

May 2022



This isn't just any sea – this is Galilee; a haven for Jesus –
God decreed....

Childhood haunts where laughter reigned with
family prayers to call Him Home.

Please find your special place this summer.

I read a book. It has left me with one resolute thought. Never strip Jesus of the totality of his humanity.

In my experience we have successfully portrayed Jesus as a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief - and rightly so. It is through His suffering that we are made whole. Again, the gospels underline his wonderful teaching. He was a rabbi and even the men of the law were amazed at his teaching. All serious doctrine, unknowingly they cling to His every word.

If, however, such were and still are the sum total of his personality then He would not be 'fully human' because God means us to exercise one precious and needful gift bequeathed to us with Divine purpose - a healthy measure of good humour. It brings with it a delightful lightness of spirit.

In my book, humour is a vital tool to help each one of us claw ourselves out of Covid and it's ensuing gloom.

In his wonderful book 'Beautiful Outlaw' John Eldredge establishes right at the start that humour - or the preferred term 'playfulness' rounds off our 'humanity' with Divine intent. This playfulness is captured beautifully in John 21 v 1-12

The disciples had seen the risen Lord twice in Jerusalem, yet Jesus hadn't lingered. He hadn't gone to the temple to show himself to a multitude. In their eyes that would have been the most natural thing to do. That would have sent Caiaphas to his knees and probably resulted in a Pilate, along with Herod, becoming insane. Did the disciples go on to argue that such an appearance of Himself, in all His resurrected glory would have been proof positive that He truly was the Messiah, the Son of God! Jesus didn't; rather Jesus told them to go to Galilee. He'd see them there. So they did. Confused, wondering what on earth was going to happen next they turned to what they knew best; they sought their comfort zone. Isn't that what we all do? Take time out and wait for the next reveal?

Where do you go to... to be re-energised? What makes you smile - where do you find laughter in this bleak society?

The disciples went fishing. They needed cheering up! See what they were given, an all-nighter and the catch? The Sea of Galilee yielded nothing - zero!

Suddenly a stranger appears on the shore. Obviously a tourist or worse a fellow fisherman asking the age old question, "Have you caught anything?" A reluctant answer "No" - probably from Peter!! (Jesus would be smiling inwardly) He goes a step further, "Try the other side".

Honestly! Who is this man. What does he know about fishing? They have been out all night - it isn't for want of not trying that the nets are empty. Is that how we feel right now? Has Covid scared us into submission? As we face the very real prospect that probably every church has been dealt a kind of 'death blow' we need to see Jesus alive. We need to hear His words speaking to us today, "Try the other side" Try again, keep fishing. The fishermen of Galilee obeyed. This stranger could be one of the fishing fraternity They had heard such words many times before; it was a running joke between them: - banter between like minded kindred folk. This humour had a warmth to it – it fostered a togetherness, a camaraderie.

Out of desperation perhaps they threw the nets over the side and then it happened. Bang! the fish leapt into the nets. (this miracle has happened before when they first followed Jesus)

John, in a moment of divine recognition says, "It is the Lord" and Peter, ever ready to listen to John's opinion jumps into the water threshing his way towards Jesus.

As for Jesus, His timing is perfect. Look at the tension, his 'hiddenness'. He asks a tourist like question? That is what is called playfulness and I embrace it. It adds so much to this wonderful account - (the best is for another day). It softens the moment, "it reignites the closeness, it has all the wink of an inside joke, that rich treasure of friendship, of experiences shared and re called time and again".

Such experiences end in laughter and that priceless feeling of 'belonging'. This is what church means to me. To share faith we need this essential element. Jesus exercises it time and again. We can be so over cautious in our subdued worship, to the point of being too sanctimonious that we cannot see the playful, loving glint in Jesus eyes - we dig deep, into the gospels and to our delight it is there. Through it we experience His love, May that same 'lightness of spirit emanate from us.

