

September 2019



***You, O Lord, are my safe harbour;  
my Peace, my Home, my Haven, - my Safe Place.***

## **Pastor's Study – God does not show favouritism**

<sup>34</sup>*Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right'. (Acts 10:34/35)*

Our August sermons have followed the first steps of the early Christian church out from the confines of Jerusalem and the Jewish homelands of Judea. Jesus had told the disciples that, once the Holy Spirit had come upon them, they would be his witnesses out to 'the ends of the earth.' (Acts1:8).

It is a terrible persecution by those seeking to eradicate this new Christian movement that forces the disciples to get moving. Then we see the Spirit's enabling as the intrepid Philip preaches the Gospel in hostile Samaria and many believe and are baptised. Philip next encounters an Ethiopian eunuch and leads him to follow Christ: an emasculated man from such a distant foreign land! This was getting very radical indeed.

With our benefit of hindsight, we can see in all of this the fulfilment of well-known prophecy that God would draw all types and nationalities into His church (e.g. Isa 56:1-8). For Peter, the leader of the Apostles, it takes a vision from God and then the call to the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion, for him to realise that God really does not show favouritism. Christ died for all the ungodly – Jew and Gentile alike.

The early church struggled with this issue for some time. Many were reluctant to accept that coming to faith in Christ did not first require conversion to Judaism. The Church today can still be exclusive, expecting outsiders to conform to our stereotype before joining our Christian 'club'.

In our increasingly multi-cultural, multi-national and multi-faith society, with different gender identities and no fixed social norms or boundaries, we need to remember in our hearts that God really does not show favouritism. His mighty hand of salvation can and will reach past all of our boundaries and call the lost to himself. That means they too are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

*Pastor Robbie*

## Pastor's Diary:

This September edition of the Magazine marks the end of my first year at Hope – and the beginning of the second! If this coming year is filled with just some of the blessings we have experienced, then we will be thankful to God for his goodness to us.

As many of the fellowship return from their August break away, I pray that batteries are re-charged, spirits are refreshed, and we can all look forwards to a fruitful time ahead.



We will have the privilege of hosting the new Mayor's induction service on 29 September, as we continue to build on our great relationship with the local community. It was good to have so many visitors with us, including those from the Golf Club to see Derrick King presented with a Town Plaque as "Mr Bridgend".

Our plans to open the Food Bank have slipped slightly; we hope the contractors will get going soon, so that we can open for food distribution and a church café in November. The work to refurbish the downstairs 'loos' will start in the New Year.

Otherwise the autumn is going to be a bit disrupted with various building works. The urgent work on the leaded windows is complete, and we will start soon on the western gable end of our building – this will incorporate some of the work needed to deal with the dry rot in the boiler room area.

The priority remains the Caretaker's Cottage. Seung Ho and Uni have been so patient over the disruption of their home; nearly done!

Then there is the organ refurbishment and, finally, the baptistry is much better, but I haven't given up on a 100% fix!! Watch this space.

All blessings as always, *Pastor Robbie*



### Diary of a Church Mouse by John Betjeman.

Here among long discarded cassocks,  
Damp stools, and half split open hassocks,  
Here, where the vicar never looks  
I nibble through old service books.  
Lean and alone I spend my days  
Behind this Church of England baize.  
I share my dark forgotten room  
With two oil lamps and half a broom.  
The cleaner never bothers me,  
So here I eat my frugal tea.  
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw,  
My jam is polish for the floor.  
Christmas and Easter may be feasts  
For congregations and for priests.  
And so may Whitsun. All the same,  
They do not fill my meagre frame.



For me the only feast at all  
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival.  
When I can satisfy my want  
With ears of corn around the font.  
I climb the eagle's brazen head  
To burrow through a loaf of bread.  
I scramble up the pulpit stair  
And gnaw the marrows hanging there.  
It is enjoyable to taste  
These items ere they go to waste,  
But how annoying when one finds

That other mice with Pagan minds  
Come into church my food to share  
Who have no proper business there.  
Two field mice who have no desire  
To be baptised, invade the choir.  
A large and most unfriendly rat  
Comes in to see what we are at.  
He says he thinks there is no God  
And yet he comes ... it's rather odd.  
This year he stole a sheaf of wheat  
(It screened our special preacher's seat).  
And prosperous mice from fields away  
Come in to hear our organ play,  
And under cover of it's notes  
Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.  
A Low Church mouse, who thinks that I  
Am too papistical, and High,  
Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong  
To munch through Harvest Evensong.  
While I, who starve the whole year through,  
Must share my food with rodents who  
Except at this time of the year  
Not once inside the church appear.



