

October 2019



*For everything there is a season, and a
time for every purpose under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Pastor's Study – If it is God's mission, it will not fail.

¹ At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went into the synagogue. They spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed. ²But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the other Gentiles and poisoned their minds. (Acts 14:1-2)

The Acts of the Apostles, from Chapter 13, focusses on the missionary journeys. The team has assembled in Antioch, Paul is now returned from his Bible college time in Arabia and Tarsus, and has become the leader of this small band of travelling missionaries, taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the World. This first excursion remains in Asia Minor, in the regions of Galatia and Cilicia. Having sailed to Cyprus and crossed this island to Paphos, they sail North to Perga, inland to Pisidian Antioch and then East to Iconium, which is where the narrative above takes over, at the start of Acts 14.

The mission in Iconium is given the briefest coverage, only 5 verses. It is clear that the response to the Gospel is promising, at least at first, and Paul and Barnabas stay there for a considerable time (V3). In time, the opposition mounts and it seems that a number of the new believers fall back under peer pressure and turn against Paul and Barnabas.

This is so typical of the experience of all the missionary journeys, and is still the norm today. For our missionaries in Chad, seeking to establish a work of God through a much-needed hospital in Bardai, they are loved and warmly welcomed by many who can sense the love of Jesus in these great servants of God. But then there are others among the authorities and officials, “poisoning their minds” and frustrating the work. For what reason? We do not know, but we can be sure this opposition will always be a feature of Gospel work, even for us in Bridgend.

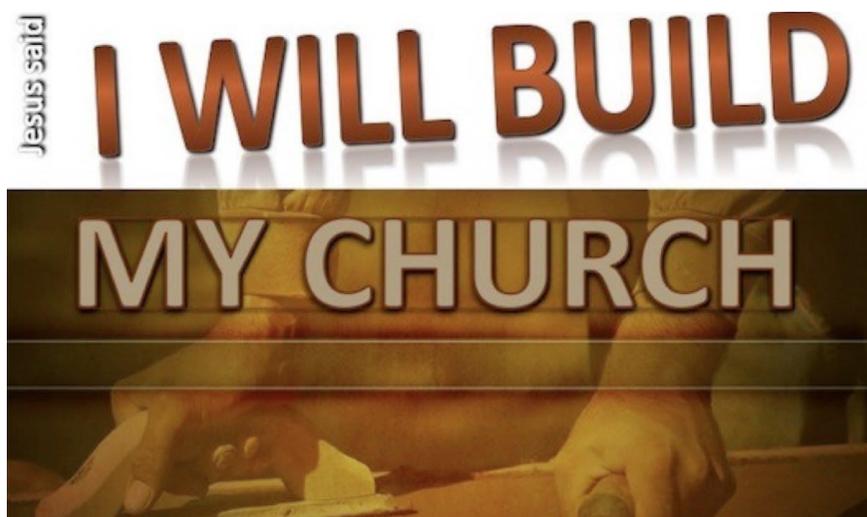
There is ultimately great news for the people of Iconium. On his return journey we are told (V21/22) that Paul's team came back to meet with the disciples there and strengthen them in their faith. The Christian community has established itself, it will not die. The nucleus is there and the body of Christ will remain and grow. As the Hodgkins return to Bardai, we are in prayer that this will be their experience also.

Pastor Robbie

Pastor's Diary: Oct 2019

October already! We had hopes that our Foodbank and Café Church would be opened this month, but the contractor's survey and planning work is taking longer than expected, with some delay due to our having to deal with the dry rot in the building. On the positive side, I have now joined the Bridgend Foodbank board of Trustees and can reassure everyone that the project is very much 'still on'. Frustration at the delay is shared but we will get there – together.

In the meantime, those who wish to undergo training as a Foodbank volunteer, can do so without delay. Please come and let me know if you want to do this and we'll get the process started now.



Our building repairs and refurbishment are progressing well. Windows completed and the Caretaker's Cottage now fully habitable. Thanks to Seung Ho and Uni for their patience in having a construction site in their front room. Their kitchen re-fit will follow later in the year. Still some cottage roof repairs to be completed, and then work on the Western gable will begin, along with the organ refurbishment.

