

Sunday 26th  
March 2017



# Twists and turns of life...

At any given moment, experiences or situations have the potential to impact each of us in ways we cannot even begin to imagine. We each undoubtedly respond to the things that take place in the world, uniquely and personally and sometimes there may be a corporate sense of emotion and response. The events of last week both within our community here in Battle and at a national level in London, have shocked and saddened us. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those most closely affected. It is not surprisingly that for many, this last week has brought to the fore many questions to which there seem to be no earthly answers. How, why, to what end and for what purpose do events like this take place?

I spent last Sunday visiting the town of Bethlehem, in Israel. It is no longer a 'little town' by anyone's measurements. Whilst there I was told over 3 million people apparently now visit it each year. During our five day trip to the Holy Land, Craig Weeks and I were fortunate to be able to spend time in a number of very famous biblical locations. We were able to explore what is an amazingly complex and extraordinary land; constantly grappling with real tensions, that in some respects need to be seen to be believed. We were also able to pause, reflect and pray as we considered the magnitude that we were walking in the same places Jesus did 2000 years ago.

As we wandered the streets of Bethlehem, it was amazing to take in the sites, the smells, to watch the people coming and going, discovering this very special place. We visited the Church of the Nativity, the site that is traditionally considered to be located over the cave that marks the birthplace of Jesus. We explored the nearby fields, where the Shepherds may have been as the angels appeared to them. We even took pictures of the Banksy artwork on the West Bank barrier or wall. As we did these different things, the sheer juxtaposition of each one and the tension woven into the atmosphere both there and throughout the Holy Land was very apparent.

In due course I will no doubt share through sermons, conversations and in other forums further reflections on the trip, as will Craig. For me, each place was special, each moment something to reflect on and treasure. Ultimately though in Bethlehem,

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

*continued . . .*

the reality that Jesus came as a baby was not what hit me; it was the truth that some 30 years later, Jesus died on a cross for me. Jesus paid the price for me, so I can be forgiven and know God again. This was the awesomeness that grabbed in that place.

But furthermore it was also the fact that it doesn't end there. As I seek to follow Him, live my life for Him, He is there through every moment, experience or situation, good or bad.

At times that may mean shouting and celebrating, at others weeping and questioning.

Whatever the week ahead holds, and last week has shown that we individually and as a nation don't know what the coming days will bring, may we know that Jesus goes with us through it all.



Your friend and pastor

*Ed Jones*

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## 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 **men's breakfast** on Saturday 8-9.30am with speaker Jo Marriott.
- The fourth **Lent Lunch** is this Wednesday 12-2pm in the Manna House.
- **Sunday club helpers** are urgently needed at 10.45am and 5pm. We have plenty of leaders but need to find up to five helpers to support the leaders deliver the Sunday club programme. Please speak to Andy if you can help.
- BBFC have reached the semi-final of the **National Christian Cup!** Come and support our team from 2pm at Battle Rec on Saturday as they play against Christ Central, Croydon.
- Also, can you support the team on the 10th April when they play Hollington FC in the **Premier Travel Cup Final** at the Pilot Field in Hastings at 7.30pm.
- **Dennis** is preaching at Newhaven this morning.
- On Thursday 20th April at 1.15pm there will be a service at Hastings Crematorium followed by a thanksgiving service here for the life of **Colin Beadle**.
- Please donate **cakes for SportsReach** to the office by 12noon On Tuesday 4th April. Thank you.

# What's on this week...

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

**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.

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

**Tuesday, March 28th.** ● 9.15am: Prayer-for-Healing Group (prayer room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come. ● 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship. Speakers: Peter and Pennie Woodcraft. ● 6.30pm OpenDoors Lent Course.

**Wednesday, March 29th.** ● 12-2pm: Lent Lunch in the Manna House. ● 5-6pm: BBFC Youth training. ● 6pm: BBFC training at Claverham 3g. ● 7pm: Battle Baptist Runners meet at the church.

**Thursday, March 30th.** ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group. ● 7pm: Alpha.

**Friday, March 31st.** ● 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). ● 3.30-5pm: After School Club.

**Saturday, April 1st.** ● 8-9.30am Men's breakfast in the Manna House. ● 3pm Christian Cup semi-final at Battle Rec.

**Sunday, April 2nd.** ● 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.



**SportsReach 5-9th April**

**Palm Sunday 9th April 8.45am & 5pm plus  
SportsReach at 10.45am**

**Early Morning Prayers at St Mary's Church  
April 10th, 11th, 12th & 13th at 8am**

**Film Night "Man Dancin'" 15 cert in the chapel  
8-10pm Tuesday 11th April**



**Good Friday 8.45am service, 10am onwards marbles matches on  
the Green. 11am refreshments and prayers at Emmanuel Centre,  
11.30am walk of witness starts from the Emmanuel Centre, 12-12.10pm  
prayers at St Mary's, 12.30pm Hot Cross buns in the Manna House.**



**Easter Sunday gatherings at 8.45am, 10.45am & 5pm.**

## This week's prayer pointers

- ◆ Continue to pray for the family involved in the accident last Sunday, pray for those who witnessed the incident and the emergency service crew who were on the scene. Pray for the driver and ask God to comfort and help her.
- ◆ Pray for those who find Mothering Sunday painful. Pray that God would shelter them in the shadow of His wings.
- ◆ Continue to pray for those attending the Alpha courses that they would encounter God.

## Dates for your diary

- ◆ 5th - 9th April: SportsReach
- ◆ 10th April Eastbourne Cup semi-final at the Pilot pitch Hastings.
- ◆ 11th April Film Night "Man Dancin' cert 15.
- ◆ 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](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.