Within the human world I know  
Such goings-on would not be so,  
For human beings only do  
What their religion tells them to.  
They read the Bible every day  
And, always, night and morning, pray,  
And just like me, the good church mouse,  
Worship each week in God's own house.  
But all the same it's strange to me  
How very full the church can be  
With people I don't see at all ...  
Except at Harvest Festival !



There they sat – just three simple words, “**Find your anchor**”

I had just been reading about the perils of Brexit; grim news indeed. The article went on to implore us all to “Find your anchor! Are any of us sailing on perpetually calm waters?” Surely we are all very aware that we are being tossed about in the very rough seas of Brexit and climate change. When we look at our world all seems so dark and intimidating. There’s global warfare and violence on our own streets as hunger and depression become trigger points and we become anxious because we feel helpless.

“What can I do to turn the tide?” we ask - but if we believe ourselves to be helpless we will hand over all our power to forces and systems, giving others permission to act on our behalf. They subsequently put their beliefs into play, which all too often lead to sinister, selfish and destructive actions. The first step for each one of us becomes apparent.

“**Find your anchor**” wise words indeed - because we all need an anchor.

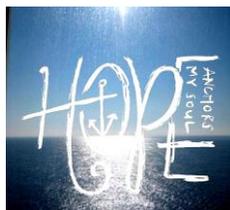
Why? - because an anchor signifies everything that is stable, things that have endured the test of time. It represents a steadying force. Can this be a truism for our lives as we enter troubled waters raging from within! It can if we have an anchor strong enough to ‘tame’ and help weather the storm.

Who or what makes people feel safe these days? Money is one ‘anchor’ many see as an essential. Others turn to friendships/doctors /gurus – they rely on others to talk things through and give sound advice. This is commendable but only up to a point because the piece of advice given comes from a person who is himself/herself human; they themselves need someone to anchor them at some point. Sympathy and understanding go far to comfort and console - but not far enough.

A man called Nicky Clinch was listing the types of anchors found today and was wise enough to add ‘Prayer’. You can almost hear the anchor pummelling the depths, sinking deeper than our thoughts and fears. We all need to hear that sound of stability – echoing support and empathy.

It should be of no surprise to us to learn that the anchor became the ancient Christian symbol for **hope**. If the anchor isn’t properly attached to a ship the ship will flounder. Billy Graham consistently preached this ultimate truth. “A life without God is like a boat without an anchor”. It is the anchor that prevents the

controls the boat’s captain wants it to stay in oversee her supplies, repaired, cleaned, she is resources after the



boat from drifting away. It movement when the one place. Now he can decide what needs to be given time to ‘recoup’ her storms. As we read on we

could say that life is full of contradictions. Is this one?

“A boat is safe in harbour – but this is not what the boat is for... a boat is made for the open sea for adventures - freedom and discovery”.



No contradiction here. The harbour has provided time to re-think, to plan a correct course, to find where the dangers are and to equip the vessel for the challenges ahead. We marvel at the way she resolutely sets her sails and her compass, defying the waves and harnessing the wind. She sails into the open sea. Look, she is proud and beautiful! – majestic even. Are we?

Our ‘Hope’ is certainly a safe harbour for each of us. She is our resting place, our ‘harbour’ where God renews us. He delights in telling us the next port of call. All is prepared for that exciting day when we set sail. Worry not, we were made for the open seas – not physically in most cases but spiritually, we are all ‘on board’ – we all savour the exact same adventure; tasks may vary but we are together with one purpose, to bring Jesus into the heart of every person’s journey of faith.

We will be called upon at times to stand alone – to be smart enough to ask for help and be brave enough to turn to God Himself to carry us through every trial and every eventuality, this we will do.

**Rhonwen.**



## Month of Sundays...

	1 <sup>st</sup> September	8 <sup>th</sup> September
DUTY DEACON	Maureen Turner	
	Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Robbie Hall
	In memory of Tony & Grace Lewis	In memory of Beverly Brown
 AM PM	Yvonne Matthews & Rhyl Coleman	Rosalyn Hogg & Val Jenkins
	Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	Pam Jones & Rosalyn Hogg
	<b>COMMUNION PM</b> Prep: Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	

**Readers: September** 1<sup>st</sup> Mr. John Ware  
8<sup>th</sup> Rev. Dai Davies  
15<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Enid James  
22<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Linda Wright  
29<sup>th</sup> Mr. Nick Wright