All of this is disruptive, but very necessary and we can look forward to a day when the scaffolding is all gone!

All blessings as always,

Pastor Robbie

A Place of recognition!

... but there isn't a view! - nor are we outdoors. There are no people around – simply because they are all within the pages of the book you are reading. With the evenings drawing in we may well be tempted to read and subsequently relax a bit more.



But what will you read? Every author has a message to share but none more so than those who have lived lives that we would emulate. They are urged to write their autobiographies and we are privileged to enter their world of ambitious adventures. As pages turn they give us an intimate recognition and inclusion into their thoughts and often their prayers.

We are spoilt for choice... here are a few suggestions.

Conversations with myself by Nelson Mandela

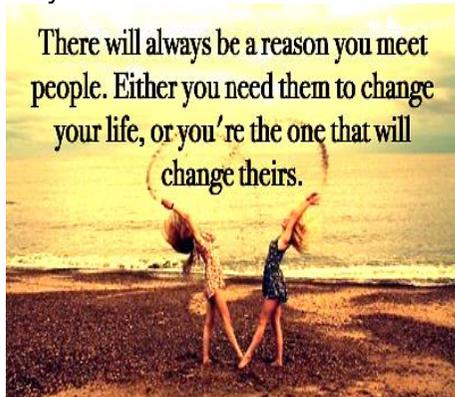
Taking on the World by Ellen McArthur - The youngest and fastest woman to circumnavigate the world.

Yes Man by Danny Wallace (It's easy to say no. One day Danny met a mystery man on a late night bus who told him "Say 'yes' more".)

A Life time in a Race by Matthew Pinsent (Written in diary form it is witty as well as a tale of self discipline and Olympic achievements.

I haven't read any of them but they do lure me into their world of adventure.

There is another title which intrigues – **500 ways to change the world** e.g. it mentions a 'Boomerang' Day' when everyone returns all the things they've borrowed over the course of the previous year. Another idea is to donate air miles to charity ...



I hope I have lured you into a cosy corner. From it you can dream dreams.

Books can have a colossal impact on our beliefs, on our resolve to harness a little of their courage.

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. It's the story of their lives and hopefully of ours too.

It sits perfectly as part of the cosy corner...

**CRUMBLY
APPLE
CLOVE
CAKE.**

Filling.

2lb Bramley cooking apples.
!/4 teaspoon of ground cloves (it's enough)
3½ ozs of light muscovado sugar.
1oz of diced unsalted butter.
2oz raisins.

Shortcake.

8oz self raising flour.
3½ oz castor sugar.
4½ oz butter – chilled and diced.
1 medium egg beaten.
Icing sugar for dusting.

1. Oven = Gas 5 . Use a loose bottom tin. 7cm – 2 1/4 deep.
2. Peel, core and coarsely chop apples. Combine all the ingredients for the filling in a pan with 2 tablespoons of water. Cook until it is like jam with small pieces of apple.
3. Place flour, sugar and butter in a bowl, rub in - add the egg. Scatter half over base of the buttered cake tin.
4. Spoon apple mixture over base – smoothing surface.
5. Scatter the remaining crumble.
6. Bake for 40 minutes until an even gold.
7. Run a knife around the edge and leave to cool.
8. Dust with icing sugar to serve.

A good alternative to pastry – no creaming, easy rub in method. Pears and cinnamon can be used ... ring the changes and enjoy.

Food for the soul!





The only constant thing is change itself.

We have known and experienced the truth of that adage all our lives. Yet we seem intent on eradicating one word from our vocabulary – the word “Seasonal”. This word was meant to be there. Life evolves in a God intended seasonal circle, offering us infinite variety whilst demanding change.

Artur (correct spelling) Rubenstein observes, “The seasons are what a symphony ought to be - four perfect movements in harmony with each other”.

Each season has its own particular beauty and power bringing its unique gifts to our doorstep. The cover of our magazine depicts this artistically well. Nature pursues a circle of its own.

Having tried hard to erase seasonal from the word ‘produce’ by eating strawberries at Christmas time, we are now being urged by health gurus to eat freshly picked fruit and harvest “organic,seasonal produce”.