Once there it cannot be switched off it will always shine - it will always cast its divine light - it will light up the way ahead.

Rhonwen

How opportune that Tracey should send me this lovely sermon illustration, (C.H.Spurgeon) for with it comes her strong faith which we long to share with her. Thank you so much, Tracey, it speaks volumes.

“When you are down at the seaside, as we might all of us wish to be, you will see the limpet sticking to the rocks. Our little friend the limpet does not know much, but he clings. He cannot tell us much about what he is clinging to, he is not acquainted with the geographical formation of the rock, but he clings.

He has found something to cling to - that is his little bit of knowledge - and he uses it by clinging to the rock which is his salvation! It is the limpet's life to cling.

Thousands of God's people have no more faith than this. They know enough to cling to Jesus with all their heart and soul and this is enough.

Jesus Christ is, to them, a Saviour, strong and mighty and like a rock, immovable and immutable! They cleave to him for dear life and this clinging saves them.

God gives to his people the propensity to cling. Look at the sweet pea which grows in your garden perhaps it has fallen on the gravel path so you lift it up and put it back against the trellis or put a stick against it and it catches hold directly because there are little hooks readily prepared with which it grips anything which comes in this way.

It was meant to grow upwards and so it is provided with tendrils.

Every child of God has his tendrils about him thoughts, desires and hopes with which he hooks on to Christ and the promise.

Though this is a very simple sort of faith it is a very complex and effectual form of it and in fact it is the heart of all faith and that to which we are often driven when we are in deep trouble.

We can cling when we can do nothing else and that is the very soul of faith”.

You have our special prayers during this coming month as you make the transition to God's own country!



We're standing on the threshold of a new beginning,
Joining hands together as we face the light,;
Leaving space for God, the Holy Spirit's presence,
Trusting in his promise for a future bright.

Take us to the places where your change is wanted.
Show us all the people living deep in need.
Help us to be liberal in all our giving,
As we indiscriminately scatter seed.

Take us to the edges with your love's compassion.
Take from us the attitudes we call our own.
Free us from believing in our limitations,
Take us to the edges of our comfort zone.

We shall be your servants as we follow in your footsteps,
Confident, courageous, knowing we've been found.
Claiming for the Kingdom all the strength you offer,
Understanding that we're all on Holy Ground.

Take from us the fear of all the old ways changing;
Give us each the vision of a bonded whole –
So that all the world will see a new revealing,
See the Source of all that beats within our soul.

Then we'll be together in a new creation,
Looking for the dawning of a bright new day,
Walking hand in hand and taking risks in loving
Trusting that in future we will walk your way.

Let us journey on toward a God - planned future.
Celebrating one-ness, relegating fear;
Seeing new horizons 'cross the shining ocean –
Realising that the Kingdom's now – and here.

Unpublished song written by Paul Heppleston with John Bayes

The words of the poem (overleaf) are brave words: but do we think ourselves a little braver than we merit, at times? We, who follow Jesus are loved and cared for – that is our choice and our blessing.

Yet, in an ever changing world can we be forgiven for not thinking beyond our own, small and limited world of faith and loving devotion? Reading the following pages made me sit up straight. It is good, enlightening even for us to look at Jesus' life, death and resurrection from a different angle. It cannot but enhance our faith and deepen our love.

This is God's perfect plan: it has to amaze us all - even the most sceptical. Where would I have been? Where would we have stood - 2000 years ago? This is unquestionably a plan, forged from the beginning of time. It was executed with such patient understanding of our human nature with a Love beyond our comprehension.

Thank you, Lord, for we have 2000 years of hindsight, through the Bible and lives of men and women - called, faithful and true.

We stand on their shoulders: may others stand on ours.

HIS BIRTH

The words of King Herod when told of the birth of Jesus,

"Kill Him. Here is room for only one king in this corner of the world."

