

Sunday 2nd
April 2017



Life is a risky business

In the last ten years or so anyone with any responsibility in business, education or almost anything else in life knows that it is vital to have written risk assessments for every activity. Climbing a ladder today is fraught with danger. Cooking someone else a meal, lighting a candle, taking a child on a school trip – well you just wouldn't do it, would you!

For those of us of a certain age, and with at least an ounce of common sense, these activities have always been understood to have an element of risk which we instinctively understood and took into account. However, let's be fair, it is a fact that there are less accidents today as a direct result of Health and Safety becoming a significant factor in our everyday lives. We are forced to consider the implications of our actions upon others. For those who may not see as well as us, or like young children, have less awareness of certain dangers, we have a responsibility to ensure that our actions, or lack of action, do not cause them harm. As well as being a moral responsibility, it has become a legal necessity – and those who ignore it may end up in prison.

Last week at the After School Club we were talking about Friendship. One of the children suggested that a real friend was someone who treated you exactly in the same way as you would like to be treated yourself – and vice versa. Without particularly realising it, she hit upon the exact teaching of Jesus. This biblical principal is the way we should love one another – everyone – not just those we would like to have as our friends. My ramblings about risk assessments are simply following this teaching. Nobody in their right mind deliberately puts themselves at risk of being hurt – so of course we should not let our actions deliberately place others in harm's way.

Many years ago, as a youth worker I often put children into a risky situation! Climbing rock faces, abseiling from the top of a cliff or camping in the mountains on snow cannot be said to be risk free. As a parent, deciding when your child is mature enough to be shown how to use a knife, or even boil a kettle, can be quite intimidating. But

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these are all measured risks. We are trained or experienced or simply sensible enough to know when a carefully assessed risk is appropriate.

In Matthew 10 verse 16 Jesus said: "Look, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless (or innocent) as doves." Wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit, and it is vital not only for our own well being, but for those to whom we desire to be a witness, that we seek this gift. Sometimes it is simply our lack of thoughtfulness and our selfish nature that gets in the way. Having recently attended a Speed Awareness Course (which was very good!) I trust that being educated further has improved my driving skills, will encourage me to pay more attention to the speed limit, and in particular make me far more aware of other people. Loving our neighbour as ourselves means far more than ticking the boxes on a risk assessment form!

Yours in Christ

John Southam

News, notes and prayer-opportunities

- The **Tuesday prayer for healing group** takes a break for a couple of weeks over Easter. They next meet on 18th April. Any prayer requests in the meantime should go through Francis or the office.
- Everyone is welcome to Monday's Church **Prayer and Praise** evening from 7.30pm
- Start training now for the **BBB10k** Sunday 3rd September. From April 19th **Battle Baptist Runners** will be completing a gentle couch to 5k programme and then progressing to 10k for those who wish to continue. This programme is suitable for people who have little or no running experience. For more details contact Esther on 07892 877405.
- Come and support the **BBFC** on the 10th April when they play **Hollington FC** in the **Premier Travel Cup Final** at the **Pilot Field** in **Hastings** at 7.30pm.
- 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 this Tuesday. Thank you.
- **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*

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What's on this week...

Easter Holidays - SportsReach

In line with local schools we are taking a break from some of our usual activities. Please note carefully the schedule for next week.

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 Chapel Gathering and communion 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.

Monday, April 3rd. ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group. ● 7.30pm Prayer and Praise in the chapel.

Tuesday, April 4th. ● 6.30pm OpenDoors Lent Course.

Wednesday, April 5th. 5-6pm: BBFC Youth training. ● 6pm: BBFC training at Claverham 3g. ● 7pm: Battle Baptist Runners meet at the church.

Thursday, April 6th. ● 2-3pm: Prayer for the Middle East in the Prayer Room.

Friday, April 7th. ● 7.30am: Early Morning Prayer in the Youth Room followed by a 'do it yourself' breakfast.

Sunday, April 9th. ● 8am Breakfast in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 8.45am Chapel Gathering and communion 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 in the Chapel with Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Group. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.

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are free. ● On Wednesday 5th April, from 2pm to 2.45pm. Dennis will be leading a service in Eastbourne Hospital, celebrating **Easter Hymns and Bible Readings.** ● Everyone is welcome to the **Good Friday Lunch** at the Senlac pick up a booking form today. ● Please pray for Melvyn who is preaching at Ashburnham Chapel tonight.



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**



Maundy Thursday Gathering at 7.30pm in the chapel



**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. 12.30
Lunch at the Senlac**



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

This week's prayer pointers

- ◆ Praise God for the large numbers of children doing SportsReach. Pray that they would encounter God through the teaching and witness of leaders.
- ◆ Pray for our Easter activities and services. Pray that God would be glorified in everything that we do.

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

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.

