

June 2020

**Fear thou not; for I am with thee:
be not dismayed; for I am thy God:
I will strengthen thee:
yea, I will help thee: yea, I will uphold thee
with the right hand of my righteousness.**

Isaiah 41:10 KJV



Pastor's Study - Standing in the truth of the Gospel.

¹³*Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. (Eph 6:10-13)*

We are well aware by now of the enmity that existed between the Jewish and Gentile communities in Ephesus, and the miraculous work of the Spirit, through Paul and his missionary team, that brought this church into being and made it a witness for God's glory throughout the region of Asia Minor. Satan and his forces of evil sought to undo this work by counter-attacking the obvious fragility in Ephesus, constantly and cunningly trying to re-open division and acrimony.

That is where the Armour of God came in. Notice it is the **full** armour; not a chink could be left exposed that would allow the evil one to find a foothold. We can look at each of the items making up that armour over time, I want to focus here on the first and fundamental item that is mentioned, the belt of truth buckled around the waist.

The belt described served two practical purposes: firstly it was a girdle around the waist into which the frontal 'loins' of the long robe could be tucked-up, allowing the wearer to run, move and fight unimpeded. This is the origin of the term "girding up your loins for battle". Secondly, the belt kept the main items of armour in place and held the all-important sword at the ready. The belt, then, is absolutely essential.

Our spiritual belt symbolises truth. The translation is clearly not 'the truth' referring to the singular truth of the Gospel (important though that may be), this is a generic, all-embracing, overarching truth that points us to the spiritual integrity of the armour-clad Christian. Paul is telling us that the Christian life we are called to is far more than an outward appearance, the truth of our faith should be apparent in every aspect of our being: spiritual, professional and personal – consistency and integrity in every aspect.

Pastor Robbie

Pastor's Diary:

As this edition of the magazine is focused on heroes, I wanted to talk about a Christian hero of mine, a man who very clearly had that belt of truth firmly in-place; the consistency of his faith in Christ shone out of from him and impressed me greatly. He is General the Lord Richard Dannatt, former Chief of the General Staff – the head of the British Army.



I met General Richard as a fellow member of the council of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Scripture Readers' Association (SASRA). Over the years his rise through the senior ranks of the Army was astounding – he was clearly destined for 'the top'. This was such an encouragement to us in SASRA, to have 'our man' doing so well and gaining ever more influential positions. At Council he was always gentle, humble and thoughtful of others, never dominating discussion or showing impatience with anyone.

At one Council meeting we had interviewed a candidate for the position of Army Scripture Reader. This young soldier was a very junior corporal who had felt the call of God on his life to leave the Army and join SASRA. He was an excellent candidate with great potential and a clear calling. The Council was unanimous in agreeing that he should be accepted for training as a Scripture Reader. He was called back into the meeting room to be told the good news.

Before the young man left with a skip in his step, the Chairman asked if General Richard would pray for our latest reader-in-training. With that, the General left his seat, walked to the young soldier and put an arm around his shoulder to pray for him. Amazing to see the two extremes of rank in the Army united as equals before their Lord.

The prayer that ensued was humble, gracious and beautiful. Rightly focussed on thanking God for raising this man to be a purveyor of the Gospel to servicemen and women in the years ahead. I will never forget that moment.

Every blessing with love in Jesus, Pastor Robbie



*I will bless the Lord,
Who has given me counsel
Yes, my heart instructs me
In the night seasons.
I have set the Lord
Continually before me;
Because He is at my right hand,
I shall not be moved.*

Psalm 16:7-8

To our Pastor and Helen.

The prayers of many have been for you and Helen these past months. They remain loving and constant. The words below, words of commitment to a future we all embrace, struck me as we continue under your dedicated ministry. It never ceases to amaze me how God sends men and women into our lives at opportune moments. Such is the essence of family fellowship and worship

“Since you were (are) precious in My sight
you have been honoured and I have loved you.

Therefore I will give men for you
and people for your life”

Isaiah 43 v.4

The word 'Hero' has certainly been much used of late and justifiably so.

