



Week beginning March 28th, 2010.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

Lent's last lap . . .

On Palm Sunday we remember and celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. However, we must be careful not to celebrate Palm Sunday as if it were already Easter Day. For the Lord, the triumphal entry represented the first hint of a spiritual spring which would only burst into full bloom when He defeated sin and death on the cross before rising victoriously from the dead.



For Christians Palm Sunday signals the "last lap" of Lent — the 40-day period of reflection which ends this Saturday. During Lent these weekly letters have looked at Proverbs 6:16-19, "seven things the Lord hates." The seven named sins mitigate against our having a close personal relationship with the Lord. Today we reach the final two: "*a false witness who pours out lies, and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.*"

Believing and speaking the wrong things about someone else is wrong because it is hatred. Judas, for example, will ever live in infamy, for it was he whose false friendship betrayed Jesus to those who were quick to engineer His death. Proverbs 6:19 says that God hates lying. Speaking careless words is a universal sin, for the human tongue is untamable. Let us do all we can to speak truthfully about others without either exaggerating or embellishing the truth.

The final sin mentioned in our text lists as being an abomination to God is "a man who stirs up dissension among brothers." This too was in evidence in the last week of the ministry of Jesus. Mark 15:11 tells us: "the chief priests stirred up the multitude, that he should release Barabbas to them instead." If you want to be on the fast track to incurring God's displeasure, mischievously bring division between people!

Throughout Lent these letters have given us opportunity to reflect on things God loathes, which are too easily found in our lives — things like pride, evil of speaking, lies, plotting and scheming against others, and poking our *continues . . .*

Battle Baptist Church is Life with Hope Trust; registered charity 1134288, Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0EG. • Website: www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk • Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk • Fax: (01424) 775875. • Caterpillar Preschool (01424) 774997. • This week our office will open from Monday to Thursday from 9am to 1pm. • Material for the *Weekly Bulletin* must be *clearly* written and signed in the special office book, or typed and signed, or emailed, *no later than Wednesday*.

noses into other peoples' business in a deliberately negative manner. *The Lord's aim is to make us holy people, not shallow ones who jump up and down shouting "hallelujah," but in whose lives there is no depth.*

The triumphal entry marks the time when Jesus entered Jerusalem to popular acclaim, only to be forced out a few days later to a humiliating death.

During Holy Week I invite you to be part of this church's public offering of gratitude by attending the *Morning Devotional Meetings* on Monday to Thursday this week. *Please arrive around 7.20am so there can be a prompt start without interruption at 7.30am.* We will finish at 8 o'clock for a simple breakfast.

On Thursday evening there will be a *Celebration of Communion* at 7.30 pm to precede our Good Friday services and the *March of Witness*, leaving Market Road at 12.20.

May the Lord renew us as we journey with Him this week.

Your friend and pastor,

Dennis



News, notes and prayer opportunities

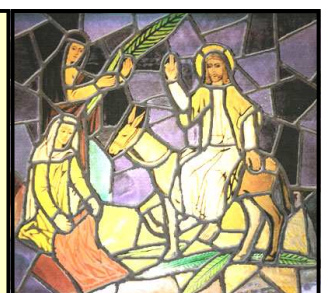
Sunday 28th **Monica Cook** is preaching at Findon Valley Baptist Church. Monica would greatly appreciate a **lift to Heathrow** on Sunday, April 11th, to arrive there at 2.30pm. She'd also appreciate a return-journey lift from Heathrow on Monday, April 19th at 5.10pm. *Thank you.* •

Keith and Laurel Barnes thank "all who have sent cards, made phone-calls, and continue to pray for us following the passing of Laurel's Mum." •

After more than twenty years, **Rosalind Taylor** has retired from the office of Authorised Person (Registrar) for weddings on our premises. *Thank you, Rosalind,* for your many years of faithful service!

