

November 2018

# SARAH SUTTON

*Mission Partner of the Month*



Hope Church  
Rhondda  
Tonypandy



## LOCAL CHURCH

## OUTREACH & DISCIPLESHIP

## YOUTH WORK

Hope Church's vision is to be a local church that is easy for anyone to come into and be welcomed, to be disciplined & to serve. This is fantastic, but as we know the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few. Thankfully God's in control! Psalm 46:1.

Above photo is an Easter Sunday - we saw 100s of people and a sense of church taking ownership of mission. Also over the summer we had our second ever weekend away: this time to Cefn Lea where we spent time reading Galatians & enjoyed precious time together.

CLUB (8-14s group) has been running for over 1 year. We've had at least 4 kids make professions of faith & 1 baptised. Kids are 95% unchurched & from a variety of different backgrounds. I'm thankful for a fab team & God's leading.

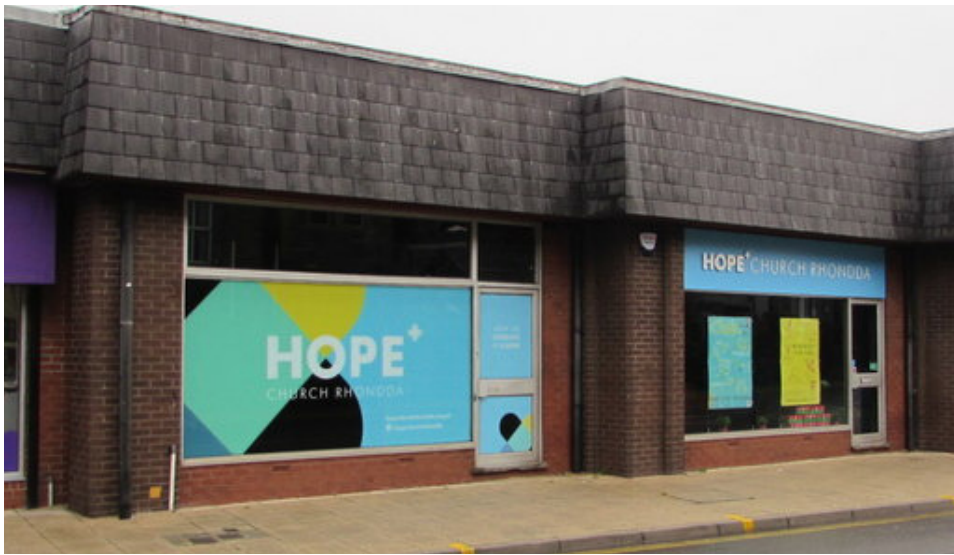
## FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE RHONDDA

Hope Church Rhondda is in Tonypandy, in the middle of the Rhondda Valley, South Wales. I moved there after strongly hearing God's voice to do so at the end of the amazing youth work internship at St Michael's in 2014. Hope is a church plant which is committed to loving God, loving one another and loving the Rhondda. We aim to be a 'missional community' - like an extended church family who care for each other & seek to use the every day moments of our lives to share the gospel with others.

Tonypandy is a wonderful valleys town with a rich mining heritage which now suffers economically and socially due to a lack of jobs and cycles of poverty and broken relationships. There are a small number of Christians, but like much of the UK, it is a hard place to share the gospel.







## PRAYER REQUESTS

For our 1st Christmas day service - we're praying for lots of people to come and hear about Jesus

As we continue to engage with people from Tonypandy - that we would be able to love and care for them like Jesus, particularly those struggling with addictions & family break downs

For mine and John's new Hope Community, that we would be able to create a good culture in the group based around God's word

For the economic renewal of Tonypandy - this is very on my heart at the moment after we were ranked in the bottom 10 retail locations in UK

For a recent spout of anti-social behaviour in Tonypandy (fires) for safety & for us to respond well

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*He set my feet  
on a rock and  
gave me a firm  
place to stand.  
Psalm 40:2b*

I want to take a moment to say THANK YOU to all of you who continue to love & support John & I throughout this exciting & sometimes challenging journey. Having a wonderful church family who are so supportive just over the Severn Bridge is a huge blessing to us both.

It's also been fantastic having Olly Wicks as my 'link person' but thoroughly look forward to this becoming Jacob Clothier as Olly is now at University.

Please do come and visit.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS

We find ourselves in an exciting season with new believers being added and we are about to church plant further up the Valley. Myself and John (my husband) are staying in Pandy & are really excited about all that God is doing here with talk of 'kingdom businesses' being started, new opportunities for youth work and lots of people in & around Hope Church to love and care for. John & I have recently started running a Hope Community (life group) and are praying that this would be great.

Psalm 40:2 has been on my heart recently: God has given me firm foundations in Him and these are unshakable, and so through tough patches I am reminded of what Jesus saved me from in dying on the cross & the sacrifice He made. This motivates me to try and live a life that isn't comfortable, where I interact with people different from me, share my life (& hopefully the gospel) with my neighbours. I am by no means perfect at this, but thankfully I am a work in progress.

A new part of my role at Hope Church is trying to get our building used more. I may be biased but I think it's a lovely space and we are doing all that we can to encourage people to use it - not to make a profit, but to be more accessible to our community. I long to see it used! So far we've had a local baker, the Labour party, the Council, amongst others come and use the space. Simon (one of our leaders) is also using the building to run an Adult Education course & we also run a Foodbank on a Wednesday.



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