

November 2018



## REMEMBRANCE DAY



Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need.

**1 Tim 5:3**

## **Pastor's Study**

In May 1983 I was on board HMS Southampton returning to the Falkland Islands from a diving operation in South Georgia. The Ship's Captain was Sam Salt, who had been in command of HMS Sheffield exactly 1 year earlier when she had foundered after being hit by a missile during the Falklands war; 20 of her crew died and many more were seriously injured.

Captain Salt arranged for a wreath laying ceremony at the very point where Sheffield sank, to mark this first anniversary. Everyone on board assembled on the helicopter deck at the ship's stern. The names of each of the lost were called out, a wreath was cast onto the sea, and a short message from loved ones was read out.

The final wreath was a small bunch of flowers, the message we heard was from the sailor's young daughter, explaining that she wanted her Daddy to have some of the lovely flowers they had planted together that previous Spring, but he had never returned to see them in flower, and how she loved her Daddy and missed him so much.

I think every one of us on that heli-deck was moved to tears.

Paul's counsel to Timothy identifies the importance of caring for widows who are in need. Those widowed by war, and their children, are certainly in need. As we rightly remember again this year, those who have given their lives in the wars and conflicts of this and the last century, let us remember also those of their families coping with terrible loss. A loss that so often strikes at the prime of young family life.

The widows and their children are with us for many years after the conflict has finished. So often the care and concern so generously given at the time of the bereavement diminishes before too long. If we are to be true and honouring to the memory of the sailors, soldiers and airmen who have died for their country, then we must continue to look after those loved ones they left behind.

I am looking forward to our Remembrance service on 11 November. It will be both a special and an important day. Let us never allow ourselves to forget.

***Pastor Robbie***

## **Pastor's Diary - October:**

It is great to see our lighter, brighter and more open Church office emerging in the Sunday'scool building. Some re-decoration is still to come, and carpet to be laid, but we will soon have a through-the-week focal point and an administrative hub for our Church. Thanks to the Church for the "get on with it" attitude and for the efforts of Neil and Phil - we had the main job done in a morning.

With the door wide open this morning it is good to be able to greet those coming in to the Toddler Group with a word of welcome. I get to do story and song with the youngsters a bit later on - a privilege to share with the youngsters and a good number of mums and a couple of dads. We should never underestimate the importance of this ministry - thanks and well done for the good work Delyth, Lynne and helpers.

I've had some positive and encouraging feedback on the first parts of our journey with Mark's amazing Gospel narrative, in our Sunday morning services. The plan is to keep this going through November and then our focus will shift to Advent and Christmas. No changes are planned to the programme of services and events for my first Christmas time of celebration with Hope. Let us all be in prayer for the Lord's rich blessing on our Christmas, especially that we might see a great number of visitors joining us at various times, and then to come back for more!

I love the atmosphere and the fellowship of our Sunday evening services, and the chance to delve slightly deeper into the Word. For those who have got out of the habit of coming out for a second service on Sunday, let me encourage you to come and join us again - I'm sure you will be blessed and glad that you made the effort.

The other great opportunity is our Bible study and prayer meeting on Thursday evening. This is a great forum to learn from God's word together in a relaxed, open meeting, where any question or issue can be asked or explored. Our time in prayer together is then the power house of everything we do. It is vital that we continually surround ourselves, individually and collectively with God's protection, and seek his blessing for every step of our journey together.

All blessings as always, **Pastor Robbie**

There seems to be a resurgence of interest these days in who we are as individuals. Television, ever aware of the latest trend, revels in asking the question “Who do you think you are?” The miracles of technology enable the lay man to make strides in his geneology, hence he learns much about himself as he delves into his ancestry. That can be very a private affair. Another way of getting to our core as a nation and our inheritance is to visit St. Fagans, which opened its magnificent newly re-designed galleries and a new building, Llys Llewelyn only last week.

