

Sunday 26th  
February 2017



# This time last year...

If you will allow me a moment to personally pause and reflect, a week and a half ago, as the E Jones family we celebrated our 1st anniversary of moving to Battle. For me then this coming Thursday marks a year since I took up the post of Pastor and Team Leader here at Battle Baptist Church. It's been quite a year to say the least and on a whole number of different fronts.

To be honest with you, I had written, what I would dare to humbly describe as a stonkingly good newsletter article to mark the occasion. Picking up some verses from the book of Joshua I'd like to think it reads as:

- an on-going rallying cry to seek God ever more fully as we grow as his children.
- a call to grab the challenges that lay ahead of us by the scruff of the neck and deal with them appropriately.
- a 'pump your fist in the air' type moment as we press on into all that is ahead of us.

This is not that article.

It's not that since I wrote it I've changed my mind. I still long for us to grow ever closer to God, drawing deeper into His presence. I still long for us recognise and seek to work through the challenges that are part and parcel of life, both personally and as the church, refusing to back down, ease off or hope they'll go away. I still long for us to press on into all God has ahead of us, not meandering about, but passionately moving forwards because we know who's side we're on and who has already won, end of story!

What I do recognise though, is that life can be tough. At times we get thrown a rubbish deal, that we have to grapple with, wade through and believe that with God's help we'll see the back of. Sometimes this can be for a moment, at others for a season that appears endless.

The last year has been a massive time of change for us as a family and I would want to thank the church (that quite likely means you as you read this) for the love, care and support we have and are continuing to receive. There are still some mole-hills we need to move beyond, which I believe we will, but until then in advance, I want to thank you for your grace, patience and understanding as we work through them.

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**Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond**

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Alongside this, the last year has also been a massive time of change for us as a church. I would want to thank you for your willingness as we've begun to explore what we believe God is saying to us and setting before us as we continue to live our lives for Him, seeking to share the good news of His son Jesus, with the community in which he's placed us and beyond.

I'm still excited, I can't wait to see what my second year here looks like, all God's going to do, the ways he's going to blow our minds, pushing us out of our comfort zones, no doubt causing us to trust in Him even more. But I guess I've realised afresh of late (I can be a bit of a slow learner at times) that it's about God moving, acting, doing His thing, not me. Which is actually quite releasing, but also humbling in that He doesn't actually need me, or any of us no, God chooses to walk through life with us - how awesome is that!

Your friend and pastor

*Ed Jones*

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## News, notes and prayer-opportunities

- On the first Monday of every month there will be a **church prayer and praise evening**. Please join us for the next one on Monday 6th March at 7.30pm.
- Next Sunday there will be your opportunity to sign up to support SportsReach. For example, hosting coaches from the North, coaching the kids, catering etc...&/or give a special offering to cover church costs.
- The first “meal” of the **OpenDoors** guided lent course starts 6.30pm this Tuesday at the church. Please contact Esther or Charles on 01424 777849 if you are planning to come to some or all of these evenings.
- All welcome to the service here at Battle Baptist Church to mark **Women's World Day Of Prayer**. Friday 3rd March at 2.00pm.
- Please note **Friday morning coffee** has moved to the later time of 11am while Alpha is running.
- **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*.
- If you notice any **church maintenance issues** with the building or equipment please email them to [zionpremisesteam@gmail.com](mailto:zionpremisesteam@gmail.com) so that they can be efficiently dealt with by the maintenance team.
- Can you help behind the scenes on the **Teaching Weekend 10th & 11th March**? We need help with the PA, song projection (Friday evening and two sessions on Saturday

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# What's on this week...

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

**Sunday, February 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 and Creche. ● 5pm Informal Worship in the Chapel with Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Group. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.

**Monday, February 27th.** ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group. ● 7.45pm: Elders & Deacons Meeting.

**Tuesday, February 28th.** ● 9.15am: Prayer-for-Healing Group (prayer room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come. ● 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker: Andy Garlick ● 6.30pm OpenDoors Lent Course.

**Wednesday, March 1st.** ● 5-6pm: BBFC Youth training. 6pm: BBFC training at Claverham 3g. ● 7pm: Battle Baptist Runners meet at the church.

**Thursday, March 2nd.** ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group. ● 2-3pm Prayer for the Middle East in the prayer room. ● 7pm: Alpha.

**Friday, March 3rd.** ● 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). ● 2pm Women's World Day of Prayer service. ● 3.30-5pm: After School Club. ● 7-9pm 4:12: Pancake Evening.

**Sunday, March 5th.** ● 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 and communion 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.

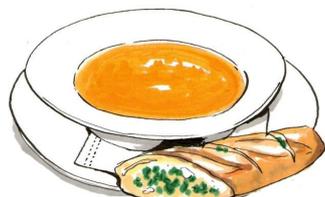
## Church Teaching Weekend

10th—12th March at Battle Baptist Church

Pick up a booking leaflet today

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morning), refreshments (drinks Friday evening, Saturday morning bacon rolls & Saturday mid-morning drinks), and helping run the children's work (Saturday morning (one or two sessions)). Please let the office know if you can help with any of these time slots over the weekend. ● **John Proctor**, who served here as member a number of years ago, died on 23rd February. John regularly played the keyboard on Sundays. Please remember his wife and family in your prayers.



**Lent Lunches 12-2pm**  
8th March–Emmanuel Centre  
15th March–St Mary's Church  
22nd March–Roman Catholic Church  
29th March–Battle Baptist Church

## **This week's prayer pointers**

- ◆ Pray for Ed and Mark as they prepare for the teaching weekend. Pray that God would reveal His agenda for the weekend to them.
- ◆ Pray for the elders and deacons as they lead the church. Pray that God would fill them with the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Continue to pray that God would draw more young people to the church. Pray for Monday Chosta, that relationships would be built and that the young people would respond positively to the 20 minute follow up at the end of the session.

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## **Dates for your diary**

- ◆ 7.30pm: 6th March Church Prayer and Praise
- ◆ 10th - 12th March Church Teaching weekend
- ◆ 1st April Men's breakfast.
- ◆ 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; Ben Garlick.**

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