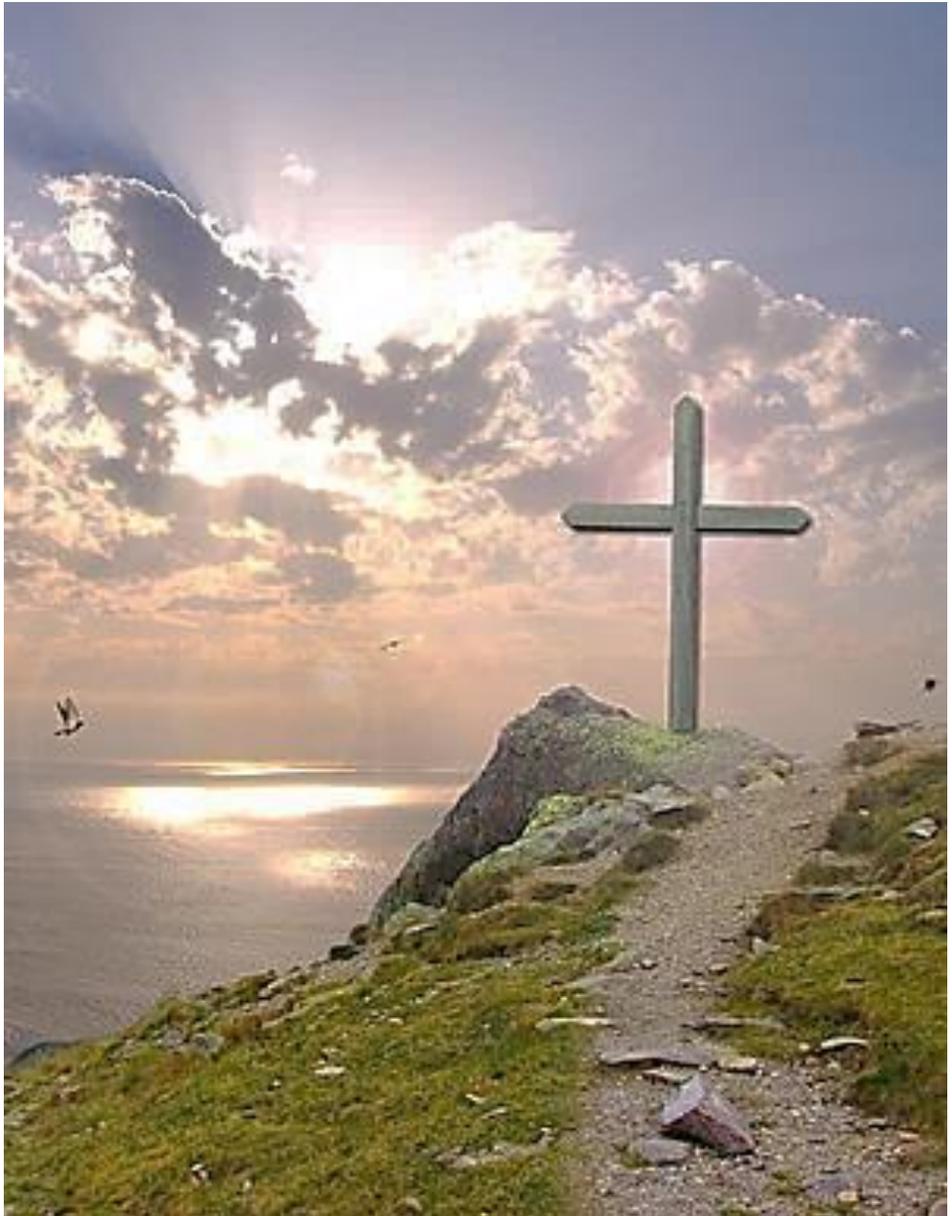


November 2021



## DEEP CALLS TO DEEP

Here is a man, a King, his name is David. He is in exile - far from his country, his kingdom. Forced into hiding he cries out to the only One who knows his hiding place, more - the only One who sees David's heart and understands completely the utter desolation and despair that washes over him. David cries out to His Lord, for it is the worship of Holy Days together with his people that King David longs for the most. Psalm 42.