Where else could we see a gold earring dated 2450 – 800 BC or peer through the windows of a caravan bought for £600 (the price of a small house) in 1950 and bequeathed by the Dodd’s family to the museum There’s the smallest of mangles sitting on the perfectly adequate draining board, a Valor paraffin fire. Games of dominoes and chess are on the table. What wonderful memories of a childhood which undoubtedly moulded character and laid the foundations of fair play, friendships and faith. Living an often hard and simple life our ancestors certainly knew who they were – the question is – do we?

You might say ‘move on’ but to what? Can we discard the qualities of fair play and faith with the brush of a ‘superior’ 21<sup>st</sup> Century hand?

Who do we think we are? It is time to find out.

It has been a source of great encouragement to our Pastor that several have been asking What is it that makes me a Baptist? What is being a member of any church (most especially of Hope Baptist Church) asking of me? Is my faith the very making of me in this complex society as it spins around me. Does faith work? Is it necessary?

Our Pastor writes, I have agreed to take on such questions, starting Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Prayer Meeting will become a ‘Forum’ for questions and answers: of self discovery and prayer, where Baptism and Church Membership will be given their deserved importance. By understanding them more fully we will get to know who we really are.

“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”. Come one and all and be surprised by whom you are in the sight of God.”

Hereby tells a tale! Can you tell us which one?

(Read and solve the clues.)

Two little swallows flying high  
A little boat passing by  
Three little men going over  
Willow tree hanging over,  
Apple tree with apples on it  
And pretty railings all around it.

There is a face here that you should know! Yes, Sungtae, who with his beautiful wife, Joogum, son Kibbum and daughter Sally, were our caretaker for many years. He and his family made a great impression on Hope Church and were instrumental in introducing to us, and us to them, the South Korean Church here in Bridgend. He also introduced us to



Sophia, the talented pianist. Sungtae and 4 other Korean Pastors descended on us at 9pm one evening for coffee and a great evening of blessing was enjoyed. We are so blessed to have Christian friendship that spans not only many years but also many miles around the world,

***Paul and Alison***

Did you solve the puzzling lines

I am sure that we recognise the picture. We grew up with it. Seen on Welsh Dressers and large meat plates, The Willow Pattern Plate was a must. I am sure that you have forgotten the story it depicts.

Once there was a wealthy Mandarin who had a beautiful daughter, Koong-So, who fell in love with the humble, accounting assistant. They couldn't possibly marry because of their social differences.

The Mandarin dismissed the young man and built a high fence around the house to keep the lovers apart. He was planning for his daughter to marry a powerful Duke. The Duke arrived by boat to claim his bride bearing a box of jewels as a gift. The wedding was to take place the day the willow blossom fell from the tree. On the eve of the daughter's wedding to the Duke, the young accountant, disguised as a servant, slipped into the Palace unnoticed. As the lovers escaped with the jewels, the alarm was raised. They ran over the bridge chased by the Mandarin. They escaped to the safety of a secluded island where they lived happily for several years (to be continued in December)

Legend or myth? It matters not, for the story has all the elements of human life woven into it. Love and hate, greed and jealousy, class and discrimination. Even in its simplicity it behoves us to keep on the path of tolerance and forgiveness. Thank you, John Francis, for remembering the poem that your Nain told you when you were a little boy. Your grandmother must have used the plate many times.



## **Let there be peace** by Lemn Sissay.

Let there be peace,  
So frowns fly away like albatross  
And skeletons foxtrot from cupboards,  
So war correspondents become travel show presenters  
And magpies bring back lost property,  
Children, engagement rings, broken things.

Let there be peace  
So storms can go out to sea to be  
Angry and return to me calm,  
So the broken can rise up and dance in the hospitals  
Let the aged Ethiopian man in the grey block of flats  
Peer through his window and see Addis before him,  
So his thrilled outstretched arms become frames  
For his dreams..

Let there be peace  
Let tears evaporate to form clouds, cleanse themselves  
And fall into reservoirs of drinking water.  
Let harsh memories burst into fireworks that melt  
In the dark pupils of a child's eyes  
And disappear like shoals of silver darting fish,  
And let the waves reach the shore with a  
Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhh Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhh Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhh.

