

Sunday 23rd April 2017



It's all about believing.

I'm delighted to write an upbeat article reflecting on this year's SportsReach netball & soccer school.



It was a record breaking event in three ways: Firstly, we had most bookings so far (73), most netballers so far (16) & the sun shone throughout the 4 days giving us the best weather ever. That certainly helped things to run smoothly (& cuts costs). Secondly, the attendance from families at both the excellent BBQ & the Awards service was so encouraging – not because more children had booked into SportsReach, but because the response from families was better this year. We

even had to put out more chairs in the Chapel to accommodate everyone safely. That was an amazing answer to prayer. It also showed we had learned the lessons from last year as to how we promote the event. Thirdly, & praise God, we saw children coming to Christ & making re-commitments to Him when they could have spent their playing football or netball following the lunchtime assemblies on the Friday & Saturday. It's strategic that, as children make their first commitment to Jesus, we continue to disciple them with our children's activities. They can then become more effective evangelists to their friends than 56 year old Children's Mission leaders can be. SportsReach is a real personal discipleship experience as well as a community outreach event.

The team of coaches quickly bonded together to form a great "fighting force for Jesus". The daily devotions & prayers based on **Philippians 1:21** ("for me, to live is Christ...etc") were excellent and a great way to start a demanding day serving Jesus. One non-Christian coach, a lad with a challenging background (but with connections

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Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

continued . . .

to this church), was very touched by God & close to giving his life to Jesus. We are trying to provide some practical support to see him through to faith in Jesus. Please pray God will pull him through.

The feedback from parents was most encouraging. They not only trust us with the care of their children, but they trust us to let them know about Jesus & sow seeds in good numbers. So for those children & seeds, we claim Isaiah 55: 11 (my word that goes out from my mouthwill not return to me empty etc”).

The overall theme of this year’s SportsReach was “Believe” based on the wonderful scripture in John 3:16. Both that word & scripture reference were printed on our shirts



& it was amazing how many people asked what it was all about. Of course, SportsReach was about giving children & their families the opportunity to take up God’s offer I John 3:16. But it was also about a God who “believes” in us through His love, care & equipping. It was about the Christian coaches “believing” in the children in their teams – to grow in sports skill & character. It was also about the children

“believing” in each other...& the support they gave to their team-mates who needed that extra help during the week was tremendous & so encouraging to see.

Thank you again to EVERYONE who sacrificed their homes, time, skills & resources to make SportsReach happen. You are part of something special, & very much appreciated & valued.

Much love & regards...

Andy Garlick

News, notes and prayer-opportunities

- Today, at 5pm we are **baptising** Kimberly Jones. Please be there to support, encourage and pray for her.
- May to July **Word For The Day** are available for collection.
- Join us at 10.45am next Sunday for an **all age gathering** considering the question “Does God ever get cross?”.
- Pick up a booking form today for the **ladies breakfast** on 20th May.
- Come and support BBFC at the cup final 7.30pm The Saffrons, Mead Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1EA on Tuesday.

What's on this week...

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

Sunday, April 23rd. ● 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 plus Sunday Club and Creche. ● 5pm Informal Worship & Baptism in the Chapel with Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Group. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.

Monday, April 24th. ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group. ● 7.45pm: Elders Meeting.

Tuesday, April 25th. ● 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. ● 11am: Pastoral care meeting. ● 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship, Speaker: Rob Duffill. ● 7.30pm: BBFC Cup Final.

Wednesday, April 26th. ● 10am onwards Selfie Crafting, £1, refreshments provided. ● 5-6pm: BBFC Youth training. ● 6pm: BBFC training at Claverham 3g. ● 7pm: Battle Baptist Runners meet at the church.

Thursday, April 27th. ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group.

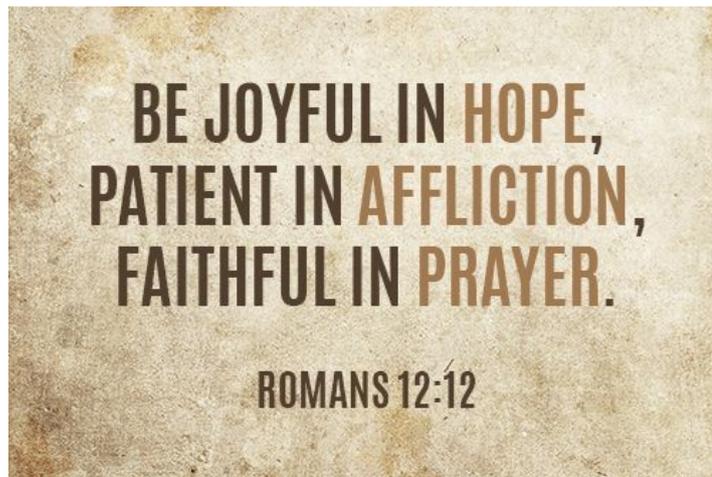
Friday, April 28th. ● 7.30am: Early Morning Prayer in the Youth Room followed by a 'do it yourself' breakfast. ● 9.15am Chatterbox for mums, dads and carers (upstairs). ● 10.30am: Coffee Club (upstairs). ● 3.30-5pm: After School Club. ● 7-9pm: 4:12.

Sunday, April 30th. ● 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.

Please pray for our students:

David Lewis - Theology @ Durham
Cherise Hearne - Leicester Church Internship
Callum Hearne - Psychology @ Nottingham
Ben Gould - Primary Education @ Canterbury Christ Church
Thom King - History @ Colchester
Katie Walsh - Maths @ York
Lara McNeill - Medicine @ Kings College London
Rio Walsh - Philosophy, Ethics & Religion @ Leeds Trinity
Jo Owst - Fine Art @ Falmouth
Abi Jones - Psychology @ Kent
Becky Abel - Psychology & Music @ Canterbury Christ Church

It is a massive encouragement to our students to receive contact from folk at Battle. If you would like to email or write to our students please contact the office for address details.



Dates for your diary

- ◆ 7.30-9pm: 2nd May Church AGM
- ◆ 7th-9th July SOLID
- ◆ 13th May Men's walk and breakfast at Alexandra Park.
- ◆ 25th –29th August Soul Survivor
- ◆ 20th May Ladies breakfast

Church maintenance issues: 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 • Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: 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.