Why? Because the nutritional levels of fresh, locally grown foods is very high. It certainly explains the resurgence of the popularity of Farmers’ Markets, organic foods and allotments. Mother Nature tells us that her cycle is worked out in perfect balance. The food she produces in Autumn are of the ‘central heating’ variety. She builds up our immunity system by preparing us for cold weather and winter bugs.

Apples and garlic, cranberries and pumpkin are all Nature’s medicine. Just one example – garlic! It contains Allicin which is highly effective against viruses, fungi and bacteria – it reduces cholesterol levels – it can even help to improve our moody ‘winter blues’. Ginger, parsnips, kale, sweet potato, cloves and spices, especially cinnamon all improve our energy and vitality. All are hot stuff!! No wonder we drool over toffee apples and Christmas pudding!!

These foods keep us warm in winter whilst summer foods keep us cool. Freshly picked blackberries win hands down against the soft fruits that are freighted in courtesy of this industrialized world. They are laden with additives 'to keep them fresh'. They have also lost the best part of their flavour and nutritional content well before they reach our shores.

The seasons flow in four movements each rich, diverse and in perfect harmony. Seasonal foods are a way of reconnecting us with the cycle that God intended for us. Why should we be ruled by the whims of supermarkets?

If I were a year or two years younger (nearer ten perhaps?!) I would happily dig through an allotment, harvesting 'in season'; our grandparents did just that – are we coming full circle?!

Nature was created to be in perfect harmony. "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good" (Genesis 1v31). Our earth could accommodate the seasonal extremes of weather e.g. monsoons replenished South Asia reservoirs. Today water has become a huge challenge globally as nations face unprecedented population growth whilst man's ruthless disregard for his environment causes imbalance, inequality and devastation..

Human life has its seasons too, each bringing its own particular beauty, power and gifts. The question was asked of an aged man;

"Which is the happiest season of life?." And he replied: "When Spring comes and the buds are breaking on the trees and they are covered with blossom, I think how beautiful is Spring. (***the season of Innocence***).

When Summer comes and covers the trees with its heavy foliage and singing birds are amongst its branches I think, how beautiful is Summer. (***the season of exuberance***).

When Autumn loads the trees with golden fruit and the colours of gold appear I think, how beautiful is Autumn (***the season of reverence***).

And when it is severe winter and there is neither foliage nor fruit then I look up through the leafless branches and see the stars shine in God's house. (***the season of perseverance***). (Unattributed)

Unwittingly we all learn to use the seasons of our lives. We decide when to live life to the full and when to selflessly hold back. When to take advantage of a given situation and when to step aside. We do well not to let days and months blend into one another in an endless parade of tasks and responsibilities. Sameness breeds boredom and leaves little room for growth. Seek the seasonal challenges in your stride – all will work together for our good. Start composing your symphony. See, it can flow seamlessly into four perfect seasons, each one gifting you with its own treasures. **RM**

Month of Sundays...

	6 th October	13 th October
DUTY DEACONS	Paul Evans	
	Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Brian Evans
		Mr. Vaughan Richards
	Pam and Owain Jones	Anne Thomas (in memory of Mrs. Veris Thomas)
 AM PM	Enid James & Pat Fairfax	Lynne Chamberlain & Elaine Jenkins
	Margaret Francis & Rhyl Coleman	Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh
	COMMUNION PM Prep: Delyth Ware	

Church Meeting on Thursday, 3rd October

Readers: October 6th Mrs. Rhyl Coleman
 13th Rev. Brian Evans
 20th Mrs. Alison Evans
 27th Mrs. Pat Fairfax

Deacons' Communion Rota

October 6th Paul Evans/Mary Johnson
 20th Margaret Francis/Maureen Turner
 Philip Hogg/John Ware

	20 th October	27 th October
DUTY DEACONS	Paul Evans	
	Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Robbie Hall
	Paul and Alison Evans	Rosalyn & Philip Hogg
	Yvonne Matthews & Rhyl Coleman	Rosalyn Hogg & Val Jenkins
	Pam Jones & Rosalyn Hogg	Margaret Francis & Rhyl Coleman
	COMMUNION AM Prep: Alison Evans & Pam Jones	

Women@Hope

- 1st Pastor Robbie Hall
- 8th Pastor Vernon King
- 15th TBC
- 22nd Mr. Geoff Grey
- 29th Mrs. Christine Judd

FAMILY NEWS

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

22ⁿ Chris Burn

24TH Kaye Fairfax

Unavoidable circumstances and enforced choices dictate the rhythms of each of our lives. However, inside each there are choices, moments available for us redress the balance of responsibilities and care. Those quiet moments come when a stillness descends; such are moments of reassurance, a deep knowing that our Lord has His arms around us.