This poem is being displayed on the walls of Huddersfield University.  
Thousands of students will pass it each day – we pray that its profound  
message touches their hearts as it does ours today.

## Month of Sundays...

	4 <sup>th</sup> November	11 <sup>th</sup> November
DUTY DEACONS	<b>John Ware</b>	
	Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Robbie Hall
	Mrs. Rhonwen Miles	Rev. & Mrs. Mike Weldon (with thanks for healing)
 AM PM	Mel Denning & Joan de Vera	Chris Burn & Eva Evans
	Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	Rhyl Coleman & Margaret Francis
	<b>COMMUNION PM</b> Prep: Rosalyn Hogg & Val Jenkins	

## Ladies Guild

12<sup>th</sup>

Mrs. Alison Westwood – Gift wrapping

**Deacons' Meeting on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Church Meeting on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November**

	18 <sup>th</sup> November	25 <sup>th</sup> November
DUTY DEACONS	<b>John Ware</b>	
	Rev. Mike Weldon	Rev. Mike Weldon
	Mr. Vaughan Richards	Rev. Stephen Pare
	Bob & Rosemary Rowe	Mrs. Rhyl Coleman (in memory of Gwyn Coleman)
	Enid James & Pat Fairfax	Lynne Chamberlain & Delyth Ware
	Pam Jones & Judith Jakob	Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh
	<b>COMMUNION AM</b> Prep: Delyth Ware	

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

- 6<sup>th</sup> Pastor Vernon King
- 13<sup>th</sup> Rev. Stephen Pare
- 20<sup>th</sup> t Mrs. Margaret Glave
- 27<sup>th</sup> Mr. Geoff Grey

## **FAMILY NEWS**

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

6 <sup>th</sup> Norma King	7 <sup>th</sup> Irene Griffiths
18 <sup>th</sup> Pat Fairfax	19 <sup>th</sup> Edward Jones
21 <sup>st</sup> James Evans	24 <sup>th</sup> Lynne Chamberlain

I am pleased to tell you that Mr Robert Snell has made a good recovery having fallen (outside church!) necessitating the need for a complete hip replacement. His positive outlook and strong faith has been an encouragement to all on the ward at PoW Hospital. Rob wishes to thank all who helped in every way. May you gain in confidence and strength, Rob.

Following the fashionable trend is Mrs Lynwen Bye who fell and broke her hip a few weeks ago. At present she is staying with her daughter in Bristol. I have the address. We send you the loving prayers of your church family here at Hope, Lynwen. We will see you when you return to Bridgend.

Our friend and loyal contributor, Mrs Glynis Thomas has certainly suffered much these past few months. With operations taking a toll on her health she has such a humbling, positive attitude to all that is demanded of her. A planned visit to her home at Barry went so wrong for Rosemary Rowe and I. We got hopelessly lost! To add to our shame the heavens opened. Nobody in the whole of Barry knew where Cilffyrdd Road was ... we will try again very soon. On the heels of one operation Glynis had another (16<sup>th</sup> October) which was a success. Time right now to assure you that you are loved and prayed for, Glynis.

I can confidently pre-empt the amount of cake that will be eaten at the home of Rosalyn and Phil on October 27<sup>th</sup>. All caution and dietary requirements are blown away - the choice is overwhelming. Even the stalwarts of Slimming World have saved their points!! The Bible Society benefits the most – we will give the total amount received in next month's issue. It is usually in the hundreds. Whilst we so enjoy being together there is one sad note. Philip was refereeing a rugby match when he was struck by a player. This resulted in a fractured rib which is so very painful. We have prayed for you, Phil, and will continue to do so until the pain goes

completely and you are back to your fit self. (Worryingly the men are perfecting their table tennis skills whilst you can but look on from your recuperative state. Worry not!)

Chris and Quentin Burn want to thank everyone who sent cards, prayers and love to them as they celebrated their Diamond Wedding and a birthday. They were overwhelmed. God has watched over you and carried you through the past year.