The number of religious leaders who believed a messiah had been born in Bethlehem. ZERO

The type of people who did.

Stargazers, night – shift shepherds and his mother and father.

The reward given to Joseph and Mary for bringing God into the world

Two years exile, learning Egyptian.

HIS MINISTRY

The word on the streets of Jesus' hometown when He claimed to be sent from God.

Weird family. Have you seen His cousin?

The reaction of the home town folks Stone Him.

The opinion of His brothers Lock Him up.

The number of disciples Jesus recruited Seventy.

The number of disciples who defended Him to the authorities. Zero.

Who were His followers as found in the Jerusalem 'Editorial page'

A group of unemployed ne'er-do-wells recruited off the shipping docks and out of the red-light districts.

The number of lepers, blind people and lame Jesus healed.

Too many to count.

HIS EXECUTION

The popular opinion regarding Jesus before He cleansed the Temple
See if He'll run for office.

The popular opinion regarding Jesus after He cleansed the Temple.
Let's see how fast He can run.

The decision of the Jewish council. Three spikes and a spear.

The talk on the streets of Jerusalem after Jesus died.
He should have stayed in the furniture business.

The number of times Jesus prophesied that He would come back to life three days after His death. Three.

The number of apostles who heard the prophecy. All of them.

The number of apostles who waited at the tomb to see if He would do what He said. Zero.

The odds a street-corner bookie would've given the day the day after the crucifixion on the possibility that Jesus 'name would be known and worshipped in the year 2000

"I'll give you better odds that He'll rise from the dead".

HIS MOVEMENT.

The official response of the Jewish leaders to the rumours of the resurrection.

Of course they say He's alive. They have to. What else can they say?

The actual response of the Jewish leaders to the resurrection.

"A great number of the Jewish priests believed and obeyed". (Acts 6 v7)

The decision of the Jewish leaders about the church.

"If their plan comes from human authority, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop them" (Acts 5 v38-39.)

THE MOVEMENT CONTINUES

The discovery made by every person who has tried to bury the faith.

The same as the one made by those who tried to bury its Founder.:

He won't stay in the tomb.

For when He rose, your grave was changed from a final residence to a temporary housing.

The reason He did it.

The face in your mirror.

(He chose the nails.

- Max Lucado)



FAMILY NEWS

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

4 th	Gareth James	20 th	Mary Johnson
8 th	Matthew Evans	22 nd	Ron Fairfax
14 th	Alison Evans	26 th	Rhonwen Miles
16 th	Patricia George	30 th	Rosemary Rowe Helen Hall

Pulpit Ministry

May 1 st	Rev Ian Howells (Communion)
May 8 th	Rev Richard Roberts. (Dedication Service)
May 15 th	Rev Stephen Pare
May 22 nd	Mr Christian Thomas
May 29 th .	Mr. Walter Holder

Duty Deacons Paul Evans and Margaret Francis.

Tea Rota.

May 1 st	Delyth and John Ware
May 8 th	Enid and Gary James
May 15 th	Pat and Ron Fairfax
May 22 nd	Alison Evans and Pam Jones
May 29 th	Yvonne and Eric Matthews

My mantra for Spring 2022 is 'Close the Covid Gap'.

Realistically we cannot expect things to be 'back to normal' but we can begin to take heart and make plans for our future. Darren, our pastor elect, blessed us with the Easter messages; he will give us a new impetus. We thank him for coming to us. This is a super time for him as he and Tracey prepare to move to 'glorious' Wales. Thank you, Darren, for shepherding us through Easter. We pray that the final preparations and move to Bridgend will all go smoothly. The planned date will be May 10th/11th.

We are not unmindful of the huge wrench it will be for Tracey as she has been in Herne Bay the majority of her life. All we can do is to open our arms wide and be super sensitive to her health and her needs. Rest assured, Tracey, you will be loved. We are so glad that Jack is moving to Wales too. We are saddened that Clarice (Fewkes) has had to go back into the Princess of Wales Hospital. Her newly fractured knee must have been so painful. It is good that a talented surgeon operated and that you are

recovering well from this second operation. We are praying for strength as you feel able to walk more easily with far less pain.

