



Week beginning February 28th, 2010.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

The Lord hates a lying tongue . . .

The old saying "An Englishman's word is his bond" enabled me to spend ten years in teaching without ever having to prove who I was *or* whether I was qualified. In the 1970s police checks were thought unnecessary. The presumption then was everyone without a conviction was innocent. My first flights on a plane were undertaken without luggage or personal security checks. No degrading removal of belts and shoes or scans was required. You were asked a couple of questions and believed. Those are *freedoms today's young adults will never know.*

Lies by a few unscrupulous people, and terrorist attacks by a few highly motivated criminals have ensured the rest of us are now treated more like slaves than free people. *In less than thirty years we have become one of the most spied upon and identity-conscious nations in the world.*

My aim in this series of Lent letters is to provoke us to look at ourselves in the light of Proverbs 6:16 - "things the Lord hates." If you haven't guessed, this week it's "The Lord hates a lying tongue."

Does that mean there's not much hope for some Westminster politicians, whether it's those who are "economical with the truth," or the highly paid "spin doctors?" *Many will be glad to see the back of this Parliament with its spin, lies, expenses fiddles, dumping spouses for affairs (or same-sex partners), and evading giving straight answers to questions.*

However, without a fundamental change in the way candidates are chosen, the next Parliament will soon look as grubby and devalued as its

continues . . .

Battle Baptist Church is part of Life with Hope Trust:

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This week our office will open from Tuesday to Friday from 9am to 1pm. • Material for the *Weekly Bulletin* must be typed and signed, or emailed, *no later than Wednesday.*

predecessor. Wouldn't you like to be able to trust those in positions of influence? In the same way, wouldn't you like to be able to trust your bank not to loan out your money to risky concerns, and make you pay for it when they go wrong?

Sometimes the standard of behaviour and truthfulness in the churches is little better and surely this must grieve the Lord's heart. Recently I was searching for an address on-line for a Baptist minister. I typed in his name and afterwards put "Baptist minister." Up came details of a minister of the *same* name who is a convicted sex offender in the USA. Curiosity led me to a website consisting only of details of American Baptist ministerial sex offenders. In the USA there are no Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks, and no central registration of Baptist ministers. This means offenders can just move state, and effectively disappear. The Lord hates a lying tongue, and how much worse when those lies are going on in what is supposed to be the community of Christian faith?

The Lord hates a lying tongue. How truthful is yours? According to the apostle James it can "never be tamed." So all Christians need to come to the Lord regularly to ask for forgiveness. The danger of misusing the tongue is so great. No wonder the monks of old observed long periods of complete silence. It was their way of staying out of trouble!

Here's a prayer you might find helpful. Lord I confess that I am a person of unclean lips, and I live in a society of people like me. Please touch my lips, take my guilt away, and forgive the sin of speaking falsely and out of turn.

Your friend and pastor,

Dennis

News, notes and prayer opportunities

Sunday 28th we welcome **Ian and Fiona Gill**, formerly Members here. Fiona is our guest preacher this morning at 9 o'clock and 10.30. • **Melvyn Nolan** is preaching at Ashburnham United Reformed Church this afternoon, & appreciates our prayers.

Men's Breakfast: March 8th; 8 to 9.30 at The Manna House. £3 each. Theme: "Footballers Lives" (Interviews by **Richard Asham**.) *Why not treat a guest?* Pick up a booking-form today, **and be sure to book early.**

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Homegroups, 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 — all as usual, plus:

Sunday, February 28th. 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.

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. • Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker: Frank Vaughan. *All are invited.*

Wednesday. 7.30am: Prayer led by Young People, followed by breakfast. • 12noon to 2pm: LENT LUNCH at The Manna House. • 7.30pm: Bible Study at The Manna House. *All are welcome.*

Friday. 7am: 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. For latest football fixtures, see our website.

Sunday, March 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. • 6.30pm: Youth Congregation at the Chapel.

Friday, March 5th
Women's World Day of Prayer

this year at St. Mary's at 2pm.
Focus: Republic of Cameroon.

Speaker:

Dorothy Vaughan

former Member
of Battle Baptist Church.

Men are invited too!

A Lent Taizé Evening
at the Roman Catholic Church
on Monday, March 8th, at 7pm
All are invited

Office note

The office will be closed on Monday as Dennis and staff elders attend a church leadership events.

Our thanks to all who have said they'll help with "SportsReach." *We still need three more people* to help with catering on Tuesday, April 13th (evening), and Wednesday, April 14th to Saturday the 17th (daytime). Please speak with **Andy Garlick** a.s.a.p.

• *Our Youth Football Team* needs a **Christian Helper** for the 2010-2011 season, starting in August. Please see our poster, and speak with **Gary Walsh** or **Andy Garlick** a.s.a.p. *Thank you.*

Important telephone note. There are two telephone lines at the office for outgoing calls, and there is no way those ringing out know which line the automatic system chooses. When ringing *into* the office **please always dial manually** (01424) 774825. If you use the 1471 facility (or automatic or redial facility on your phone) your incoming call is likely to be diverted to (01424) 775875 — our fax machine — where it remains unanswered, and this is, of course, frustrating to all concerned.

Until April we are unable to provide audio sermons or add to the stock of sermons on our website. Also, please note that the church office opening hours are normally 9am to 1pm weekdays. •

On Fridays, March 12th and May 14th, **Bible readings** will be held at **Hastings Town Hall** (TN34 1QR). Beginning at 1pm whole books will be read (*Hebrews* on the 12th, *Revelation* on the 14th). Frequent periods for reflection will be included. Readings will end by 3.45am All are invited. Details: (01424) 715327; email: keith@spi1066.fsnet.co.uk



If you observe

*events in our day that you consider to be
God's judgement, don't doubt or lose hope.
Look up and see God Almighty.
His work of chastisement is
to prepare us for the power.
Like the early church we are to gather
in unity, humility and repentance,
waiting for the Spirit to be poured out —
and continuing to believe for revival.*

— John Dawson

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.