Much medication has been flying around of late. From steroid injections in knee joints to MRI scans and tests galore. You know who you are - actually too many to name individually! You are loved and prayed for.

Are you gearing up for Christmas? Hope so – enjoy – ditch the stress!!

Next month will be a double issue – Christmas and the New Year! In many ways our year has been one of greatest blessing. We look forward to sharing Christmas Blessings and Joy with our Pastor Robbie and Helen. This year I will be away – more blessings! My past Christmases have been spent recovering from shingles (2016) and nursing a new hip (2017) but this year I go to stay with my family in Los Angeles – leaving November 15<sup>th</sup> in readiness, joy of joys, for the birth of a little granddaughter around 23<sup>rd</sup> November. I say all this as I will be away until January 6<sup>th</sup>.

I want to thank you for the help and support I have received from so very many of you. Thank you for the full volumes of the music book of Mission Praise and flowers which were presented to me at the Church Meeting acknowledging the 3½ years of interregnum. God has provided as He promised He would. Hope has a glorious future ahead. The Dec/Jan issue has been prepared so all good wishes are in that magazine.

It has been a great source of encouragement to us to welcome many new faces this past month in our morning services. We welcome you and look forward as we prepare to walk the road to Bethlehem together as a family.

***Rhonwen***

## **WHAT'S OCCURRING!**

### **MISSION HOME & AWAY – Harvest Walk and Tea**

Here is the photo of the intrepid walkers taken at the Dipping Bridge. We all look a bit wet, but actually the rain had eased off slightly! The final sum



raised was £625 and £300 has been sent to both SASRA and Mercy Ships. Thank you again to everyone who contributed took part and helped. I must remember to get some oil skins and snow shoes before our next event!!

***Neil Jenkins***

## **SUNDAY'SCOOL NEWS**

A reminder that we are holding a Light Party for the children as an alternative to Halloween on **Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> October from 6pm to 8pm.**

## **CALLING ALL ACTORS!!**

Join us on Monday, 12 November, at Tabernacl (Derwen Road) at 6.30pm for the first cast meeting. EVERYONE is welcome! If you're not sure whether you'd like to join, come along and have a go to see if it's for you. If you are not able to commit to all the performances, please come - the more people to get involved, the more the performances can be shared. If you struggle to remember your lines - good news! There are no lines to learn!! No experience in acting? That's bound to be a lie...it might not have been on stage, but we all have plenty of acting experience! (Acting nice, acting confident, acting up, acting out..) So no excuse there... All silliness aside...willingness is all that is required. If you are (willing, that is), we look forward to meeting you on the 12th.

***Hannelie***

**NB: Shoeboxes to be in by 18<sup>th</sup> November, please**

## **GIFT SUNDAY – 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER**

This year we are again supporting Calan DVS (formerly Bridgend Womens Aid). Toys should have whether it is for a girl or boy and the age. If you would like to give something for the Mums or a donation that would be most welcome too.

***Pam Jones***

## **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

A reminder – I have put up a list of all who contributed to their favourite charities in lieu of cards. Irene and Clive will be sorting the Christmas Cards out again this year. Will you please make a special note of the closing date for Christmas Card Collection - **DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**. Irene and Clive do sterling work sorting them all out – it behoves us to help them all we can by getting our cards to them early.. We thank them sincerely for the hours they put in and for running around after us as cards are brought in for people we haven't seen for years. Ask for an address! – then send on.

## **Diary Notes – Cambrensis “Promise of Christmas” on the 8<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Nativity and Christingle are on the 16<sup>th</sup> December**



Helen, our pastor's wife, is hoping to start a Craft Group in the New Year. Several women have already given positive feedback. Helen writes,

“It has always been my experience that when we gather together over a cup of tea and biscuits that women gain in friendship and faith.

Bring any craft that you are interested in. Along the way we will learn from each other as we help one another. We could prepare much needed items for charities that we support. The Shoe Box Appeal is one, also the hospital has need of baby bonnets for babies and the Twiddle Muffs that Pat Fairfax brought to our attention in Guild some months back”.

