

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



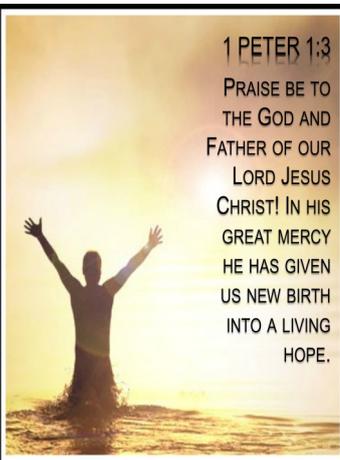
16th February 2020

'Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the Lord delivers them in times of trouble.'

Psalm 41:1

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2



A new commandment

Most of us probably cottoned on to the fact that Friday was Valentine's Day – maybe because Royal Mail had to recruit extra staff to get your post to you or because you were looking for a birthday card in the shop but found them relegated to the back shelf. For some of us it's a day to show how much we love those close to us but for others it's a reminder of those we miss terribly.

The Bible as we know has an awful lot to say about love and I think we all know this isn't about flowers and chocolates: it's something which can be a whole lot more difficult. Jesus said, 'Love your neighbour as yourself (that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for others)' (Matt 22:39 AMP).

He also said 'I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too are to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love and unselfish concern for one another' (John 13:34-35 AMP).

I like to use the amplified version because it gives us a little bit more on the meaning of the words in the original language, which can sometimes be lost in translation. What stands out here is the message of 'unselfish concern'. Jesus also went as far as to tell his disciples to 'love your enemies' and 'pray for those who mistreat you' (Luke 6:27-28). He knew their enemy was the Roman empire where Caesar was lord, not Jesus, and the mistreatment meant appalling torture and death for some of them later on. Although here in Sussex this kind of persecution is unlikely to happen to us (!), we all know people that are hard to love. I came across an acrostic for love which is worth sharing:

L — let be
O — overlook
V — become vulnerable
E — emancipate

Let be: This means to accept things as they are without complaining at what God allows to take place. Don't try to knock down a door that is suddenly closed to you or to justify yourself. Let God work for you.

Overlook: This refers to the behaviour of sometimes rude, thoughtless people who may insult you or accuse you. At first you feel like getting even by doing the same thing to them but Jesus said to "turn the other cheek" (Matthew 5:39).

Vulnerable: Become vulnerable. Be willing to look like an idiot and don't always feel you have to defend yourself. Be willing to become a nobody. Be willing to lose your reputation among your peers and others. But always remember this, "we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One" (1 John 2:1). If you're innocent he will take care of it—and he will also take care of your accusers as well (Romans 12:18-19.)

Emancipate: This is probably the hardest to apply. This means you say what it takes to set them free because if they are wrong about you, they will come under the conviction of the Holy Spirit and be embarrassed. You will know it and so will they. Instead of saying, "I told you so," let them save face and never mention the offence again. After all that is what God has done for us (Psalm 103:11-12).

May the Lord bless you today!

Shirley



Fixtures Sat 22nd Feb
1sts: Bethel Utd (H)
(National Christian Cup)
2nds & 3rds: (no game)

PRAYER POINTERS

Caterpillar pre-school

Pray that the staff and the children will have a restful and illness-free break over half term. Pray for the Trustees: Glenys, Sam, John and Ed; and for Paul in his new role as Chair.

4:12 Friday

Tim, Caroline and the team would really value your prayers for the youth club. It would be great if some could commit to pray for a time whilst the club is actually running (7pm-9pm).

For those in need...

There are a number of people within our Fellowship who are struggling physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Please hold them in your prayers and offer support when you can.

NEWSLETTER

16th February 2020

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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

The Kakish family: We have just received January's newsletter from the Kakishes - ask Steve for a copy if you would like to read it.

Request for help - The Tuesday evening Alpha course is going well with 15 people attending. We are very grateful to those who have offered to cook - all meals are now covered - but we could really do with more help washing up. If you could help with this from 7.30pm - 8.30pm (latest), please get in touch with the office.

Calling all young football fans! BBFC is seeking to recruit ball boys and girls to help the smooth-running of their games on Saturday afternoons. £5 paid per game. Speak to Andy or Phil for more info.

Election of President of BU for 2021-22: At Thursday's meeting Ed explained that, as a church, we have two votes to cast in this election (go to <https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/250288/Elections.aspx> for more details). Please prayerfully consider which

candidate you would like to support, and let Jo know by 15th March. We will share the outcome of this in due course.

Crèche at 10:45am - We are looking for 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.

Sunday Club - Our topic for this term is 'The Fruits of the Spirit': today we will be looking at 'peace'.

SOLID camp, 3rd - 5th July - There are eleven spaces left on the trip to this popular and exciting camp (cost: £80 per child). The deadline for applying for places is 15th March - please speak to Andy or Tim if you would like more information.

Staff team: Ed and Andy are on holiday next week. Jo is off from Monday - Wednesday. The office will be open on Thursday and Friday.

BBC Youth

Search for 'youth @ Battle Baptist Church' on [Facebook](#) to find out latest news for Chosta, Shent, 4:12 Friday & Sunday sessions.

REAL Women

Details of social events for 2020 are available on a flyer. Circle 28th March in your diary for ten pin bowling!

Sunday 1st March

The 10am service on 1st March will be the first Whole Church gathering of 2020. We will share Communion together.

What's on this week....

The Caterpillar Pre-School is closed this week for half term

Sunday 16th February

- 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** with Communion
- 5pm - 6pm **Youth Gathering** in the youth room
- 6pm **Encounter** in the Chapel

Tuesday 18th February

- 10.30am - 11.45am **Walking Football** at the Rec

Wednesday 19th February

- 10am - 1.30pm **Games Emporium** in the Manna House
- 6pm - 8pm **BBFC** training at Claverham 3G

Friday 21st February

- 7.30am **Early Morning Prayers** in the Youth Room

Sunday 23rd February

- 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 **All-age Chapel Gathering**
- 5pm - 6pm **Youth Gathering** in the youth room
- 6pm **Encounter** in the Chapel