I asked our Pastor and Mr. David Drew, "Who is your hero?"

Thank you. Robbie for sharing yours – now it is David's turn.

"My hero is my grandfather, my mother's father.

George Kemble was a talented man. Whatever he turned his hand to he did it well. Country born and bred, his education was basic but his achievements were due to the Victorian ethos of self improvement through study and hard work. But it is his spirit I admire: strong, determined and resilient.

During the Great War he was a sapper until a gas attack ended his service. Invalided out of the army with half a lung, he was strongly advised not to do any hard or strenuous work in what time he had left.

After six months, bored with doing nothing – he went back to work – as a self employed parquet floor layer, which he did until the day he retired. He suffered with chest pain on and off through his life but the remedy he swore by was a teaspoon of Lamb's Navy Rum. It brought him relief every time. He refused to bow to illness, rarely took time off work and on the one occasion he did – it saved his life..

During World War Two he worked at a boatyard on the Dart and on the day in question, he stayed home – the day the Luftwaffe bombed the yard killing several workmen.

George Kemble lived on into his eighties. Small in stature but with a big heart, not a perfect man, flawed even, but he was my grandfather and I love him". Thank you so much, David – this is inspirational for us all.



FAMILY NEWS

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

2 nd	Pam Weldon	16 th	Jonathan Ware
8 th	Wendy Carver	19 th	Eva Evans
9 th	Anita Jones	24 th	Rhyl Coleman
14 th	Barbara Harris		

I have to start the Family Update with this “Quote of the month” - from Chris (Burn) - *Twelve weeks ago I planted myself on the sofa and I’m still growing”. We all know the feeling1!

One thing is abundantly clear – we are missing one another and doing our utmost to keep in touch. The telephones have been red hot. It is great to hear that the news we were about to share has already been received -“I know, we’ve had a chat”. Please continue, phone calls are perfectly timed in hours of need.

We have been praying for Pat and Ron these past weeks. Pat’s sister succumbed to the virus. Both Pat and Ron have felt the comfort of our prayers and the shelter of their faith. Happy memories will come easily to mind, consoling the whole family. Our hearts go out to them. We are grateful that Pat and Ron were able to attend the funeral in Derbyshire.

Pat and Ron wish to say, “Thank you for all your kind thoughts, prayers, cards and flowers sent to us on the loss of Sheila due to Covid 19. As with other families this was unexpected and a shock to us but knowing so many of you were praying for us was a great comfort. Once again, ‘Thank you so much’”.

If lockdown has imposed times of rest upon us then hopefully the pains of arthritis and other symptoms have been eased somewhat. For those who have been confined to their homes for a lot longer than the majority let the absence of urgency be a help. Rest, feet up, is the rule of the day, for the country and for you - Hilary and Don, Barbara Simmonds, Dorothy Fear, Edward and Anita, Clarice, (who has been in severe pain this past month). Marion and Ken and Brenda Cadogan. Mr. Brinley George is missed and prayers go Mr. Geoff Hopkin who has suffered greatly with an attack of shingles. We continue to pray for Mr Richard Girdlestone and Sue. We have missed Cynthia and Cyril Jenkins and value their prayers for Hope.

With Mike and Pam giving us so much, we assure them of our continued love. Mrs Rhianon Henderson has had to face challenges this past month. The virus has disrupted her ongoing treatment. She always keeps going, guilty of over use of the word ‘fine’. Mrs Madeleine Drew has been

in severe pain recently. Our prayers have been for the right diagnosis and treatment. The pain has eased – prayers have been answered. She has long since earned her place on the list of David's heroes - and ours too. May our Lord keep you both safe and well.

Mrs Judith Jacob has suffered the loss of a good friend this past month. Coupled with her health issues Judith has been unable to attend church these past few months. We look forward to the time that we can help you in any way we can, Judith. We are so sorry to hear that Alistair Duthie has yet again strained his hip. He is in double lockdown – no op - just physio! God bless you.

