

# Battle Baptist Church

## Being Transformed Together



8th March 2020



The first Lent Lunch takes place this Wednesday, 11th March, at **St Mary's** from 12 noon.

'No, this is the kind of fasting that I want: free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.'

Isaiah 58:6-7

Earlier this week I had a conversation with an elderly lady who was burdened in her spirit. She said that her adult children don't have much time for her, and their standards and values are very different from hers. Not such an unusual story! But then she surprised me by suddenly saying, "It must be my sin." I gently enquired as to what she meant and found that she believed she had been a bad mother and that therefore she had brought this on herself. Although she was a Christian, she clearly hadn't understood the fullness of what Jesus has done for all of us and that she is abundantly loved and set free from any past shortcomings. It was a delight to see the smile on her face as I explained just how much Jesus loves her and that she doesn't need to carry a burden of guilt anymore.

Also this week, I had a conversation with a good friend in which she questioned me about something I had said, showing some irritation. She wasn't pointing the finger or correcting me, just enquiring where my reaction came from and what its significance might be. Was I upset? No, not at all, because for me, that is part of what intentional friendship, or discipling, is all about. I want and need someone to help me address the issues that come up in my life.

What joins these two incidents? Well, in the first instance I couldn't help reflecting that if that lady had had a good trusted Christian friend to whom she could have opened up, maybe she could have been released from her

burden some time ago. Secondly I thought how blessed I am that for significant parts of my life there have been godly friends who cared enough to help me see where things could be improved.

Tony Horsfall, in his book 'Mentoring for Spiritual Growth' says, "*Spiritual friendship opens up the possibility of true dialogue – not just of conversation, but the sharing of our innermost being. This in itself is healing and liberating. When we lend a listening ear we are providing the opportunity for people to get in touch with their longings and desires, their hopes and dreams, their fears and insecurities. As we listen to them we are also listening to God, for what we are seeking is to hear and recognise the voice of God in the midst of our ordinary lives*" (p39).

Of course, we need to develop trust before we open up to a friend, and we need to learn to listen, but what a blessing it can be and what a great way it provides to avoid some of the pitfalls in life. If there isn't a close friend you feel you could share with at present, why not ask the Lord to lead you to someone you could grow to trust. Let's help each other along the way, as we all try to follow Jesus.

If you want help in this area, please speak to Ed, Emma or myself.

Be blessed!

Chris Doust

## PRAYER POINTERS

### Holy Land

Later this month, Ed travels to Israel to visit the Kakish family. Pray that the trip will be a blessed time for all. Ask that God will continue to work powerfully through the work of RCO Ministries.

### Churches together

Thank the Lord for positive relationships between our local churches. May events planned for Lent strengthen such ties. Pray that together we will witness to our local community.

### Saxonwood

Pray for the Saxonwood team, as they prepare and deliver their fortnightly services. May the residents sense the love of the Lord and the power of his Spirit among them.

WHATEVER YOU DID FOR  
ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE  
BROTHERS & SISTERS  
OF MINE,  
YOU DID FOR ME.

Matthew 25:40



# NEWSLETTER

8th March 2020

**Battle Baptist Church**  
*Being Transformed Together*

Battle Baptist Church is part of Life with Hope Trust; registered charity 1134288, Mount Street, Battle,

East Sussex TN33 0EG.

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## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Nomination of Trustees** - Please be prayerfully considering who from within our existing Elders and Deacons should be nominated as a Trustee of Life With Hope Trust. If you wish to nominate someone, please complete the form that has been circulated and hand it in to the office. We can vote in up to three more Trustees. The vote will take place at the AGM on 22nd April.

**After School Club** - We are looking for an additional volunteer to help staff this popular club for children aged 7-11 years. Children have the chance to play games, enjoy crafts, chill out, and of course, learn about Jesus. Speak to Tim if you can help.

**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.

**Churches together in Battle (CTIB)** - In addition to the Lent Lunches shared with fellow Christians in Battle, the Roman Catholic Church is hosting a Lent Taizé evening for CTIB on Tuesday 10th March from 7pm. All welcome.

**Looking ahead to Easter** - Here is an outline of the gatherings planned for Holy Week:

- 6th - 9th April - Prayers at 8am followed by breakfast (all at St Mary's);
- Maundy Thursday (9th): Communion 8pm
- Good Friday (10th): Gathering 9am, followed by refreshments;
- There will be no Walk of Witness this year;
- Easter Sunday (12th): Gatherings with Communion at 0845 and 1045; Screening of a film at 6pm.

### AGM

Our AGM will be held here on Wednesday 22nd April, starting at 7.30pm.

### Caterpillar Toddlers

There will be no Parent and Toddler group this Thursday.

### 40Acts

Every Lent, 40Acts challenges us not just to 'give stuff up' but to be radically generous too.

Look [here](#) for inspiration.

## What's on this week....

The Caterpillar Pre-School is open Monday to Friday

### Sunday 8th March

- 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 9th March

- 9am - 11.30am **Caterpillar Parents and Toddlers**
- 10.30am - 12noon **Alpha** in the youth room
- 3.45pm - 5.15pm **Chosta** in the youth room

### Tuesday 10th March

- 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: Frances Munro)
- 7pm - 9pm **Alpha** in the Manna House

### Wednesday 11th March

- 10am - 1pm **Art and Crafts** in the Manna House

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

### Thursday 12th March

- 3.30pm **Service at Saxonwood**

### Friday 13th March

- 7.30am **Early Morning Prayers** in the youth room followed by DIY breakfast
- 10.30am **Coffee Club** in the youth room
- 12.30pm - 2pm **Friday Lunch Club** in the Manna House
- 3.15pm-5pm **After School Club** for years 3-6
- 7pm-9pm **4:12 Youth Club** for teens

### Sunday 15th March

- 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