

October 2018



**“Under the Waterfall of Grace.”**

## **Pastor's Study.**

Psalms 93–99 celebrate the sovereignty of our God over each one of us individually, over our church and over all the nations of the world. We hear repeatedly the words; “The Lord reigns”. The climax comes in Psalm 100 with the Jubilate – “O be joyful!” *Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth....*

I am sure that most of us would admit to feeling disinclined to shout for joy at times of severe trial, despair, pain or grief. Yet it is quite clear that we are called to be genuinely joyful and glad, not just to put on a brave face for the benefit of others. Such joy and gladness is certainly not just on the surface. The joy of the Lord is deep in our hearts and it carries us through those trials.

Does this mean it is invisible? Perhaps to some but not to those who share that unflinching hope of glory in Christ. I have been so humbled by the joy of suffering Christians as they consider their blessings and speak of an inner peace – a peace that makes no sense other than to a fellow believer in the eternal lordship of Jesus.

Where does this joy come from? We do not come to an unknown God as so many do. God has revealed Himself to us in the past – that revelation of God is through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ who has rescued us from our wrongdoings. God has made us His own again through the great reconciliation of Jesus' death on the cross.

It is God who made us – in His own image, to enjoy an intimate relationship with Himself. Humanity broke that relationship, we behaved not as “the sheep of His pasture” but each of us has gone astray, each turning to our own way. And so the Patient Potter had to remake us, moulding the lumps of reluctant, fragile clay back into the everlasting vessels of glory we were meant to be. We do nothing to remake ourselves – God does it all – it is a gift of His grace. Our position as Christians is, therefore, cause for praise, not pride.

We read on for that praise is expressed wonderfully, “*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise*”. Let us keep that joy and gladness deep in our hearts, even in the storms of life.

With love and joy in Christ,

***Pastor Robbie.***

## **The Pastor's Diary – the first few weeks.**

What a day it was! To see our church so full, to hear those voices raised together praising our Lord in song, to feel God's presence and approval, to see our people working as one to welcome and serve our guests with such cheer and good grace. Helen and I were moved, blessed and deeply touched by all that was done. I cannot imagine anyone has ever been more thoroughly ordained and inducted than was done that day. I simply say a most heartfelt "Thank you" to all who were involved, including those who supported us in prayer.

There are not enough hours in the day. Preparation for Sunday services and for our Prayer Meetings will become easier as I work out the practicalities of time keeping. I will free-up more hours to get around and see people – which I am determined to do as Pastor.

Then there are those things that we need to do to take our collective ministry forward. All in God's time! In the face of a busy day Martin Luther said, "I have so much to accomplish today that I will have to spend the first three hours in prayer". I may not take three hours but I will keep my morning "quiet time" without fail, so that I may be led by God into what He knows to be the most important of priorities. I pray that guidance, always.

I am indebted to the Church Secretary and Deacons for their amazing support. I am especially grateful to be able to honour some long-standing preaching commitments which will take me away for two Sundays in October and for allowing me a breather for two Sundays in November, before the heavy demands of December emerge. I remember December from placement days – wow that is and will be a very busy time. Although I have drastically reduced my commitments in other areas, I am pleased to be allowed to remain with the Council of SASRA – a mission work most worthy of our support.

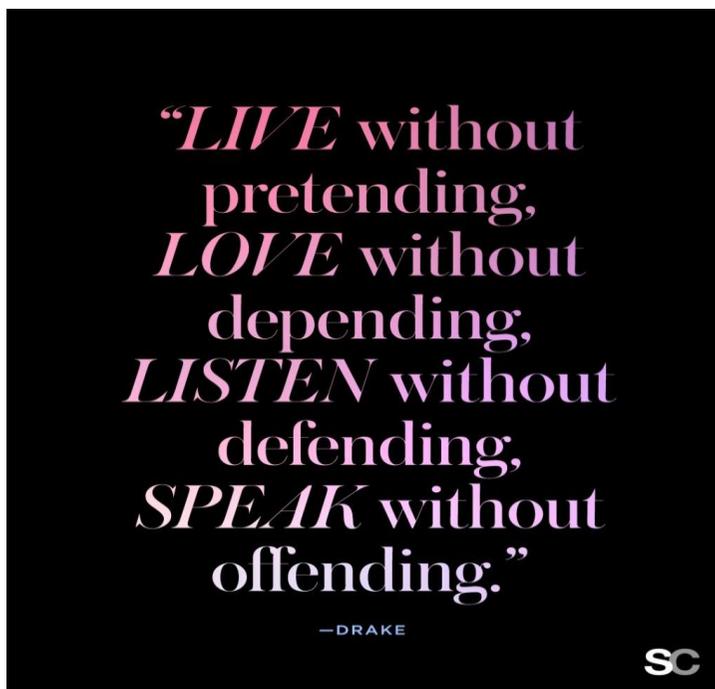
Whilst cycling to church a few days ago, thinking of all the things to be done that day I felt a real surge of excitement. It is an amazing privilege to be Pastor of 'Hope'. The confidences given, the counsel sought and the burdens shared leave me treasuring the role and responsibility I carry and that can but grow. Preaching God's word will remain a priority.