We are all grateful for, despite Lockdown, much church work is going on behind the scenes. Our treasurer, Mr. Paul Evans, is anxious that the giving remains consistent during this testing time, for we have great plans for the future. As an Accountant he has a better concept of our country's plummeting financial nightmare, one that seems destined to remain for many months, if not years to come. Many leisure activities may have to be forfeited and family life will become simpler but there is one thing – a given – our faith within our church family cannot be forfeited. Faith needs to be nourished from many avenues. Faith is multi-faceted and finance is an integral part as we honour our Lord who showers us with love, comfort and understanding. This pandemic has shown us the value of meeting up, health allowing, within the sanctuary. To this end Paul will be happy to advise you should you need guidance on your church giving. At this point we must be aware of the diligence and expertise with which Mr. Neil Jenkins continues to acquire grants for essential works which are many.

There is no Lockdown for Phil Chamberlain and I am going to add Lynne. Phil has spent hours finding ways of improving our usage of Zoom and Facebook nursing us through with patience personified. Now here is a point. As we can only be seen sitting down (screen view) via Zoom on Tuesday's Coffee morning we can be in our gardening clothes! – it is rumoured that one person is always in his slippers. On Thursday (Prayer Meeting night) Zoom kindly allows us the same 'get out clause' but we do tidy up - especially on the hair front but it is still possible to finish our coffee and the fourth biscuit! - all an aid to concentration. On Sunday mornings, however, Facebook makes no demands – we cannot be seen. We promise that we will really tidy up (scrub up) when church resumes promising to leave the coffee and biscuits at home!

Please keep safe and hold on to the blessings.

Rhonwen

With 'home schooling' both a bane and a blessing, parents have had to have the patience of Job and degrees in Child Psychology. I read this story and thought of Eva (Evans) who has a lifetime experience in teaching. Her wise words continue to inspire us and her humour carries us all through many a dark time. Here's the story I sent her for comments!

John had entered his school sports day 100 meter race. The whistle went

Why God Made Teachers

by Kevin William Huff

When God created teachers,
He gave us special friends
To help us understand His world
And truly comprehend
The beauty and the wonder
Of everything we see,
And become a better person
With each discovery.

When God created teachers,
He gave us special guides
To show us ways in which to grow
So we can all decide
How to live and how to do
What's right instead of wrong,
To lead us so that we can lead
And learn how to be strong.

Why God created teachers,
In His wisdom and His grace,
Was to help us learn to make our world
A better, wiser place.



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and he ran and ran but he didn't get to that tape first – he wasn't even in the first five! He was so disappointed and put his head in his hands trying to hide his tears. His mother lost no time to rush over to him.

“Never mind, you can't be first in everything.”

John said, “It's not that: nobody shouted, ‘Come on, John!’”

You see he had been listening out for voices as he ran the race.

We all do that – we all benefit from words of encouragement.

Eva replied,

“John, they didn't shout, because they could see you were doing very well and enjoying the race”. (A wise answer from a wise teacher).

Many skills are evident in bright children but some children are slow in comprehending and in finding words to express themselves. Young children learn from what they see and hear which supports them in reading, writing, talking and in creative work. They should be provided with the experience to observe everything around them – how things are made,

what they are made from, where certain sounds come from. They enjoy visiting museums and castles. They question things. Now is the time to find stories and books e.g. thematic approach i.e. 'Spring on the Farm'.

Adults must listen to children carefully. Young junior children are chatterboxes. They used to chatter when lined up ready to walk into the school hall for morning Assembly. They would draw attention to their pretty clothes, new shoes, knitted jumpers or new haircut. I remember poor little Thomas, he felt that he had nothing new, nothing of worth to show and he looked crestfallen.

"Thomas, I said, "Come to the front of the line and lead us in. I am sure you have brought that big, happy smile with you this morning".

Eva's reply speaks volumes. All I can say is that I wish I had had her as my teacher. What do you remember of your schooldays? Who were your favourite teachers? From the best teachers come the most motivated pupils - encouragement always wins the day.

Thank you for sharing your life experiences with us, Eva.

Here are our next generation of scholars who attend Sunday'scool. We are so proud of them – and grateful for the opportunity to guide them.



