



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

Week beginning January 10th, 2010.

- a *NEW* thing . . .

On January 3rd in both services different members of the congregation read from Isaiah 43, including the words: *"This is what the LORD says — he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters . . . 'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.'"*

At the start of 2010 many will be planning new things in their homes: a new coat of paint, a new kitchen; maybe a new suite. Those who like phones may consider whether to try a new Google mobile with the latest technology.

Not everyone is quite as cheerful when things change in the church. We do not always appreciate God doing something new, and our response to Isaiah 43:18-19 may not be enthusiastic. We may not be willing to hear it, let alone embrace it.

In an uncertain world keeping things the same gives comfort and a sense of stability. We justify this mindset by saying, "If God is never-changing and Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever, this must mean that God will always work in exactly the same way." Isaiah 43 says otherwise. Not only Isaiah, but Jeremiah and Ezekiel speak about a new covenant, new hearts, and a new way of doing things.

One thing that has frustrated God's people down the centuries is that God *did not* always do it the same way. One time God told Moses to *hit* the rock with his rod (Exodus 17:6). Forty years later He told him to *speak* to the rock (Numbers 20:8).

Our 4pm congregation will soon conclude studies in the book of Acts — a book which relates how God would not be placed in a box by the Early Church. Councils worked through the issues raised by the Lord doing things differently. God's original intention is that people are made holy by His grace through faith

continues . . .

Published by Battle Baptist Church, Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0EG. Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk • Website: www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk • Fax: (01424) 775875. • Caterpillar Preschool (01424) 774997. • This week our office will open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm. • Material for the *Weekly Bulletin* must be *clearly* written in the special office book, or typed, or emailed *no later than Wednesday*.

and forgiveness made possible by the blood offered by Jesus on the cross. However the manner and methods by which God works change.

Isaiah 43 does not suggest trying to wipe the past away. As we complete our 230th year as a local church, we recognise God's faithfulness in past generations. It's important. But we mustn't dwell in the past: "The way it has always been done" must not rule the present. *This year there will be new "deserts" that need a way through them, and "wastelands" through which streams need to flow. God has the right to use new methods of making a way and creating new streams.* Let us remain alert so that as they "springs up" we'll "perceive" what God is doing. We surely don't want to miss being involved and useful to God in any new thing He may be doing.

Are we ready to adjust and customise our approach whilst remaining true to Christian standards? The extent to which any church is able to do this will determine the extent to which it remains locally relevant, or becomes a cosy religious enclave.

Your friend and pastor,

Dennis

News, notes and prayer opportunities

Our condolences to **John Penfold** from our 10.30 congregation whose father died over Christmas. **Francis Willoughby** will conduct the funeral service in Tunbridge Wells. •

Our love and condolences also to **Marion & Ray Hingston** whose son **Matthew** died following an accident on an icy road on January 3rd. A Thanksgiving Service is planned for 2.30pm on Monday, January 25th at Zion Chapel.

Blue booking forms are now available for our next **Men's Breakfast**: Saturday January 30th; 8am. £3 per head. *Be sure to book early.* •

John Southam and **Andy Garlick** hope to travel to Derbyshire on Monday to attend Mainstream, returning on Wednesday evening. •

Recently **equipment has been removed from our Children's Room and damaged.** Therefore, as an experiment, this Room will be kept locked when not used for activities booked via our church Manager. •

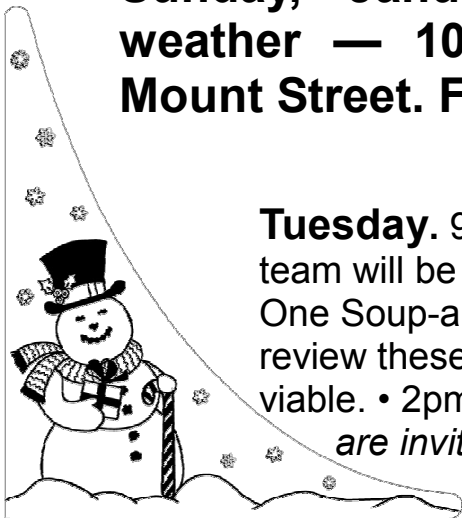
The downstairs office is to be tidied so better use can be made of what seems to have become a general dumping ground. If you have items which *must* be there please speak with **John Southam.**