V4 *"I used to go with the multitude; leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng. Now, (v7) **Deep calls to deep** in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me".*

Considering all that King David has gone through it is understandable that he feels God to be a long way off. Today many believe that God has long since turned His back on them and this world. "God is giving up" they cry, "slowly but surely we may as well concede that we are being left to our own devices". Such are the bitter comments and waves of disillusionment. "We didn't mean to make such a mess of things. It just happened". Indeed? What power of our own did we harness to make it a better place? Greed and self aggrandisement. Pretty useless tools they turned out to be.

What audacity! We, in our God-created, human form cannot possibly comprehend the vastness of God's Power and Wisdom, His lifegiving energy through whom all mankind is given life. Every scientist, every philosopher who tries to encapsulate and emulate God's attributes fails miserably and always will. How come? Because we have no measuring line. How can we measure infinity? Who is going to harness eternity?

Yet there is one un-measurable truth that keeps us sane, a truth that explains enough of the Mystery of Creation to keep us on our knees in sanctified humility.

v2 "Now the earth was without form and void - darkness was over the surface of the **deep** and the Spirit of the Lord was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light ...." (*read on ... Genesis Chap 1f*)

Now see, David's cry in Psalm 42 v7 "**Deep calls unto deep**" It's the same "**deep**" as seen in Genesis Chap 1 v1-2. Herein lies the unifying purpose of God. The psalmist hears his troubles echoed by the booming source waves of the River Jordan tumbling down the slopes of Mount Hermon, he sees his despair fall from a great height only to crash on the rocks below in a torrent of seeming anger. And in that moment he is at one with the whole of creation and inevitably he is at one with the God who created it.

David has no wish to harness this power because it isn't power that overwhelms him, it's the sudden *intimacy* that overwhelms him. Seldom do any of us stand aside and actually experience this wonder; this coming together of God and creation. He creates a living, breathing evolving creation which we, all too glibly call Mother Earth and wrongly - very wrongly, claim



sovereignty over for ourselves. Don't we just like being 'in charge'; don't we just always want to dominate, even GOD! What have we done in the process? In essence we have destroyed, not just a river here or forest over there but we have scarred for ever that precious, healing, beautiful world, the one that God created; the one He delighted in. Genesis 1v31 - "and God saw all that He had made, and it was very good".

Do we 21<sup>st</sup> Century players think of earth as a huge, static, theatre set? Can't we just hear the heart of God beating in her and through her, see it in the lightning, see it's delicacy in a snowdrop, braving the winter snow.

We are in grave danger of sacrificing any vestige of this Divine intimacy on the altar of consumerism if we make our motto - 'Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die'. Not much room for sharing, caring or struggling humanity here. Actually, it really is ok to eat and drink in moderation - it's the third 'bit' that we get wrong. We don't die: we live on - one way or another, with God or without Him. Without Him is hell whatever wrapping paper you use.

Creation and man yearn *together* for God; they are inextricably entwined. That is why our cover this month was chosen. It speaks volumes to me, a cross, rooted firmly into Golgotha's hill upon which Jesus cries the tears of God,  
"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do".

"It is finished.." What is finished? Alienation and rebellion in the hearts of men who gave up on God. To those men who doubted His involvement in their lives God restores the opportunity of us owning that 'intimacy' between man and his Father in Heaven. Here on this hill, on this cross the unthinkable was becoming a reality. We fall on our knees for at this place of horror there is peace and blessing – there is pure unadulterated intimacy - God intended, God re-created.

Listen to the rain – she is to sing again, and so will the waterfall, earth will welcome it and the heart of man will be whole and blest, For in 3 days, in a garden, not a stone's throw away The Prince of Peace will rise with healing in His wings.

**Rhonwen**

Forward to 2021. Digital versus reality.

There is no denying that our children and grandchildren are being brought up in a world of digital interaction. Technology reigns. The question is not whether we should embrace its complexities because the fact is we cannot avoid it. To be fair it does give us speedily, easy access to the sheer volume of experience, in every aspect of life, of people the world over - that is surely a plus. Anything and everything you could possibly want to know is all there for us.

At the click of a button the world has opened up. This can be an influence for good almost surely for bad. A gateway to knowledge and a door to sinister and evil intent. A new reality comes through our digital world when we pray "Deliver us from evil" Satan and his cohorts are computer geniuses. But there is no escape – embrace it we must.



What of those who have no chance. Here's one interview every parent dreads! Calamity!???

What will happen to our loving, caring children and grandchildren who have skills that they should be proud of i.e. the skill of smiling and seeing help where it is needed?

