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Secretary (acting)	Mrs Beryl Brown	778019
Treasurer	Mr Tony Jopson	781792
Caretaker	Mr John Leonard	708090
Booking Secretary	via Church Office	708090
Youth@Hope	Rev Andrew Gardiner	791993
Parent and Toddlers	Church Office	708090
Fellowship Groups	Rev Andrew Gardiner	791993
Women' s Rendezvous	Mrs Jenny Weeks	777416
Prayer Chain	Mrs Margaret Tripp	768957
Open House	Mrs Ann Munson	771243
Men' s Group	Mr David Brown	707577
Minibus Bookings	Paul & Nicky Hatherell	770186
Mums and Babies	Mrs Kate Brown	216868
The Outlook	Mrs Claire Worrall	700739
	Mrs Nicky Hatherell	770186
	Mrs Helen Pugh	767124
Flower Co-ordinator	Mrs Pam Smith	219844



HOPE IN THE LORD

The Outlook

December 2006



Magazine of Hope Baptist Church

www.hopebaptist.net

Our mission is to be Christ's body in the community,
demonstrating the Kingdom of God and calling others to
become his disciples

Time to celebrate & and a time for rededication

This month we come to the end of what has seemed like a really long journey. After more than 5 years of discussions, meetings re-drawn plans and adding up of finances...and then 4 ½ months of building and refurbishment it seems like we have finally got there!!

At last, we have a renewed building and a superb facility, which we hope will serve us over many years to come in our local mission to reach this Peverell community with the wonderful Good News of Jesus Christ. The journey has been costly and with great sacrifice of time and money on the part of many, many people. **NOW IS THE TIME TO REJOICE!!**

Please will you set apart the first weekend of February to celebrate with us: **On Friday 2nd Feb** we are hoping to host a great Christian rock concert for the teenagers and younger at heart in our church.

Saturday 3rd Feb we will host a Peverell Community Fun Day using every area of the church facilities and hope to welcome hundreds in through the door. Look out for details of a special Saturday night event too. **Sunday 3rd February** we are having a morning service in which we hope we will celebrate with at least one baptism. Mike Law, the President of the SW Baptist Association will be encouraging us forward from God's Word. In the afternoon we will be welcoming friends from many churches across Plymouth for a rededication of the church building, and of the church itself. **That is you and me! If you are a member please be there!**

We would like every person connected to Hope to come and be part of this special time. We want you to invite friends, work colleagues, neighbours and families. PLEASE put it in your diary NOW and plan to be with us. If you find something else in for those dates you have time to cancel it!

Make sure you are with us in January for all the details, as we build up towards the weekend:-

Sunday 21st Jan: READY?

Sunday 28th January: STEADY?

2nd – 4th February: GO!

Someone told me.....

In Luke's gospel Chapter 1 we find the story of Elizabeth greeting Mary and her joy in the Spirit excitement of knowing that a very special baby was to be born to Mary. Even the baby in her own womb leapt with excitement !!

Over these next few weeks most people you will be in contact with, particularly young people, but surprisingly a lot of older people too, will be very excited about the coming of Christmas.

They are probably excited about the thought of family time together, the presents they might get, time off work, the TV scheduling, or party season getting into full swing.

It's OK for you to get excited about Christmas too!...I know you may not notice it from the TV coverage or from what's on sale in the shops, but actually Christmas is a fantastic opportunity for us to REALLY celebrate and rejoice too! Jesus, the Saviour of the world has come.!!

What would the world have been like without Him? What would your life be like if Jesus had not come into the world?

Now here is the good news – You have a great opportunity at this time to explain to others WHY you really get excited about this season. You can explain the hope that is within you, and why you go along to a church called Hope. Yes it's risky...yes it costs us something..we may have to explain our own faith journey to them ! But it has got to be worth it.

As you write your Christmas cards to friends and family in Plymouth why not point them to the church website for information about our Christmas services? **What about doing the same as last year and write the names of 3 individuals or families in the box below.** Then pray for them each day, that God will help you to find the right words to talk to them about what you believe, and maybe invite them to church, and that they will respond positively.

