



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

Week beginning June 20th, 2010

What he used to do . . .

What is your heart's desire today? Maybe you're thinking, "I haven't thought about it this morning. I've only just got up. I'm getting on with life."

I ask because one of today's "set" Psalms is 42 which begins: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng."

In Brandt's version of this psalm he says: *My thirsty soul reaches out for you O God. I long for a deeper sense of your presence. For a faith that will embrace you without doubt or fear. I remember so well the faith of my childhood, how real was God to me in those days when I prayed and sang praises and listened to his word in the fellowship of family and friends.*

**God has not changed.
His love for me
is just the same.
I renew my faith
in Him!**

The psalmist used to go to God's house to worship, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving "among the festive throng."

And this is the point: "he used to." It's in the past.

He feels that God has forgotten him. He feels depressed. He feels under pressure.

What a clear warning to us not to neglect to worship together regularly.

If we are feeling that God has forgotten us, it could be that we are not

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.*

spending enough time with His people, in His presence?

Perhaps we should ensure that when we come together for worship, we come with shouts of joy and thanksgiving?

Shouts of joy because of what God has done for us – because of his great love for us.

Shouts of thanksgiving because of Jesus who sacrificed himself . . .

- that our sins may be forgiven,
- that we might have the gift and presence of the Holy Spirit within us,
- that we may receive the promise of eternal life in Heaven with God.

Also, because David had lapsed meeting with God's people, the enemy has a field day and taunts him: "Where is your God?"

Small wonder David is oppressed!

Another thing: if we move away from God, we give the enemy a real and easy opportunity to have a go at us.

It is amazing that in spite of everything, David chooses to declare that, because his hope is still in the Lord, he will praise Him, *because* He is both Saviour and God.

Brandt puts it like this: *God has not changed — His love for me is ever the same. I must renew my faith in God; I must again shout his praises even when I do not feel his presence. For truly He is God, and He is my Help and my hope.*

What is your heart's desire today? Psalm 37:4 reminds us: "*Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.*"

What more could we ask?

Your friend and pastor,

Francis

News, notes and prayer opportunities

This morning please pray for **Melvyn Nolan** who is preaching at Sedlescombe United Reformed Church.

Ladies Keep Fit!

Wednesday, July 7th

7.30 to 8.30pm

at Claverham Sports College

Arrive by 7.15 for a prompt start, please.

Followed by coffee and pudding at The Manna House!

Cost: £3 when booking. Pick up a form.



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 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. *Come if you can.* • 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: Joy Gregory (Pembury). *All are invited.*

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. *Come if you can.*

Friday. NO Early Prayer. (See below.) • 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 27th. 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.) • **NO 4pm Chapel Meeting today.** (See below.) • 6.30pm: Youth Congregation at the Chapel.

Also this week: 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.* • **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.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT

“If you think it’s just a mysterious, outdated book, *think again*.
It’s the Bible Jesus read, used, and loved.”
— Philip Yancey —

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.

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 New Hope Baptist Church, at Central Methodist Church (kindly loaned), Pevensy Road, Eastbourne BN21 3HH, on Saturday June 26th at 3pm. Speaker: **Revd David Hall**.

Eliminate frustration! 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 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 therefore frustrates all concerned.

Thank you for logging your visits to the Prayer Room. It encourages others to know that, while they may pray alone, they are part of our ongoing prayer-ministry.

Wisdom from Weatherhead . . .

“We must be open-minded enough to realise that a thing may be true even if we have not heard it before, and, indeed, may be true if we definitely disagree with it. We must seek the truth for the truth and not for the confirmation of our preconceived ideas.”



Leslie Weatherhead

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.
