

# NEWSLETTER

28th January 2018



## Joseph - more than just a dreamer...

People describe Joseph as a dreamer but the Bible tells us he only had two dreams of any significance. When Joseph describes these dreams to his brothers and his father, they interpret them to mean that Joseph would rule over them, but there was far more to these dreams than that. These dreams spoke of a far greater destiny and calling for Joseph. God may give us a vision for the future through a scripture, a prophetic word, a dream or something else, which may be confirmed more than once. This vision may take many years to be fulfilled, as it was in Joseph's case - it may take us on an unexpected journey, one we may have never chosen, but God knows what he is doing and can accomplish his plans and purposes in our lives. When the going gets tough, don't change the vision, just put your trust in God.

Being jealous, Joseph's brothers took his coat - as the NIV puts it 'they stripped him of his ornate robe - and threw him into a cistern. They were going to kill him but then decided to sell him as a slave to the Ishmaelites. However, being stripped of this coat was possibly the best thing to happen to him; it meant this sheltered and spoilt boy could become the man of God he was destined to be. To fulfil our destiny in Christ and step into the garments he has prepared for us, we need other things to be stripped away. God's plans for Joseph went beyond the protective sphere in which he had been living and, painful as it was, the coat had to go!

It was probably through the Ishmaelite traders that Joseph gained knowledge in business and how to run a household, in preparation for all God had in store. Joseph's

imprisonment after accusations made by Potiphar's wife, was the path to further promotion. During this time, Joseph interpreted the dreams of others - God granted Joseph the wisdom and vision that he needed, he found favour wherever he was, and ultimately this took him into Pharaoh's household where he was put in charge of the whole of Egypt.

God used Joseph - his leadership skills, his prophetic vision, and his business experience - in order to bless, not only Egypt, but all the surrounding nations, including his own family. Thanks to Joseph, people were saved from starvation, and nations were saved from ruin.

Ultimately, when Joseph's brothers came humbly before him (unaware of his identity), Joseph did not feel vindicated, he was simply overjoyed to be reunited with them. God had not just given him gifts and talents, but his character had been shaped through his continued trust in God.

The dream in Genesis 37 was about far more than his brothers bowing down to him... Whilst the wheat in all the surrounding countries was wilting, the wheat in Egypt stood firm and was a source of nourishment for surrounding nations. Joseph was destined for a great purpose. Similarly, God's plan for our lives and the vision he gives us, may take us on unexpected journeys. It may involve struggle and loss, but ultimately, in the light of God's coming Kingdom through Jesus Christ, it will be more significant and more fulfilling than we could ever expect.

Your servant in Christ, Mark Hirst

*Early I will seek you*

*Start your Friday seeking God with others at early morning prayers. In the youth room at 7.30am followed by breakfast.*

Prayer and Praise

Monday 5th February at 7.30pm in the chapel  
EVERYONE WELCOME

### COMING UP...

[29th January](#)  
7.30pm Church Meeting

[27th February](#)  
Lent Taize evening 7pm  
Roman Catholic Church

[2nd March](#)  
Women's World Day of Prayer 2pm  
Roman Catholic Church

## PRAYER POINTERS

### CHURCH MEETING

Pray that the meeting tomorrow night would be glorifying to God.

### ASC

Thank God for large numbers of children coming to after-school-club. Pray that they would know God's grace

### THE TURNING

Pray that God would move mightily in East Sussex during the mission in June.

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Bringing Life to the Heart  
of 1066 Country, and beyond



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](http://www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk)
- Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: [office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk)
- Caterpillar Preschool direct telephone line: (01424) 774997.

**Church maintenance issues:**

[zionpremisesteam@gmail.com](mailto:zionpremisesteam@gmail.com)

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WORLD MISSION PRAYER MEETING:** Join with others every 1st Thursday of the month to pray for mission and issues around the world. 2-3pm in the prayer room.



**LITERATURE:** Please let the office know if you would like to display leaflets and literature around the church.

**CHURCH MEETING:** Tomorrow at 7.30pm.

**SOLID:** Bookings for Solid camp are now open! Pick up a booking form or speak to Andy Garlick.

**FUNERAL:** The Manna House will be being used this Wednesday for refreshments after Joan Freeman's cremation service 11am at Hastings Crematorium.

**MARK:** is preaching at East Gate Church, Lewes this morning. Please pray for him.

### LENT LUNCHES

21st Feb - Emmanuel Centre  
28th Feb - RC room  
7th Mar - Manna House  
14th Mar - St Mary's

### REAL WOMEN

21st February - Book Night at BBC.  
Bring a book you have really enjoyed reading!

### BAPTISM

Ethan Phillips is being baptised at 5pm today - please be there to support him.

## What's on this week

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

**Sunday, January 28th.** ● 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 **ALL AGE Chapel Gathering.** ● 5pm: **Chapel Gathering** with creche and Sunday club.

**Monday, January 29th.** ● 9-11.30am: **Caterpillar parent & toddler.** ● 3.45-5.15pm: **Chosta** in the Youth Room. ● 7.30pm: **Church meeting**

**Tuesday, January 30th.** ● 9.15am: **Prayer-for-Healing Group** (prayer

room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come. ● 2pm: **Tuesday Fellowship,** speaker: David Laskey.

**Wednesday, January 31st.** ● 5pm-6pm: **BBFC Youth team** & 6pm-7pm: **BBFC training** at Claverham 3G.

**Thursday, February 1st.** ● 9-11.30am: **Caterpillar parent and toddler.** ● 2-3pm: **World mission prayer meeting** in the prayer room.

**Friday, February 2nd.** ● 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. ● 3.30-5pm: **After School Club.** ● 7-9pm: **412**

**Sunday, February 4th.** ● 8am: **Breakfast** in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: **Pre-meeting Prayers** in the prayer room. ● 8.45am: **Chapel Gathering** and communion. ● 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: **Chapel Gathering** with creche and Sunday club.