

Sunday 1st  
January 2017



# It's time to get real.

Upfront, if I'm honest part of me would probably rather just go back to bed. It's got nothing to do with whatever I did or didn't get up to, seeing one year out and another in. No, it's more that the whole idea of seeking to stir up trouble, cause some grief and generally shake life up a bit, just sounds like a lot of hard work. As a church kicking off the new year, it would be a lot easier to keep quiet, keep our heads below parapets, avoid all eye contact with the world and attempt to go unnoticed. We could then resurface some point around Easter, for example.

Last time I checked though, I don't believe Jesus ever gave any hint or even a mild suggestion that He wants us to cower in corners, hiding out of the way or trying to play it safe.

With this in mind we're beginning the year with a focussed month of prayer. Let me add to that though, that the imagery that we're using is around that of a fuse being lit. The potential is a little or lot unknown, but if we're about truly seeking God, craving after His heart and hearing afresh from Him, then I want some of that!

Along with the Sunday gatherings where we'll be grappling with what it means to get real in terms of prayer, each week we'll be gathering for a midweek Prayer and Praise evening, alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays (see the series postcards for specific dates). We'll then be ending the month with a Prayer Celebration on the 31st, from 6pm till midnight.

To be honest, part of me since we've been planning this has thought should we bother, is it worth it, aren't we just creating a lot more work and meetings and stuff to be done? It's also crossed my mind that the enemy isn't going to like it if as a church, as the body of Christ, we step up seriously longing for God to send His Holy Spirit again and move mightily in and through us out into this community and beyond. Therefore wouldn't it be easier to stay quiet?

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In his letter to the Ephesians (1:18), Paul writes: *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.*

Settle we could. Be content with the typical we might. Resigned to simply meander through the coming year, it's possible. Not for one second though, do I believe that God would want any of this for you, for me, or for anyone.

The coming year may be tough, possibly contain challenges, at times appear pretty rubbish by all accounts, but then that's life. It's full of ups and downs, good days and bad ones. The question is how we respond to them. How we support each other in and through them. How we set our faces at the outset.

I invite you, take a match let's light the fuse and may we be willing to go where God leads, respond to all he says and be all He has created each of us to be, right here, right now.

Your friend and pastor

*Ed Jones*

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## News, notes and prayer-opportunities

- Today at 5pm we are baptising Joel Williams. Please join us if you can.
- **Reminder for your diary.** On each 1st Thursday of the month, there will be a prayer-meeting for the Middle East; 2pm to 3pm in the Prayer Room, led by **Peter Woodcraft**. *Do come if you are free.*
- **Maurice and Audrey Hawkes** wish to thank all our brothers and sisters for the care, prayers, cards and gifts following Audrey's fall. They are greatly appreciated. They hope to be back with you all before long.
- There are many opportunities to meet together to **pray** this week. You are very welcome to join in any of the prayer gatherings highlighted in "What's on this week".

# What's on this week...

*Caterpillar Preschool (Tuesday to Friday) and Caterpillar Crew (Tuesday to Friday) plus;*

**Sunday, January 1st.** ● **5pm Informal Worship & Baptism** in the Chapel with Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Group. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.

**Tuesday, January 3rd.** ● 9.15am: **Prayer-for-Healing Group** (prayer room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come. ● 10am: **Office team prayer** in the Youth Room ● 7.30-9.30pm: **Prayer & Praise.**

**Wednesday, January 4th.** ● 10am: **Office team prayer** in the Youth Room ● 5-6pm: **BBFC Youth training** & 6pm: **BBFC training** at Claverham 3g. ● 7pm: **Battle Baptist Runners** meet at the church.

**Thursday, January 5th.** ● 10am: **Office team prayer** in the Youth Room ● 2-3pm: **Prayer for the Middle East** in the prayer room.

**Friday, January 6th.** ● 7.30am: **Early Morning Prayer** in the Youth Room followed by a 'do it yourself' breakfast. ● 10am: **Office team prayer** in the Youth Room ● 9.15am **Chatterbox** for mums, dads and carers (upstairs). ● 10.30am: **Coffee Club** (upstairs).

**Sunday, January 8th.** ● **8am Breakfast** in the Manna House. ● **8.45am Chapel Gathering** and communion plus Creche and Youth Group. ● **10am Refreshments** in the Manna House. ● **10.45am Chapel Gathering** plus Sunday Club and Creche. ● **5pm Informal Worship** in the Chapel with Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Group. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.

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## Re-start Dates

Caterpillar Pre-School: Tuesday 3rd January

Caterpillar Parent, Baby & Toddler Groups: Monday 9th January

After-School Club: Friday 13th January

Tuesday Fellowship: Tuesday 10th January

Friday Lunch Club: Friday 13th January

Friday Coffee Clubs: Friday 6th January

# A New Year's Prayer

**Lord, You make all things new  
You bring hope alive in our hearts  
And cause our Spirits to be born again.**

**Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it holds.  
Come and kindle in us  
A mighty flame  
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God  
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.**

**Amen**

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## This week's prayer pointers

- ◆ Thank God for Joel and the step of faith he has taken in being baptised today. Pray that God would protect him and renew his faith.
  - ◆ Pray for those thinking about attending the Alpha course in February. Pray that nothing would prevent them from attending. Pray for opportunities to talk to people you know about Alpha.
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## Dates for your diary

- ◆ 7.30-9pm: 2nd & 7th February Church Presentation Meetings
- ◆ 7.30-9pm: 21st February Ordinary Church Meeting
- ◆ 7.30-9pm: 2nd May Church AGM

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Battle Baptist Church is part of Life with Hope Trust; registered charity 1134288, Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0EG. • Website: [www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk) • Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: [office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk) • 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; Andrew Topliss; Ben Garlick.**

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