

MARCH 2019



“...he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand”

Psalm 40 v2

Pastor's Study – Faith in action

'By faith Noah, when warned about things not seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.' (Hebrews 11:7)

God called Noah to an enormous and daunting task. Noah was already a very old man. Although we cannot be sure how long the construction would have taken, scholars estimate that the construction of the ark took between 100 and 120 years. Our Sunday school images of the ark belie the credibility of the dimensions and design given in Scripture. At 438 feet long, 73 feet wide and 40 feet high, set with 3 decks providing 96,000 square feet of floor space, naval experts agree that it constitutes a most stable design of ship, easily capable of carrying its menagerie cargo and a good number of people besides.

There are several faith lessons we, as Christian people, learn from Noah's example; arguably the most important is the picture of salvation by God's gracious provision, through our faith in Jesus Christ. The ark provided the one place of rescue and salvation for all who believed God and did what He had told them. God's eternal rescue plan in Christ is also available to any and all on the same basis: God does not want anyone to perish, "but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Noah and his family were saved, but this was by God's grace and not earned by sinless conduct. His faith was undoubted, but he was not without his faults, as his drunken and debauched behaviour was to show.

The other faith lesson I want to draw from Noah is that of believing that God will not ask of us more than we are capable (in His strength) of delivering. When confronted with so many people in and around Bridgend, most of whom have never heard of Hope Baptist Church and are most unlikely to give us a second glance or thought, how can we hope to reach anyone for Jesus. We must not despair, just keep stepping forwards in faith and obedience. God will give us opportunities and will use us in ways that we would never understand, to reach those whom He has called. This may be many or only a few, but we all have a part to play in building God's capable rescue craft, ready to welcome all on board.

Every blessing, *Pastor Robbie*

Pastor's Diary: March 2019

As I get more used to the 'rhythm' of preparing and delivering our morning and evening services each Sunday as my principal focus, I am finding more space to get around and visit more folk, and to give some attention to the many wider responsibilities as Pastor. There are always issues and crises demanding attention, and I don't expect to see the bottom of the in-tray very often, so the day off (normally Monday) is a much-valued opportunity to re-charge, to ponder and to pray.

The office is a success: ideal for meeting up with people during the week. Some have popped in to say hello having noticed the light on. I am sure we could be doing more as a church through the week, to be more available and to meet needs and support the community around us. Over the coming month or two, I will be drawing on the knowledge and experience within the church to help identify the most pressing needs around us and how we might help address at least some of these. If you have any thoughts or ideas (or even reservations) about this, please come and talk to me.

We must not become slaves to our buildings, but we do have a responsibility to manage and maintain this very special place that is our Lord's, but entrusted to us for His glory in Bridgend. I am aware that much has been planned and proposed over the years, but never brought to fruition. Although the needs are pressing, I think it is best to spend some time to develop a programme of work with costings and so on. We should be grateful for the thorough survey work by Steve George in identifying the essential maintenance that is needed and in producing some credible proposals for updating the facilities, including a lift! We are bringing together a focussed "buildings' committee" to take these things forward.

In the meantime, there is quite a lot that we can do for ourselves on the cosmetic side. We are planning to have some "self-help" days when we can spend a Saturday morning with brushes and rollers (and bacon butties) to make some of our fantastic facilities a little more presentable. I'm sure all of this will be a "labour of love". We pray on.

All blessings as always, *Pastor Robbie*

The cover photo of Ogmores Castle - taken from a new and different angle - was taken by our Pastor. A meditative place, "we just keep stepping forward in faith and obedience" (See opposite) Thank you, Pastor.

(Introducing Mrs Brenda Wright who has written a book on Devotional Portions with Inspirational Poems. Brenda is a member of Preston Baptist Church, Paignton. I thank Madeleine and David Drew for introducing us and to Brenda for giving me permission to quote from her ‘treasures’)

What is Man?

A story reported recently on television told of a burglar who was traced to the scene of his crime because, as he was about to leave the house he had just robbed, he saw a beautiful pair of shoes. Just his size!

He had sat on the edge of the bed and changed into the new shoes, leaving his old shoes under the bed! Oh, by the way, his name was on his shoes!!

He seemed really surprised when he was caught out! We may smile at this but, believe me, there is absolutely no way that we can hide our identity, (*as hard as we try – and try hard we do. RM*) from an all-seeing God. It is only our Lord who can give us a new identity in Him.