This photo is of Seren, Ellie, Amber, Petra and Ruby being home schooled every morning. I'm sure Harry is there somewhere! As they are cousins and live opposite each other they are able to do this and obviously have fun being together.

Here are the thoughts of the other Sunday'scool members

Hi all, Izzy here

I hope everyone is doing well during these times. I haven't been up to much as we are unable to travel but I've made the most of these times by baking many sweet treats for my family to try, like cupcakes, chocolate and banana pancakes and cheese scones. Of course, we have all the nice weather when we can't even go out, but I've been working on my tan and getting my exercise in. Every Friday night we go onto zoom and do either a quiz, bingo, or a game show which as you can imagine doesn't always go as well as we plan because every week we have some sort of technical difficulties and Leah and I get fed up of all the dad jokes! I hope everyone is staying safe and keeping well. Izzy xxx

Leah's Lockdown Log!

Having been in lockdown for nearly 2 months now, I have had to make some changes to my daily routines. A good change to my routine is that I can now have a lovely lie in and not worry about being late for school. Of course, the work load is still piled high and the majority of my weekdays are spent sitting in front of my laptop and ploughing through school work. As we near the final 'school term' of the year, teachers are starting us on the year 13 courses which means we are now regularly meeting online to get the gist of new topics and to have a catch up. Very soon I will be starting the UCAS process ready for university (yikes!) I have already looked at potential courses and uniis. Apart from school life, not much else has changed. I spend my spare time reading and more than once I've had a mini dance party in my room, I have also binged my way through so many Netflix shows I've lost count! As a family, we have a quiz night every Friday via zoom with our extended family, most of the time it's 2 hours of chaos but it's lovely to see everyone doing well and having a bit of fun on a Friday. I hope everyone is keeping safe and sane during these strange times. God Bless, Leah ☺

Ji-Eun

Who would have ever thought in the beginning of 2020 we would be in lockdown? I had brushed away that thought before, but it became reality. For me, 2020 meant sitting some GCSE exams, but due to the situation, they have all been moved to next year. However, as lockdown is for everyone's safety, there is nothing we can possibly complain about. School lessons are now online, and work is piled onto us to keep us productive - no excuses for incomplete homework as we are all at home! The fact that we have online school means we don't have face to face conversations with one another, but technology is actually keeping us connected. Calling our friends, saying we miss them and telling each other to keep safe have made us closer. Lockdown has helped me reflect on how precious the little things in life are and anticipate coronavirus and lockdown to end, returning back to normality. Love Ji-Eun

Ethan

I don't like lockdown because I miss school, my friends, gran, grandad, nan and bamp. I miss karate, swimming and Sunday'scool, but enjoy having karate lessons via Zoom. I like lockdown because I can play more games. I enjoy spending time with mum and dad. I have had lots of homework from school which I do in the morning so I can play in the afternoon. I like playing with my avenger and star wars figures. I like being creative and have had to make lots of things for school. I have been able to speak to three of my friends via video call and two I saw outside their houses for

their birthdays (social distancing of course!) I have also waved to another friend through his window. I am looking forward to going back to school to see my friends and teacher. I am looking forward to going back to karate and hopefully grade. I am also looking forward to going back to Sunday's school to see my lovely teachers. (Thank you, Ethan. We miss you all too x)

Conor

I like spending more time on my Xbox (it's better than the PS4) and I get to spend more time with my family. I miss the family I can't see like Gran, Grandad, Nan and Bamp. I don't like school but am looking forward to going back. I don't like that I can't go out with my friends. I have been on my hour's exercise a lot I've been down the black path and played by the river and played football out my back garden. I don't like my homework but my mum makes me do it. I have to do maths, English and topic and sometimes PE. I enjoy my karate sessions on zoom. I am looking forward to being able to grade and fight again.

Ollie Lockdown

Life in lockdown isn't too bad. I'm quite enjoying spending more time on things I enjoy such as skating, drumming and playing Xbox but also I am remembering to social distance myself from others too. Every week there is new work being set from my teachers online, which I have to crack on with! I feel blessed to have a garden and gadgets to play on with my friends, as I know there are people that aren't as fortunate as us and I pray for them and for people who have suffered loss of loved ones.