### Deacons' Communion Rota

**Sept. 1st** Philip Hogg/Rhonwen Miles  
**15th** Margaret Francis/John Ware  
Mary Johnson/Maureen Turner

15 <sup>th</sup> September	22 <sup>nd</sup> September	29 <sup>th</sup> September
Maureen Turner		
Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Robbie Hall	Rev. Robbie Hall
Madeleine & David Drew	<b>HARVEST</b>	Mrs. Noreen Parsons & Mrs. Julie Brown
Mary Johnson & Rosemary Rowe	Joan Devere & Delyth Ware	Eva Evans & Madeleine Drew
Margaret Francis & Rhyl Coleman	Alison Evans & Nyfain Pugh	Pam Jones & Rosalyn Hogg
	<b>COMMUNION AM</b> Prep: Alison Evans & Pam Jones	

### ***TUESDAY@Hope***

- 10<sup>th</sup> Meetings restart with Pastor Robbie Hall
- 17<sup>th</sup> Keith Johnson
- 24<sup>th</sup> Mr. David Drew

## **FAMILY NEWS**

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

8<sup>th</sup> Gail Fairfax

16<sup>th</sup> Nyfain Pugh      Owain Jones

23<sup>rd</sup> Harvey Jones

#### **A backward glance.**

September is an anniversary, our Pastor and Helen have been with us for a year. From September 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 to 2019 every subsequent Sunday and every meeting has brought us blessing and encouragement to take Hope forward. We thank Robbie for his study, his energy and the comfort he has already given to so many, both within and outside the community. May God bless you both abundantly.

August was certainly a month of contrasts the weather taking the lead. I trust that everyone made the most of the sunshine and even the rain!

August was such a month for Phil Chamberlain. Following a moving testimony making evident his resolve to follow His Lord. Phil stood shoulder to shoulder with our pastor eager to be baptised by the man who had brought him to this moment of obedience and commitment. We sang, Phil stayed in the pool, in no hurry to leave. We were all blest. It was an answer to prayer because Phil's mum was so very ill on the day. Phil had his moment but sadly his mum was called 'home' the following Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Phil writes; "Phil and Lynne would like to thank everyone who helped to make Sunday Aug 4<sup>th</sup> such a special day. Thank you for coming. Thank you for the many cards and good wishes. Thank you for sharing lunch and fellowship – for those who made cake etc. and to everyone who helped out in the kitchen. Thank you to Seung Ho for dealing with the baptistry, to Paul for the music and to Sally and Steve for the sound. Thank you to Robbie for your help and guidance and finally, thank you God for your patience and persistence". Our prayers remain with you as you face the sadness and loss of mum.

We have been so aware of late of the battle Derrick King has fought for five long years - an unbelievable achievement. At present he is at home and rests knowing that he has witnessed to so many. His faith is his strength, his generosity of spirit a legacy that honours that faith. A dedicated medical team is supporting him and the family. He is eternally grateful for every kindness and encouragement reciprocated and there are so, so many.

Derek Lyddon is also very poorly but again a beacon of trusting love for his Lord whom he has served in Hope all his life. Generosity has been an indelible part of

Derek's life. With an anticipation bathed in faith and expectancy he waits upon his Saviour. Thanking all who have loved him and cared for him.

We are glad that Mrs Jean Richards is making steady improvement. Jean has been through much pain following her heart operation. Time now for more prayer, support and love from us all. It's a necessary gear change but one that will strengthen her every day. Every blessing, Jean.

Please know, Mike and Pam Weldon, we are so thrilled that God has answered the many prayers that have been prayed over you. Your medication is beginning to effect an improvement, slow but 'moving in the right direction'. We all pray on with a lightness in our spirits and love in our hearts. Many of you are feeling better after varying ailments. Each called for patience and trust, each rewarded as symptoms were dealt with. We think especially of Mrs Marian Roberts, Mrs Brenda Cadogan, Mrs. Irene Davies and Mrs Dorothy Fear. (We want to wish Sian Fear a happy and fulfilling retirement as she leaves her nursing career, latterly at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend).

It is good to see Mrs Barbara Harris well again and we pray that Mrs Clarice Fewkes will have complete healing in the weeks to come. So many are struggling with pain and debilitation we remember each of you in prayer.