We are so grateful to Brenda for putting pen to paper and using her spiritual insight to bless her readers

Bill Bailey, comedian and author, once wrote, “I am doing something ludicrously old fashioned and archaic. I am writing a letter with a pen and paper”. There’s an intimacy about a letter, (*hand written word*) - an emotional power and lasting influence – such become keepsakes. Wendy Carver wrote this several years ago and I kept it! – I’m eager to share it. Why don’t you put your pen to paper, it will make someone happy – guaranteed!

WHY??

This problem has plagued the mind of man since primitive feet first trod the soil of earth and primitive heart first sought for its soul in God.

As time has passed we’ve come to accept that life brings joy and pain. Its birth and its death but despite all this the dreadful dilemma remains.

Why do the innocent languish in pain - why do the good die young. How do you reconcile darkness with light, why are most heroes unsung?

Some seek the answers in Planets, some study the sacrosanct page, Whilst others declare revelation through Messiah or prophet or sage.

But answers bring questions which tangle into circles without any end. The problem persists and surely will, although choirs of angels descend.

Surely every thought and deed seen here as pitch black or pure white Ascends into a parallel realm beyond Mortal hearing or sight.

And maybe it’s not till we’ve played out our part
With life’s contract complete and on board,
We will see in what was and what still has to be
When we come face to face with our Lord.

Wendy Carver

We may not get clear answers to life’s questions. Sometimes we might only experience silence. It is so easy to read rejection into that. Yet silence is often Eternally loving. When a mother calmly holds her toddler and friends who know that silence can create and embrace a stillness in our souls. Words cannot always alleviate confusion. At such times trust in the very real comfort of silence is key. “Let go - let God”. He will smile and speak to us.

FAMILY NEWS

Happy Birthday to BMS Birthday Scheme Members - March

4th John Ware

Ethan Davies

7th Margaret Morton

This is a good beginning. Mr Geoff Hopkin is home from hospital and recovering steadily from his trauma. With his faith strong and confident in his Lord he has overcome much this past month. May the enforced rest help in 'pain management' – a constant companion for so many years. Your church family continue in prayers and love. I know that you have been looked after by your treasured family and friends each bringing practical help and spiritual comfort.

It is with gratitude that Marion has Ken home from hospital. He is well and strong again. They are both grateful for the care he received at the Princess of Wales Hospital and the healing that is so evident. We assure you both that Hope prays for your daily routine of caring and adjustment.

Mrs Pearl Phillips continues to be very poorly. She has amazed us over many years with her resilience and enduring faith. An example to all who love her.

As are so many who have made valiant efforts to attend church. This new virus has certainly taken its toll. Sore throats, coughs and weakness have come in its wake leaving you despondent and wondering, "Will I ever shake this off"? Our pastor hasn't escaped its claws! Not able to visit lest he passed it on there is the same frustration, so many have been victims of this bug that I could fill the pages. Please take care everyone, know that you have been truly missed. Just one final word... don't come out too soon!!

One lady will be smiling! Mrs Jean Langdon did just that. Missing fellowship she came to morning worship on Sunday Feb.10th and promptly fainted just as Clive started the reading! I cannot compete with Jean who would have penned a poem but here goes!

It was on a Sunday morning that the virus had its say
Jean Langdon came to chapel thinking it had gone away,
But with weakness, warmth and her will power spent –
the virus won the day.
Jean, she had no answers – and fainted, shaken to her core.
Soon, a charming paramedic had wooed her off the floor.
“No hospital for me” she cried, “just home to my cosy bed”.
I promise not to run around, I’ll get some rest instead
Seated in Church last Sunday, not down between the pews
Jean thanked her Hope Medical Team
but there are easier ways to get into Family News

Clarice Fewkes has the same determination to attend church, despite the pain that comes unbidden. Each day is a testing time as it is desperately frustrating not being able to be mobile and free of limited movement.

Clarice wishes to thank so many friends at Hope for all the cards (82 in all) she received on her 80th birthday. Also for the gifts, flowers and many phone calls. “It was so encouraging to know how loved I am by you all. God bless you”.

Hope has been pivotal in all our lives, for prayer and fellowship have served us well over many years. Mr. Paul Evans, our Treasurer, can say Amen to that for this month he looks back on 30 years as a Deacon. Paul, we pray for your good health as you continue to serve your Lord here in Hope.

March will be a month to gladden our hearts as we welcome into new membership baptismal candidates. As they are given the right hand of fellowship so we all are reminded of our individual responsibilities as church members. Our pastor is encouraged time and again as you respond to his preaching and leadership. Alongside the baptised members will be Mr David Drew whose letter of transfer from Preston Baptist Church, Paignton was accepted with alacrity, a good word as we read his letter of commendation. We have witnessed for ourselves the loyalty and love both he and Madeleine have for their Lord and Saviour.