The entrance into Jerusalem [on Palm Sunday] has all the elements of theatre of the absurd: the poor king; truth comes riding on a donkey; symbolic actions . . . even parading without a permit! Also, when Jesus "set his face to go to Jerusalem," what was involved was direct action, an open confrontation and public demonstration of the incompatibility of evil with the Kingdom of God.

— David Kirk



In line with local schools, we'll take an end-of-term break from much of our usual programme, including Homegroups, Baby and Toddler Group (Monday and Thursday), Caterpillar Preschool, Prayer for Middle East and Israel and Thursday After School Club. Remaining activities are listed below. If in doubt, please contact your group leader.

What's on during Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 28th *Our only meeting today!*

Church Together: 10.am for 10.30 start. (Refreshments before.)
at Claverham Community College, North Trade Road.

Monday. Morning Devotions at the Chapel: 7.20 for 7.30 start, followed by a simple breakfast at 8 o'clock.

Tuesday. Morning Devotions at the Chapel: 7.20 for 7.30 start, followed by a simple breakfast at 8 o'clock. • Twelve-'til-One: Soup-and-roll lunches. *Come if you can.* • 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship, with Melvyn Nolan. *All are invited.*

Wednesday. Morning Devotions at the Chapel: 7.20 for 7.30 start, followed by a simple breakfast at 8 o'clock.

Thursday. Morning Devotions at the Chapel: 7.20 for 7.30 start, followed by a simple breakfast at 8 o'clock. • 7.30pm: a Celebration of Communion.

Good Friday

8am to 9am: a Reflective Service. • 10.30am: Contemporary Worship.

9am to 12 noon: Coffee and hot-cross-buns at The Manna House.

12.20pm *prompt*: Battle Churches Procession leaves from Market Road.

Saturday. See our website for football fixtures.

Easter Sunday, April 4th Celebration-style Services

9am and 4pm: at Zion Chapel, Mount Street

10am: Main Hall, Claverham Community College, North Trade Road
(starting with refreshments)

6.30pm: Youth-led Service at the Chapel, Mount Street

On Good Friday the local churches have been given permission to hold a **march through the town and a brief open air service on the Abbey Green which Dennis will lead.** The procession will leave from Market Road at 12.20pm *sharp*. It would be great if we could muster at least 80 people (all ages) from our church for this outdoor event. Also, please tell **David Walker** that you'll hand out leaflets in the High Street that morning inviting folk to The Manna House for coffee and hot-cross-buns. *Thank you.*

Members: Please collect a letter regarding **nominating deacons.** The pink nomination paper should be returned to the office *by Easter Day at the latest.* Apologies to **Michael and Yvonne Hedges!** In being cautious to ensure Yvonne's name change was correctly noted on the pink nomination paper, Michael was inadvertently missed off! *Would those wishing to nominate Michael please make it clear on the pink paper.*

You borrowed a **communion chalice** recently? Please return it to the church office a.s.a.p. •

Could you give **Mary Dams** a lift from her home in Westfield to a morning service once a month? If so, please contact **David Walker:** 773593. •

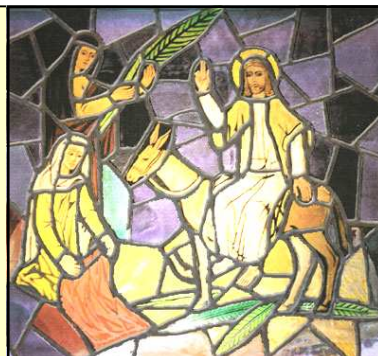
If you can help with "SportsReach" catering at Claverham during the day from Wednesday to Saturday April 14th to 17th, please speak with **Jo Garlick.** Thank you. •

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.* •

Caterpillar Preschool are looking for a "bank staff": NVQ Level 2 or above in Early Years and Childcare preferred. Please contact **Melanie** for details: 775596.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In Lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.

— Henry Hart Milman —



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.