



Week beginning February 7th, 2010.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

National DEATH Service?

At some future date could the National Health Service be renamed the National Death Service? If those advocating the legalisation of assisted suicide have their way will such suicides just be permitted in private homes, or will they eventually occur in publicly-funded hospitals? Not to put too fine a point on it, how would you feel as a vulnerable and sick patient, if it became known to you that the person in the next bed was going to be assisted to drink a lethal cocktail tomorrow? Would you want that same nurse bringing you a cup of tea?

Whilst the writer Sir Terry Pratchett in his recent televised lecture may dislike the term "assisted suicide," apparently preferring, "having one's life ended by gentle medical means," the outcome is exactly the same. It is death brought on as a result of a deliberate overdose. Whilst for some the idea of "shaking hands with death" in circumstances of their own choice may seem ideal, there is no reason why anyone currently wishing to end their life can't do so before deteriorating to the point where they need assistance.

If a change in the law were to come before parliament, MPs would undoubtedly vote according to conscience, not party lines; but the framing of any such law would be fraught with difficulties. So far previous parliamentary attempts to change the law have failed. *Rushed changes in law nearly always result in unintended consequences.* We saw such an unintended consequence with the introduction of civil partnerships. Today a couple in a civil partnership can leave each other property and money free of tax (like in a marriage), but two relatives (or two friends) who have shared a home for years can't do the same — a situation which is manifestly unfair, and which could leave the surviving person needing to move out in order to pay a tax bill.

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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.*

How would you feel about the prospect of growing old and frail in a society where assisted dying has been legalised, and where your carers might imply you are using expensive and scarce resources?

Celebrity campaigning, high profile cases and opinion polls do not constitute a good case for change. We leave that to Parliament, and until now politicians have steered clear of what is a moral minefield. Evidently the Director of Public Prosecutions, Keir Starmer QC, is expected to produce his final guidelines on assisted suicide within the next five weeks. He will need the wisdom of Solomon to come up with anything that will be above abuse.

No one pretends it is easy to sit by the bed of a loved one who has gone into a terminal decline, and who asks, "Why am I still here? I just want to die."

A society which permits one person to kill another, however well intentioned and highly regulated, is, I believe, a less civilised society than the imperfect one we live in at present. In the debate around this controversial topic I hope that Christians will remain convinced that the Commandment given to Moses, "You shall not kill," is still relevant and worth upholding today.

Your friend and pastor,
Dennis

News, notes and prayer opportunities

We welcome **David Hook** into Membership at our 9 o'clock service this morning.

Thank you all who came to pray last week at our three extra prayer-meetings.

We offer our love and condolences to **Carolyn Collins**, whose mother died recently; and to **Mary Young** whose father died on Tuesday after a long illness. •

Members' Church Business Meeting *this Wednesday, February 10th.*

Our agenda: Treasurer's Report; the value of a good welcome; stocking a Bible College library in Jos, Nigeria; feedback from the elders' and deacons' meeting held on January 25th; our support for Dominic's call to Baptist ministry, feedback from the Ministerial Recognition Committee; "SportsReach," a financial update — and a time of prayer.

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, February 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. . *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 lunch. • 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker: Dominic Cooper-Fowler. *All are invited.*

Wednesday. 7.30am: Prayer led by Young People, followed by breakfast. • **7.30pm: Church Business Meeting for Members.**



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 Cinque Ports (Bexhill Rd No 8). • 2pm: Division 6: Heathfield Hotspurs v BBFC II (Sheepsetting Lane).

Sunday, February 14th. 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.*

The **Tuesday lunchtime group** meeting in our Mount Street premises would love to hear from you if you can help with the crèche held between 1.20pm and 3 o'clock. Please speak to **Esther Dunn** (777849), or contact the Church Office for further details. Thank you.

There will be a **banner and flag-worship workshop** at Crowhurst Healing Centre on Saturday, March 20th. *Open to all, booking is essential* on 830204.

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

You are invited to

A COME AND SEE EVENING,

with refreshments, this **Monday, February 8th, at Zion Chapel;**
7.30pm to 9 o'clock. (Come when you can; leave when you must.)

Today! All who would like to help **Andrew Nolan** celebrate his 21st birthday are invited to tea in The Manna House following the 4pm service. •

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. •

Thank you to all who have supported our **Tuesday soup-and-roll lunches** recently. *Numbers have increased.* **Freda and her team** are greatly encouraged. Keep coming! •

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

Thank you for logging your visits to the **Prayer Room.** It encourages others to know that, while they may pray alone, they are part of our ongoing prayer-ministry. •

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



God's programme for reviving His people is definite and clear. First Elijah repaired the altar of Jehovah that was thrown down. That is the place to begin. All the ruin that sin has wrought must be cleared away by confession. Things must be made right with God; restitution must be made where it is due. Unless this is done definitely and thoroughly, prayer for reviving is vain. Too many are praying today without repairing the altar by confession of sin, without digging a trench of separation from the world and without a surrender that is even unto death. No wonder such prayer is fruitless.

— Andrew Gih

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.
