



Week beginning January 17th, 2010.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

MORE SNOW, PLEASE?!



In the last few days it's been difficult to get away from snow. Hopefully, by now it will have gone. During the thaw, ice and dirty slush at the sides of roads, and the disappearing bulk of melting snowmen and igloos, may be around for some days. The woods around Battle have been particularly beautiful as they transformed into a winter wonderland, and good use for sledging was made of some of the more open slopes particularly in the field at the top of Marley Lane.

Snow is mentioned 25 times in the Bible. Snow covering the ground is comparatively rare in Israel. However, it is of importance to the economy of the country. Mount Hermon which provides water for the Jordan River and Sea of Galilee is often snow-covered owing to its altitude of more than 9,000 feet. (You can see what today's ski-resort looks like using internet webcams.) *Israel is also among the world's exporters of snow - albeit indirectly!* Since August 2009 the St-Leonhard im Pitztal ski-resort in Austria has been making its early-season snow with technology originally developed to desalinate sea water. The Israeli made "All Weather Snowmaker," installed at the Austrian resort, is six times as powerful as traditional snow-cannon and produces snowflakes regardless of temperature, humidity and wind.

Man might make a limited supply of snowflakes but cannot blanket an entire mountain. The ultimate power of God over creation is asserted by Job in a particularly descriptive piece of writing in chapter 37:5-10: "*God's voice thunders in wonderful ways; he does great things we cannot understand. He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the shower, 'Be a heavy rain.' With it, he stops everyone from working so everyone knows it is the work of God. . . . The breath of God makes ice, and the wide waters become frozen.*"

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*.

Heavy snow with all the consequent confusions, cancellations and inability to move freely remind us of our smallness and overall impotence compared with forces at God's command. However, *our smallness does not indicate any lack of love towards us by God.*

Just as snow transforms ordinary landscapes we normally take for granted, *the imagery of snow is sometimes used in Scripture to speak of the transformation which God can give us.* In Psalm 51 David pours out his heart to God for forgiveness following his adultery with Bathsheba, and says, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

In a different context, in Isaiah 1:18, God speaks of the grace of His forgiveness: "Come now, and let us reason together, . . . though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Left to its own devices, snow, like human beings, becomes grubby. Recent weather has been a powerful reminder of how *God can take our grubby lives with their sin and compromises and, through His grace and forgiveness, transform them into something which brings Him pleasure.*

Your friend and pastor,

Dennis

News, notes and prayer opportunities

Thank you **Hildegard Hayley-Barker** for your valiant snow-and-ice-clearing efforts in the church car park in the last few days!

Booking-forms for SPREE Camp (takes place in July) are now available in the Bayeux Centre foyer.

Can you lend a car to **Chris or Jackie Williams** for a couple of weeks, please? Contact them on 213181. *Thank you.*

Men book early . . .

for our next breakfast,
Saturday January 30th.
8am; £3 each.

Speaker: **JOHN SANDERSON.**
Why not treat a guest?

Book through our office,
or by email *a.s.a.p.*



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Baby and Toddler Group (Monday and Thursday), Caterpillar Preschool; Prayer for Middle East and Israel: second and fourth Thursdays at 2pm; Thursday After School Club as usual, plus:

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.

Tuesday. 9am: Healing Prayer Group. At 10.30 the prayer-ministry team will be available for anyone who comes for personal 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: Andy Garlick. *All are invited.*

Wednesday. 7.30am: Prayer led by Young People, followed by breakfast. • 7.30pm: Keshar course at The Manna House. *All are welcome.*

Friday. Early Prayer at the Chapel, followed by a do-it-yourself breakfast. *Everyone is welcome.* • 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.)

Saturday. 2pm: Division 2: BBFC v Hurst (Battle Recreation). • 2pm: Heathfield Hotspurs v BBFC II (Sheepsetting Lane).

Sunday, January 24th. 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.

You worship with us and are not yet a church Member?

We welcome you to a COME AND SEE evening, with refreshments, on Monday, February 8th, at Zion Chapel; 7.30pm to nine o'clock. *Come when you can; leave when you must.* Pick up a yellow invitation-card from **Andy Garlick**, or from the Manna House foyer.

Oh, for the baptism of fire! Oh, for the living coal upon the burning lips of love! Oh, for men and women God-possessed and self-surrendered, grasping God's great idea and pressing forward toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).

— A. B. Simpson



Dennis writes . . .

Following a time of reflection over the last few months Derek White feels it appropriate for him to stand down as an elder of Battle Baptist Church, and has written to the elders to inform them of his decision.

On behalf of the elders I want to appreciate the warmth of fellowship and discussion we have enjoyed with Derek in recent years. We shall miss him, yet we know his decision has not been hastily reached, and is in obedience to what he believes is the Lord's direction for him at this time. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless and use Derek both at home and overseas.

In due course the church will take the opportunity to make an appointment of elders. In the meantime Peter and Penny Woodcraft have agreed to give temporary leadership to the 9am congregation team.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of Christian Friends of Israel there will be a conference in Israel from May 26th to June 4th.

Details from Chris Corin: (01580) 830834.

Enquire early, please, as "bookings are coming in thick and fast!"

Cure for anger . . .

Be awed that in our unrighteous anger God reveals the depth of His love on our behalf. It is a heart that is willing to feel angry enough to battle with God that will be surprised into praise. And nothing, but nothing, is the cure for anger like the wonder of grace. It is praise for His grace even in the light of our impotency to eradicate our unrighteous anger that leads, in time, to waiting for God's wrath rather than seeking revenge today.



— Dan Allender

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