

# NEWSLETTER

7th January 2018



**29th January**

**7.30pm**

**For the church follow-on meeting (after the discussions at the November church meeting).**

## And they all lived happily ever after...

Talk about stories to tell the grand kids. Come the end of the book of Joshua, there would be tales of burning bushes, great plagues, freedom from slavery, the parting of the Red Sea (and the Jordan), the fall of a certain city named Jericho, the sun standing still and much more besides. All of which would have happened to some extent in living memory.

As the book comes to its conclusion though, Joshua as he speaks to the assembled tribes, urges them on, to serve the Lord with all faithfulness (24: 14). This could have been a closing statement, a speech to round off many years of triumph and God moving powerfully amongst them, a nice book end to his time on earth and the story if you will. But that's not what Joshua has in mind.

Having laid it out plainly before the people, the choices that are before them, the paths they must choose to walk, he himself declares:

*But as for me and my household, we will serve The Lord. Joshua 24: 15*

It is the reality of being a part of the community that God has placed us in. I pray we see the lives of those within it totally transformed, as they discover Jesus and become his followers. That seriously excites me!

Is there a danger though, that maybe we are happy to go along with or say amen to such a statement, in theory, but to actually do something about it, for many, that is another thing entirely? That may be unfair, but I wonder if there is more truth in it than we're sometimes prepared to admit, myself included.

The great thing is, that if it's not the case and we're putting our best foot forward, then we've nothing to worry about it. However if there is any truth in it, then surely it needs to become a rallying cry to us to seek to change the situation, to alter the status quo and remove any sense of apathy towards actual engagement and impact, whether within ourselves or those around us. We need to, as a whole church, be continuing to seek God, for the vision He sets before us.

Joshua knew where he stood and where he was going so to speak. He was about getting something done. It wasn't just a nice idea, a good speech, a quaint story to pass down the generations. He was about action. He was about the journey ever onward.

Every new year brings with it fresh opportunities and challenges. Some we carry over from the previous, some are yet to be discovered or created. I believe collectively we need to continue to share and work through these different situations together.

As a church here in Battle, we continue on through time of transition as we press forward into all God has ahead of us. To be honest though, I hope we are always experiencing change to some extent or another. What I mean is as we endeavour to press ahead, refusing to stagnate, wherever we find ourselves, may we never rest, sit back or settle.

May we be ever seeking God to do what he wants us to do, and getting on with it, pushing forward so that the vision God has given us to reach out to our community doesn't simply become words that we know so well, but have long since acted upon.

*Ed Jones*

MAY YOU SHINE  
THE LIGHT OF  
CHRIST IN THE  
NEW YEAR!

### COMING UP...

[20th January](#)

8.30am: Ladies Breakfast.  
With Anna Wilson from Stop  
the Traffik Hastings

[21st January](#)

3pm United Service at Kings  
Church

## PRAYER POINTERS

### IRAN

Pray for the situation in Iran  
and for believers who are  
meeting in London to pray  
today.

### FRESH STREAMS

Pray for those going to the  
Fresh Streams Conference  
this week.

### NEW TERM

Pray for children and young  
people returning to school  
and university after the  
Christmas break.

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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:

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**Church maintenance issues:**

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

## SUNDAYS

Please pick up a postcard with details of our Sunday gatherings this term.

## CONTACTS

Please let the office know if your contact details have changed in the last year (including mobile number and email)

## CHURCH OFFICE

will be open for limited hours Monday to Thursday next week as some of the staff attend the Fresh Steams Conference.

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MELVYN NOLAN:** is preaching at Ashburnham Church this Sunday evening. Please pray for him.

**JOAN FREEMAN:** We are sad to report that Joan passed away in her sleep over the Christmas period. Joan was a regular at 8.45am, Tuesday Fellowship and she was on the Friday Lunch Club team.

**FOOD BANK:** A Happy New Year to all our supporters. We received financial and food contributions that will have made a big difference to many Christmas celebrations! During December 19 adults, with 21 children between them, came to the Food Bank and received Christmas goodies as well as the usual food items. In addition we distributed 12 Christmas hampers to individuals and families as requested by the Battle churches. (Most hampers included a Christmas pudding, mince pies, Christmas cake, custard, tinned fruit, ham, chicken, crab or salmon,

Christmas biscuits, chocolate and sweets, crackers, vegetables & potatoes.) 7 big emergency boxes were packed for the Battle Children's Centre, and 5 large carrier bags stuffed with any remaining Christmas Food were taken To "Surviving Christmas" at the Salvation Army Centre in Hastings. Well done everyone!

We are now needing more supplies, including basic toiletries, especially soap, toothpaste, toilet rolls, shower gel and shampoo. ( We still have shaving foam & razors.) Supplies of the following food items in particular are really low: Tinned tomatoes, cold meat, fish, fruit, rice pudding, steamed puddings, custard, tinned potatoes, coffee, pasta sauce, squash, UHT milk and jam. We cannot say "thank you" too often!

Steve Reading on behalf of Battle Foodbank

## What's on this week

in addition to Caterpillar Crew & Caterpillar pre-school Mon- Tue

**Sunday, January 7th.** ● 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 & Youth group. ● 5pm: **Chapel Gathering** with Sunday Club.

**Monday, January 8th.** ● 3.45-5.15pm: **Chosta** in the Youth Room.

**Tuesday, January 9th.** ● 9.15am: **Prayer-for-Healing Group** (prayer

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

**Wednesday, January 10th.** ● 10am-3pm: **Arts & Craft** bring a packed lunch £1.50. ● 5pm-6pm: **BBFC** Youth team & 6pm-7pm: **BBFC** training at Claverham 3G.

**Friday, January 12th.** ● 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** for retired people. (Advance booking essential on 772192, weekdays between 6pm and 7pm.) ● 3.30-5pm: **After School Club.**

**Sunday, January 14th.** ● 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 Sunday Club.