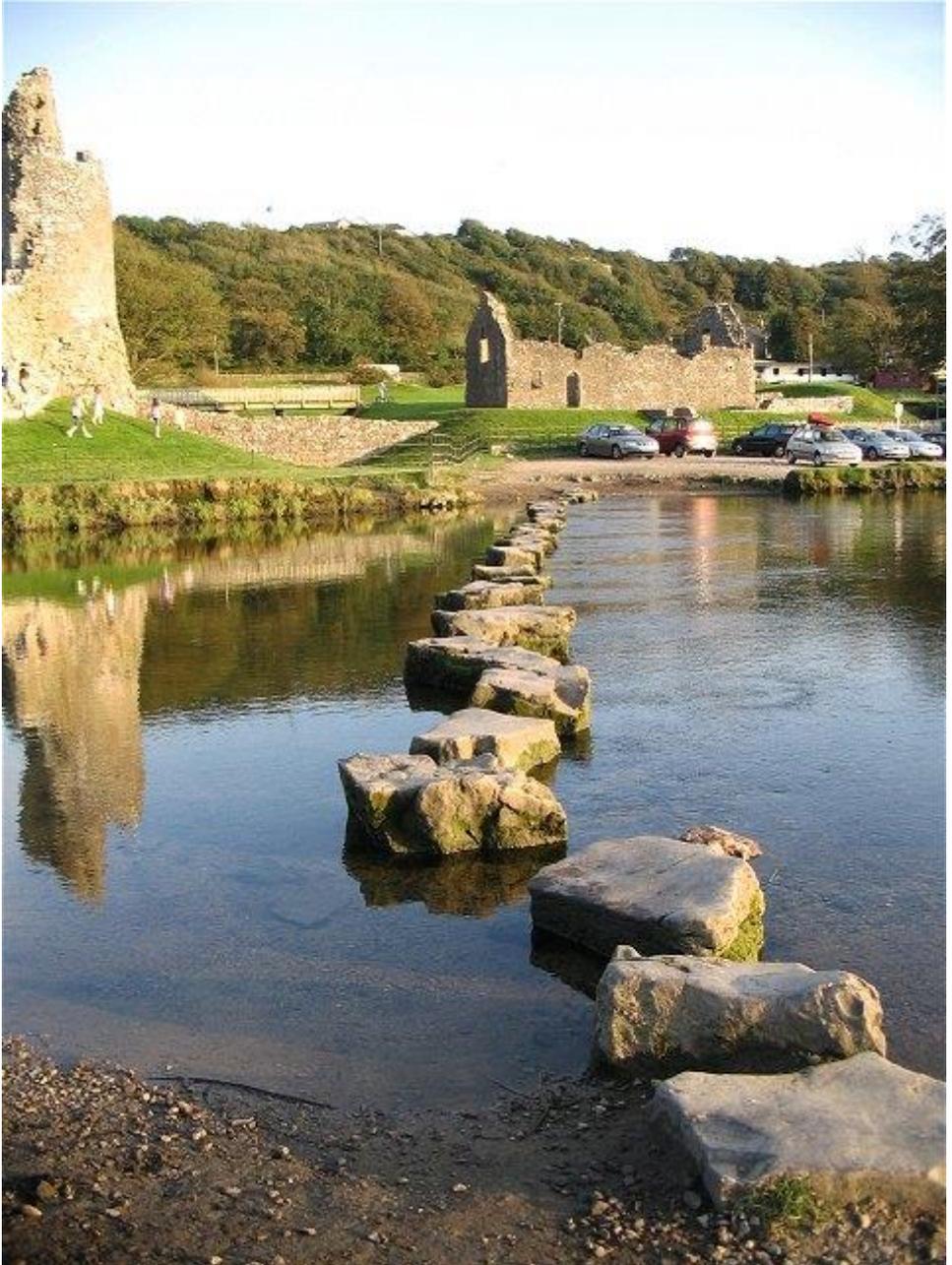


JULY 2018



***“He leadeth me besides still waters, He restoreth my soul”.***

## **This month is a make-up-your-own story month!**

This beautiful flower was awaiting us in our greenhouse one morning recently. Who would have thought such a lovely thing could have come from such a prickly, small, unpromising, not very pretty, cactus? But it did, and here is the evidence!



Now give it some thought, and come up with a parable, or story, or example from some other aspect of life!

