

# NEWSLETTER

8th July 2018



## The Deadline for booking for the



## is today (Sunday)

From 4pm Saturday  
14th July at South  
Lodge, North Trade  
Road Battle TN33 0HN

£4 adults £2 children

Please note there is  
parking on our driveway  
but priority for those  
who need it.

Things to bring : chair or  
rug, your own plate,  
cup, knife/fork so that  
we can avoid using  
disposable plastic, a  
salad if you are on the  
list to bring one!

## COMING UP...

17th July  
7.30pm Church Meeting

15/16th September  
BBC commissioning  
weekend

## Nearer my God to Thee.

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!  
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,  
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee.

*Nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer to Thee!*

As Christians, we often talk about 'how closely we are walking with God' or our 'spiritual temperature'. Our Pastors often ask us on a Sunday to consider whether our relationship with Jesus has developed over the last year, month or week but what do they actually mean? Are they trying to make us feel guilty because if we are honest we haven't really prayed or read our Bible a lot this week? Are they trying to prick our consciences and suggest that if we do more good things then we can get closer to God because there are ministry groups that need help of course...? Are they trying to tell us that if we act in a more 'Christian' manner, smile a lot and seem interested in what everyone has to say then people will think we have a closer relationship with God?

Personally, I don't think they mean any of those things. Of course praying, reading our Bibles, helping out in ministry teams and taking an interest in people are all good things but we shouldn't be doing them as a list to tick off in the belief that they will automatically bring us closer to Jesus. God is our Father, Jesus is our best friend and the Holy Spirit is our constant helper and to get closer to them we need to spend time in their presence. That's it. No more, no less. The more time we spend with them, the better our relationship will be. Human friendships develop as we spend more time with one another and so it is the same in our relationship with God. We need to find the best ways of spending time with God for us personally. Each of us is different and so there will be many different ways for us to explore. For some a quiet time to just sit in God's presence regularly is helpful, for others it may be daily Bible readings, for some a constant dialogue with God about how their day is going

helps, for others a set pattern of prayer helps them to still their mind and focus on what God wants to say to them. Whatever we find is best for us (and this might change over time) is what we should be doing regularly to deepen our relationship with God.

How will we know if it's working?! As with all relationships, it will grow, deepen and mature gradually. One day we will realise that we are talking to God more often and about more things – even the seemingly inconsequential. We will realise that we are asking for God's help and guidance more and more and not just seeking his will for the big decisions in life but also the little ones too. We will be reading our Bibles and praying more often, not because we think we ought to but because we are excited to hear more from God. We will find that not only are we no longer avoiding that person who we found really irritating at coffee but we are actively seeking them out to talk to them because through God's eyes we have grown to love them as our brother or sister in Christ. We will find that we are giving up our time to help in ministry groups, not because we feel we should but because we actually want to and find it enjoyable. All of these things will happen over time as we become closer to God, full of His Holy Spirit and exuding the fruits of the spirit everywhere we go.

I have often been struck by the words of the hymn Nearer my God to Thee and the manner in which it was reportedly played by a string quartet as the Titanic sank. I didn't have space to write all the verses above but the whole hymn has a message of hope with a cheerful melody and I can't help thinking that it must have been of great comfort to those who knew they were about to drown.

Let us not get to the point of thinking we might drown before we deepen our relationship with God and draw nearer to Him.

Yours in Christ, Jenny Dudgeon

## PRAYER POINTERS

### BBFC

Please continue to pray for a youth team manager for the under 15 team.

### PASTORS

Pray that God would give Ed, Francis and Mark strength and discernment as they lead the church here.

### DEACONS

Pray for Craig and Pauline, nominated as deacons and for God's direction at the church meeting on 17th when we will vote.

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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

**HELPER FOR "CHILL OUT":** needed at Friday After School Club to help supervise children with the games provided (no preparation needed). Please speak to Andy if you would like to join the team in any capacity or to come along and see what we do each week. Thank you.

**SOUL SURVIVOR:** Final payments are now due.

**MEMBERSHIP:** applications have been received from Mark & Sam Birch and Trish Dickenson. If any member has any observations concerning these applications, please talk to one of the pastors.

**JO MCNEILL:** and family thank everyone for their cards and kind

words. Peter's funeral is at Hastings Crematorium on Thursday 12th July at 11.45am and all are welcome to join them for refreshments after at Starrs Mead. Jo would find an idea of numbers helpful tel 777868 or [joanne.mcneill@hotmail.com](mailto:joanne.mcneill@hotmail.com)

**CAKES:** Thank you so much for the wonderful cakes that you provided for SOLID. At the end of August a group of hungry young people and their leaders are going to Soul Survivor. It would be great to bless them equally with cakes (homemade or shop bought). So please get baking & freezing cakes ready for the August bank holiday weekend. *Thank you.*

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Join us at 5pm to hear about the recent trip to the Holy Land.

## SAVE THE DATES

**BBC Teaching Weekend**  
with Ruth Rice 5-7th Oct  
**BBC Retreat Weekend**  
with Roy Searl 8-10th Mar

## TRANS- GENDER

If you're interested in a Christian response to this issue, Beulah Baptist Church is hosting a talk **today** at 6.30pm with Dr John Greenall from CMF

## THE GATHERING

Tickets for next year's Gathering festival are £85 (payment in advance). If you would like more information or to book please speak to Ed.

## What's on this week

in addition to Caterpillar pre-school (Monday– Thursday) and housegroups.

### Sunday, July 8th.

- 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.
- 6.30pm: Talk on **Transgender** at Beulah Baptist Church.

### Monday, July 9th

- 9-11.30am: **Caterpillar parent & toddler.**
- 3.45-5.15pm: **Chosta** in the Youth Room.

### Tuesday, July 10th

- 9.15am: **Prayer-for-Healing Group** (prayer room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come.
- 2pm:

**Tuesday Fellowship.** Speaker: Iain Gray (Gideons)

### Wednesday, July 11th.

- 10am-3pm: **Arts and Crafts** in the Manna House. Bring a packed lunch. £1.50.
- 7pm: **Battle Baptist Runners** meet at the church.

### Thursday, July 12th.

- 9-11.30am: **Caterpillar parent and toddler.**
- 9.30-10am: **prayer for Sunday gatherings** in the prayer room.

### Friday, July 13th.

- 7.30am: **Early morning Prayers** in the youth room followed by a 'do it yourself' breakfast.
- 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.)

### Saturday, July 14th.

- 4pm: **Church BBQ** at the Whymarks' house.

### Sunday, July 15th.

- 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** and communion with creche, Sunday club and youth group.
- 5pm: **Holy Land Feedback** evening.