They might not know what 'configurations' are but they do know what 'conversation' is.

Perhaps we need to remember what communication is really all about.

Surely not this....????



But this,

Let me help you.



Soon becomes a life of  
Service and dedication.



The value of human life is soon brought home in the lines

“Remembered still those souls who tried  
To save the world, but many died.  
A moment stolen for a tear  
As we recall those unlived years.

Again this day we give our thanks  
For those returned from serving ranks  
And them ‘as gave it all away  
Forever in our minds will stay.

Thank you, Mary, for sourcing this.

## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

World War 1, World War 2 and we are experiencing World War 3 *ongoing!*

All three remain different in weaponry, country, intent even - yet the same in their infliction of death and destruction. In every war-torn village, town and city, innocent men, women and children suffer. I am not about to enter into any political or military argument but I am about to focus on the unbelievable resilience and courage of the human spirit.



On Remembrance Day how is it possible to do justice to such suffering and adequately admire such resilience? What will you remember? What am I to write?

During September I watched several programmes commemorating the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers, in New York City - a date etched on the minds of us all.. Slowly, as each detail and story was retold, each harrowing picture shown, I thought that this was a cameo of all suffering. A monument to the human spirit to survive whilst being attacked not once but twice. The North Tower was hit at 8.46am and the South Tower just 17 minutes later. The Twin Towers came tumbling down taking with them the dreams and lives of the 2,977 who were killed: 19 hijackers committed murder-suicide and more than 6,000 survivors were injured. Both 110-story towers collapsed within one hour and 41 minutes.

You will all know about that day but I couldn't help wondering - what happened next? Not one programme honed in on the story of 'The Pile' for that is what the workers called Ground Zero. By May 2002 those heroic workers had moved more than 108,000 truckloads - 1.8 million tons of rubble to a Staten Island landfill.



Over 11,000 artifacts were collected. One day a piece of paper, melted onto a hard shaped piece of steel, was given by a fireman to a photographer - J. Meyerowitz. It was the page of a Bible; not just any page. It was Matthew 5 v38-39 where Jesus says, "You have heard that it has been said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also". The Bible was found, fragile, still smelling of concrete ash and singed steel. Meyerowitz wrapped it in his scarf and put it in his bag. It is now in the 9/11 Museum. One page, one Book, takes the story of Hope to the world.



How easy it would have been to stop the digging, the clawing away, to allow the tons of twisted steel to be their own monument to man's inhumanity to his fellow man. What better message than to see the carnage of steel metamorph into a fit memorial to man's body, heart and soul? The carnage, however, had to be removed – **it was the only way forward.**

All debris and rubble have that effect. It keeps sad memories alive, it darkens our lives and hardens our hearts. The same Bible tells of Nehemiah as he re-built the city of Jerusalem. The people cried out,

"The strength of the labourers is giving out, there is so much rubble that we cannot build the wall" (Nehemiah 4 v10) Yet build it they did for God builds walls out of rubble and saves the most fragile of lives.

Look at our cover again, see those stones leading up to the cross. Left to accumulate they would become stumbling blocks. A warning to each of us. Clear the debris before it defeats us.

For out of such courage and hard graft came this. The National Memorial. Completed Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 2011.



A field of trees surround the two footprints of the Twin Towers. Pools of water bring a tranquillity – preparing us for the walls underneath bearing the names of all who lost their lives. "Rest in Peace".

***Rhonwen***

We know what happens when men declare war but not all clashes of faith result in bloodshed - there are times when misunderstandings bring peace.

In the Middle Ages the Pope decided that all the Jews had to leave Rome. There was a big uproar from the Jewish community, so the Pope made a deal. He would have a religious debate with a member of the Jewish community. If the Jew won, the Jews could stay. If the Pope won the Jews would leave.

The Jews looked around for a champion who could defend their faith. No one volunteered! Finally, they picked up an old man named Moishe, who spent his life sweeping up after people - he would represent them. Moishe agreed, on one condition, he asked that neither side be allowed to talk.

The day of the great debate came. Moishe and the Pope sat opposite each other for a full minute. Then the Pope raised his hand and showed three fingers. Moishe looked back at him and raised one finger. The Pope waved his fingers in a circle around his head, Moishe pointed to the ground where he sat. The Pope pulled out the bread and a glass of wine. Moishe took out an apple. The Pope stood up and said, "I give up. This man is too good. The Jews can stay".