***Rev. Mike Weldon***

I am sure that each of you has a great story to tell because we have all succeeded at something during our lifetime. I hope you were given the praise you deserved – “Well done”! praise can spur us on to bigger and better strivings and achievements.

The story of your life is unique - all that you have achieved is your story. Big things - recovering from major operations; raising a family on ‘small money’ make for big stories. Our parents have big stories to tell of sacrifices made and so have we. Big stories, little stories, they are all formative, they all matter. The utter tragedy is that most of our stories go untold.

“Oh! I can’t tell a story – it would be boring“ herein lies the glib answer – totally untrue of course. Every one of us has grown something, painted a picture or just made someone’s day, resulting in small but nevertheless beautiful acts of kindness.

“But I could never tell **my** story ..” Wrong again! We are hard wired for it. We are all born with the capacity to love stories of all sorts.

Fairytales thrill us in our childhood years; their lessons are deep and enriching. They feed our imagination, they open doors to another world. They suggest the possibility of change. Cinderella becomes a princess; the ugly duckling becomes a swan. We start with the words, ‘Once upon a time’ and end ‘happily ever after’.- but what adventure, what fun, what surprises lie hidden to be discovered by us, to be emulated time and time again. Are stories simply entertainment for children? Hardly, without realising it we too have found our own ways of fighting the demons and killing the dragons that come to threaten our very existence.

To tell a story is to help another along. To draw attention to the unexpected beauty of Nature (as Mike has done for us with the flowering cactus) or to help someone listen to a bird song or a compliment is a gift to both giver and receiver from the Creator of “all things bright and beautiful”.

Find the time to listen to the story. A child will weave one or make believe. He or she will play out the characters; twigs will become bows and arrows, net curtains are regal trains for the Queen of May. That’s a blast from many a past, I’m sure. Ironically, the bad man was always captured and the little princess met her prince ... “and they all lived happily ever after.” The bedtime story book was closed and we fell asleep, safe in the knowledge that all in Fairyland was well.

Fairyland! You could say, “We woke up one day and found that it is not the case. Look around you, life is ugly, it’s cruel.” Yes, it can be, but beauty has risen from the ashes for everyone at some time or other. God has asked no more than anyone can bear. He has stepped in and shown us a gentler, kinder, forgiving way of life. He has used the hands, the feet, the faith and love of friends and passers-by to bring life into our weary bones. He has melted the hardness of our scepticism and dissolved the chill of our despair with the warmth of His Love.

Please do as Mike asks. “Find your own story and share it.. “ God will make it a blessing in ways that will surprise you.

**(Ed. Look forward to receiving your story by the middle of July, please!)**



Keep reaching for your muse – for she is all around you  
As life's events confound you – To shock, delay, astound you  
Your muse may be a rose – whose sweet perfume surrounds you  
Whose petals lend - a splash of red  
And vines stretch high – into blue sky  
They reach your head and crown you.



Your muse may be an eagle – Soaring high above you  
Who from the sky protects, respects –  
As surely as she guides you  
And she will help you fly – As your direction finds you  
From up above – She showers love - sweet comforts to remind you.

A tree erupting from the ground – Breathing air and life around  
Whose fruitful branches lend you shade  
A watcher giving accolade – A witness to your dawn begun,  
Most beautiful companion.  
A butterfly, a buzzing bee – The first shoot of a foxglove leaf  
The friend who helps you to achieve –  
Whose love ensures you still believe. Hannah Imogen Jones.(Bridgend)



“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God is with you wherever you may go.” Joshua 1 v9

## A CHALLENGE ..

When did you last take a walk or a ride with the sole purpose of rediscovering and appreciating your own area. We are so fortunate and yet we are guilty by and large of taking it all for granted. Make July the month where you actually see the countryside from a different angle. The front cover is of The Stepping Stones. Count four stones in – stop! – that is where the Baptist minister would stand to baptise the candidate, watched by the large congregation standing on the grassy verge. (I hasten to say, Pastor, we have a very beautiful and adequate open baptistry in front of your pulpit!)

Have you noticed the remains of the Norman stone built castle behind you? It is pretty unusual because it is low lying, next to the river, the moat would fill up with water.

Cars speed past but if we find ourselves standing in wonder at all the history that surrounds us we are humbled.

There is great truth behind the words, “Reflection brings discovery.”

Will we linger long enough to allow ourselves the luxury of seeing beauty spring up even today in this fast moving, desensitised society.