STOP PRESS! We are saddened to hear that Mrs. Margaret Morton has passed away, gone to glory. She died peacefully on Monday 25th April. A long and faithful member of Hope, more details to follow in Church.

We are also lifting Mr Brinley George to our Lord in prayer. He too is in the Princess of Wales and has Covid an unwelcome complication. We are thinking of you Pat, as it must be so distressing not being able to visit him. Brinley knows that Hope is praying for him and for you too.

Mrs Edith Hughes is now at Ysbyty'r Seren (Bennett Street, Industrial Estate, Bridgend) We bemoan the scarcity of caring packages (for the first 6 weeks) which are essential if patients are strong enough to manage in their own homes. We pray, Edith, that you will be able to return home very soon.

At this point I would like to thank Rev. Richard Cleaves for his generosity of spirit. Richard, who has been a blessing to us on Sundays during our interregnum, is a hospital chaplain at POW Hospital. New ruling decrees that we must request a visit by the chaplain. Thank you so much, Richard, for answering our needs and visiting our members. May you be strengthened daily in this vital ministry. Your quiet and sincere prayers have been as the bread and wine you share.

As others wait for hip and knee operations from within our fellowship I am wondering if we could 'Rent-a-Ward' and get everyone 'sorted' in readiness for summer hiking? Meantime all we say is "We feel your pain and help to pray you through".

The hospital served us well this month! With great delight we are thrilled that Rachel, Jane (nee Howells) and Ian's daughter, gave birth on March 21st to a beautiful baby boy.

Here he is Cooper Frank Hurley. His weight – 13lb 3ozs.



This is for all adoring grandparents. present and future, but especially for you, Jane and Ian.

Thank you Lynne for sending this and 'What is Love' in. Perfect timing.
(Taken from papers written by a class of 8-year-olds)

WHAT IS A GRANDPARENT?

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own. They like other people's.

A grandfather is a man, & a grandmother is a lady!

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them... They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars. They show us and talk to us about the colours of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on 'cracks.' They don't say, 'Hurry up.'

Usually grandmothers are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums out.

Grandparents don't have to be smart. They have to answer questions like 'Why isn't God married?' and 'How come dogs chase cats?'

When they read to us, they don't skip. They don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television because they are the only grown-ups who like to spend time with us.

Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!

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We have a world to pray for.

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These 5 lines were written by Scott Wesley Brown – a part of his beautiful hymn –

This Little Child

“Debating over disarmament, killing children before they are born,
And fools who march to win the right to justify their sin.

Every nation that has fallen has fallen from within.

Yet in the midst of this darkness, there is hope, a light that burns:

This little Child, the King of kings some day will return. “

- (we never learn)

Mel (Denning) writes on behalf of her family .

Since the 24th of February we have all been united in our prayers for Ukraine, its people, president and peace. Soon after, the first refugees started making their way over the borders and on the 1st March, the UK government launched their 'help scheme'. As a family, we agreed that we could offer our spare bedroom to a refugee and so signed up to the scheme. Soon it became apparent that it would be a long time until we would be able open our home, as we didn't know anyone in the Ukraine that we could 'sponsor'.

It was at this point that God intervened and reassured us that this was something He wanted us to do. Watching an online service at Leah's church in Bristol, we were provided with details of a 'sponsor' scheme the church had been able to set up, with refugees they were meeting daily on the Polish border. Within one week we had a 'match'!

Ludmilla is a 60 year old lady (on the left of the picture) who fled the heart of the fighting at the start of the war. She leaves behind her son and daughter-in-law and is travelling for the first time in her life - alone. She was naturally very anxious about coming to Wales, having never travelled, and

heading to a country whose language she doesn't speak. All on top of the emotion of having to leave her country and family under the most dreadful of circumstances.