Eloise Lockdown

Life in lockdown is going ok. I'm enjoying the break from school, not even missing my friends as I can play games with them and do homework together online and submit it to my teachers who mark it and reply to me. I feel blessed because I have a big garden with grass and a big trampoline. I can play with Binkie, my dog and we can take him on lovely walks along the seafront and to Rest Bay. I do miss my dance, ballet and drama though!

Maisy

Maisy says that lockdown has been both good and bad; she is missing her friends a lot and her teachers a bit, but not as much. She and her friend Harriet have discussed the situation (by phone of course) and have agreed that they would like to sit on the virus and squash it so that things could return to normal!

On the domestic front Maisy is enjoying spending lots more time with her mum and dad as well as big brother, big sister and dog. Maisy thinks that if you have to be locked down then having a hot tub on the patio is a real blessing on the frequent sunny days, as is fairly unlimited access to the biscuit tin.

Maisy has enjoyed the occasional video WhatsApp call to various members of the family, especially when her first milk tooth came out and she wanted to show everyone the gap.

Maisy is looking forward to being able to see everyone face to face again but is not sure we should rush into an early return to school!

Alison, Mel, Enid and I miss seeing you and we pray that you are keeping well and safe and that it won't be too long before we meet again.

FROM Mike Weldon

I have started writing this article on 5th May. Whether I forward it to the magazine editor remains to be seen, as does the title. Depends what happens between now and then. For the past few mornings I have woken up with a considerable backache. This morning, the pain was so much that I didn't have the ability or confidence to move until I had had a couple of shots of oramorph.

Ok, I know, I know; I am a man, and a male's pain threshold is allegedly much lower than that of a female. I know too, that many other people suffer from much greater pain and disability than I do. Even so, this morning I did wake up in a lot of pain, again. (Now I can picture you playing your imaginary violins!)

Having managed to sit up in bed with a cup of tea brought in by my caring wife, I picked up my ipad and turned to my morning Bible reading. It "happened" to be Psalm 73, in the NLT version. I couldn't believe my eyes when I came to v14, "*every morning brings me pain*".

Well, what do you make of that? Coincidence or not? I got to thinking. What if, back on 22nd February, God had looked ahead and seen that on the 5th May his adopted son Michael Weldon would wake up in pain, again. And so God nudged him to begin reading through the Psalms on the 23rd February, ensuring that he would reach Psalm 73 on the 5th May, and reach that oh so relevant verse 14: "every morning brings me pain".

A far fetched idea? Maybe so. But there is an interesting statement in Psalm 139:16 "All the days ordained for me were written in your (God's) book before one of them came to be". What I do know is this: my experience was described plainly in that verse. Then the Psalmist goes on, and in v26 says, "My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, *but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.* " That gives me something positive to think about, doesn't it?

It is now the 12th May. Not a lot has changed. Except, for the past few days I have been mulling over a letter I received. Actually, it is not a letter to me; it is a copy of a letter *about* me, sent from the spinal specialist to the haematologist. I don't understand most of it. I have never come across some of the words that have them up in a dictionary, but am none the wiser. I am in the dark, so to speak. But I know that when I see the haematologist face to face, he will make all things clear. What a day that will be!

So you Bible lovers, does that ring any bells? 1 Corinthians 13:12, "Now we see in a glass darkly, then we shall see face to face. Now we know in part, then we shall know fully, even as we are fully known".

There is much in the Bible and in our life experience that we do not understand. We are in the dark about so much, aren't we? But we believe that one day we shall see our Lord, the specialist above all specialists, face to face. And he will make all things plain. What a day that will be! Meanwhile, back to the copy of that letter. There was one line I did understand. "I do not believe the patient needs or will need an operation", wrote the spinal specialist. Do I hear a few "Hallelujahs"? It is good news, isn't it?