Our next place of surprises – just along the coast is Southerndown Beach



It's stories of smugglers, Wil Cap Goch and his crew will chill us! It's fossils will intrigue us and its rock pools – the best along the coast, will delight us. Beauty has certainly evolved out of the ashes of charred wood.

Reflection is discovery!

## **ON THEIR WAY!**

It was Monday 11th of June, Philip and I had the pleasure of meeting a Mr. Brian Watkins, a representative of Book Aid at Hope. He promptly arrived at 10-30 from Swansea as planned and with the help of Seung Ho we helped fill his car with approximately 16 boxes of Bibles and Christian books. These are the bibles and books **you** so generously have donated.

### **What is book aid all about?**

The focus originally was on Africa and the vision was to support Christian bookshops that were closing down at a rapid rate because of difficulties in their countries. The aim was to see a continuous supply of books to Christian bookshops which would then sell the books at locally affordable prices thereby helping to secure their continuation in these areas. The cry for bibles goes out from Kenya, Nigeria, India, Zimbabwe and to the refugee crisis in Italy.

It was reported that a Minister who was a regular customer to a book aid shop in Barnard Castle Co. Durham went to Tanzania on a climbing trip to Mt Kilimanjaro. In a small town in the shadow of the mountain was a small bookshop with a selection of Christian books and Bibles. The minister enquired where they had come from and was told 'a very good company in England called Book Aid sent them'!

### **Container facts**

322 containers have been sent abroad in 29 years

up to 1000,000 books per container

Around 32 million books and Bibles have gone from the UK

4 pallets of Bibles per container

Each container holds 20 pallets

604 boxes of books and Bibles per container

### **Book Aid Facts**

£10 pays for the cost of the cardboard boxes for 1 pallet of Bibles

£12 pays for the cost of the cardboard boxes for 1 pallet of books

£120 buys 75 new paperback Bibles to send abroad

£264 pays for a pallet of Bibles to go in a container

£3000 pays for the shipping and handling costs for a container from London to the port of entry

Just giving you the facts folks and keeping you in the picture so to speak. May God bless this work richly and their volunteers to further His Kingdom and for His Glory. Many thanks again to all concerned.

***Rosalyn and Philip Hogg***



“I once was an ugly duckling”



Come on children! I once was an ugly duckling but I knew I could be a beautiful swan

That's my story and it can be your story too!

## Month of Sundays...

	1 <sup>st</sup> July	8 <sup>th</sup> July
DUTY DEACONS	Rhonwen Miles	
	Mr. Vaughan Richards	BMS Lucy and Mac
	Pastor Robbie Hall	Petr
	Geoffrey & Lyn Walters	
 AM PM	Mel Denning & Joan de Vera	Chris Burn & Eva Evans
	Margaret Francis & Rhyl Coleman	Pam Jones & Judith Jakob
	<b>COMMUNION PM</b> Prep: Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	

### Flower Rota

Mary Johnson has various Sundays available for flowers to be provided for the Communion Table. If you have a special date in your or your family's life and would like to mark it in this way, please see Mary. The flowers are much appreciated by the members of the congregation who are unable to attend Church and others

15 <sup>th</sup> July	22 <sup>nd</sup> July	29 <sup>th</sup> July
Mrs. Rhonwen Miles		
The Douglas Family from Nepal	Rev. Brian Evans	Pastor Robbie Hall
In House - TBC	United Service	
Paul & Alison Evans	Mrs. G. Westdrop in memory of Barrie, Ken & Meg	Sunday'scool
Enid James & Pat Fairfax	Lynne Chamberlain & Delyth Ware	Yvonne Matthews & Margaret Francis
Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	Margaret Francis & Rhyl Coleman	Pam Jones & Judith Jakob
	<b>COMMUNION AM</b> Prep: Irene Griffiths	

### ***Women @Hope***

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs. Irene Davies
- 10<sup>th</sup> Jim Cole of MAAF
- 17<sup>th</sup> Pauline Cundell
- 24<sup>th</sup> Pastor Mark Thomas

## **FAMILY NEWS**

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

4 <sup>th</sup> Bob Rowe	8 <sup>th</sup> Judith Howells
21 <sup>st</sup> Gemma Felts	29 <sup>th</sup> Jean Langdon
31 <sup>st</sup> Clive Griffiths	

Time is flying by, which is a good thing, as we anticipate the exciting times ahead of us working and supporting our new Pastor Robbie Hall and Helen. We will meet the challenges of outreach and the joys of fellowship as we thank our Lord yes, for answering our prayers.