Andrew Gardiner

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Women' s Rendezvous

Theatre Trip

In October over twenty ladies (and one gent) visited the Devonport Playhouse to see the Plymouth Theatre Company' s production of "A Grand Night for singing". The cast of five entertained us with music, singing and dancing from many of the shows that were popular in the 1950s and 1960s that were composed and written by Rodgers and Hammerstein.



Next month it is hoped to book seats for the Theatre Company' s Christmas Extravaganza, produced by Angela Collins. Price of the tickets will include a cup of coffee and a mince pie during the interval. Anyone who wishes to join for the evening (Friday 8th December) please let me know as soon as possible so that I can secure seats for this popular seasonal event. Tickets £8 for OAP, £9 non OAP and £7 children.

Coffee Morning and Christmas Sale

On 11th November we held a coffee morning and sale to raise money to purchase a SHELTERBOX. This event was very well supported both by the fellowship and by the community. Approximately £450 was raised and it is hoped that we can raise the final £50 to fund a box by selling some of the items that were left over from the sale at the Thursday Coffee Mornings during the next few weeks.



Thank you to e everyone who helped in any way to make this morning so successful. A special thank you to John, our caretaker, for all his help and hard work in putting up the tables and preparing the hall. We will miss you when you go to Canada, John.

Visit by a representative from SHELTERBOX

On 22nd November, we welcomed a representative from the charity SHELTERBOX, who talked to us about the work the charity does to provide people in disaster areas with basic shelter, water purifying means and cooking utensils. We presented the cheque for the money that was raised during the coffee morning and the sale mentioned.

All ladies in the church are welcome to come along to Women' s Rendezvous. We meet monthly (the last Wednesday in the month) at 7.30pm. For details of the programme and meetings please speak to me, **JENNY WEEKS** or **MARION BROWN** or any of the ladies in Women' s Rendezvous. We look forward to hearing from **YOU!**

Christmas tea at Open House

You are invited to join us at our December meeting in the church hall at 2.15 on Monday 18th. Our donations for the Christmas tea will be going to Dr Barnardo' s and Operation Mobilisation' s ship, "Logos Hope". The mission of Operation Mobilisation is to take books, both Christian and educational, to places where they will benefit local schools and communities. "Logos Hope" is currently in Croatia where she is being prepared for this mission.



We hope you will join us. Lifts can be arranged by calling me, Pam Smith, on 219844. Meanwhile, we wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Good health and peace in 2007.

Prayer Focus

As Christmas approaches so we are given a wonderful opportunity through prayer and through special services of worship to give thanks for God's remarkable gift and his overwhelming goodness to us. Pray for God's blessing on our devotional time together and that it might impact on those who have yet to come to know Jesus Christ.



Let us pray especially for those for whom Christmas is a time of loneliness and painful memories, that God may work through his people to ease that pain and loneliness.

Within the fellowship we think especially of the families of Glendora Phillips and Viola Woodward as they mourn the loss of two very special people. We pray too for those friends who are unwell and for those recovering from operations, and we give thanks and share in Leontines joy as she is re-united with her children, Wilfred and Deborah

Key rolls within the church need filling. Pray that the right people might come forward to undertake the positions of Church Secretary, Caretaker, Children's Advocate, Catering Convenors, joint Editor of the Outlook and helpers for the work with Parents and Toddlers.

You are also invited to pray for the successful completion of the building work and for the Official Opening of the new Sanctuary on 4th February 2007.

Friends are also encouraged to pray for the Prayer Life of the Church, that it might be further developed and become a powerful facet of work undertaken in the Lord's Name. Looking wider, friends are invited to pray that the profile of Christianity is healthily sustained in the context of multi faith issues.

Ending our Focus where it began, pray that Christmas might see less suffering and injustice throughout the World and some movement towards a time of peace.