We pray on together. With love and joy in Christ.

***Pastor Robbie.***

Who doesn't like lovely surprises. We will spend the next weeks looking for the ideal Christmas surprise gift and card. What fun – was that a groan that came back?

It's no real secret that at the end of the day we all like pretty things and the surprises that we get when we receive something we have always wanted. In their right context things play their part, but at the end of the day our true love is for people, the laughter, good conversation, as we get together to celebrate life in all its festivities. Conversation truly brings us together. C.S. Lewis wrote "friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another 'What! You too?' I thought that no-one but myself..."



Wise words indeed! We have all benefitted from those wonderful moments when we have been encouraged. We have listened, we have shared much in love and prayer.

From small beginnings and solid ground – comes new life growing sturdy and strong.



Are relationships like that? They can be when friendships are valued and clothed in love.

How much more so a marriage that has lasted 60 years. Who are the couple who will celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary this month? The answer is further into the magazine.



Why are images so important, so needful to us? We have all heard the familiar idiom, “A picture is worth a thousand words”. It refers to the notion that a complex idea can be conveyed more effectively through a single, still image than a description. I believe there is a great deal of truth in that.

There is real value in using images to prompt content. Ask any advertising guru, better still ask anyone involved with our church magazine!! Literally hours have been spent searching for the right image – most especially the front covers. Images grab our attention, they help us to learn; they explain concepts and they inspire us all in the blink of an eye, for it takes longer to read a long sentence than to analyse a visual scene.

The human eye falls in love with the visual. Dare I say that technology can enhance the artist’s brush and writer’s pen?

Hence the front cover for October. I am sure that we all need reassurance from our Lord at the close of a busy day; we need to feel His Love washing all over us. We crave His strength - for our own has evaporated into thin air. We want to see something beautiful, feel His power and His Love towards us. – all will stay with us for the morrow.

What was I doing at the end of one busy day? I was flicking through images for this magazine and there it was – it just popped into view! A wonderful waterfall – an unusual image of one.

I don’t think I’ve ever seen a really big one. What I was looking for was an image capturing God’s Grace – an image of the invisible, yet very real Grace that is poured down on each of us, each new day. I looked, at her – the highest waterfall in Wales, at Pistyll Rhaeadr, Powys, Mid Wales. Have any of you seen it? This particular image captures not only her strength of purpose, but a gentle beauty as she tumbles down with a power that is indisputable. She washes over the stones and they glisten; she feeds the stream below – journeying onward with a purpose and relentlessness that causes us to gasp. I notice that there are waterfalls behind which we can shelter. This unusual image has spoken to me of the Grace of God. Who doesn’t need to feel the Living Water washing away all vestige of weariness leaving us refreshed, energised and filled with the wonder and reality of God’s presence.

As you glance at the cover of this magazine during October I pray that the image will speak to each of you of God's Grace. Grace comes as a gift, it makes no demands on us – we do not need to do anything just stand still and receive it.

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Thank you Chris (Burn) for sending these images – brilliant!