22 of us attended the Valedictory Service at Albany Road Baptist Church on 21<sup>st</sup> June. The South Wales Baptist College has certainly fulfilled its commitment to prepare students for the Christian Ministry. Robbie has benefited greatly during his two years. The service brought a reality that is simply heart-warming. Goodbye Cardiff ...God's path leads to Bridgend.

I want to remind you that we will be holding the combined services of Ordaining Robbie into Christian Ministry and subsequently Inducting - Rev Robbie Hall – into the ministry at Hope Baptist Church, Bridgend on Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. An afternoon Service at 2.30 pm will be followed by a light meal. Please clear your diaries for that day and join the celebrations.

July, however, can be our month to relax and enjoy the great outdoors.

Thankfully there is no one in hospital at present. Pain, however still rules the day for too many. Continuous physical pain drains our energies and it is so frustrating not being able to alleviate some of it. Your pain and our prayers walk together – hand in hand.

Mrs Brenda Cadogan and her family want to thank Hope for the flowers they received from Hope following the loss of her husband Russell. Also Mrs Pam Redwood has assured us of the comfort her flowers gave her on the loss of her husband, Dennis. You have both been in our hearts and we have been so mindful of your strength and courage. Both have marked the measure of your generous hearts and open faith in your Heavenly Father.

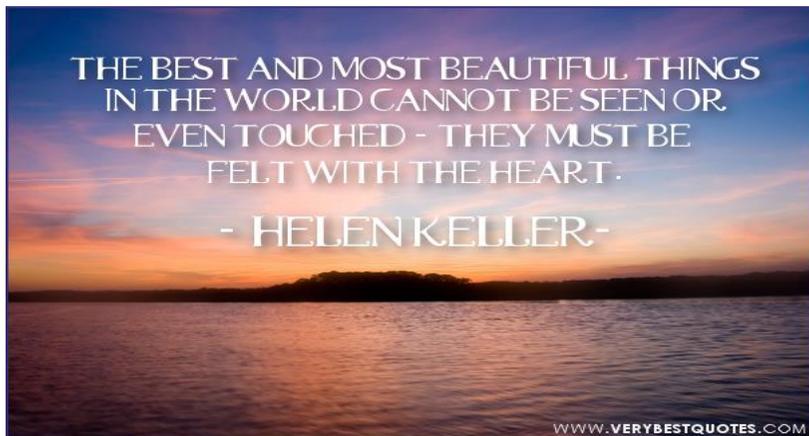
It has been such a comfort to hear that Adrienne has had good news. She has trusted that God would help doctors to find the right medication and they have. Keep well and strong, Adrienne – we all love you.

Barbara Harris, Doreen Lecrass, Barbara Symmonds and Derek Lyddon are all off the 'sick list'. We know that healing takes time but you are all looking so much better. How can we get all of you to change down a gear!

Our university students have all passed their exams. It is good to see you back home, better still hearing that you are enjoying university life.

It is always a delight to welcome new faces into Morning Worship – even better when they come again and again. You must all realise that besides the blessing and welcome you receive from us you give us a blessing too. We trust that this area of Wales is embracing you into its wonderful scenery and culture.

Our front cover has been chosen for Robbie and Helen. I know that you have both been there – The Stepping Stones, by Ogmore Castle - it rained! Still waters flow very slowly and calmly, they bring much peace and rest to one's spirit. In Hebrew, the words for 'still waters' in Psalm 23 v2b are "Mai Menochot", meaning literally, "restful waters". Jesus wants to lead us all to a place of rest, a place of confidence, a place where you rely on Him. May you both find all these blessings not only at Ogmore-by-Sea but in our church life and in our hearts.



## **WHAT'S OCCURRING!**

**2<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 6pm** - Bridgend Nativity meeting at **Tabernacl , Derwen Road**  
- all welcome.

## **CHRISTIAN AID**

**Firstly**, thank you to all those who supported Christian Aid week in May, either by praying for the work of Christian Aid, attending the service at St. Mary's Coity or by giving. Our envelope collection at Hope totalled £310 which was wonderful. Thank you again.

**Secondly**, please support our **SOUP LUNCH on Sunday, 8th July**. The cost will be £5 for adults and £2 for children. We will have homemade soup, bread, cheese and a pudding. All the money will go to Christian Aid, so please give your names to Enid or Delyth if you can come. It will be an opportunity to share fellowship together while supporting the work of Christian Aid.  
*Delyth Ware*

## **BMS**

**8<sup>th</sup> JULY** - **BMS** visit from Guinea missionaries '**Mac**' & '**Lucy**'. If you are attending the Soup Lunch, you will have an opportunity to meet them.

