

Sunday 21st  
May 2017



# The Lord's Prayer...

*"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

*Matthew 6 v 10.*

Such familiar words. Such a cry from the heart for our world to become as it was created to be. We have seen the result on earth of our attempts to "do it my way". Since almost the very beginning, when sin spoilt the Creator's perfect creation, mankind has wondered why things are not as they should be. The Old Testament is full of stories of the failure of man to build a perfect world in his own strength. Then Jesus comes with a simple yet so challenging message. For two thousand years Christians have prayed the Lord's Prayer. They have been desperate – like us – to see the world turn away from the corruption, injustice and sinful ways. But for all that time have they followed what Jesus says are the greatest commands? "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength and love your neighbour as yourself." Mark 12 v 30-31.

We are bombarded from television, computer, radio and newspaper with the latest party political manifesto. The new idea that will make everything better. Some of us may well believe something of what we are told. Some of us may trust one politician – and totally disbelieve the others. Perhaps you hope that your vote in the ballot box will send a message even if the candidate we support does not get elected. I do not want to encourage you to be cynical. Indeed, we have the blessing of being in a democracy where we are free to decide for ourselves and have the freedom and responsibility of choosing our government. However, we will almost inevitably end up full of anticipation or full of despair on the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> June! But will it really change anything? Certainly the results of elections held in the past year have led commentators to suggest that there is huge dissatisfaction among people, and that their vote is a protest vote against past political structures. The

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people are looking to change the political world in the hope that things can only get better. Perhaps we should have faith to believe that the election results can and will change the situation for all of us in our community. There will be an opportunity to see and hear the candidates for the Bexhill and Battle constituency here in our Chapel when we are hosting a meeting on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. We have done this before, and it certainly proved popular with folk from our community. There are similar meetings throughout the constituency – often hosted by the local church. But an election for our government will not hasten in God's kingdom – whoever gets in!

Our dissatisfaction with things should lead us not just into taking our voting responsibility seriously, but also into some serious prayer. We should pray alone. We should pray in small clusters. We should pray as a church, a nation, a world. Only the Kingdom of God will truly answer our hearts desire. Then doing our utmost, through the power of God's Holy Spirit, to love Him, our neighbour and ourselves just a little bit more!

Your servant in Christ,  
**John Southam**

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## **News, notes and prayer-opportunities**

- The next prayer and praise evening will be on Monday 5th June at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.
- Final payments for Soul Survivor are due by the 31st May.
- Please pray for Mark who is preaching at St Leonard's Baptist Church, Melvyn who is preaching at Sedlescombe Church and Dennis who is preaching at Hawkhurst Baptist Church, this morning.
- Join us on Sunday 4th June at 6pm as we join with the other Battle churches for Pentecost Praise at the Emmanuel Centre (refreshments will follow).
- Next Sunday our 10.45am gathering is all age.
- There are further opportunities to worship God with others from Battle next week as we celebrate Christian Unity. On Tuesday 30th May until Friday 2nd June at 8am there will be early morning prayers at the Roman Catholic Church led by a different Battle church each day.
- **The next men's event is a pub lunch** after the 10.45am service on 28th May. Please let Rob Hamilton know if you will be going 07983 666255.
- A manager/coach is needed for the

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# What's on this week...

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

**Sunday, May 21st.** ● 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 Chapel Gathering with 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, May 22nd.** ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group. ● 7.45pm: Elders meeting.

**Tuesday, May 23rd.** ● 9.15-11am Caterpillars Explorers Parent and Toddler Group. ● 9.15am: Prayer-for-Healing Group (prayer room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come. ● 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship, Speaker: Hilary Malpass.

**Wednesday, May 24th.** ● 10am onwards: Selfie Crafting in the Manna House. Refreshments provided. £1. ● 5.15-6.15pm: BBFC Youth training at the Rec. ● 7pm: Battle Baptist Runners meet at the church.

**Thursday, May 25th.** ● 9.15-11:45am: Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group.

**Friday, May 26th.** ● 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). ● 10.45am: Coffee Club (upstairs).

**Sunday, May 28th.** ● 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. ● 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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under 14s football team. Please speak to Andy for more details of this position. ● Can you help once a month with the PA at 10.45am service? Training and shadowing are provided. Please ask the office for more details. Thank you.



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## This week's prayer pointers

- ◆ Thank God for the opportunity to worship God with local churches on 4th June at the Emmanuel Centre (6pm). Pray that God would be powerfully present as we meet.
- ◆ Pray those we know who are undergoing or awaiting medical **treatment. Pray for God's healing touch and for His peace.**
- ◆ Pray for Melvyn as he starts the preparation for Holiday at Home. Pray that good numbers would book in and that God would give him strength and inspiration.

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## Dates for your diary

- ◆ 4th June 6pm Pentecost Praise at the Emmanuel Centre
- ◆ 5th June 7.30pm: Prayer and Praise
- ◆ 7th-9th July SOLID children's camp.
- ◆ 25th –29th August Soul Survivor



Church maintenance issues: [zionpremisesteam@gmail.com](mailto:zionpremisesteam@gmail.com)  
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; Ben Garlick.

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