### **Dormouse Abode.**



**Do not disturb – it took me ages to get this comfortable.**



**Strictly Line Dancing !**

## Month of Sundays...

	7 <sup>th</sup> October	14 <sup>th</sup> October
DUTY DEACONS	Paul Evans	
	Rev. Brian Evans	Rev. Robbie Hall
	Rev. Tom Stables	
		Anne Thomas (in memory of Mrs. Veris Thomas)
 AM PM	Lynne Chamberlain & Delyth Ware	Yvonne Matthews & Margaret Francis
	Pam Jones & Judith Jakob	Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh
	<b>COMMUNION PM</b> Prep: Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	

## Ladies Guild

8<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Alan Sheppard – Owls4Us

Church Meeting on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> October

	21 <sup>st</sup> October	28 <sup>th</sup> October
DUTY DEACONS	Paul Evans	
	Mr. Gareth Holst	Rev. Robbie Hall
	Rev. Philip Rees	
		Rosalyn Hogg
	Rosalyn Hogg & Val Jenkins	Mary Johnson & Rosemary Rowe
	Margaret Francis & Rhyl Coleman	Pam Jones & Judith Jakob
	<b>COMMUNION AM</b> Prep: Alison Evans & Pam Jones	

### **Women@Hope**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Pastor Robbie Hall
- 9<sup>th</sup> Mr. David Drew
- 16<sup>th</sup> To be confirmed
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Kristian Dimond
- 30<sup>th</sup> Mr. Keith Johnson

## **FAMILY NEWS**

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

22<sup>n</sup> Chris Burn

24<sup>TH</sup> Kaye Fairfax

**AUGUST** was a month of great expectancy and preparation. Our hearts delighted in the realisation that 3 years of interregnum were finally over. The sun shone in more ways than one. With purpose and commitment numerous lists were made, the manse underwent a transformation as a team of professionals worked on the inside and our magnificent team of Hope men tore their way through brambles and stones, scaling the heights of tall trees which fell at Gareth's command. All this was energised by Helen's tea, biscuits and cakes – not forgetting her patience! I say a huge thank you to all who cleaned, carried and committed themselves to the task.

**SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>** Ordination and Induction Day! The Son shone in more ways than on, as blessings flowed and speakers honoured Robbie's calling. Hope wishes to thank everybody who took part. A special word of gratitude to Rev. Dr. Peter Stevenson and Rev. Susan Stevenson. The Act of Ordination and the Preaching of God's 'charge' to us were in safe hands. Here was a coming together of pastor and people, pulpit and pew, a family in harmony with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hope thanks everyone who worked so hard preparing a wonderful Welcome Tea. As our Pastor and Helen reach out to us may we reach out to them with kindness and much prayer and with a dedication born out of a newly experienced realisation that Hope has a glorious future ahead of her.

**OCTOBER.** – will consequently be a month of growth. We have heard our Pastor preach on the parable of the sower. Seeds were scattered in all kinds of places. The seed, sometimes, was choked, it didn't take root – but there was always good soil. There will always be a reaching out by people who have nowhere to go, no one to turn to and will truly seek God. In a moment of faith their voice is heard, the seed is blest and the good soil yields its fruit. Why? Because there is beauty and energy within faith –

it is an energy that is visible when Our Lord pours out His grace, forgiveness and love. Such faith has great momentum.

As secretary I want to thank every one of you for keeping the doors of Hope open and to all who encouraged me with kindness and loving support during the interregnum.

Harvest was celebrated on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Mrs Mary Johnson gave of her time and talent; the church was beautifully alive with the fruit and flowers arrayed lovingly to the glory of God. Thank you once again, Mary.

We are all so sorry to hear that Mr. Robert Snell fell whilst leaving the church last Sunday morning. He has since undergone an operation on his fractured hip. He would want me to thank everyone who helped to get him to hospital. Be assured, Rob, that our prayers are with you.

Alongside Hannelie, we thank our Lord for the successful heart operation that her father received in South Africa. Our prayers remain constant for healing and the assurance felt by those who know God.

Our daily round is not without its pains and trials. Accompanying these is the frustration of not being able to physically do what we once did in the past. How we wish we could help each other more in a very practical (if not medical) way. Yet there are small things that we can do and they become the answers to the recipient's prayers. A call, a chat on the phone, a card... so many small gestures – all are turned into blessings by a Father who sees the need. These small kindnesses give life to the words "church family". Kindness has gracious eyes,

Who are celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary? I am sure you guessed it with ease – neither have changed at all! It's Christine and Quentin Burn. You have both overcome much this past year but now you are fighting fit and witnessing to your many friends of God's loving care.

As we pray for Chris and Quentin so we ask our Lord to bless the marriage of Nyfain Pugh's daughter, Ann on October 26<sup>th</sup>. We ask for many, many happy years of love and God's rich blessings on your life together.