We don't understand all that is in the Bible, or all that occurs in life. But, as in that letter, some things are plain. "God is love. He is our Heavenly Father. He knows what we need. Therefore," said Jesus in plain language, "do not worry about tomorrow". Matthew 6:25f. That's good news, isn't it? In spite of that, even long established believers seem to find plenty of things to worry about, don't we?

It's the 19th May, and not a lot has happened these past few days. Wait a minute; what am I saying? Carers have come to help me morning and evening every day, plus twice in the week they help with shopping or housework. Three neighbours also help with our shopping. We have a cleaner, a gardener, and a young woman who collects and does the ironing. A social worker and a McMillan Nurse both phone each week to check we are ok. We have regular live video calls with our family down-under. Friends from church keep in touch, and will help out if and when needed. We have a home, a garden, and food and drink. There is free access to the Bible. And not least, I still have a loving, caring wife.

Not a lot has happened? Count your blessings Mike, or try to count them! The floodgates of heaven have been opened, and God has poured out so much there is hardly room to contain it all, Malachi 3:10. Ah yes, magazine readers. In the midst of the uncertainty, fear, worry, and everything thrown up by the strange times in which we live, let us remember to count our blessings".

Thank you again, Mike you are a blessing to us all.

Whilst we value all that you give us, we are not unmindful of the care and love that comes selflessly from Pam. Lockdown has in itself been a trial and our hearts go out to you both as you endure the restrictions. God bless you both.

LOCK DOWN FEVER!!!

We knew that Lockdown would have a profound effect on some. See how Marge and Homer - of The Simpsons fame - are coping. They escaped from the USA and are staying with Chris and Quentin in Coychurch.

Homer said, "There's a scarecrow competition here tomorrow - I hope they don't enter us"! They did!! There they were sitting at a table

enjoying a hamburger and beer. Poor Freddie, Chris and Quentin's dog, with a bow in his hair, thought they were real people. Don't tell me you thought so too?



Having exhausted all essential DIY and gardening projects, several of our men have entered the exacting and traumatic world of "women's hair colouring". Wives were desperate to be models. We cannot show any photographs due to the high standards achieved leading inevitably to friendly(?) competitiveness. Robbie, an aspiring colourist was convinced he had the problem solved (army training!). He thought that "Scuff Cote"- guaranteed to remove scuffs whilst conditioning and bringing shine - would be perfect. He had some in the shed! Robbie has qualified, Helen looks great - no Scuff Cote involved!



This is surely self explanatory!

Bread is a gift from God, Jesus multiplied the bread to feed the crowd. Bread became a sign for sharing. It symbolizes the Body of Christ and the Word of God.

Bread nourishes everybody. Now Robbie comes full circle. He bakes his own bread and shares the Word of God amongst us.

Any chance of a taste when we get back to church??

From Prisoner at Hut 18 -To Madam Secretary - Greetings friends!

Well this will probably be the last missive winging its way from Hut 18. We will have to call it my Swansong. As I speak, or should I say write, the tunnels have now become obsolete (one collapsed) The moat is drained and the barbed wires and look out turret are up for sale. So it is nearly time to say goodbye to Hut 18. Who knows maybe in time it could become a feature in local folk lore and history books, on a par maybe with the huts of Island Farm. My dreams of tunnel digging are over I am now wistfully dreaming of summer and working on my garden. I have planted two beautiful blue Wisteria plants and am training them up the wall. My next job is to train my husband who insists on calling them my 'Hysteria' plants. Wish me luck on this it took me 5 years to stop him calling my lovely magnolia tree "That Mongolian Tree" or my "Marigold Tree".

We will soon be back to face to face chats, masks allowing, Talking of masks I have been experimenting using my hubby as a model. Prototype 1 was too big - he couldn't see over it! Prototype 2 - much too small. Prototype 3 - Just right! as Goldilocks stated when she found baby bear's bed.

Will we recognize each other? I hear that some of our husbands have turned into protégés of Vidal Sasoon, colouring hair. One lady we all know (with one good left arm) has managed to cut her own hair. Most of us will be sporting much longer hair, some might even be plaiting theirs – hope it's not the men. The jury is out on that one.