Mike Holland

We would like to thank everyone who
contributes regularly on a Sunday Morning

Communion

	<i>Set-up</i>	<i>Wash-up</i>
17	Peter & Beryl Brown	Annie Pearce & Estelle Robertson
24	Peter & Beryl Brown	Jenny Weeks

Coffee

03	Pat Dodd & Claire Worrall
10	Nick Beard & Beryl Brown
17	Patrick Cann & Kelly Hopwood (<i>Morning Service</i>)
17	Tim Hart & Sandra Brown (<i>Carol Service</i>)
24	Richard Simpson & Pat Taylor
31	Julie Harrall & Marian Brown

Crèche

03	Helen Pugh, Kelly Hopwood & Karen Beard
10	Luisa Davies, Jean Bartlett & Megan Adeney
17	Jackie May, Leontine Amisale & Julie Harrall
24	Steve Brown, Kate Brown & Luisa Davies
25	Family Service – No crèche
31	Family Service – No crèche

Flowers

03	Mr Mike Holland and Mrs W.M. Shelton. In loving memory of Mr Charles Shelton.
10	Mrs Ann Javan
17	Flower Fund.
24	Mrs Julie Hall. In Loving Memory of her mother, Mrs Muriel Hazeel
31	Flower Fund

3-5' s

- 03 Amanda Harris, Shirley Mann & Margaret Underdown
- 10 Ann Munson, Sheena Kingdon & Katherine Beard
- 17 Sandy Lashbrook, Claire Knight & Mel Hatherell
- 24 Amanda Harris, Shirley Mann & Margaret Underdown
- 25 Family Service – no group
- 31 Family Service – no group

5-7' s

- 03 Katherine Gardiner & Sandra Brown
 - 10 Sarah Aldersley & Pam Smith
 - 17 Katherine Gardiner & Nick Beard
 - 24 Sarah Aldersley & Sandra Brown
 - 25 Family Service – no group
 - 31 Family service – no group
- | | Transport | Duty Steward |
|----|-------------|--|
| 03 | Mike Lummis | Ron Dalton |
| 10 | David Brown | Nicky Hatherell |
| 17 | Peter Brown | Wilf Smale |
| 17 | | Mike Munson (<i>Carol Service</i>) |
| 24 | Jackie May | Mike Lummis |
| 24 | | Beryl Brown (<i>Communion Service</i>) |
| 25 | Mike Munson | Peter Brown |
| 31 | Mike Lummis | Ron Dalton |

Welcome Stewards

- 03 Andrew Jones, Sheena Kingdon, Pat Taylor & Katharine Beard
- 10 Peter Man, Gill Knight, Tim Hart & Robert Canning
- 17 Margaret Underdown, Trevor Fray, Margaret Tripp and Holly Bowman-Powell - (*Morning service*)
- 17 Estelle Robertson, Beryl Chun, Marion Brown and David Simpson - (*Carol Service*)
- 24 Salli Lummis, Pam Smith, Andrew Jones & Jemma Aldersley - (*Morning Service*)
- 24 Graham Dodd, Pat Dodd, Sheena Kingdon & Dom Dalton – (*Communion Service*)

25 Pat Taylor, Peter Man, Gill Knight & Katharine Beard
31 Tim Hart, Estelle Robertson, Trevor Fray & Robert Canning

Would you like to compile an issue of The Outlook?

If you feel confident with computers and have an email address then why not give it a go either on occasional or a regular basis.



Various months are available throughout 2007 and you will get lots of support & encouragement.

If you would like to get involved please contact

Claire Worrall on 700739

claire@worrall228.fsworld.co.uk

Or

Helen Pugh on 767124

thepughfamily@btinternet.com

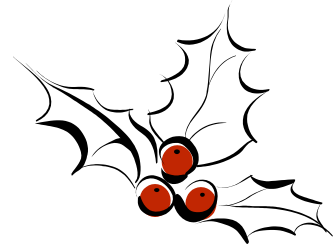
Or

Nicky Hatherell on 770186

nickyhatherell@aol.com

December Diary

- Fri 01 19.00 The Hype – School years 7-9*
 21.15 RE:ACT – School years 10-13*
- Sun 03 10.30 Morning Worship
 Who is this Child? John 1: 1-4
(Venue to be confirmed)
- Mon 04 Open House – Christmas Lunch
 The Crooked Spaniards Inn
- Tue 05 10.00 Mums and Babies*
 12.45 Parents and Toddlers*
- Wed 06 10.00 Parent and Toddlers*
 12.45 Parent and Toddlers*
- Thur 07 10.00 Coffee Morning**
- Sun 10 10.30 Toy Service
- Tue 12 18.30 Community Carol Singing and Fellowship Group
 Social
- Sun 17 10.30 Morning Worship and Communion
 Do you recognise him? John 1: 5-13
 18.30 Carol Service
- Mon 18 14.15 Open House Christmas Tea. Donations to
 Dr Barnardos
- Sun 24 10.30 Morning Worship
 Will you receive from Him? John 1: 14-18



