

Sunday 23rd
July 2017

BATTLE
BAPTIST
CHURCH

"Try the grey stuff, it's delicious! Don't believe me? Ask the dishes!"

Personally, if Lumière wasn't a talking candlestick, the whole thing wasn't set to music and there wasn't a colourful display of high class kitchen crockery dancing around the place, I'm not sure I'd believe that the 'grey stuff' was actually that delicious at all.

If you have no idea what I'm talking about, then you've obviously never experienced either the original 1991 Disney animated film *Beauty and the Beast* or their 2017 live-action reboot, also called *Beauty and the Beast*. It is within both these films that the aforementioned talking candle stick announces to the heroine of the piece, Belle:



*"...it is with deepest pride
and greatest pleasure that we welcome you tonight.
And now we invite you to relax, let us pull up a chair
as the dining room proudly presents - your dinner!*

Be our guest!"

This summer, at our 10am meetings, we're going to be considering what it means to be a welcoming people in all areas of our lives, as God intends us to be. We have called the series "Be Our Guest", for more information pick up a Summer 17 postcard or see the notice board in the foyer.

It seemed like one of those good ideas at the time, but then they always do, appear to be good ideas...at the time. Why would we chose to look at the whole issue, area, opportunity of being welcoming, in the summer... when you're quite likely to have visitors!?!

It doesn't make sense for at least three reasons:

1. It raises the level of challenge.

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No one likes self-examination at the best of times, but add into the mix visitors and suddenly it can all get a bit awkward. Surely though we should want to give God our all? We should want that those who encounter us, as we go about our lives, or as they visit the church premises on Mount Street, get the best welcome possible and therefore want to know what it is that sets us apart from the world around us.

2. It opens ourselves up to genuine on the spot (or soon after) feedback. During the summer season, there is undoubtedly that influx of new faces, people who are visiting the area or people who are staying with those who are a part of the church. Those who are not regular attenders will undoubtedly spot things and hopefully comment in terms of their view on it all. However uneasy this might make us feel surely we should want to humbly grow and develop as we seek to follow Jesus in all areas of our lives.

3. Not everyone is here every week during the summer.

To some extent it doesn't make any difference in that it's the summer. If you're not able to gather on a Sunday during any part of the year, may I encourage you to listen online to the sermon which will be found on the church website - don't miss out because you're not about.

As we'll explore, this isn't an area that the Bible alludes to half heartedly. We see Jesus demonstrating front and centre the need to welcome, to get alongside, to be welcoming to all we encounter. As His Church that is **our challenge. If we're honest we'll mess it up at times, we'll get it wrong, we'll fail to take the opportunities set before us, but that's why we need to grapple with this whole area.**

May we together throw our arms open wide, across the whole of our lives, as the body of Christ, as followers of Jesus and may we be ready to be surprised as God works in and through us!

Yours in Christ,

Ed Jones



Keep in touch and up to date with us over the summer by liking our Facebook Page and visiting our website
www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk



What's on this week...

☺ Summer ☺

In line with local schools we are taking a summer break from many of our usual activities. Please note carefully the schedule this week.

Sunday, July 23rd. ● 10am Chapel Gathering plus Youth Group, Sunday Club and Creche. ● 5pm Prayer and Praise. Refreshments after the service.

Monday, July 24th. ● 7.45pm: Elders meeting.

Wednesday, July 26th. ● 6.30-8.30pm: BBFC training Claverham field. ● 7pm: Battle Baptist Runners meet at the church.

Friday, July 28th. ● 7.30am: Early Morning Prayers in the Youth Room followed by a 'do it yourself' breakfast.

Sunday, July 30th. ● 10am Chapel Gathering plus Youth Group, Sunday Club and Creche. ● 5pm Prayer and Praise. Refreshments after the service.

News, notes and prayer-opportunities

- The summer programme starts today and runs up to and including 27th August. Every week there will be a 10am service with provision for children and an all age 5pm prayer and praise gathering with no separate provision for children. ● There are still places for Holiday @ Home 14th, 16th & 18th August. Sign up with the office or speak to Melvyn for more information. ● Word for the Day, August to October are available to collect. ● Melvyn is preaching at Newhaven Church today, please pray for him. ● A gentle reminder: Please check with the office before displaying leaflets and material in the foyer. ● There is a Healing Service at Ashburnham Chapel TN33 9PD on the 30th July at 6-30pm with David Smith and his team from Shinewater Community Church.



From the 1st August as a church we're going to begin systematically praying for our community as we start **prayer walking** every street in Battle.

In the foyer between the chapel and the Manna House, there is going to be a white tree and a load of coloured key-rings, there will also be a list of every street in Battle. As a practical prompt and encouragement, please look at the list, find a street that's not been ticked off, pick up a keyring, go and walk that street, that road and pray for it and all who live there. Once you've done that you return to the church, tick off the street, write the name of the street on the keyring and hang it on the tree. It's that simple.

Let us bring this community to God afresh, let's start saturating the ground with prayer and let's believe that God is on the move!



This week's prayer opportunities

- ◆ Pray for Ed, Mark and Francis as they lead the church. Pray that they would speak the gospel and live in a way worthy of their calling.
- ◆ Thank God for His financial provision to us at Battle Baptist Church. Pray that he would give us wisdom as we use all He has entrusted us with.
- ◆ Thank God for His provision of rest. Pray that as activities take a break over the summer He would refresh and inspire us for a new season. Pray that we would use the opportunity of a break to draw closer to Him.

Dates for your diary

- ◆ 25th-29th August Soul Survivor
- ◆ 13th—15th October Teaching weekend
- ◆ 3rd September BBB10k run



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.