Such has been the experience of the families of Derek Lyddon and Derrick King as both funerals were a witness to their faith. We send our love and support to all who loved them – to all who benefitted from knowing them. Derrick King has left a legacy. Velindre happily informs us that a Derrick King Tribute Fund has been set up. A unique happening; befitting the mark and fundraising that Derrick did for the Cancer Unit there and the encouragement he gave to countless number of friends and business acquaintances as he battled against such odds for so long.

Derek Lyddon will also be missed by us all at Hope. He had been a member all his life and knew so many around our town. Thank you for your generous heart, Derek.

Mrs Angela Duthie has shown her rock solid faith having come through her operation at the Princess of Wales Hospital. Because we are family our prayers and love have been felt in a very real way. We will continue in prayer, Angela, as you make a sure and complete recovery.

Mrs Jean Richards has had to return to Morriston Hospital for further treatment. Her endurance during her long period of recovery is just amazing. We pray that you will be home soon and healing complete.

As Harvest flowers and fruit are distributed to members of Hope family who cannot attend church we can but assure them of our love. We send Mrs. Brenda Cadogan, Mrs. Olwen Martin, Marian and Ken Roberts, Mrs. Dorothy Fear, Rev. and Mrs. Mike Weldon, Mr. Brinley George, Edward and Anita, Mrs. Barbara Simmonds, Mr. and Mrs. Girdlestone, Hilary and Don Thomas, Mrs. Iris Best, Mr. Geoff Walters our loving prayers

Many more are suffering the limitations of pain. As we learn of them we see examples of untapped reservoirs of strength and courage. Such moments surprise us. It is in hind sight that we realize how God stays the course with us. His was the strength that brought the patience and endurance that we needed – day after day.

We are aware that our link missionaries attest to this truth. Each are mentioned by our pastor as their blogs are read and noted. May we be forgiven for mentioning most especially Andrea and Mark Hodgkins in Chad. They spent a day with us at Hope making us more aware than ever of the challenges they face. Unfortunately, upon their return to Chad Mark has been poorly with a heart condition but is improving. To add to their burdens there are political circumstances which have challenged the good relationships that they had worked so hard to foster. Our prayers for them on both issues abound.

I would like to thank all who have helped with the hospitality that has been offered this past busy month of September; to Steve and Sally on the sound desk and their helpers. Thanks go to musicians one and all and always to Seung Ho and Uni as they work so hard and so diligently behind the scenes. Our building work continues; all who relate to the responsibilities of this onerous task a big thank you. Spearheading all this is our pastor who has preached at every service, Prayer Meeting – every funeral and more - with the warmth and conviction of Christian love. It has been a heavy month. We pray for Robbie and Helen at their every point of need.

God bless your heart with happiness, for all the things you do to make life bright for everyone, who comes in touch with you!

God bless you for your willingness to help with other's needs. For your concern and understanding, and your countless thoughtful deeds.

May these words reflect what each of us brings to our Church Family as we serve and love one another at Jesus' bidding.

WHAT'S OCCURRING!