**15 July** - **BMS** visit from Nepal missionaries **Angus and Helen Douglas** with their children. This will be an all-age worship service and everyone is invited to bring along a light lunch and stay afterwards so that we can spend some more fellowship time with them.

## **SUNDAY'SCOOL NEWS**

You will recall that in June's issue I posted a picture of Goliath. Well, the Sunday'scool have now done David as well! So, for the next couple of weeks our project will be to find out as much as possible about these two biblical characters. Ethan continues to progress in his swimming and has gained 2 certificates whilst Elaine has won races in her school sports. We congratulate Jonie de Vera on gaining her B.A (Hons) in Architecture and wish her every blessing as she pursues her chosen career.

We are looking forward to the visit of the Douglasses on the 15<sup>th</sup> July and will be joining you for the morning service.

*Delyth Ware*

## **MISSION HOME & AWAY**

### **Hope Baptist Church Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 6pm Service**

Petr Jasek, whom we prayed for as fellowship, will be speaking at the evening service. We are very pleased that Petr, who is on a short visit to the UK as an Ambassador for Voice of the Martyrs, has managed to fit us into his busy schedule. Arrested in December 2015 and imprisoned in the Sudan for being a Christian helping other Christians, he received a 20 year prison sentence, and after much prayer received a “pardon” after 445 days and was flown back home to the Czech Republic in the President’s private jet. Petr has an amazing story and testimony to tell of God’s presence and care throughout his incarceration. Please pass the word around to any friends and contacts in other churches you may have and come and be BLESSED and ENCOURAGED!

### **Save-the-Date**

We are working on plans for a Harvest Sponsored Walk and tea during the afternoon of **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**. Please make a note of the date if you would like to join us and look out for more details in next month’s magazine.

### **Committee**

With just Mary, Val and I on the committee we are still on the lookout for new committee members with new ideas for fund raising to come and join the committee! Please have a chat with one of us over a cup of tea or coffee after any morning service and let us know if you are interested .

***Neil Jenkins***

**Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 3pm** Come and celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cambrats at Calvary Baptist Church Canton Cardiff. See Ron Fairfax.

We are thrilled to hear that the family of Angela and Alistair Duthie took part in the Swansea 10K event supporting research for Crohns Disease. The twins, Kimberley and Kirstin have both suffered from Crohns, but they are overcoming it’s limitations. We thank God that medication and diligence are enabling them to take part in the 10K event from Swansea University to The Mumbles – no mean feat. We hear that Angela and Alistair applauded the loudest at the beginning and the end. Hopefully the sea breeze worked in your favour on the day. Unfortunately, we were not able to reproduce the picture, but we are so proud of you and wish you every success.

Val and Neil also thank God for the improvement in their son, Chris, who also has Crohns. We assure them, too, of our continuous prayer.

## **AN ATHEIST'S VIEW ON LIFE**

I will live my life according to these beliefs

God does not exist

It is just foolish to think

That there is a God with a cosmic plan

That an all-powerful God brings redemption and healing to the pain and suffering in the world

Is a comforting thought, however

It is only wishful thinking

People can do as they please without eternal consequences

The idea that

I am deserving of Hell

Because of sin

Is a lie meant to make me a slave to those in power

"The more you have, the happier you will be"

Our existence has no grand meaning or purpose

In a world with no God

There is freedom to be who I want to be

But with God

Everything is fine

It is ridiculous to think

I am lost and in need of saving

**NB A CHRISTIAN'S VIEW ON LIFE NB**  
**(now read this bottom to top)**

"The heavens declare the glory of God:" Psalm 1-4.

"David is clear that this universe provides an eloquent witness to its creator that can be seen and heard across the globe. Yet we live in a society that has largely accepted the claim that this same universe provides concrete evidence, or even proof, that it has no creator. All living cells ... contain technologically advanced electric motors at the heart of their energy system, together with molecular machinery for reading and writing digital information. (We saw this on screen - it was mind blowing). Such evidence makes the (atheistic) claim that living cells arose from organic chemistry difficult to defend scientifically.

As we are not all scientists, when questioned by our atheist or secular friend, claiming that science has disproved God, it can be helpful to help them see that their denial of God removes any substantial basis for values, purpose or morality". Part of a seminar by Emyr Macdonald at Momentum

**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**

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<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

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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