23.15 Midnight Communion Service

Mon 25 10.00 Christmas Family Celebration

Sun 31 10.30 Family Service

*These meetings meet weekly **during term time only**

** These meetings meet weekly **all through the year**

Fellowship Groups now meet on various nights and in different weeks, so check with group leaders when yours is meeting.

January 2007

1 January – New Years Day Walk

The Outlook

This months Outlook has been compiled by Claire Worrall, and copied by Jackie May.

January' s Outlook will be put together by Helen Pugh, who would be grateful for your articles no later than:



Thursday Coffee Mornings Help Needed!!

Our Church runs a coffee morning on Thursdays between 10.00am -12.00, which is open to everyone.

We are desperately short of volunteers to run this. If you could spare a few hours to help every five or six weeks, or would just be prepared to join the rota on a casual basis please contact



Pam Walters
Tel 562760

CHILD ADVOCATE VACANCY

The church is committed to ensuring the safety of our children, young people and leaders, and appoints two child advocates (male and female) who play a vital role in ensuring the churches policy and guidelines are followed.

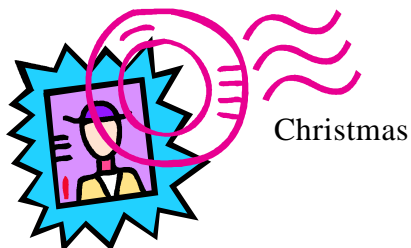
We currently need to appoint a female advocate to work alongside Chris Houston.

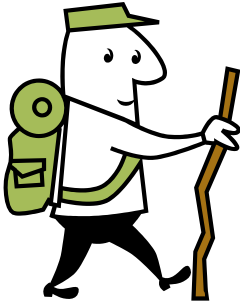
Please speak to Chris Houston or Andrew Gardiner if you would like more information about this role or if you wish to make a suggestion about who might fulfil this role.

Home Mission – Used Stamps

Please do remember to save all your stamps and let me have them.

Thank you
Marion Brown





NEW YEARS DAY WALK

Come and join us for a 3-4 hour walk through Dartmoor's hidden lanes on New Years Day.

We will meet at Horrabridge at 11am
(Map to follow).

Bring a packed lunch. Be prepared for muddy footpaths, possible rain but guaranteed good fun.

Speak to Chris Houston for more information
(709909).



The Long Journey to Hope

An interview with Richard Simpson

Richard Simpson is married with 3 sons. He lives in Peverell and works as a Primary School teacher and a Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages. He has been worshipping at Hope since summer 2004 and has been a Deacon since February 2006.

When did you become a Christian?

I was brought up an Anglican and was taken to church by my parents. I was baptised as an infant and confirmed when I was in my teens at boarding school. There was quite a good Christian Union at the school which my older brothers had been involved in, and that was a good source of Christian teaching, but I went through lots of times when I wondered if I was a Christian or not. Sometimes I felt I had let God down and I wasn't really a Christian at all and at other times I felt much more fired up for God.

It came to a crunch when I helped on a Scripture Union camp in my late teens. I was really challenged to look at what my faith really meant to me. I had a girlfriend at the time who was a Christian and she could see that I wasn't really a Christian and she challenged me to think about what that meant. I had some help from my brother who was very zealous for God and I had always looked up to him as someone who knew much more about God than I did. When I was about 20 years old I went on a Scripture Union House Party and I had what can only be described as a vision. One day I got a picture of God up there and me down here, apart and separated. I prayed with my brother and re-committed myself to God and got a vision the next day of me being welcomed up with God. I've never really looked back since then; it was confirmation to me that I was accepted.

