



Week beginning June 6th, 2010

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

**Believe -  
Behave -  
Belong!**

One evening last week I attended an Alpha Course which is a great introduction to what Christians believe. It must be at least a couple of years since I'd been to Alpha and I had forgotten how good an Alpha evening can be.

First came the meal. Very tasty it was, & I enjoyed a second helping.

Next came the DVD presentation on the subject of the Church. These engaging presentations have become both shorter and better over the years.

The evening concluded with a discussion and questions in which three important aspects of Christianity were summarised as "believing, behaving and belonging."

*Believing in some ways is relatively straightforward.* Christian faith has at its heart some assertions which followers of Jesus believe. At the core of the faith is the truth that Jesus Christ is God who loves us, died for us, rose again after three days, returned to God the Father from where the Holy Spirit came to the Church. At an unknown and unknowable future date Jesus will return and history as we know it will end.

*Behaving can be a bit more difficult.* Traditionally, Bible-believing churches focus on personal morality, highlighting single issues such as abortion or homosexuality. The danger with highlighting some topics is that others may be missed out — topics like selling all and giving to the poor, and loving one's enemies; and going into the entire world preaching the Good News. (These days we tend to pay others to do that bit for us.)

*Belonging is not something we can do in isolation.* It involves coming alongside one another in community, like the Acts 2 church where "all the believers were together." *As we do things together we learn* *continues...*

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Battle Baptist Church is Life with Hope Trust; registered charity 1134288, Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0EG. • Website: [www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk) • Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: [office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto: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 and signed in the special office book, or typed and signed, or emailed, *no later than Wednesday.*

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*from one another. As we serve one another we are serving the Lord. The body of Christ is not just something to theorise about, but something to recognise that we need to be part of, and enjoy as we follow the Prince of peace and Lord of love.*

*Jesus is madly in love with the Church. He died for it. How do we feel about "church"? We can complain, or WE CAN CHOOSE TO BE THE CHURCH WE DREAM OF. If we could see this local Christian fellowship with the eyes of Jesus, and see the image of God in every believer here, it would make a huge difference to the way we feel about Battle Baptist Church.*

*Will you be an extremist for the Church, and this church? There are so many extremists for hatred in the world. Maybe the Lord is calling into being communities where people can be extremists for love, for grace and for spiritual change. We can be the hands of Jesus for our locality, and for the needs around us as we allow God to teach us to love one another.*

We are His body, His hands and His feet. God is not calling the world to come to the church but is calling the church to offer grace to the world.

Your friend and pastor,

*Dennis*

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## News, notes and prayer opportunities

**A HUGE 'thank you'** to all those volunteers who helped to make last week's Holiday Club such a success. We couldn't have done it without you!

• **Mark and Sue Ward-Smith** are pleased to say that they are now back living at Gardners Farm, Ashburnham, Battle, East Sussex TN33 9NZ. "All welcome for fresh country air: 01323 832011."

We are invited to the Induction of  
our friend and former Member  
**Revd Freddie Brookes**  
as Pastor of Ceylon Baptist Church  
at Central Methodist Church (kindly loaned)  
Pevensey Road, Eastbourne BN21 3HH  
on Saturday June 26th at 3pm.  
Speaker: Revd David Hall

**The Christian Institute** will hold a meeting on Tuesday, June 15th at St. Mark's Church, Green Lane, Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea; 7.30 to 9pm. Subject: **Defending Life and Liberty** — covering sanctity of life, religious liberty, and offering advice on how to respond to issues facing Christians today. *All are invited.*

# 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. For football updates see fixtures on our website. If in doubt, please contact your usual group-leader.

**Sunday, June 6th.** 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.) • **3pm: Battle Churches and Civic Service at St. Mary's. All are invited. • NO 4pm Chapel Meeting today.** • 6.30pm: Youth Congregation at the Chapel. *All are invited.*

**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-Dessert lunch. • 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker: Kath Bartlett. *Come if you can.*

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

**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.)

**Sunday, June 13th.** 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.

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"The Land Cried Out for the Blood that was Shed" — a DVD on abortion, with particular reference to modern Israel. (Produced by the Hatikvah Film Trust.) Ask **Derek White** to lend you a copy.

## Lunch at the Manna

We would love to continue running the weekly Friday Luncheon Club for senior citizens, but no longer have enough personnel. We need two more folk for the kitchen and washing-up to go on a rota. Without this help we will have only fortnightly lunches from September. Please let Peter Woodcraft know you'll help. Thank you.





**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.**

**Applications for Membership** have been received from **Ted Webb, Daisy Grove-Lafarge** and **Catherine Nolan**. Observations are invited to an elder in the usual manner.

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

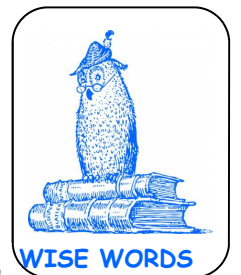
### Summer focus on Battle churches

**Shared morning prayer:** Monday June 21st to Friday June 25th inclusive: 7.30am to 8am *prompt* at the Roman Catholic Church. (Led by the Catholic Church on Monday and Friday, Methodist Church on Tuesday, Baptist Church on Wednesday, and St Mary's on Thursday.) Simple breakfast to follow at 8 am in our Youth Room. *Dennis needs some offers of help to prepare the breakfasts on Monday.*

**Saturday June 26th:** "Here for Good" on the Abbey Green. *Let David Walker know you'll help.*

**Sunday June 27th:** Churches Together Picnic, Abbey Green; 12:30pm, followed by outdoor Songs of Praise at 2pm. (Both at St Mary's if wet.) Our fellowship is to organise a BBQ. *Offers of help to John Southam for this, please.*  
**(NO 4pm Zion meeting.)**

*No matter how disappointed you are . . .*



No matter how disappointed you are feeling or how much you are hurting, know that every heartache and loss has within it the seeds of opportunity. Hidden within each disappointment is a pearl of great price, that, when found, will totally dwarf your problem. The greatest success stories are written by people who, against seemingly overwhelming and often insurmountable odds, have accepted their trials and turned them into opportunities for personal growth and stepping stones on their pathway to success. With God's help you can do the same. Trust him and choose friends who will empower you to do so.

— Dick Innes

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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.

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