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER: Baby and Toddler Group (Monday and Thursday), Caterpillar Preschool; Prayer for Middle East and Israel: second and fourth Tuesdays at 2pm; Thursday After School Club. For football, please check our website. All these as usual, plus:

**HOMEGROUPS BEGIN AGAIN THIS WEEK.
CHECK WITH LEADERS IF UNSURE DUE TO WEATHER**

Sunday, January 10th. Because of the inclement weather — 10am and 6.30pm ONLY, at the Chapel, Mount Street. Full details on website



Tuesday. 9am: Healing Prayer Group. At 10.30 the prayer-ministry team will be available for anyone who comes for prayer. • Twelve 'til One Soup-and-roll lunches. As numbers were lower last term we'll review these after a month. We need about 35 each week to be viable. • 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker: Francis Willoughby. *All are invited.*

Wednesday. 7.30pm: Keshar course at The Manna House. *All are welcome.*

Friday. Early Prayer at the Chapel BEGINS AGAIN ON JANUARY 22nd. • 9.15am: "Chatterbox" for parents, carers and young children. • 10.30am: Coffee Club. • 12.30pm: Lunch at the Manna for retired people. (Advance booking essential on 772192, weekdays between 6pm and 7pm.)

Sunday, January 17th. 9am: Chapel Meeting, plus Youth Group, Sunday Club and crèche. (Refreshments after.) • 10.30am: Meeting at Claverham (North Trade Road), plus Sunday Club and crèche. (Refreshments before.) • 4pm: Chapel Meeting, plus Sunday Club and crèche. *Come if you can.* • 6.30. Youth Congregation at the Chapel.

*Please take a collection box for our new **Building Fund**. Even small change soon mounts up. God has provided miraculously for us in the past, and He will again, for His honour!*

The place of prayer . . .

I believe the place of prayer is not only a place where I lose my burdens, but also a place where I get a burden. He shares my burden and I share His burden. . . . To know that burden, we must hear the voice of the Spirit. To hear that voice, we must be still and know that He is God.
— Leonard Ravenhill



YOUTH CONGREGATION NEWS (FOR EVERYONE)

1. **New ideas** are being discussed regarding a midweek programme in order to make the best use of volunteer helpers, and we hope to start midweek activities again following the next school holiday. There will be a prayer meeting **open to the whole church** on Friday, January 29th, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm to pray about future developments.
2. **Parents please note:** If your child aged 14-plus is coming to Soul Survivor (July 30th to August 3rd) you can save £20 by returning a completed booking form to the church office with a cheque for £79 payable to Soul Survivor by January 17th. This covers the cost of attending the event. Later you will be asked for a contribution for food and transport, which last year was £40.
3. **Ollie Jeffs** thanks everyone who gave generously in last week's love offering to help him on his way to Canada: *"Thank you so much for your love, friendship and support in recent years — particularly for the last two weeks! I am truly blessed, pray that you will be blessed too, and look forward to sharing with you all soon. Love, Ollie. (God is the Provider!)"*

Love its own reward . . .

Our Lord Himself loved and gave and blessed many, at last giving His very life, but few came to give Him blessing and sweetness of love in His own soul. It is more divine to love than to be loved. At least, God's will for us is that we should love, pouring out our heart's richest treasures upon others, not asking meanwhile for any return. Loving is its own best return and reward.

— J. R. Miller

Dennis Nolan (pastor); Francis Willoughby (associate minister);
Our other elders: John Southam (church manager);
Rob Duffill (treasurer); Andy and Jo Garlick; Derek White.
Contact details (church office number): (01424) 774825.