I was starting a career in the Royal Navy at that time and for me there were difficult times adjusting to that life whilst being a Christian but there were also some very good times. I was able to see the broader church, travelling on ships and worshipping in all different types of churches, not just confined to the Church of England. That really did wonders for broadening my sense of the family of God. I was involved with the Naval

Christian Fellowship which was a broad group of Baptists, Anglicans and other denominations all mixed together. Our commonality was that we were all Christians. I came away from that whole experience of being in the Navy feeling that I was a 'Christian' and didn't want to label myself with a denomination. When I met Mary I went to Hong Kong soon afterwards and experienced going to an Anglican Church in the morning and helping out with Sunday School and going to Jackie Pullinger's fellowship in the afternoon which was a non-denominational, charismatic style organisation. Once we got married and moved back to Plymouth we both felt right in a charismatic church where we worshipped for 16 years and where I was baptised by full immersion. We ended up moving to Hope when we decided we wanted to worship somewhere more local and be more involved in our community.

You have been a Deacon for 10 months now; how are you finding this role?

I had been involved in leadership in our last church, in a Wider Leaders Group. When we came to Hope we initially wanted a bit of a rest, but always had the view that we would serve and wondered what service we would do. When the Deacons election came up and people started to approach me I wasn't really looking for the post. It was heartening that other people had seen that potential in me and I felt that if that was what God was calling me to then I would do it. The Deaconate has got a more formal structure than the Wider Leadership Group in our previous church. I still feel I need to work on getting to know more people in Hope so that I can serve them more effectively as a Deacon.

Getting used to the Baptist structure has been a bit of a learning curve because it's got formalities to it that I'm not used to from other church experiences.

I feel like I want to do more to help, but there's always the balance of time and getting everything done; not pushing yourself to do things when you know you might not be able to fulfil them. I've done a couple of things as a Deacon which have been very new experiences to me.

Is it difficult to stay focused on the real meaning of Christmas when you live and work with children and teenagers?

There is much more of a sense of 'getting presents' with children. I'm at that stage where the excitement is all for them. Because the family are all Christian we don't forget the real meaning of Christmas but we are also reminded of how materialistic we are in our society – present giving and all the trimmings of Christmas tend to dominate in a way that they shouldn't. I'm always very touched when I think of what Jackie Pullinger does at Christmas in Hong Kong– she gets all the street sleepers and people like that and throws a big party for everyone on Christmas day. The school where I'm working at the moment very much focuses on the Christian story and the real meaning of Christmas. We try to teach the children what the real meaning of Christmas is.

Do you ever have good times as a Christian?

Yes. Going back to my time in the Navy, it felt very much like home when I was in a church even though it might have been with total strangers in a different country. The bond of Christianity is very strong; having a common goal despite nationality differences and racial differences is a very powerful force.

As a Christian you can have fun without the things that some people out in the world often seem to need like drink and other things.

Do you ever have difficult times as a Christian?

Yes, there have been difficult times as well, like struggling with differences of opinion with other Christians. Sometimes I have felt I wasn't as spiritual as other Christians.

Another thing I have found difficult is knowing what I am called to as a Christian. I had a strong desire to go on ship mission work but it wasn't a vision which Mary and I shared. After David and Peter were born, the YWAM ship, Anastasis, visited Plymouth and after having a look around I felt really fired up and had vivid pictures of my future on board. For Mary it was very different and she struggled with the idea of bringing up the boys on a ship. It was quite a battle to know God's will. We had some

advice and counselling from Christian friends who said we should only proceed if we both felt called by God, if it was a shared vision. That clear calling never came and this left me a bit disappointed with God. I had to try and work through that and I'm still not through it all yet. The urgency of it isn't so fresh and strong but part of me still hankers after doing something I felt I was good at - driving ships. The issue of knowing God's call on my life has been quite a difficulty for me since that time.

What or who helps you through those times?

Mary helps me and is usually my first port of call. My sons are getting increasingly good at helping me, which is nice. They say wise things. Reading the bible is a big help, as well as reading Christian books. I really enjoy the humour of Jeff Lucas and Adrian Plass. I've come across some authors recently who have very similar Christian perspectives to mine – Tony Campolo, Philip Yancey and Jim Wallis – and their writings have helped and inspired me. I have also found some folk at Hope who are good to turn to for help and advice.

Do you have a particular bible verse which is important to you?