Many Congratulations to James Evans and Becky on their engagement. James proposed in the romantic city of Oslo! We wish you a lifetime of happiness as God blesses your dreams and plans for your future together. Love from us all here at 'Hope'

Congratulations come easily to Owain Jones who will be 80 years old on September 16<sup>th</sup>. There is one word that jumps to the fore – loyalty! Hope has benefited over all these years from this attribute. It is how Owain lives his life – he is totally committed to the task in hand. The Porthcawl Male Voice Choir would say a big Amen to that. He has been a valued tenor for over many years. Thank you, Owain for your friendship and dedication to Hope.

I know that you are proud (as is Pam) of your grandson Harvey who is spending this coming year studying at the University in Tübingen, Germany. We wish him every ease of study and God's guiding hand in all that he aspires to do in the future – it will be a hugely promising one.

Our congratulations to Mrs Barbara Simmonds as she recently celebrated her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. Your loyalty just speaks volumes – we assure you of loving prayers

As we face on-going repairs we ask God's blessing on all the work that will be carried out during the coming months.

**“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. It is by being together that we are shaped”. Proverbs 27 v17.**

## **WHAT'S OCCURRING!**

### **SUNDAY'SCOOL NEWS**

It is good to be back in Sunday'scool after our August break. Leah hasn't had her GSCE results as we go to print but we have no doubt that congratulations will be the order of the day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August. All the children face new challenges – going to new schools and new classes and we will be praying that all goes well for them. Mel also faces a new challenge as she does her graduate training programme whilst still doing her day job and we wish her every success.

***Pam Jones***

### **MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP - MAF**

Do you have any postcards which you could donate to MAF for fundraising? I know these are an almost extinct species but any you might have lurking - old or new, used or unused, stamped or not - all can **be** sold to aid the ministry of MAF. Last year the sale of postcards raised almost £50,000, so well worth doing. There are collecting boxes downstairs in the prayer room or at the front of the church. Alternatively, I would be pleased to accept them. Thank you very much.

***Mary Johnson***

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

**11<sup>th</sup> September – Deacons' Meeting**

**3<sup>rd</sup> October - Church Meeting**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019 7pm St. David's Hall, Cardiff - Wales and Korea 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.** This is always an inspirational evening. Free admission, but need to book tickets. St David's Hall 02920878444.

We have far more to be grateful for than most as our much loved caretakers are glowing examples of the gracious, selflessness and sincerity of true followers of Our Lord Jesus Christ learnt in their homeland. They have to suffer inconvenience with our building works at present but they never complain.

I don't know how many of you have employed personal assistants but here are some dates to end of year which will help towards clearing your diaries for the coming meetings. With Selfridges reminding us that we only had about 137 days to Christmas there was a distinct feeling of panic nationwide! Here at Hope we will be preparing for harvest on **September**

**22<sup>nd</sup>**. Mary writes “If you would like to join in with the decoration of the Sanctuary, please let me know as soon as possible”. It is an opportunity for a time of fellowship and great deliberation for those who are more in tune with arranging the lunch table as opposed to beautiful flower arrangements. All skills are appreciated!

**Saturday September 28th Association Day** at Bethel Baptist Church, Pontyclun 10.30am – 4.15pm.

**September 29<sup>th</sup> at 3pm Mayoral Service Bridgend Town.** Please make every effort to support this service as Mr. Watham is intent on serving Bridgend community, adopting Heronsbridge School as the Mayoral Charity for the year

**October 13<sup>th</sup>** – Mr. Brian Evans will be our visiting Minister

A warm welcome awaits you all at the home of Rosalyn and Philip Hogg on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October** for their annual “Coffee and Cake Event” in aid of The Bible Society

**November 10<sup>th</sup>** - Armistice Service.

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** - Gift Sunday

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** Children’s Nativity am and Christingle pm. Please note so that we will worship together in goodly numbers.

This is the prayer of Sunday’scool teachers and those who attend Prayer Meeting. Prayer Meeting commences on the 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. Such are the sentiments of the Mothers & Toddlers group as they recommence and Tuesday@Hope

It is with sadness that Ladies Guild had to finish. Much gratitude to all who enabled Ladies’ Guild to meet for 55 years. It has been helpful that so many realised the need to change, expressing a desire to meet up in some other way thus continuing friendships that have been forged over the years, All I can say at present is “watch this space” for there will be opportunities for us to meet up with one another between now and Christmas

Places of recognition – where faith wins the day and God shines through.



Brave enough to be born.



I was born to trust.



... to help another.



...to grasp an opportunity



Born to understand.



Born to comfort.

“Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of thy love.....

Take my heart, it is thine own  
It shall be thy royal throne”

**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
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**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**

<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	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)

Hope English Baptist Church Bridgend

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

Registered Charity: No. 1133067

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