Thankfully the team from Woodlands Baptist Church Bristol have been on hand every day, building relationships with the refugees and providing for their needs. We were able to meet Luda via zoom 2 weekends ago and have been told by Rachel (from Bristol – second on the left)



that Luda is now happy and excited for her future.

Please continue to pray for the Visa process to move swiftly, so we can welcome and settle Luda as soon as possible.

Head to : Little bit of love from Bristol to Ukraine on Facebook to follow or support the work.

MISSION HOME & AWAY
Hilda's Walk



After a break of 2 years caused by the pandemic, 35 walkers and 2 dogs eagerly set off from Rest Bay on Easter Saturday, including Darren our new Pastor. Many thanks to all who walked or sponsored someone, or made a donation. We were blessed with clear blue skies, beautiful sunshine and great company. Our coffee stop this year was at the Waterfront, organised for us by Jane Tyre.

At the time of going to press, we have so far received £775, with some amounts still to be collected. This will be sent to United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) which broadcast in 25 countries and produce the Word for Today Bible reading notes which are faithfully ordered each quarter by Edward Jones and supplied to our Church free of charge.

God Bless **Neil Jenkins**

We all thank you, Neil, for arranging this successful walk. Hope's response in achieving the fantastic sum of £775 is astounding. Also a big thank you to you, Jane for our coffees at the Waterfront. (Cooper will be walking with us next year!). Your mum 'ordered' the weather. It was a "Summer's Day."

Many, many thanks to all who walked and donated last Saturday, an amazing total and still rising! We are planning an event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as monarch. We will hold it on **Saturday, June 4th** and invite all ladies to be "Queen for the day" with all your bling and handbags and any available corgis! Top hat and tails optional for the gentlemen. Could you please let us know whether you will be interested in coming? Tickets will be £10 with more details to follow.

Mary Johnson



IN THE GARDEN. C. Austin Miles.

“I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear the Son of God discloses,
And He walks with me and He talks with me
And He tells me I am his own.
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known”.

(A beautiful hymn sung at Hope long ago but it still pulls at the heart strings...)

A floral quiz as you sip your tea/coffee/squash and enjoy that cake.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Animal in a hurry. | 11. Make yourself better. |
| 2. Sugary Bill. | 12. New ones sweep clean. |
| 3. Bovine error. | 13. Is this the best policy? |
| 4. She looks sweet on a seat. | 14. Capital with self respect. |
| 5. Churned milk in a vessel. | 15. A black card. |
| 6. Battle of Red and White. | 16. Solar blooms. |
| 7. This waits for no man. | 17. A lady between the mountains. |
| 8. Elusive. | 18. Sounds like you could thicken a sauce. |
| 9. Fatal evening out. | 19. A prickly Scot. |
| 10. “Hello” little feline. | 20. Heavenly body, Jesus’ birthplace. |

If you had to choose something in the garden that represents you what would it be? Would it be a flower, a rock, a tree? A bird feeder perhaps? When one lady was asked she answered with no hesitation whatsoever... Compost! That was her in a nutshell, for Alice was a ‘compost’ person who nourished the soils of the souls thereby encouraging growth and change. Which leads seamlessly into :-

What do I value most in my friends ... the cake was delicious.
What would be my holiday of a lifetime. Zzzzzzz!!

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid week - the focus this year is on changing hunger into hope for families in Zimbabwe. We will have envelopes in the pews on the 15th May. There will be a united Christian Aid service in Tabernacl on Wednesday 18th May at 7pm. Do support this service if you can as it will be the first united service held since the start of the pandemic. Please pray for the work of Christian Aid as they seek to bring practical help to the most vulnerable in the name of Jesus.

Delyth Ware

Lynne Green writing in the Baptist Times encourages us.

