



Week beginning May 16th, 2010

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

Our unseen Saviour . . .

If there was a theme-park for theological archaeology, surely the Ascension would be found there, neatly parked as a reminder of a bygone pattern of thinking when belief in a three storey universe meant it was easy to accept the idea of Jesus going "up" to heaven.

The fact is, many Christians never think much about the Ascension. For practical purposes it has almost been consigned to the dustbin of history. For those of an Anglican persuasion it remains an assertion in the Creed: "*He ascendeth into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*" The quaint language makes it look like a doctrinal antique of limited value in days like ours.

Many Scriptures speak of the exalted Jesus without making any reference to the Ascension (see e.g. 1 Corinthians 15:25; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; Romans 8:3), leaving some to regard the Acts account as a myth.

Acts 1:9-11 is crucial because it speaks of a definite conclusion to the resurrection appearances after 40 days. This is important because later Gnostic heretics argued the appearances continued for up to 12 years during which time Jesus was giving "special" teaching to an inner circle.

Whilst Acts 13:31 speaks of "many days," the number 40 is significant because Matthew and Luke begin Jesus's ministry with 40 days of testing and preparation. The 40 days leading to the Ascension herald a new phase of wider ministry for the glorified Lord.

The Ascension marked the end of one chapter (Easter), and opened a new chapter in which the risen Lord was present by His Spirit rather than in the limitations of His body. *The book of Acts describes the Lord* *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 Friday from 9am to 1pm. • Material for the *Weekly Bulletin* must be clearly written or typed and signed, or emailed, *no later than Wednesday.*

Jesus no longer bound by space and time. The event of Ascension, however the physics of it worked, tells that the visible presence of Jesus was withdrawn. He is now active in the affairs of humanity in a different way.

With Jesus ascended, Christians are called to live their lives between the "no longer" and the "not yet." Christ is no longer physically with us, and has not yet returned. Now we see through a glass darkly. One day we shall see clearly.

Following the Ascension, the exalted Jesus in heaven is still the God of the incarnation. He has not left humanity to its own devices. Hebrews 7:25 asserts: *"He is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through Him, for He always lives to make intercession for them."*

The Ascension causes us to face this simple truth. Are we willing to remain believers whilst we cannot always see what God is doing in the world, or even prove God's existence? Jesus said "Blessed are those who have not seen, yet believe."

As C.H Spurgeon once preached: "In an unseen Saviour we fix our trust, from an unseen Saviour we derive our joy. Our faith is now the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Your friend and pastor,
Dennis

News, notes and prayer opportunities

This morning **Melvyn Nolan** is preaching at the United Reformed Church at Sedlescombe, and appreciates our prayers. •

Val White thanks her whole church family for all the love and prayers during the recent loss of her mother. •

We offer our love and condolences to **Keith Barnes** whose mother died last week. •

Strawberry plants, ready to plant out; from **John Harmer**: 773998. Donations, please, for **Obamba Orphans**; will be sent via **Monica Cook**. *Thank you.* (Last year's plants raised £60 from several sources.)



World Cup matches: Enjoy them with other footie fans on our chapel BIG SCREEN. *Invite friends to these relaxed outreach events;* includes half-time refreshments. The first two matches are: 7.30pm on Saturday, June 12th, and Friday, June 18th. (Let **Andy Garlick** know that you'll help serve refreshments on the 18th. Thank you.)

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), and Thursday After School Club as usual, plus:

Sunday, May 16th. 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 Service, plus Sunday Club and crèche. • 6.30pm Youth Congregation.

Tuesday. 9am: Healing Prayer Group. At 10.30am the prayer-ministry team will be available for anyone who comes for personal prayer. • Twelve 'til One: Soup-and-roll lunch. • Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker: Tony Everist. *All are invited.*

Wednesday. 7.30pm: Bible Study in the Youth Room. *All are welcome.*

Friday. Early Prayer and do-it-yourself breakfast. • 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. See our website for football fixtures.

Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd. 9am: Chapel Meeting, plus Youth Group, Sunday Club & crèche. (Refreshments after.) • 10.30am: Meeting at Claverham (North Trade Road), plus Sunday Club & crèche. (Refreshments before.) • 4pm: Chapel Meeting, plus Sunday Club & crèche. • 6.30pm: Youth Congregation at the Chapel.

Our friend **Rhod Jones** invites us to Ashburnham Chapel for their **Anniversary and Thanksgiving Celebration** on **Sunday, May 23rd**, at 6.30pm. (With the **Sovereign Music Group & Revd. Brian Bowyer.**) *Refreshments served afterwards.*

June 11th to 13th at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre:
"Healing the Pain of Childlessness." Details later, or phone 4830204.



You have spare rhubarb? We'd greatly appreciate your donation towards Tuesday puddings! Please contact **Freda or Melvyn Nolan: 774984.**
Thank you.

Study the history of revival. God has always sent revival in the darkest days. Oh, for a mighty, sweeping revival today!

— Adrian Rogers —

Revival is **falling in love with Jesus** all over again.

— Vance Havner —

Our Football Club **Awards 2010 Line-up**: Beech Hotel, St. Leonards-on-Sea; Friday, May 28th. Tickets £25 (less £10 with Membership) *from Gary Walsh*. 3-course carvery meal, with musical entertainment. Guest Speaker: **Dave Roberts** (soccer historian and website Editor).

From August our Football Club needs a **Youth Team Supporter** from the church for the 2010/2011 season, for admin help, and as a link to our Youth Congregation. Please see our poster, and speak with **Gary Walsh** or **Andy Garlick** a.s.a.p. *Thank you.*

Saturday, June 5th: Girlie Day out! — by train, visiting Roman Road Street Market, Oxford Street, and maybe Westfield Shopping Centre. Details: **Catherine Nolan, Catherine Watson** or **Janet Walsh**.

Wanted: glass jars *with lids*, and Pringles tubs *with lids* — for our next Holiday Club. Please bring them to the office a.s.a.p. *Thank you!*

A blast from the past!



Great grief prays with great earnestness. Prayer is not a collection of balanced phrases; it is the pouring out of the soul. What is love if it be not fiery? What are prayers if the heart be not ablaze? They are the battles of the soul. In them men wrestle with principalities and powers. The prayer that prevails is not the work of lips and fingertips. It is the cry of a broken heart and the travail of a stricken soul. — *Samuel Chadwick; edited.*

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.