An hour later the Cardinals were all around the Pope asking him what had happened. The Pope said.

First, I held up three fingers to represent The Trinity; he responded by holding up one finger to remind me - there was still one God common to us both. Then I waved my fingers in a circle around my head to show him that God was all around us. He responded by pointing to the ground showing that God was also right here with us. I pulled out the bread and the wine to show that God absolves us from our sins. He pulled out an apple to remind me of original sin. He had an answer for everything - what could I do!

Meanwhile the Jewish community had crowded around Moishe, amazed that this old, almost feeble-minded man had done what all their scholars had insisted was impossible. What happened?' they asked. "Well", said Moishe,

First, he held up three fingers to tell me that the Jews had three days to get out of here. I raised and shook one finger - not one of us were leaving. Then he waved his fingers in a circle around his head showing me that the whole city would be cleared of Jews. I pointed to the ground - we were staying put. "And then" asked a woman.

"I don't know" said innocent Moishe, "He took out his lunch and I took out my apple".

## **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	21 <sup>st</sup>	James Evans
24 <sup>th</sup>	Lynne Chamberlain		

### **Pulpit Ministry November**

7 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Ian Howells
14 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Hugh Stephens Bethesda Rogerstone.
21 <sup>st</sup>	Rev Mark Fairweather-Tall. Team Leader SW Baptist Association.
28 <sup>th</sup>	TBC
Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Deacons' Annual General Meeting.

### **Nov 4<sup>th</sup> Church Annual General Meeting.**

**Please make every effort to attend as we need to reach a quorum to make decisions.**

It was such a relief to have a church meeting.

Every Church Treasurer has been massively concerned about the inevitable drop in giving due to the continuing threat of Covid. We thank our Lord that Hope has been blest with the 'generosity of your faith'. Thank you for 'worshipping' in this way. The setting up of Standing orders and gifting has enabled us in return to maintain our giving to the Baptist Missionary Society and Home Mission and several other deserving charities. Alongside this we have carried out huge repair work to the fabric of our building. At this time of interregnum we are standing on solid ground. We continue to pray and give for we will be blessed.

Also discussed (on-going) were the profiles, each sent in for prayer and earnest consideration. We have the solemn responsibility to make initial decisions, the results of which will be brought to the church as each candidate profile for our future ministry is deliberated.

Each month brings further complications. The list is distressingly long due to Covid. Hospital appointments suffering from an increase in Covid cases; health issues not being diagnosed or attended to when necessary: prices going up and availability of goods going down...you know them all. We have to adjust to each in turn.

I write many letters some a delight others bring heartache. When I tell you that I have been requested to write a letter of transfer of membership for Clarice (Fewkes) from us to Litchard Mission. you can understand my heaviness of heart. I needed the assurance that the reason was on health

issues. Clarice has been in pain for many years. Her mobility has suffered greatly this past year, hence her inability to walk safely. It is not just Covid that has robbed her of her confidence but her medical condition. Putting both together has been a considerable trial. A hard decision to make, Clarice, but we understand. Litchard Mission is 'just around the corner' an accessible wheelchair 'walk'. We shall miss you in Hope for you gave us of your faith, your integrity and your life - long experience as a child of the manse and a minister's wife. Geoff and Clarice gave Hope a priceless legacy, most especially during our interregnum but also at all other services. Hope will keep in touch – not just through the magazine but we will trust that there are no more lock-down scares to block ways of visiting. Our prayers go with you, prayers for healing and comfort.

Pob Bendith, Cariad Duw, God's abiding love every step of the way.

It serves us well to look for the blessings but they are there.

After 6 long years there has been a considerable improvement in Anita's mental ability. Just one word – it is miraculous. Prayer continues for her physical mobility. We reach out to Anita and to Edward.

Hilary, too, has shown such wonderful recovery after all the falls and two stays in hospital. She is recuperating at present at Heathfields Residential Home, Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend. She is improving daily. Well done!

Her indomitable faith has been evident to all who have nursed her so well.

Don is being looked after at present at Ty Ynysawdre Residential Home.

Dorothy Fear is also at Heathfields. Again, we are thrilled that Dorothy is able to have a car ride and coffee with Sian every week as well as her visits.

Due to Covid anyone visiting has to book a 'slot' with the home – for no one is allowed into the main building. A small room has been set aside - completely understandable. A Covid test is required by all visitors.