“Looking back to March 2020 we realise how subtly things have changed. Through it all we had covid restrictions to lean on – yes, lean on! We were being told what to do. Rules and regulations help us to live. Our lives were governed by an outside force, bigger than we had ever encountered before. How we longed to have the restrictions removed.

Now they are and we are finding that we have to start making decisions for ourselves. But we are just ordinary people, pushed and pulled by circumstance, yet willing to be led by God’s Holy Spirit.

We are the nameless ones, just like the early church. God works through ordinary people”, thousands are nameless - all are precious.

That is the very essence of the love of God down through the centuries, it is the weak who have inherited the earth and humble poor are elevated to the heights of honour and blessing

Answers to Quiz.

1. Bulrush
2. Sweet William.
3. Cowslip.
4. Daisy.
5. Buttercup.
6. Roses
7. Thyme.
8. Scarlet Pimpernel.
9. Deadly Nightshade.
10. Hyacinth.
11. Fever Few.
12. Broom.
13. Honesty.
14. London Pride.
15. Spade.
16. Sunflower.
17. Lily of the Valley.
18. Cornflour.
19. Thistle.
20. Star of Bethlehem

WHAT IS LOVE?

'When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore... So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.' Rebecca - age 8

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.' Billy - age 4

'Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.' Karl - age 5

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.' Chrissy - age 6

'Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.' Terri - age 4

'Love is when my mummy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.' Danny - age 8

'Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day.' Noelle - age 7

'Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.' Tommy - age 6

'During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore.' Cindy - age 8

'My mummy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.' Clare - age 6

'Love is when Mummy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.' Elaine - age 5

'Love is when Mummy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.' Chris - age 7

'Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.' Mary Ann - age 4

'I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.' Lauren - age 4

'When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.' (what an image!) Karen - age 7

'You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.' Jessica - age 8

And the final one: The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbour was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbour, the little boy said, 'Nothing, I just helped him cry.'

The occupant of Hut 18 has moved

Where has she gone – we all ask?

The Fineas Mc Duff Estate Agent sign outside is clearly marked - SOLD. Rumour has it that she has found her Shangri-La, in neighbouring Litchard - she has up sticks and left.

She has subsequently been reported as saying,

“A brave and enterprising member of Hope came to investigate – please replace brave and enterprising with ‘dead nosey’. Unfortunately, I was found a gibbering wreck of my former exemplary personage. I was cowering in my much wanted and now loved home. Understandably, to some (?) I am surrounded by a sea of cardboard boxes, bags, piles of mementoes, heirlooms, and junk, the result of living 40 years in one house. It seems that rumour has it that I am not allowed out of our garage until at least two boxes have been emptied per day. Trouble is every box that’s opened speaks to me. True?!

It’s a case of ‘Remember this? Oh! I forgot that - can’t throw that out - I may need it!! I have got very broad shoulders - so mock away!

If I see merit in keeping my only daughter’s bootees for sentiment and my only son’s first rugby boots for some reason well they haven’t upset the balance of anybody’s life yet, so back into the house they go.

I reckon I will get out - and be potentially organised, possibly in the next millennium. You can’t hurry these things.

Amen - so be it ..

Footnote. A word of explanation as the word ‘nosey’ has strong undertones!! ,

I called in my capacity as church secretary, whose job remit sometimes requires me to check on the physical and mental needs of our church family!

I immediately noticed that the moat had disappeared - but there were posh gates and a bird bath. I was sympathetic to the point of sainthood as I listened to the various problems of leaving Hut 18, all overcome with expertise. I looked longingly at a corned beef pie and fruit cake - but hinted not!!!

I will call again - hoping that there will be some fruit cake left and a coffee would be nice. Perhaps nearer Christmas. I left, noticing a leaflet for a new kitchen, tester paint pots, and quotes from a builder,

“Only gentry have moats - let me help you - nothing too large or too small”. Oh no...!!) I must say that all our prayers are with you – for happiness in your new home

We know that the Happiness, Peace and Love present in Hut 18 will remain with you in your new home.