Other things to look forward to is saying 'Goodbye' to keeping social distance: and meeting after the services for tea/coffee. Hope the tea rotas are ready!! We will be rusty now, tea girls. Will we remember how many teabags to use for the thirsty hordes. I know who likes the chocolate biscuits and who can't get their hands on the Jaffa Cakes quickly enough.

I remember the ones who nurse their mugs for as long as they can – no names mentioned. I have become quite adroit at whipping said mugs from under some noses. Musicians will be tuning up ready for the sweet dulcet tones of the few when singing is once again allowed and deacons are getting ready to do their bit, especially a certain lady who informs and entertains us with the Sunday announcements. (I heard a whisper that Robbie has bought a new stop watch) We all have our places: back soon. So adieu from Hut 18 Prisoner 23479.



WHAT NOW?

You may well ask....

For 12 weeks we have watched and obeyed the rulings necessitated by this deadly virus. We have played our part and what a part it has been – what a change of plan.

The norm is that we plan our summer months and beyond. We decide what to do and where we will go. Our free time is ours. Not so right now. Coronavirus has taken that luxury away from us. It has replaced freedom of choice - our life blood with - Lockdown. We have had thinking time in spades.

As Christians, we have always known this one simple truth. We are living our eternal future in the present moment. With the risen Lord as our companion and guide eternal truths are steadfast and sure – it is their values that shape our lives in the here and now irrespective of our present circumstances before or after Covid -19.

With renewed confidence we can still ask “What now”? because we need stability that’s for sure. Where and how will we get that?

God starts by turning our faces from endless hours of media obsession. “Look at the way I created the earth. You want stability, balance, interdependence and beauty in all her diversity? All have been right there, on your doorstep”. With London traffic almost at a standstill people have heard birds, they’ve valued the silence and renewal whilst taking their daily walk – allowed for exercise. Many have retreated to their own garden plots finding that season follows season with predictable regularity. The cycle is plainly and profoundly visible.

In Psalm 19 the Hebrew reads, “The Heavens **are** declaring the Glory of God.: the skies **are** proclaiming the work of His hands”. The action is a continuous one. Therein lies the truth, often quoted, “You are nearer God’s heart in the garden than anywhere else on earth”.

Our second point of call then must be to see the Heart of God. After all isn’t it a case of ‘seeing is believing’? God’s heart beats with a strength that calls us to action. Inwardly we long to be at one with this life giving force? Where’s the action at? Here’s where it’s at.

“Let me try and get you some flour! I’m going shopping - need anything else?”

“I’m a front line worker, I’m scared but I will put my life on the line for you”.
“Don’t call me a hero. It’s my calling, my job” - and we applaud you and marvel at your dedication.

The heart of God longs to see us all working together, families as one unit, the old and young joining forces and surviving.

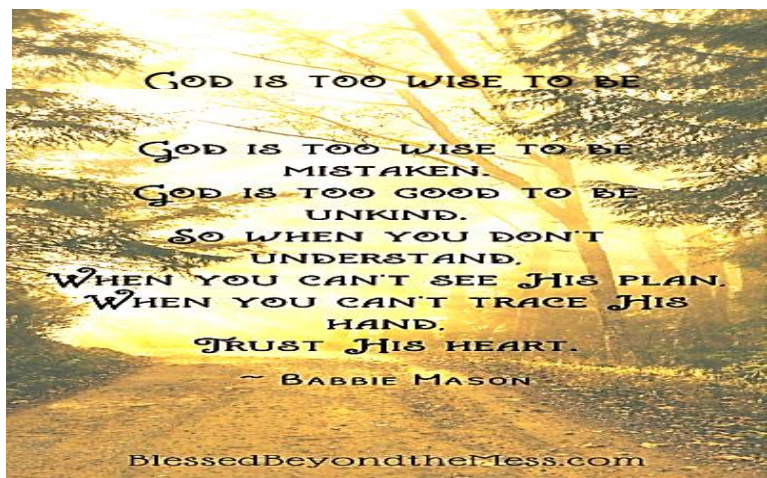
The heart of God faced the enemy fair and square and He asks us to do the same - whatever enemy knocks on our door. Because of God we fight with a new sense of purpose, feeling an exhilarating passion for life and deeper peace than we have ever known. It's hard but we succeed many more times than we care to admit. God, you see has been working silently, believing in us and quietly drawing us to His side so that we can have more peace and joy