We hear that Sung-Ho is to be ordained in Korea during October. We are thrilled, for he well deserves to be Pastor (Rev.) Sung-Ho. They return November 1<sup>st</sup> giving us time to plan a fitting celebration here at Hope.

## **WHAT'S OCCURRING!**

### **SUNDAY'SCOOL NEWS**

We restarted Sunday'scool on September 2<sup>nd</sup> after our summer break. We enjoyed taking part in the church's harvest celebration in the morning service. It is good to see our older scholars back with us and last Saturday, thanks to Mel, they enjoyed watching a film and eating pizzas, followed by a discussion. On the **31<sup>st</sup> October** we will be holding a **Light Party** again between **6pm and 8pm** so if you know any children who would be interested please send them along. Please continue to pray for the work of the Sunday'scool.

***Pam Jones***

### **MISSION HOME & AWAY – HARVEST WALK AND TEA**

Thank you to everyone who contributed and took part and helped. We all had a great time despite the rain whether we walked or just had the delicious tea. More details of the walk and a photo of the walkers to follow in next month's magazine. At the time of writing we have raised a total sum of £550 and with the amount still promised, this should reach £600. This will be shared equally between SASRA and Mercy Ships.

***Neil Jenkins***

### **BIBLE SOCIETY “COFFEE AND CAKE” MORNING**

As has been the custom these past few years, Philip and Rosalyn are holding a 'coffee and cake' morning at their home on **Saturday October 27<sup>th</sup> between 10-30 and 1-00pm**. All proceeds will go to Bible society and tickets cost £5-00. We cordially invite all those cake and coffee hungry persons on the day! Failing this, or in addition, envelopes will be put into the pews on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> where your freewill donation can be given there. Many thanks for your ongoing support and prayer.

***Philip and Rosalyn***

### **CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL**

This year we are again supporting Operation Christmas Child, the Christmas Shoebox Appeal of Samaritans Purse. There are a few ways in which you can support this charity, which are found in the leaflets in the Church and which please read carefully. There will be pre-painted boxes available from me for 50p if you don't want to wrap your own. If you want to donate but not fill a box, there will be a container in the front of the Church for you to place your gifts. Any questions, please ask me, John and Delyth or Clive and Irene.

Thank you for your support

***Lynne Chamberlain***

## **Memories of my War by Adrienne Haines**

I was born in Cardiff to a family of grocers. My life was seriously disrupted when at two and a half years of age my father went off to war while my mother looked after the shop. I have vivid memories of the air raid sirens and the bombing raids also the searchlights that could clearly be seen when staying at the family farm near Abergavenny, there was also the sight of the huge anti-aircraft gas balloons, sights one never can forget.

On the lighter side I had the luxury of learning how to churn cream into butter; we had fresh eggs, vegetables and orchard fruits, enjoying rides on the gambo en route to the harvest fields to collect the hay, and picnics on the banks of the river Usk gurgling past at the end of our garden.

Christmas at Pant Glas Farm was enchanting for us as kids, visiting the Anglican Church with Nana and being fascinated by the nativity scene inside, then returning to the farm for fresh roast chicken, veg and a boiled Christmas pudding.

I can still remember vividly the smells of Brynmawr market, the sooty smoke and dust, animal manure and hay, the lunch of Faggots and Peas wrapped in newspaper.

Back at home in Cardiff reality came a little too close to us in the shape of a landmine that exploded several hundred meters away from our home and blew out all the windows of the shop. I shook for days after that.

Then the war was over and the celebrations started with lots of flags, street parties, a piano was brought out, chairs, cups and plates, cutlery (borrowed with a piece of coloured cotton thread around the handles to identify your own afterwards), cakes, lemonade, and not knowing how to eat a banana, then the big thrill of seeing my father after 4 years away, what joy!

My childhood was as colourful as my kaleidoscope, I feel blessed that I and my family remained safe and well (with the help of Canadian concentrated orange juice, yum yum! and Cod liver oil, yuk!)

Thank you, Adrienne. We are so delighted to see you looking well again. Enjoy your holiday in France.

## **Planting the Garden of your daily living**

### **Plant 3 rows of peas**

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

### **Plant 4 rows of Squash**

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

### **Plant 4 rows of lettuce**

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

### **No garden is complete without turnips**

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

### **To conclude our garden we must have thyme**

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow

**Pass it on!**

**Thanks to Pam Weldon**

**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

Hope Baptist Church operates a GDPR Policy

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

Hope English Baptist Church Bridgend

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