We have always needed to learn the elusive art of relaxation.

The need for rest to rejuvenate and help us appreciate the good and better things of life.

In an ironic way Covid gave us 'a way in'.

Covid brought us to a lockdown halt and in its wake it offered us the opportunity to have a lockdown declutter, a lockdown opportunity to stay in to just sit down, dream and make lists. .

"When this is over I am going to (in my case)

1. I am going to walk more – appreciate our stunning coastline. Greens and blues are going to be the **in** colours **outdoors**, with a touch of grey in late evenings. Preferably just as I am about to water my garden.

2. I'm going to make a simple picnic, 'as in the days of yore';

3, Definitely visit family and friends more – it has been my forbidden pleasure for far too long.. (I know - Covid still lurks in the shadows)

"Well???" - You might well ask.". (excuse the pun).

I have withdrawal symptoms as I prise myself out of the corner of my sofa where I have sat comfortably for far too long - dreaming and making lists with my faithful computer linking me to 'my' world – 'our world' out there.

I have been glancing enviously at the success of experts as demonstrated by annoying entrepreneurs on You Tube who can transform utility items into fine looking antiques with a lick of chalk paint some wax for the corners and sandpaper. Seemingly it's called 'distressing.' You see, even the furniture is distressed.

I am happy to say that I am finally on my feet. My garden is my greatest ally. We have had better weather of late; the perfect combination of heat and April showers - the dandelions are excelling themselves.

My biggest disappointment throughout this pandemic was not getting to see my grandchildren, most especially this past Christmas time. I am praying with all my heart that I will see them mid May. Please give me credit, I, who have only had three 'trips' in the last two and a half years

1. Rhodri's wedding in Rogerstone, 2. Passport Office in November and 3. an eye test in Cowbridge! This named intrepid traveller will be off to see my family..... in Los Angeles!

Honestly you can't accuse me of 'playing small.' Incredible!!

I am reminded of a sentence I read recently. It made me smile at the time, now it's truth fills me with confidence and resolve. "Even God cannot steer a parked car. He will direct, He will re-route if necessary, He will switch our direction but He cannot steer an obstinately parked car or a parked church. We have to keep moving.

Rhonwen

I should like to wish Rhonwen Godspeed for her flight to Los Angeles and a very happy 80th birthday on the 26th May from us all in Hope



It is time to close the Covid gap - to move forward

May this be the day we come together –mourning we come to mend.
Withered, we come to weather - torn, we come to tend.
Battered, we come to better - we steadily vow that no matter
How we are weighed down, we must always pave a way round.
This hope is our door, our portal - even if we never get back to normal,

Someday we can venture beyond it.
To leave the known and take the first steps.
So let us not return to what was normal
But reach toward what is next.
Those moments we missed
Are now the moments we make,
The moments we meet and our hearts,
Once all together beaten, now all together rest.

Come, look up with kindness yet,
For even solace can be sourced from sorrow.
We remember, not just for the sake of yesterday,
But to take on tomorrow.
We heed this old spirit, in a new day's lyric,
In our hearts we hear it.
For when you honour yesterday, tomorrow you will find.....
Know for what we've fought , it need not be forgot
It defines us, binds us (today) as one....
Amanda Gorman.



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 10.30am Mrs M Johnson (01656) 656346

THURSDAY:

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

Prayer Meeting 7.00pm

SUNDAY:

Sunday'scool 10.30am

Morning Service 10.30am

WHO TO CONTACT AT HOPE

CHURCH CONTACT: hopebaptist@hotmail.co.uk 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.facebook.com/HOPE-BAPTIST-CHURCH-BRIDGEND

[1699576150319699](https://www.facebook.com/HOPE-BAPTIST-CHURCH-BRIDGEND)

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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