Which takes us to the last and final place. That in one moment of time, or two, or daily, even yearly we see that God has been working in us and through us and it's ongoing. He channels His grace and mercy through us daily. We are the receptacles. Does that sound audacious? To some it does. But faith is audacious. It is the biggest, single driving force in your life and mine.

Our hearts beat to the mighty heart beat of the Lord of Creation, the Giver of Life. That is where our courage lies, our endurance and our stability. Therein lies the beauty of forgiveness, the joy of the simple pleasures, contentment and peace of mind. Here's the surprise discovery, as simple as it is profound; a gift like no other. This....that

Our knowledge of has become an encounter with our Lord Jesus.

Rhonwen.



**You choose the humble and raise them high,
You choose the weak and make them strong,
You heal our brokenness inside and give us life.
The same God that spread the heavens wide,
The same God that was crucified,
Is calling us all by name, You are calling us all by name.**

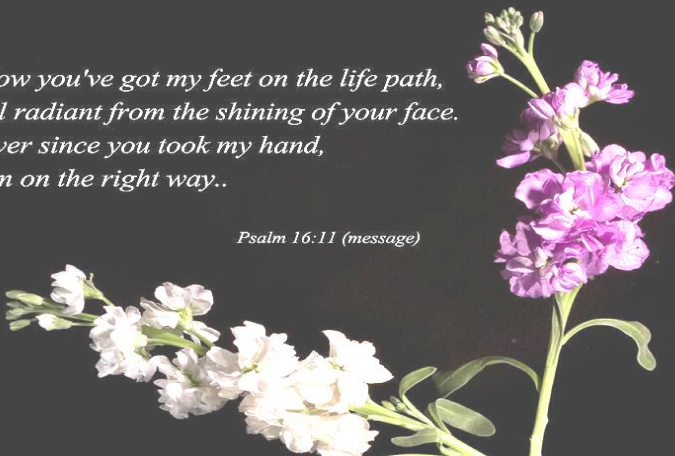
**You take the faithless one aside,
And speak the words "You are mine".
You call the cynic and the proud, "Come to Me now".
The same love that set the captives free,
The same love that opened eyes to see,
Is calling us all by name, You are calling us all by name.
The same God that spread the heavens wide,
The same God that was crucified,**

**Is calling us all by name, You are calling us all by name. You're
calling us to the cross.**

These are words sent to Mum (Rhian Henderson) by Kevin who is a deacon and Worship leader at Pantygydr Church Swansea. Kevin and his brother, Gareth came through our Sunday school. He lives his faith, with a Doctorate from Swansea University. What a wonderful testimony. The whole family attend church each with talents wherewith they serve their Lord. We are so proud of you all.

*Now you've got my feet on the life path,
all radiant from the shining of your face.
Ever since you took my hand,
I'm on the right way..*

Psalm 16:11 (message)



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 – 4pm	Mrs. H. 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	10.00am
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	07866 746851
SECRETARY:	Rhonwen Miles	(01656) 654169
TREASURER:	Paul Evans	(01656) 661986
CARETAKER:	Seung Ho & Yun Hee Kang	(01656) 646911
USE OF PREMISES &SAFEGUARDING	Sally George	(01656) 668791
NEWSDESK:	mag4hope@yahoo.com	Rhonwen Miles/ Pam Jones

HOPE

BAPTIST CHURCH

OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

(Church Meeting 010503)

We will EVANGELISE our community & beyond.

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

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

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

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

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

www.hopebridgend.co.uk

www.facebook.com/HOPE-BAPTIST-CHURCH-BRIDGEND

[1699576150319699](tel:1699576150319699)

[Baptist Church Bridgend](#)

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

Registered Charity: No. 1133067

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