The tentative date at present is 2.30 – 4 pm Friday afternoons.

Please speak to Helen – she would be delighted to give you details.

We are allowed an exciting peek at the season of Peace and Goodwill which beckons us. Will it be a season of “Peace on earth goodwill to all men”- we ask? Despite the turmoil of Brexit and the mutilation of moral standards men and women the world over are finding peace for it comes from within the hearts of Christlike men and women.. Peace is there for you to receive and share: there when we smile and embrace those in need of comfort and reassurance: there when we encourage a child to share and be gentle: present when we listen and help to carry another’s load; - Peace!

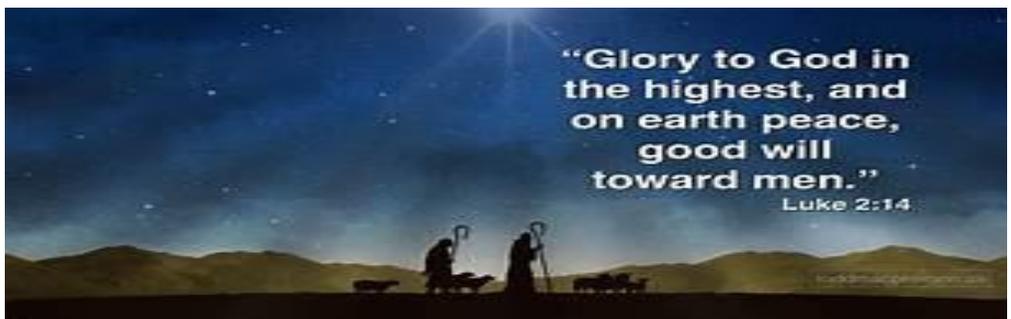
Peace comes when we make the right decision; it comes when we fight - not just for our own survival but the survival of others.

Peace comes when we find a friend who walks beside us and gives us the luxury of self confidence and resolve to believe that we are precious in their sight and in God’s sight.

Peace comes when there is no one to be seen, when nobody seems to listen; in the glare of the mid-day sun or in the stillness of the night faith still gives voice to fears and a Heavenly Father speaks words of comfort and great joy. That is the journey of our lives.

We are about to recall where the journey began for God’s Son – the purpose for His coming and we will be caught up in its wonder as Peace and Joy become an undisputed reality.

Perhaps your journey will begin on Nov 8<sup>th</sup> – Bethlehem beckons and the Miracle of His birth is ours to ponder and accept.



**OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE**

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

**MONDAY:**

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

**TUESDAY:**

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

**THURSDAY:**

Baby & Toddler Group	9.30am	Dr D. Ware	(01656) 662948
Prayer Meeting	7.30pm		

**SUNDAY:**

Sunday'sCool	10.00am
Morning Service	10.30am
Evening Service	6.00pm

**WHO TO CONTACT AT HOPE**

<b>CHURCH CONTACT:</b>	<a href="mailto:hopebaptist@hotmail.co.uk">hopebaptist@hotmail.co.uk</a>	07866 746851
<b>CHURCH PASTOR:</b>	Rev. Robbie Hall	07486 655189
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Rhonwen Miles	(01656) 654169
<b>TREASURER:</b>	Paul Evans	(01656) 661986
<b>CARETAKER:</b>	Seung Ho & Yun Hee Kang	(01656) 646911
<b>USE OF PREMISES &amp; SAFEGUARDING</b>	Sally George	(01656) 668791
<b>NEWSDESK:</b>	<a href="mailto:mag4hope@yahoo.com">mag4hope@yahoo.com</a>	Rhonwen Miles/ Pam Jones

# HOPE

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## BAPTIST CHURCH

### **OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

(Church Meeting 010503)

We will EVANGELISE our community & beyond.

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

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

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

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

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

[www.hopebridgend.co.uk](http://www.hopebridgend.co.uk)

Hope English Baptist Church Bridgend

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

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