I actually became engaged to the Christian girlfriend I mentioned earlier and when she broke off the engagement I was given a verse which has stayed with me and which really upheld me at the time:

'No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.' **Hebrews 12:11**

Another verse which has become important to me in recent times as I have grown more concerned about issues of social justice is:

'He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with your God.' **Micah 6:8**

If you would like to know more about the inspirational work of Jackie Pullinger please try these sources of information:

http://youth.tearfund.org/youth/THE_HISTORY_MAKER/JACKIE_PULLINGER.htm

<http://www.ststephenssociety.org/jackie/index.htm>

Her books include:

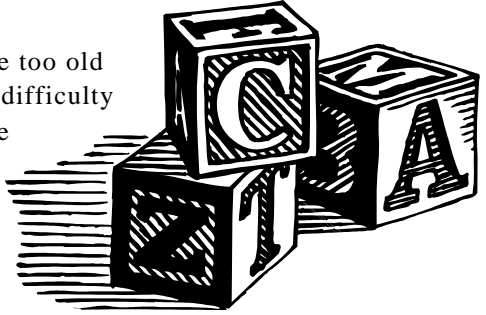
'Chasing the Dragon' and 'Crack in the Wall'

Helen Pugh

HOPE BAPTIST PARENTS & TODDLERS

The building of the Toy Store has been a great joy for us. To be able to access the equipment so that each session can adapt the hall to meet the needs of the very young and older child has been wonderful.

Our link with Mums & Babies provides continuation for families when babies are too old for the group but this in itself can create difficulty when the very young come up against the older child. Thought has turned to how we might cater for the younger ones in another session but that is something for the future.



From the Notice Sheet you will have seen our SOS for help. Anne-Marie and Kelly desperately need one or two people on a Tuesday afternoon. Wednesday mornings have lost Pam Waters in the kitchen so that she may support a sick friend but we are so pleased that Estelle has felt well enough to return. Barbara Smith who has shared leadership on Wednesday mornings with Sarah Aldersley following Jenny's departure will now be leaving herself because her son is starting school and in the summer Sarah will also be leaving because Jessica starts school. This leaves this group in need of leadership. Wednesday afternoon is thankful for the help of Chris Rogers who comes to Women's Rendezvous and has become a regular helper help to fill the gap when Judith is away supporting her family and the one left by Claire Knight who was a very loyal helper but is now working on Wednesdays.

As the autumn session comes to a close we give thanks for all the carers and children that we see from week to week at our three sessions Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday morning and afternoon. Each group has approximately 30 families on their registers with an average attendance of 20+ and a waiting list of about 20.

If you would like to come to any of our sessions to see how we work please do so we would love to see you. We ask you to support us in prayer as we meet families from week to seek and for the provision of leaders and helpers to maintain this very important part of the mission of Hope Baptist Church to be at the heart of our community.

We take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

The times of our sessions are: Tuesdays 12.45-2.45 pm and Wednesdays 10 am – 12 noon and 12.34-2.45pm.

An Apology: The All Nations International Conference 2002

In 2002 the All Nations Fellowship hired Hope's premises for an International Conference. There were a number of deficiencies in the organisation of this event which placed an inordinate amount of pressure on volunteer helpers. Following the conference Hope Baptist Church recognised that they had failed in their responsibilities in the letting of the premises to communicate standards expected in the areas of childcare, health and safety, ground rules regarding the use of church equipment and consideration for the caretaker. As a result procedures have been set up to ensure these mistakes will not be repeated. It recently came to the Church's attention that sufficient apologies had not been made at the time and the Church Members' Meeting therefore agreed the following statement.

At a Church Members Meeting on the 7 November, the members of Hope Baptist Church on the recommendation of the Ministers and .Deacons, publicly apologise unreservedly to Brian Potter and all those who were hurt and upset by the situations they found themselves in and the pressures put upon them by the Conference. They acknowledge that these arose in large part from lack of planning, control and forethought on the part of the church. It is noted that many of these areas have subsequently been addressed.

Christmas Cards

Rather than giving all your friends and family individual cards this Christmas, why not write your Christmas message to everyone in the large Christmas Card which will be available the back of the church.

Donations will go to World Vision.