Jordan and Becky Brown are happy to announce the arrival of their baby daughter, Thea Hafren Brown on 30th September 2021, weighing 8 lb 3 oz. She arrived 8 days late on Jordan's birthday. Jordan, Becky, Nigel and Julie would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and cards. Also in the picture is Larry the leek which she seems to love. She is beautiful. Happy Birthday, dad! Congratulations to gran'ma Noreen.



You had better learn to drive so that you can bring her to Sunday'scool! and Mothers and Toddlers. She has her Welsh Leek already!

I am beginning to realise that as the church is opening up I know that it has made a huge difference. Thank you for your confidence.

The Food Bank is firmly in place and appreciating the premises too. We are aware that they are going to be busier than ever. The taking away of Universal Credit is hitting vulnerable families the hardest. It is a blessing that the community at large is responding and already increasing their food donations.

Other organisations are using our premises. The Historical Society meet downstairs once a month. We welcome them and wish them well with good attendances.

### Safe Guarding and an Independent Inquiry

The Baptist Union of Great Britain are grateful that the enquiry has acknowledged that we are an example of an organisation with effective child safeguarding policies in place.

We hope that the above report, exonerating us from the recent report on Child Abuse in Religious Organisations and Settings give each one of us the total confidence needed to send all ages to Hope.

Sally is Hope's designated person for Safeguarding who delivers training on behalf of South Wales Baptist Assoc. We benefit from their expertise.

We are thrilled that our Mother and Toddler Group who meet every Thursday morning are increasing in numbers after the Lockdown.

How revealing that the mums, the carers, grandparents and occasionally the dads all appreciate the opportunity to have a chat too. The welcome, and care is evident. Please make others aware of this fun morning.

We are thrilled that Sunday'scool will be reopening on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> November. Two years makes a huge difference in the development of our scholars and we hope to see them and their friends back with us. We have missed them.

**STOP PRESS!** It is concerning that we might well be forced into yet another lockdown. Just as we were looking forward to being together with a heightened degree of ease, planning ahead we are now being asked to be on guard. There is no denying the severity of increasing Covid numbers. We are not the only church facing such a predicament and we will survive once again if we keep in touch.

To be able to encourage one another makes us and keeps us strong. Look at where we are right now - keeping faith in our Lord and keeping faith in ourselves; in our ability to face each challenge and overcome it.

What more can I say? What words that are all encompassing?

Simply, to all our faithful and much appreciated readership

“Hands together... let us say,

Dear Lord,

I want to be made whole, perfect and complete,  
Fit to contain your love, clean enough to pass it on,  
Unsullied, unstained, untainted by my need for gratitude and praise.  
To pour out your love, as you've poured it over me.

Help me to accept myself as you've accepted me,  
Just as I am, to rejoice in my gifts  
The gifts you have given me:  
To share them, not to hug them to myself  
They are all Yours.

Live in me and create something wonderful,  
Something full of wonder, awe, and love -  
Connected to all you have created.

Take my incompleteness  
into your completeness,  
My struggles into your peace,  
My weakness into your strength,  
My fears into your security,  
My doubts into your certainty,  
My life into your infinity.

Amen.

Jenna Plewes



## Operation Christmas Child.

A reminder to all that the pickup deadline for boxes and donations is Sunday November 21<sup>st</sup>. The collection period is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November to Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November and the church will be open at the following times to receive shoeboxes and donations

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 10:00am – 1:00pm

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November 10:00am – 2:00pm

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 10:00 – 1:00pm



For those attending church on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November they can also bring them then.

Pre-printed boxes will be available for anyone who doesn't want to wrap their own box. They will be available to be collected from the church foyer from mid October. Loose items such as small exercise books, pens, colouring pencils, hats, scarves, small toys etc. will also be gratefully received

Alternatively you can pack a virtual shoebox online by going to the OCC website at <https://shoeboxonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk>.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Thank you, Lynne (01656 659240)

+++++

Mary writes:- Harvest Thanks.

Many thanks to those who donated for the Harvest, especially Maureen, Rosemary for flowers from the garden and Rhyl for coming down to help and keep me company.

## Nativity Creations.

I won't frighten you by counting the days to Christmas, but you have less than 4 weeks to finish your Nativity masterpiece! So far I know of 2 people who have taken up the challenge - please have a try. As I said before, you can use any medium, make any size and be of any age. You don't have to be a master craftsman, just have a go!

