

Sunday 19th
March 2017



When all around is shaking...

Hebrews 12:25-29

See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.' The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken – that is, created things – so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, or our 'God is a consuming fire.'

We live in a moment in world history which for many is potentially disturbing and unsettling, but I want to suggest that for Christians, it is a Kairos moment, filled with potential.

Things around us are shaking - nations, economies - some worldly kingdoms are falling, others are rising up to take their place sometimes with sinister or outright alarming rhetoric and agendas. Millions are fleeing war-zones, tensions are building; nationalist ideologies seem to be gaining traction across Europe, making our continent an increasingly hostile place to live in for many, and causing fragmentation. Who knows in time whether the old disputes that led to war in years-gone-by might open up again? Has the 'progress' of the past 80 years been a false pretence - or is it that the same principalities and powers are alive and well and have seen an opportune moment to capitalise on fear and uncertainty, converting it into division and hatred... Whichever, we find ourselves in a time where the voices of peace are drowned out and the loudest, angriest voice seems to win.

So why is there cause for us to be hopeful in these bleak surroundings? Because there is a voice that is speaking that will not be drowned out by human squabbling. There is a Kingdom advancing in power that cannot be shaken. We have heard this voice and we are part of this Kingdom. In the very moment that evil seems to have the upper hand, that is when God moves -

continues...

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

continued . . .

scripture attests to this, the cross proves this, the passage above speaks of this, and many of us know this to be true in our lives.

Of course, many of us are currently insulated from the effects of this shaking in our world; however, Satan uses rumour to try and upset our disposition and poison our way of thinking. But in the midst of the chaos and confusion, don't miss what God is doing! Thousands of people are coming to faith in our nation - people are hearing the voice of God speaking to them, the church is rising up to reach them, and I believe this is set to continue - even if the surrounding situation seems to worsen.

God wants to do mighty things here - he wants to use his church to see his Kingdom advance at this crucial time. He wants our faith to rise up and to give us a fresh anointing to bring in the harvest he is preparing. Don't be distracted! Let's not miss, or worse, refuse the voice of the one who speaks, but allow our lives to be consumed by his refining fire, as we follow Jesus - the Desire of Nations who is to come (read Haggai 2:6-7, 20-23) - boldly and without fear!

Your servant in Christ

Mark Hirst

News, notes and prayer-opportunities

- Please note **Friday morning coffee** has moved to the later time of 11am while Alpha is running.
- Pick up a booking form for the next **men's breakfast** on 1st April 8-9.30am with speaker Jo Marriott.
- The third **Lent Lunch** is this Wednesday 12-2pm in the Roman Catholic Parish Room.
- There is also a **Taize evening** at the Roman Catholic Church on Tuesday at 7pm.
- A helper is needed once a month in the **Sunday club at 5pm**. Please speak to Andy or Ben if you can help out.
- A ladies team and a BBFC team are competing in the **Marbles competitions** on the Abbey Green on Good Friday. There is scope for another church team. If anyone is interested in heading up a team please let the office know and we will give you the details.
- BBFC have reached the semi-final of the **Christian Cup!** Come and support the team from 3pm at Battle Rec on 1st April.
- We will be celebrating Easter Sunday with a **Baptism** at 5pm. If you are interested in being baptised please speak to Mark, Ed, Francis or one of the elders.

What's on this week...

Caterpillar Preschool (Monday to Friday) and Caterpillar Crew (Monday to Friday) plus:

Sunday, March 19th. ● 8am Breakfast in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 8.45am Chapel Gathering and communion plus Youth Group. ● 10am Refreshments in the Manna House. ● 10.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 10.45am Chapel Gathering plus Creche & Sunday Club. ● 5pm Informal Worship in the Chapel with Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Group. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.

Monday, March 20th. ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group. ● 7.45pm: Elders & Deacons meeting.

Tuesday, March 21st. ● 9.15am: Prayer-for-Healing Group (prayer room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come. ● 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker: Mike Ward. ● 6.30pm OpenDoors Lent Course. ● 7pm Lent Taize evening at the Roman Catholic Church.

Wednesday, March 22nd. ● 10am onwards Selfie Crafting in the Manna House. £1. ● 12-2pm: Lent Lunch at the Catholic Church. ● 5-6pm: BBFC Youth training. ● 6pm: BBFC training at Claverham 3g. ● 7pm: Battle Baptist Runners meet at the church.

Thursday, March 23rd. ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group. ● 7pm: Alpha.

Friday, March 24th. ● 7.30am: Early Morning Prayer in the Youth Room followed by a 'do it yourself' breakfast. ● 9.15am Chatterbox for mums, dads and carers (upstairs). ● 9:15am: Alpha. ● 11am: Coffee Club (upstairs). ● 12.30pm: Friday Lunch Club for retired people. (Advance booking *essential* on 772192, weekdays between 6pm and 7pm.) ● 3.30-5pm: After School Club. ● 7-9pm: 4:12 Easter Extravaganza!

Sunday, March 26th. ● 8am Breakfast in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 8.45am Chapel Gathering plus Youth Group. ● 10am Refreshments in the Manna House. ● 10.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 10.45am All Age Chapel Gathering plus Creche. ● 5pm Informal Worship in the Chapel with Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Group. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.

**Join us at our
special
Mothers Day
All Age celebration.**

**But don't forget the
clocks go forward an
hour next weekend!**

Next Sunday @ 10.45am

So, who is
God?



Did God make the world?

Followed by tea, coffee, squash and biscuits.

This week's prayer pointers

- ◆ Thank God for the opportunities the teaching weekend gave us to deepen relationships and hear from God. Pray that the spiritual growth would continue in individuals lives and as a church.
- ◆ Pray for all three gatherings next Sunday. Pray that God would be glorified in every act of service and worship.
- ◆ Pray for our young people. Pray that God would guide them away from temptation and that their witness would be effective in drawing their friends into the Kingdom of God.

Dates for your diary

- ◆ 1st April Men's breakfast.
- ◆ 1st April, 3pm BBFC Christian Cup semi-final at Battle Rec.
- ◆ 10th April Film Night "Man Dancin' cert 15.
- ◆ 5th - 9th April: SportsReach
- ◆ 7.30-9pm: 2nd May Church AGM
- ◆ 20th May Ladies breakfast
- ◆ 7th-9th July SOLID
- ◆ 25th -29th August Soul Survivor

Church maintenance issues: zionpremisesteam@gmail.com

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Caterpillar Preschool direct telephone line: (01424) 774997.

Ed Jones (Pastor) Francis Willoughby and Mark Hirst (Associate Pastors).
Our other elders: John Southam (Church Manager); Rob Duffill (Treasurer); Andy and Jo Garlick; Ben Garlick.

