



Week beginning January 31st, 2010.

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond



## Staying on the tightrope . . .

Confidently the young man set out to stride to the adjacent mountain peak. He didn't look down, which was fortunate as, from his position on the tightrope, there wasn't much beneath him. He had both the faith and the skill to make it across the ravine between the peaks. According to the newsreader, he does these stunts "because he enjoys the peace and quiet of being on a tightrope."

***The Church is rather like the tightrope walker.*** You can't be quite sure how it survives. Critics say it is outmoded, and irrelevant to modern life. Scandals occur within it from time to time leading those outside the Christian faith to claim, "They're all hypocrites." In any local church there will sometimes be feuds, misunderstanding, and at times misrepresentation. Yet this group of faltering people also contains those called by the Lord to be His people in 2010.

The Church reflects the love of God and the truth of Christ; but at best it is like a cracked mirror; yet it is the mirror out of which God has chosen to reflect His love.

The visit of our regional minister, Stuart Davison, is a visual reminder that as Christian people we are brought into relationship with Christ in order to be in relationship with others. Part of the true Christian "DNA" is that the Holy Spirit will draw us into relationship and fellowship with other Christians in the locality. We call that "church."

***Belonging to a local church will never be an optional extra for true believers.*** However much at times we may struggle with some people, God has brought us into a relationship with Himself, and wants us to be in relationship

*continues . . .*

Published by Battle Baptist Church, Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex TN33 OEG. Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: [office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk) • Website: [www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk](http://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 typed, or emailed, *no later than Wednesday.*



with others. We come together to do the things the Lord said we should do such as baptism, and celebrating the Lord's supper, taking up offerings to support Christian workers, reading the Bible and praying together.

The Church reflects the love of God and the truth of Christ; but at best it is like a cracked mirror.

*Churches in a locality often form partnerships with other like minded*

*believers to further Christian witness and mission.* It happened in the New Testament, and is still a good practice. This is why we choose to be one of 148 churches in the South East Baptist Association in which Stuart has been called and set apart to serve as a focus for our unity as he moves between the churches. Our wider Baptist family is another "cracked mirror." Being part of something much bigger than Battle Baptist Church, we can play our part in seeing God's kingdom advanced in the UK.

*The tightrope walker advances one step at a time. Each step is significant!* Local churches always contain many "quiet" people who sometimes think just "turning up" week by week is of little consequence in God's great scheme of things. Our personal presence when the church gathers for worship is part of strengthening a witness to our town that there are people in their midst who, Sunday by Sunday, want to lay aside other activities in order to worship the Lord and ensure that their relationship with Him comes before anything else.

May the Lord bless and encourage us as we move forward.

Your friend and pastor,

*Dennis*

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## News, notes and prayer opportunities

Ray and Marian Hingston thank all who helped organise **Matthew's funeral service**, and who contributed in any way to the wonderful spread afterwards.

This Wednesday, February 3rd, *Prayer-meetings* will be held from 10 to 11am in the Prayer Room, and from 8 until 9pm at the home of **John and Brenda Crew**. Main subjects: Alpha and outreach. *Come if you can.*

*If you'd like to make a cake* for the **Holiday at Home Reunion** on Monday, February 15th, please let **Melvyn or Freda** know. Thank you.

# 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, Jan 31st.** Today we welcome **Stuart Davison, Senior Regional Minister.** He will preach at all our services. 9am: **Baptism Service** 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. • 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 lunch. • 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship with Peter and Pennie Woodcraft. *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: Old Town Athletic v BBFC (Old Town Rec., Eastbourne). • 2pm: Division 6: BBFC II v Catsfield II (Claverham College).

**Sunday, Feb. 7th.** 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. • 6.30. Youth Congregation at the Chapel.

*With some of us it would seem that if we could control God's operations and manipulate His actions we might tolerate a revival; but to allow God a free hand, fills us with righteous indignation and horror. If only God would consent to become an 'ecclesiastic' and respect our dignity and decorum and beautiful order of service and ways of running the church, we might condescend to have a revival.*

— William P. Nicholson; *edited.*



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

You are invited to

**A COME AND SEE EVENING**, with refreshments,  
on **Monday, February 8th, at Zion Chapel;**

7.30pm to 9 o'clock. (Come when you can; leave when you must.)

*Pick up a yellow invitation-card today from Andy Garlick, or from The Manna House foyer.*

As numbers for our **Tuesday soup-and-roll lunches** were lower last term we'll review these shortly. We need about 35 each week to be viable. •

**Dog care requested** for the whole of June. Suitable remuneration provided. Please contact **Yvonne or Mike Hedges**: 850477. •

**Booking-forms for SPREE Camp** (takes place in July) are now available in the Bayeux Centre foyer. *Please book early* for this popular event for youngsters aged 8 to 15. £60 per person. *Only a few places still available.* •

**"SportsReach"** is April 14th to 18th. *We'll share news of how we may help, and receive a special offering towards the church's costs, on Sunday February 21st.*

All who would like to help **Andrew Nolan** to celebrate his 21st birthday are invited to tea in The Manna House following the 4pm service on February 7th; •

To receive this *Weekly Bulletin* by **email**, please email your request to the church office. The most up-to-date *Weekly Bulletin* also appears on the church **website**, usually from Friday. •

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!"*

**We CAN set our sails!**

*Revival cannot be organized, but we can set our sails to catch the wind from heaven when God chooses to blow upon His people once again.*

— G. Campbell Morgan



**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.**