Thank you very much in advance. Mary Johnson.

+++++

## Gift Sunday

Unfortunately funding for Calan (previously Women's Aid) has been withdrawn. We have always given them toys on Gift Sunday. At present we are making enquiries to see if there is another avenue locally, who would be grateful to receive Christmas Gifts to supplement their funding. We will let you know the charity of our choice asap and their needs.

## THE REPAIR MAN

I am sure that many of you are fans of the repair shop which is shown on BBC. The star is a man, Jay Blades. His nickname with his fellow repairers is Mr Positivity.

Thankfully he has written an inspirational memoir titled 'Jay Blades - Making it' in which he shares his life lessons.

Don't you just love a surprise when you look behind the public face to the character and life of a personality you have watched on TV. We all make great assumptions in life.

It is part of human nature I suppose; we seem to do it so naturally. Quite often we have to admit, reluctantly of course, that we have made a mistake about someone. This is where the surprise comes in and we are driven to admire their philosophy.

Jay is skilled in transforming things but it was an article written about him that brought me to a place of respect and admiration. It had nothing to do with his skill of restoration and everything to do with his life skills, lessons learnt along his life's journey from the depths of despair to the height of success.

Has such success changed him? ... not at all. When interviewed he shares his beliefs and discloses his motivational skills - allow me to share a couple with you. He has such wise words and clear insight born out of desperation and determination. Jay shares.

**1. Walk like you have somewhere to go.** Get up in the morning and think about your destination for the day whatever and wherever that is. It could be simply trying to be happy. It's like driving down the street, you need to be focused on the end goal and not on the distractions by the roadside (I think we are all distracted all too easily as Covid has blurred our goals)

**2. We need every kind of time, some good times also the dark times to be truly alive.** No one walks through life happy every day. I step back and look at everything I've gone through, all of it has allowed me the emotional intelligence to speak to people at the Repair Shop to be able to read them and put them at ease so that they can tell me their stories.

**3. If you live in a room and there are four windows** but you always look out of one window you're never going to believe there's a different view out there. You see trees out of your window and there is a view of the sea through another but if you never look at it you'll say no there's no sea what are you talking about. You need to turn around and open up your vision. (Look at a tv programme that you have never bothered to watch before. Try a new recipe.)

**4. People can inspire us more in what not to be.** Don't just learn from people who have achieved - learn from those who haven't.

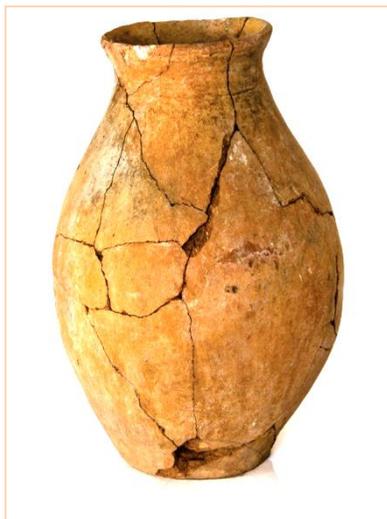
**5. You need to be strong enough to deal with your feelings but to never give up** because there's a positive to be found in every negative situation. Positivity is giving yourself a pat on the back. I enjoy being a part of the solution not part of the problem. (What a great confirmation of church life.)

I know, you have heard such words as these before but not put in quite the same way perhaps. Jay has a sincerity about him and that is what appeals to people.

If we see our Lord in these wise words - if we see His hand guiding all of us we, like Jay, can be inspirational and gifted men and women who share their talents with everybody. Who dispense and restore self belief and insight then we too can but emulate and take 'seize the day'.

We might never meet Jay Bales but there are many within your close circle of family and friends who exude the same wisdom, show us the same spiritual force and we respect them. Respect = admire, hold in high esteem...what qualities to embrace - there may be precious little of it in our society but it is there - hidden in a blanket of humility and love for neighbour and for self.

There are still some cracks and  
broken pieces.  
I'm working to understand the story  
and meaning of this Me that I'm  
repairing.  
I will use the tools and materials  
that I have to work with,  
I will not hide the imperfections and  
flaws, but simply embrace them  
Then, through this repair  
I hope to ultimately become a more  
Beautiful and useful vessel.



My most memorable meal.