SUNDAY'SCOOL NEWS

We enjoyed taking part in the church's harvest celebration in the morning service. On the **31st 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

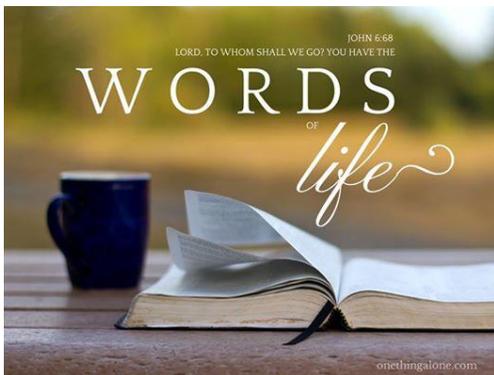
CHRISTIAN AID

Our Soup Lunch will be held on **Sunday October 13th at 12.15pm**. Please join us for Enid's famous soup, bread, cheese and homemade pudding. The cost is £6 for adults and £3 for children. Tickets are available from Enid and Delyth. Look forward to seeing you.

Delyth Ware

The Promise of Christmas is at St. David's Hall on 7th December. Rehearsals start on **Sunday 6th October** at Litchard Mission from 7.45 – 9pm

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 26th 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 27th

where your freewill donation can be given there. Many thanks for your ongoing support and prayer.

Philip and Rosalyn

Anne Brown's Tribute Concert **26th October** at All Nations Centre, Sachville Avenue, Cardiff CF14 3NY

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

We are again supporting Operation Christmas Child, the Christmas Shoebox Appeal of Samaritans Purse. Please read carefully the leaflets which will be in the Church. Sadly, this year **no sweets of any description and no toothpaste** can be included in the boxes. 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. The last date for the boxes will be the 17th November. If anyone wants to be involved, it will be between Monday 11th November to 29th November. Any questions, please ask me, John and Delyth or Clive and Irene. Thank you for your support

Lynne Chamberlain



Can you believe how quickly this year has flown by? September and Harvest is past, October asks that we harvest the fruits of abundant growth, November reminds us that we need to heed the spoils of wars, the sacrifices that were made by millions; the devastation caused and is still endured by countless who fought for principle and peace - peace for the whole wide world which brings us to our overwhelming need for the Prince of Peace, the Son of God, born in a manger bed in Bethlehem.

Read on - start your preparations. There are only 92 days as at 24th September left! – only saying!!



Do you struggle to find a suitable Advent Calendar for the children in your family? Well search no longer, the answer is below! Keep a lookout for them in the larger Tesco shops in early October.

Support the 2019 Real Advent Calendar

The Real Advent Calendar is the UK's only Fairtrade calendar which comes with a free 24 page Christmas story-activity book and which supports charitable

causes.

The 2019 calendar has a new design. There is a Fairtrade chocolate and a line of the Christmas story behind each of the 25 windows. The free book has a page for every day of Advent expanding on the Christmas story and includes some fun challenges. No other calendar enables parents and children to experience the Christmas story for 24 days and be challenged to do some good in the season of Advent.

Why we need a Real Advent Calendar

The Real Advent Calendar was created in 2013 following surveys which showed that 36% of 5-7 year olds did not know whose birthday is celebrated at Christmas. In the same year 51% of adults said that the birth of Jesus was irrelevant to their Christmas. The calendar is a great way to reverse this tipping point and share the Christmas story.

Tastes good and does good

Money raised from the sale of this year's calendar will help Fairtrade farmers receive a fair price for their goods and a Fairtrade premium to spend on the priorities of their communities ranging from solar panels and fresh water to teaching resources. As well as promoting the work of Traidcraft Exchange, profits will also help The Funzi and Bodo Trust provide care for mums and babies in Africa.

The Real Advent Calendar costs £3.99. Churches, schools and groups can buy direct from www.realadvent.co.uk and take advantage of a free delivery offer. Retailers stocking include larger Tesco stores, Traidcraft, Eden, TLM trading, CLC Bookshops, and a number of cathedrals and independent bookshops. Details can be found at www.realadvent.co.uk



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	11.00am	Mrs M Johnson	(01656) 656346

WEDNESDAY:

“Busy Fingers” Group	2-4.30	Mrs. H. Hall	(01656) 224015
----------------------	--------	--------------	----------------

THURSDAY:

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

SUNDAY:

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

WHO TO CONTACT AT HOPE

CHURCH CONTACT:	hopebaptist@hotmail.co.uk	07866 746851
CHURCH PASTOR:	Rev. Robbie Hall	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

Hope Baptist Church operates a GDPR Policy

www.hopebridgend.co.uk

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...