



Week beginning June 13th, 2010

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

Parable of the loaves and doughnuts . . .

"Mary Queen of Shops — Maher and Sons" (screened last week on BBC2 and available on the BBC iPlayer), was for me a modern parable in which God, Jesus and Church aren't mentioned, but from which Christians might learn. It was about the struggles of retail marketing consultant Mary Portas as she tried to boost trade at Maher and Sons, a traditional baker, in business for 36 years. Profits have dropped by 50% in five years, and a purpose-built Waitrose will soon open nearby. After a lingering decline, failure will likely be the fate of this business unless they play to their strengths.

Mary's suggestions to turn this old-fashioned bakery into a bread heaven are about as welcome to Angela as a Waitrose on her doorstep. Angela won't accept that to stay open and succeed changes are necessary. She also ignored her biggest potential asset — an in-store professional night baker.

Since 1974 Mahler and Sons has sold the sort of cakes that I grew up with: sticky iced buns, smiley-face biscuits, Viennese fingers, and large, fatty, sugary doughnuts with runny red jam, radio-active with colouring that flows from wrist to elbow at the first bite.

However, tastes and eating-habits have changed. The threat of obesity in children looms large, but Angela believes her cakes are winners. She had failed to recognise that whilst most British people still eat bread, younger people want more than the standard white loaf. Many children eating a packed lunch now go home to a cooked meal instead of to the bread, spread and cakes of the 1970s.

Angela's problem is not a lack of hard work but a failure to recognise the changes around her.

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 and signed in the special office book, or typed and signed, or emailed, *no later than Wednesday*.

Local churches face similar issues. The church equivalent of Tesco is the city "mega church" people commute to. The church equivalent of on-line shopping delivered to your door, is God-TV. On the surface this is good and enriching; but if we choose to support mainly this brand of Christianity we are voting against having vibrant local churches on the local High Street.

This TV programme had one bright spot in the person of Paul — not the apostle, but Paul from Mahler and Sons. He's the baker. He knows his trade and can bake exotic and specialist breads to a very high standard — breads for which, when tested in a young mums' group, people *said* they would pay £2.50 a loaf. Paul could provide excellent quality and value in a "niche market." This too is the local church's greatest strength. The niche where any local church should always beat the religious supermarket concerns the delivery of love-in-person, otherwise known as "going the extra mile" in love, care and support of one another. Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Mary Queen of Shops did not have a happy ending. A few minor changes were grudgingly made, but Angela, convinced her methods are right, intends keeping things going in her traditional way. She reminded me of the derelict chapel which had *chiselled* into the stonework above the door: "Services at 11 and 6.30." Had the people of that chapel been prepared to change who knows if they would still be open for worshippers today?

Your friend and pastor,

Dennis

News, notes and prayer opportunities

We extend our love and sympathy to **the Thomas family** on the death of **Ros's mother**.

• Thank you **Nigel Lockwood and members of the Sunday Club** for the lovely "Welcome" ceramic mosaic now adorning the rear entrance of the Bayeux Centre!

Our hearty thanks to all who helped to make our Open Manna House time such a success during the recent Battle Medieval Fare Day. •

Dennis and Pat return on Thursday from a short break.

• ***Home needed*** for a new, large suitcase! (Donation to the Building Fund invited.) Phone **Glynis**: 882795.



Footie fans! Enjoy the World Cup match on our chapel BIG SCREEN!
Invite friends to this relaxed outreach event
7.30pm on Friday, June 18th.



More football! If you can wash the kit for our new Youth Team from September 10th to April 11th (expenses paid), please contact **Gary Walsh**. *Thank you!*

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

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 Anglican Church 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 on this day.)

BE WARNED!

There is a great host of preachers who have literally cast aside the message of the cross of Jesus Christ! Be warned: It doesn't matter what anyone tells you about a great "revival" or moving of the Spirit taking place; it doesn't matter how many multitudes are involved, or how loud their praises are; it doesn't matter how "successful" a particular ministry may appear to be. If the cross of Jesus Christ is not the door through which people come, you can rest assured — it is not a work of God.



David Wilkerson

**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.**

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. All as usual, plus:

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.

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: **David Gardner**.

Wednesday. 12.30 to 1.30pm: Unity Prayer Meeting at the Roman Catholic Church. Take a packed lunch. • 7.30pm: Bible Study in the Youth Room. *All are invited.*

Friday. 7.00am 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.) **7.30pm Footie fans! Enjoy the World Cup match on our chapel BIG SCREEN! Invite friends to this relaxed outreach event**

Sunday, June 20th. 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.

Our weekly **Friday Lunch at The Manna** for senior citizens needs two more helpers on a rota basis for the kitchen and washing-up. Without this help we will have only fortnightly lunches from September. *Please let **Peter Woodcraft** know you'll help.* Thank you.

All are invited to a **Christian Institute** 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. •

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre **Open Afternoon:** Saturday, June 19th; 2 to 4pm. Enjoy the grounds, have a cuppa. Find out what Crowhurst offers.