As we plan our Christmases – with its restrictions we do what we have all done and turn to 'Food, glorious Food'. It will be our 'pat on our backs' for the dreariness of the months when we have threatened ourselves with a Covid induced Diet.

But not all meals turn out to be scrumptious!

One that Phil Chamberlain can still remember is shared.

### **My most memorable meal – Navy Days.**

I have always liked my food. I'm a bit of a quantity over quality sort of person and as long as I feel full at the end of a meal am quite happy with basic grub and don't go in search of Michelin stars or nouvelle cuisine. I particularly like spicy food. Indian, Chinese, Thai - in fact anything with chilli and garlic in it is likely to suit me.

My early working years were spent as a Radio Officer in the Merchant Navy. One of the ships I served on carried a Bangladeshi crew. All the deck crew and the galley crew (including the chef) were Bangladeshi. That meant Asian food featured highly on the menu each day. The lunchtime menu would always include a curry amongst the choices. Each day a different curry was on offer. Beef, lamb, chicken, turkey, fish...the choice seemed endless. Along with a condiments dish containing around 20 different spices, pickles and seasonings I was in my element.

Three weeks into the trip and I didn't think they could come up with anything new, but they did! "Tropical Fruit Curry" with pineapple, mango, guava, papaya, lychees etc. The meal to this day remains memorable not particularly for the taste but more for the fact that it made me realise that there are some things you just shouldn't put in a curry!

**Phil.**

*(Guess that was one meal that didn't curry favour then ....Ed.)*

Chris Burn recalls a memorable meal. Sitting in an idyllic setting in France where oysters were the 'dish of the day'. Fresh oysters, straight from the sea were recommended wholeheartedly. Eager to make it a memorable holiday the food was consumed with relish. Yes, you've guessed ...

That cost her the steep price of the meal and three days – to put it delicately ... recovering!! I don't suppose you'll appreciate this photo, Chris. Many of you will sympathise. You will know the feeling!





## IT'S OKAY TO DO LIFE YOUR WAY

IT'S OKAY to change your mind.

IT'S OKAY to make time for the things that make your heart feel full.

IT'S OKAY to talk about the hard things that the season unearths.

IT'S OKAY to assert yourself a little - assertion and aggression are different.

IT'S OKAY to ask but not to demand.

On the other hand life experience can teach us that it's a lot easier to pay attention and learn.

These were actual answers given by adults on Family Fortunes.

1. Name an occupation where you need a torch.    A burglar.
2. Name a famous bridge.    The bridge over troubled waters.
3. Name something you do in the bathroom.    Decorate.
4. Name a domestic animal.    Leopard.
5. Name a part of the body beginning with 'N'.    Knee.
6. Name a famous royal.    Mail.

Well I think, some children get it right...

The three wise men brought Jesus gold and myrrh but I would have bought Him a nice, warm blanket.                  Rebecca aged 5.

Who is Jesus? Jesus is Mary and God's little boy    Antonia aged 7. .

Wholly longing, holy waiting  
We enter Advent's yearning cry  
Into the uncomfortable space of in-between time  
A song, ancient and new, finds us and fills us,  
A chant of a thousand voices prays through us  
Opening us to the deep melody  
and mystery of your love.



With attentiveness intensifying  
anticipation,  
Our desiring that you come  
among us is imperative  
With images of deliverance  
on the lips of the prophets  
We remember your name in the night.  
And in the remembering from the depths  
we cry out  
“Save us! Free us!  
Teach us! Save us, here, today!”

We lift the ageless petition, pregnant with hope  
Hearts join its refrain,  
souls echo this beseeching plea  
“O Emmanuel, come!”  
Come! Bless the pathway of  
wonder and beauty.  
Come! Bless the light  
shining in the darkness.

Come! Bless the dream of a world made new  
Come! Restore and redeem, recreate  
And in response to the song of powerful promises  
The One who was and is and eternally shall be, sings;

**“I have come! I will come! Behold I am coming soon!”**

Todd Pick

## **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:**

Baby & 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**

<b>CHURCH CONTACT:</b>	<a href="mailto:hopebaptist@hotmail.co.uk">hopebaptist@hotmail.co.uk</a>	07866 746851
<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

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)

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

[1699576150319699](tel:1699576150319699)

Hope English Baptist Church Bridgend

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

Registered Charity: No. 1133067

Thanks to our printers: **kk**solutions  
more than just design & print...