



Week beginning Sunday, February 5th, 2012

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

In a silent moment . . .

At last week's elders' and deacons' prayer-meeting there was sharing time in which all present were invited to mention one aspect of church life they were currently excited about. It was great to hear the positive things happening in various parts of our church programme. *Our many activities are a means to an end. The "end" is that we may get to know God, and enjoy His presence.*

Many times recently through the preaching of God's Word we've been reminded that Christian faith is about being brought into a relationship with God through finding Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord. Like any true friend, Jesus sometimes drops by unexpectedly.

Therefore, I did not find it at all unusual at a recent 10.30 service when Rhod Jones spoke briefly about how he was overwhelmed by the presence of God whilst he was at work planting new trees. It was for him an extraordinarily rich moment in God's presence that was difficult to put into words, and impossible for a non-Christian to understand.

Years ago I wrote a poem about a similar experience which included the lines:

*At night when on the myriad stars I gaze
It seems that life grows distant, problems haze.
He comes, and makes that moment so divine,
So precious that I know Christ can be mine.*

Moments of solitude in a hectic life work like punctuation marks in a piece of prose. Commas, full stops, apostrophes, colons and question marks say nothing themselves, but without them it would be difficult to read with understanding what is written.

continues . . .

Battle Baptist Church is part of 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 • Caterpillar Preschool (01424) 774997. • The church office will open Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm. • Material for the *Weekly Bulletin* must be clearly written and signed, or typed and signed, or emailed, no later than Wednesday.

Shane Claiborne is a thirty-something Christian who upset many in the American Christian establishment by being in Baghdad as a peace activist during the war to overthrow Saddam Hussein. He writes: *"Many spiritual seekers have not been able to hear the words of Jesus because the lives of Christians have been making so much horrible noise. It can be hard to hear the gentle whisper of the Spirit above the noise of Christendom."* Shane is one of a long line of Christians who have written about making space and silence in our lives in which the Lord can and will speak.



Shane Claiborne

Thomas à Kempis was born in the 14th century and through his writings has helped shape many Christian lives. His book *The Imitation of Christ* was published around 1441 just as mass printing was beginning to become popular, so his ideas were easily distributed. Whilst the language is a bit dated the advice given in is still useful:

"SEEK a suitable time for leisure and meditate often on the favours of God. Leave curiosities alone. Read such matters as bring sorrow to the heart rather than occupation to the mind. If you withdraw yourself from unnecessary talking and idle running about, from listening to gossip and rumours, you will find enough time that is suitable for holy meditation."

May the Lord bless you this week in a silent moment.

Your friend and pastor, *Dennis*

News, notes and prayer opportunities

Monica Cook thanks us for our prayers concerning the work in the Obambo (Kenya) ministry. "The difficulties we experienced have been sorted out, and the work is set to be built on the firm foundation now established."

LADIES'
BREAKFAST

A decorative flourish consisting of a large, stylized letter 'C' with floral and leaf motifs extending from it.

Full English, or Continental option: £4.

Saturday, March 3rd, at The Manna House.

Speaker: **Jenny Dudgeon**

*Be sure to book, early,
via the church office: 774825.*

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Baby and Toddler Group (Monday and Thursday), Spanish (Tuesday, 7pm), After School Club (Thursday), Caterpillar Preschool (Tuesday to Friday), 412 Youth" (Friday). For football updates and match times, check our website: www.battlebaptistfc.co.uk

Sunday, February 5th: 9am: Chapel Meeting, plus Youth Group, Sunday Club and crèche. (Refreshments after.) • 10.30am: Meeting at Claverham Community College (North Trade Road), plus Youth Group, Sunday School and crèche. (Refreshments before.) • 4pm: Chapel Meeting, plus Sunday Club and crèche. • 6.30pm: Youth-led Meeting at the Chapel. *All are invited.*

Tuesday. 9am: Healing Prayer Group. At 10.30 the prayer-ministry team will be available for anyone who comes for personal prayer. • 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker: Keith Nolan.

Wednesday. 10am to 3pm: Adult Art and Craft.; £1.50. (Bring a packed lunch.) • 6 to 8pm: BBFC training (Claverham). • 7 to 8pm: Overseas Prayer Meeting.

Friday. 7.30am: Early Prayer at the Chapel, followed by a do-it-yourself breakfast. • 9.15am: "Chatterbox" for parents, carers and young children. • 10.30am: Coffee Club.

Sunday, February 12th. *Note the changes!* • 10am: Meeting at Zion Chapel, Mount Street, plus Youth Group, Sunday School and crèche. (Refreshments after.) • 4pm: Chapel Meeting, plus Sunday Club and crèche.

Half-term Holiday Club

for children of school years 1 to 6, on the mornings of Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th of February. Cost: £3 per day per child. *Please book NOW, using the green leaflet!* **Also:** We'd appreciate small-print left-over wrapping paper to use during the Holiday Club. Thank you.



Let there be love shared among us!

Spree Camp (for 8 to 15 year-olds)

July 13th to 15th.

ONLY FIVE SPACES REMAIN AVAILABLE.

BOOK WITHOUT DELAY!

Please see posters and booking-forms.

Andy Garlick has more details.



Teresa Ball, in St. Michael's Hospice, welcomes visitors, and greatly appreciates those who have been to see her.

Rachel and Malcolm Ettinger (852286) remind those concerned that their homegroup begins on Wednesday, February 8th, at 7.30pm.

Holiday at Home Reunion: Monday, February 13th, at The Manna House. RSVP to **Melvyn** — and let him know if you need transport. •

All are welcome to the **Women's World Day of Prayer** on Friday, March 2nd; 2pm in the Chapel. *"Praying and praising for Malaysia."*

Amen, Ma'am!

February 6th is the 60th anniversary of the succession of HM the Queen. Each coin still bears the inscription REG. F.D., an abbreviation for the Latin: "Queen, Defender of the Faith."

It was in this latter role that Her Majesty spoke these helpful words last Christmas: "Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves — from our recklessness or our greed."

"God sent into the world a unique person, neither a philosopher nor a general, important though they are, but a Saviour, with the power to forgive."

"Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships, and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love."



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.