

NEWSLETTER

10th December 2017



**WITH QUIZ
MASTER...**

TED WEBB

**5PM SUNDAY 17TH
DECEMBER**

EVERYONE WELCOME

**PICK UP A BOOKING FORM
TODAY**

“All I want for Christmas is...?”

As the juggernaut, that is the whole commercial Christmas experience, continues to pick up pace and hurtle onwards towards the 25th of December I find myself in part slightly amused, although more so I think, saddened by the whole situation. The phrase goes ‘Christmas comes but once a year’, and in many ways yes it does, but in truth the preparation, the sales, the promotional pushes and all ‘trimmings’, seem to begin earlier and earlier each year.

Yet mixed in to this is the growing reality that for many the celebration of Christmas, where it all began and the transformational impact it can have in our lives today has either been completely lost and forgotten or is simply no longer being discovered in the first place. That’s where the sadness is found. Not because I’m secretly some kind of Scrooge in disguise - I love the fun, the games, the food, the time with friends and family, the presents, the food (did I mention that already), the crazy songs and all the rest of it. I believe though, that there is so much more to it than all that and many just don’t see it.

For all the build up, countdown and expectation where Christmas is concerned, I think that for many in our society just don’t know what it’s all about. It is totally expected, yet completely unexpected all at the same time. It is therefore somewhere within this strange twilight zone that we find ourselves, as we journey forwards to Christmas Day.

In Matthew 1 we find Joseph, slightly thrown, no doubt a little panicked, things not having gone thus far to plan. He’s got engaged only for his wife to tell him she’s pregnant - not a great start when

he wasn’t involved. Thinking of ‘doing a runner’, an angel comes and speaks to him in a dream. If that wasn’t enough to blow his mind, the message Joseph received certainly would:

“She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—‘God saves’—because he will save his people from their sins.”

In this moment the truth of God’s rescue plan was revealed afresh to the world. Okay it was only to Joseph at this exact point, but it was the beginning of something that would change the world forever!

In previous years whilst working for Arise Ministries and sharing amongst children what is at the very centre of the Christmas story, I would often find myself explaining why Jesus came to earth, initially as a baby. I’d talk about how Jesus didn’t come to earth because He had nothing better to do, He didn’t come because He fancied a holiday, He didn’t come because He was getting in the way or some such other reason. No Jesus came, as the angel told Joseph “to save His people from their sins.” He came to transform the world - forever!

As we continue in our preparations, in the countdown to the big day, may we reflect afresh upon the heartbeat of this season, the baby born to save the world. May we not lose sight of what it’s all about. If we have already accepted Jesus as our King - the one who came to save, then it’s thinking through the part we’re called to play. If we don’t know who Jesus is, then may we go after the greatest gift that was and will ever be given, one that, although it may not be under your tree come the 25th, has got your name on it.

Be blessed, Ed Jones

comedy
NIGHT

A silver vintage microphone with yellow lightning bolts around it.

LIVE AT

BATTLE BAPTIST CHURCH

8PM FRIDAY

15TH DECEMBER

Tickets £5 FROM THE OFFICE
(ALL PROFITS TO CHARITY)

COMING UP...

[15th December:](#)
Comedy Night @ 8pm

[17th December:](#)
Quiz Night @ 5pm

[19th December:](#)
Carols at Tuesday Fellowship

PRAYER POINTERS

CHRISTMAS

Pray that we would communicate the hope and joy of Christmas and keep Jesus at the centre of all.

MIDDLE EAST

Pray for peace where there is trouble

OLDER PEOPLE

Pray for those struggling at this time of year.

NEWSLETTER

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Bringing Life to the Heart
of 1066 Country, and beyond

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

help with welcoming at any of the gatherings on Sunday.

CATERPILLAR PARTY CLEAR UP:

Pat would love to hear from you if you can help for about an hour

(from 11.30am) with clearing up after the caterpillar party on Thursday.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: You may like to send one Christmas card to the church family this year (rather than sending individual cards). If so please deliver your card to the office and we will display it on the blue board next to the Christmas tree. Please check your grey tray for Christmas cards.

CHURCH OFFICE: will be closed from Monday 25th December until Tuesday 2nd January.

MAKING SUNDAYS HAPPEN: there are many opportunities to serve at our three services on Sundays. If you would like to be involved please speak to an elder, deacon or the church office. Carol Noel would like to hear from you if you can



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 Pre-school direct telephone line: (01424) 774997.

Church maintenance issues:
zionpremisesteam@gmail.com

CAROLS

If you can't make the carol service at 5pm on Sunday, why not join Tuesday Fellowship on 19th for their carol service at 2pm.

FUNERAL

The funeral service for John Thorn will be on Tuesday 12th December at 11.30am at St Mary's Church, Salehurst followed by the burial at the cemetery adjacent.

HELP NEEDED

With Youth Group at 10.45am and serving post match refreshments on Saturdays at the Rec from 4.30-5pm.

What's on this week

in addition to Caterpillar Crew & Caterpillar pre-school Mon– Fri

Sunday, December 10th. ● 8am: **Breakfast** in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: **Pre-meeting Prayers** in the prayer room. ● 8.45am: **Chapel Gathering.** ● 10am: **Refreshments** in the Manna House. ● 10.20am: **Pre-meeting Prayers** in the prayer room. ● 10.45am **Chapel Gathering** & communion with Sunday Club and Creche. ● 5pm: **Carol Service** with Sunday Club. Refreshments after the service.

Monday, December 11th. ● 9.15-11.45am: **Caterpillars** Parent and Toddler Group. ● 3.45-5.15pm: **Chosta** in the Youth Room. ● 7.45pm: **Elders meeting.**

Tuesday, December 12th. ● 8am – **Advent Reflections** in the Roman

Catholic Church. ● 9.15-11.45am: **Caterpillar Explorers** Parent and Toddler Group. ● 9.15am: **Prayer-for-Healing Group** (prayer room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come. ● 2pm: **Tuesday Fellowship**, speaker: Brenda Crew
Wednesday, December 13th. ● 10am-3pm: **Arts and Craft** in the Manna House, £3 bring a packed lunch. ● 5pm-6pm: **BBFC** Youth team & 6pm-7pm: **BBFC** training at Claverham 3G.

Thursday, December 14th. ● 9.15-11:45am: **Caterpillars Christmas Party.**

Friday, December 15th. ● 7.30am: **Early Morning Prayers** in the Youth

Room followed by a 'do it yourself' breakfast. ● 9.15am **Chatterbox** for mums, dads and carers (upstairs). ● 10.30am: **Coffee Club** in the Youth Room. ● 12.30pm: **Friday Lunch Club Christmas Meal** for retired people. (Advance booking essential on 772192, weekdays between 6pm and 7pm.) ● 8pm: **Comedy Night.**

Sunday, December 17th. ● 8am: **Breakfast** in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: **Pre-meeting Prayers** in the prayer room. ● 8.45am: **Chapel Gathering.** ● 10am: **Refreshments** in the Manna House. ● 10.20am: **Pre-meeting Prayers** in the prayer room. ● 10.45am **Chapel Gathering.** With Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Group. ● 5pm: **Quiz Night**