Our prayers continue for all who are thinking of taking that one step of membership which will unite us even further as we seek our Lord’s blessing and serve Him in Hope.

Rhonwen

Month of Sundays...

	3 rd March	10 th March
DUTY DEACONS	Mr. John Ware	
	Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Robbie Hall
	Enid & Gareth James	Margaret & John Francis (in memory of Vi Edmunds)
 AM PM	Lynne Chamberlain & Elaine Jenkins	Yvonne Matthews & Margaret Francis
	Margaret Francis & Rhyl Coleman	Pam Jones & Judith Jakob
	COMMUNION PM Prep: Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	

Ladies Guild

11th Rev. Clive Williams – Musical Afternoon

Readers March 3rd Mr. Huw Morgan
 10th Mrs. Rosalyn Hogg
 17th Mrs. Angela Duthie
 31st Mrs. Anne Davies

17 th March	24 th March	31 st March
Mr. John Ware		
Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Philip Rees (Cardiff)	Rev. Robbie Hall
Delyth & John Ware		Mr. Goff Hopkins
Rosalyn Hogg & Val Jenkins	Mary Johnson & Ropsemary Rowe	Joan de Vere & Delyth Ware
Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	Margaret Francis & Rhyl Coleman	Pam Jones & Judith Jakob
COMMUNION AM Prep: Delyth Ware & Enid James		

Tuesday@Hope

- 5th Pastor Robbie Hall
- 12th Pastor Mark Thomas
- 19th Paul Thomas – Release International
- 26th TBC

WHAT'S OCCURRING!

Deacons' Meeting Tuesday 12th March

Church Meeting Thursday 21st March

CHRISTIAN AID

QUIZ AID

Thursday Feb 28th at 7pm Nolton Church Hall. £3 per person. All proceeds to Christian Aid. A group from Hope went last year and we had a really good evening. Do join us if you can [unfortunately it's a Thursday evening]

FAIRTRADE COFFEE MORNING

Saturday March 9th at Bridgend United Church Tondy Road 10 - 12pm. All welcome

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Once again we will take part in the Christian Aid Count your Blessings scheme for Lent.

The leaflets will be available in the porch from the 24th of Feb. Do take one. The scheme involves reading the daily reflections through Lent, then praying, thanking God or giving as prompted. It's a way of being mindful and grateful to God for our many blessings, while supporting the work of Christian Aid. At Easter we'll bring in our gifts and send the total to Christian Aid from the church. Once again thank you all for your support

Delyth Ware

MISSION HOME AND AWAY – HILDA'S WALK

Please make a note of our next event which will be the ever popular sponsored walk on Easter Saturday, 20th April. This year we are collecting for UCB, who supply the Church with the Word for Today Bible reading notes free of charge, and the Leprosy Mission (LM) who provide medical aid and outreach in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Africa. Trevor Grant our LM Area Rep is due to speak at Tuesday at Hope before the walk, so please look out for an announcement about this. Trevor's visits are always very informative and inspiring and give an excellent insight into the work of LM. We will be starting the walk from the Rest Bay Car Park in Porthcawl half an hour later this year at 10.30am, and walking to the Atlantic Hotel for tea/coffee and light refreshments before returning. More details to follow in next month's Magazine. Sponsorship forms will be available soon in the entrance to the Church, or please see Neil, Val or Mary if you would just like to make a donation. We are praying that the weather will be good on the day! God Bless.

Neil Jenkins

Haggai 1 v9 “Mine house ...is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house”.

The formation of a team - a work force - to carry out much needed lighter maintenance is to be set up (painting etc.) on our church buildings. Don't worry, professionals will be responsible for the more specialised work needed. Just a reminder of the truth of 'many hands make light work' It was certainly true of the work carried out on the Manse. Our pastor will be delighted to hear of any help you can give. The Building Committee will arrange a schedule for the work – with timings to suit you. Coffee breaks and lunch will be provided by women who are useless and possibly deadly when wielding a paintbrush. I make no apologies for reiterating words used by our Pastor in his Diary Page 3. It was my dream to have done more work than time allowed in readiness for the Induction but Robbie didn't prioritise the railings or damp patches and graciously said “don't worry it is all a work in progress”. His heart was with his people – now we 'his people' work together on our building.

