

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together

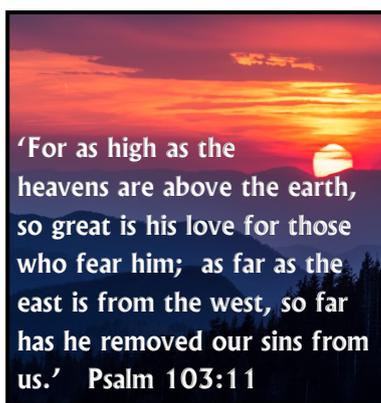


26th January 2020



'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.'

(Hebrews 12:1,2)



Fixtures Sat 25th Jan

1sts: (tbc)

2nds: Rock-A-Nore (A)

3rds: Old Town Lions (H)

A message from Ken Benjamin .

As President of Baptists Together (The Baptist Union of Great Britain), I'm very much looking forward to being with you at Battle Baptist this weekend. Ed and I have been friends in church ministry, for many years, so it is especially good to be visiting you all.

Wherever I visit this year, I'm asking churches to prayerfully consider the question:

'Where do we grow from here?'

What does it look like in 2020 to create the circumstances where healthy growth is most likely to happen? In my own church, Chichester Baptist Church, we don't profess to have all the answers at all, but two key elements have helped towards answering that question: emphasising Whole-life Discipleship and exploring Missional Communities.

Whole-life Discipleship

I am an Associate Speaker for LICC (The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity www.licc.org.uk). Their message is that all Christians should go into their everyday 'Frontline' world confident that God can work through them. This fits really well in a Baptist context with our high emphasis on the priesthood of all believers. Whatever we seek to do as churches, whatever events we put on, or new initiatives we introduce, they will always fall short of their potential unless the individual followers of Jesus in our churches are equipped and confident as His representatives. We will never get anywhere until we regularly equip each other for their 'everywhere' - wherever they find themselves throughout the week.

Missional Communities / Alternative Gatherings

The times that we live in call for churches to think beyond our existing patterns and programmes in imaginative and creative ways. A growing number of Baptist Churches are exploring and trying different ways of gathering and reaching out. In my own church we call these 'Alternative Gatherings'.

(www.chichesterbaptist.org.uk/alternativegatherings.htm).

In both the morning services and the evening service on Sunday 26th I hope and pray to explore some of these themes with you all.

Let me emphasise though that I am not so much coming with a ready-made package of answers, so much as an invitation to join a prayerful journey alongside other churches throughout Great Britain. It has been fascinating and encouraging to explore the 'where do we grow from here?' question with churches across England, Wales and beyond over the last 18 months - from Tyneside to Merseyside, Devon to Essex, North and South Wales to the Isle of Man. It will be nice to be a little nearer to home! Chichester Baptist Church and Battle Baptist Church have many things in common: similar churches both near the coast in Sussex – albeit you are in East Sussex and we are West Sussex - don't hold that against me! Nevertheless, even with our similarities, your story is unique and your next steps will be distinctive to your journey here in Battle. My hope is that, in exploring God's word and sharing stories from other churches, we will help encourage one another and spark our collective imagination in order to seek new opportunities to glorify God.

Ken Benjamin

PRAYER POINTERS

Children & Youth

Last Friday there were 42 children at After School Club and 59 young people at 4:12. Praise the Lord for this opportunity. Pray for Tim and Caroline as they lead our work in this area.

Alpha

Please be praying for those who are attending the Alpha courses here, and for those leading the sessions. Pray for protection against attack. May the Holy Spirit be at work powerfully.

BBFC

BBFC is entering into an exciting new phase of development! Pray for Kevin and Gary as they steer the club through change. Pray that more people will respond to the gospel as a result.

NEWSLETTER

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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 direct telephone line: (01424) 774997.

Church maintenance issues: zionpremisesteam@gmail.com



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday evening Alpha - We have three cooks and two washer- uppers in place - thank you so much for volunteering! We are still looking for one or two more people to prepare meals for those attending this course; and, ideally, another one or two people to help wash up afterwards. Catering costs will be covered. Please get in touch if you can help.

No After School Club Fri 31st Jan - Battle & Langton Primary School has an INSET day this Friday, so we will not be running After School Club. 4:12 Friday will run as usual.

Crèche at 10:45am - We seek more volunteers to work with the youngest in our fellowship. Sessions include a Bible story, a simple craft activity, and a whole lot of FUN! Please contact the office if you can help.

Friday Lunch Club - We are delighted to say that we have been able to fill the vacancy

for assistant cook, so the teams are complete!

Foodbank: Two requests: first, we need more volunteers on Tuesdays from 10am to help sort out the food donations. Second, we have been busy over the past two weeks and would like to start receiving limited amounts of food again. We would be very grateful if you could donation only the items requested, as we still have very large amounts of other foods. We would be pleased to receive: vegetables, cold meat, fish, rice pudding, sponge pudding (all tinned); rice, dog food, and basic toiletries (toothpaste, soap, shampoo, shower gel, toilet paper).

SOLID camp, 3rd - 5th July - Thank you to those people who offered to act as leaders for this trip. We have a planning meeting this Monday (27th Jan) at 7.30pm in the Youth Room.

Church Meeting

Our next Church Meeting will take place on Thursday 13th February at 7.30pm in the chapel.

Christmas offering

Over Christmas, £560.80 was donated for Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. Thank you!

Men's breakfast

Join us for a fab fry-up and fine fellowship on Sat 15th Feb at 8am! Speaker: Mark Hirst; Cost: £4 Sign up in the office.

What's on this week....

The Caterpillar Pre-School is open Monday to Friday

Sunday 26th January

- 8am-8.30am **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** ● 5pm - 6pm **Youth Gathering** in the youth room ● 6pm **Encounter** in the Chapel

Monday 27th January

- 9am - 11.30am **Caterpillar Parents and Toddlers**
- 10.30am - 12noon **Alpha** in the Youth Room
- 3.45pm - 5.15pm **Chosta** in the Youth Room
- 7.30pm - planning meeting for **SOLID** in the Youth Room

Tuesday 28th January

- 9.15am **Prayer-for-Healing Group** (prayer room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come
- 10.30am -11.45am **Walking Football** at the Rec
- 2pm **Tuesday Fellowship** (speaker: Andy Garlick)
- 7pm - 9pm **Alpha** in the Manna House

Wednesday 29th January

- 6pm - 8pm **BBFC** training at Claverham 3G
- 5pm - 5.45pm **The Tent** in the Chapel

Thursday 30th January

- 9am - 11.30am **Caterpillar Parents and Toddlers**

Friday 31st January

- 7.30am **Early Morning Prayers** in the Youth Room
- 10.30am **Coffee Club** in the youth room
- 7pm-9pm **4:12 Youth Club** for teens

Sunday 2nd February

- 8am-8.30am **Breakfast** in the Manna House
- 8.20am **Pre-meeting Prayers** in the prayer room
- 8.45am **Chapel Gathering** with Communion
- 10am **Refreshments** in the Manna House
- 10.20am **Pre-meeting Prayers** in the prayer room
- 10.45am **Chapel Gathering**
- 5pm - 6pm **Youth Gathering** in the youth room
- 6pm **Encounter** in the Chapel