Church Secretary

Who will be here in a hundred years
If the Lord should tarry and stay?
Who will open the door, who will read God's Word,
Who will worship, sing and pray?
“Not me” said a voice, “get somebody else, not me,
Not me, I've done my share”
“Not me”, said another, “I'm doing too much.
And it really is not fair.”
And the walls that had echoed a thousand prayers
Gave a shudder, and seemed to sigh,
“Built to the Glory of God”, said the stone, but the people passed it by”

Brenda Wright

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.” Psalm 122 v1



It's 10.30am Friday 15th Feb. It's definitely 'throwing out' time! I need another cup of coffee and the biscuit tin. A morning of 'decision making' threatens my sanity because the older I get the more difficult it becomes. Why? Let me tell you - **'stay or go'** - has nothing to do with practicality, need or usefulness - it has everything to do with memory! – that is what gets in the way! We wail "Don't throw that out, it has sentimental value".

The younger generation are better at saying, "No, thank you" whilst we have always said, politely, "Yes, please". Consequently they have skilfully evaded that large cut glass vase which weighs a ton, thereby threatening to give us a hernia every time we fill it with water.

Decisions large and small can exhaust us. I wish someone would make the decision for me once in a while – like sorting out my insurances – "am I getting the best deal". I read that Professional 'Tidy uppers' can be hired, that would be nice – but at a cost ££..? Forget that, they might bin the cut glass vase!!

Decisions! Have they succeeded in eroding our enjoyment of living life to the full. We have always believed that Jesus came so that we might have life in abundance. A life not full of the abundance of things but abundance seen in us living our life to its full potential, with purpose and joy.

Decisions! They should come with a Red Alert Warning. "Which of you, intending to build a tower does not sit down first and count the cost - whether he has enough to finish the task". You didn't think you would find such modern and relevant advice in the Bible, did you!

The merits of a wise decision re: a glass vase, dissolves into insignificance when we think of the overwhelming, life changing importance of Global warming and Brexit issues. Such decisions are complex and beyond our full understanding. We need God's wisdom but what happens?

Earth Summit.

They came with their notes in a brief case
Each nation sent someone to talk,
The satellite pictures showed us
The men with the arrogant walk.
Each stood in His place, with a smile on his face
This was their 'moment', representing their race;
A species called MAN, devising a PLAN,
But no-one mentioned Your Name.

Brenda Wright

On a personal level, however, our lives don't always make sense. Tragic and unfair circumstances force us into making decisions that go against all that we want to do and say. Indecisiveness and fear come because we don't have any answers. Where's the DIY Manual we cry - every gadget imaginable comes with a manual. Personally I am hopeless as I wade through them at the speed of light. I need someone to explain it to me. What to do – when and how.

The Bible is our ultimate and perfect instruction manual. God wrote it with intimacy having you uppermost in mind. The path you are travelling is all mapped out and He is right by your side. When you stride ahead with great speed and arrogance He just waits for you to turn around and see the distance you have created between you. He is hoping that you will stand still – so that you can resume the journey together, walking side by side – according to The Plan.

To know the purpose of our life here on earth is to have the mind of Jesus and the character of God. Herein lie our values and our identity as we make the right decisions.

Rhonwen

WHO I AM
In Christ

I am accepted

I am God's child.^{John 1:12} As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ.^{John 15:14} I have been justified.^{Romans 5:1}
I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit.^{1 Cor. 12:13} I have been bought with a price, and I belong to God.^{1 Cor. 6:19-20}
I am a member of Christ's body.^{1 Cor. 12:27} I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child.^{Ephesians 1:5}
I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.^{Colossians 1:14} I am complete in Christ.^{Colossians 2:10}

I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ.^{Hebrews 4:16}

I am secure

I am free from condemnation.^{Romans 8:1} I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances.^{Romans 8:28}
I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God.^{2 Cor. 1:21-22} I cannot be separated from the love of God.^{Romans 8:38-39}
I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me.^{Philippians 1:6} I am a citizen of Heaven.^{Philippians 3:20}
I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind.^{1 Peter 1:7}

I am significant

I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life.^{John 15:5} I am born of God, and the evil one cannot touch me.^{1 John 5:18}
I am God's temple.^{1 Cor. 3:16} I'm a minister of reconciliation for God.^{2 Cor. 5:17-18}
I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm.^{Ephesians 2:6} I may approach God with freedom and confidence.^{Ephesians 3:12}
I am God's workmanship.^{Ephesians 2:10} I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.^{Philippians 4:13}

I am free

OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

MONDAY:

Ladies Guild	2.30pm	Mrs P. Jones	(01656) 655142
Bible Study	7.30pm	Mrs. M. Denning	(01656) 767381

TUESDAY:

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

WEDNESDAY:

"Busy Fingers" Group	2- 4.30pm	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	07787551100
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

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