

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



21st June 2020



Best laid plans and all that...

This weekend, another team from the church were due to be many miles from 1066 country, in the Holy Land. Building on the trips over the previous three years, we were meant to be in Ramallah. Based at 'The Home of New Life', this coming week was to be spent helping to deliver one of the Vacation Bible Schools that is run annually at this time of year.



As with many things in 2020, much has not quite worked out as we had hoped.

Now I am all too conscious that all of us have had to deal with the disappointment of cancelled plans. As we celebrated the New Year, waving farewell to 2019, very few of us I'm guessing had any idea what was in store – no concept of how things would change and the impact it would have upon us all. Because it's not the case that a mere few have seen their lives put on hold or turned upside down: globally we have all been hit by the effects or fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the world, we have been focusing on an issue that transcends all boundaries.

Now some plans that were in place for 2020 have simply been postponed, put off until a future date. Many sporting activities fall into this category - thus the 2020 Olympic Games will be happening in 2021. Various events and activities have 'gone online' in a way we've never seen before. Other events, celebrations and occasions have had to be deferred indefinitely - perhaps never to happen at all.

I'm reminded of the conversation written by J. R. R. Tolkien in his book *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*, between Frodo and

Gandalf. Frodo is potentially echoing the thoughts of many at this time, and Gandalf offers wise counsel and guidance on our response:

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo.

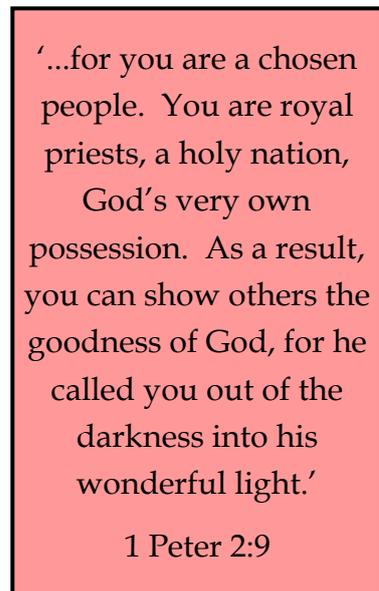
"So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

Writing in 1 Corinthians 12, Paul reminds us that we are all equipped and gifted by God - by the same Spirit, but uniquely for who we are and for all that we will face. The question remains, though, how will we respond? How will we respond to the challenges of the virus and its ongoing impact? What is our response to questions being raised about racism in our society and elsewhere? These are both areas that I myself am beginning to explore and seek God over. My prayer is that I can give myself completely to him, on the constant path seeking to be transformed for his glory.

Whatever may or may not be going according to plan at present for us, can I encourage us to be praying for the Kakish family and the churches in Ramalah and Ramla. To continue to be pressing into the truth of John 15 and what it means for us to remain in Jesus. Above all may we respond to God's direction, his leading and guidance in all that is ahead - whether we're expecting it or not.

Be blessed and may he fill you afresh.

Ed Jones



PRAYING FOR...

The health of our world

- We pray for all those who have been, and are continuing to be, affected by COVID-19.
- We pray for those who are particularly fearful at the moment.
- We pray for the most vulnerable and isolated in our neighbourhoods.
- We pray for the medical staff on the front line of care, we pray that they will be sustained physically, emotionally and spiritually in the coming weeks.
- We pray for those leading the response to COVID-19 across the world.
- We pray in the name of 'him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine'. (Ephesians 4:20)

NEWSLETTER

21st June 2020

Battle Baptist Church
Being Transformed Together

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

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 — update for BBC: The church premises are **not** currently open for private prayer, but this is under review. You are probably aware that the chapel is used daily by Caterpillar Pre-school and is not set up with chairs at the ready. The prayer room is currently set up for recording worship and for Sunday broadcasts. Be reassured that the Leadership is up-to-date with the latest advice, and will make changes when it is practical to do so.

Requests for prayer: Please pray for Joan Amos: a slight shadow has been found on her liver. Pray that God will use this week's chemo to be as effective as possible. Please pray for Sylvia Gardner—both legs are currently very painful and need treatment. A quick appointment would be perfect. And please also pray for Joy & Anna Wilkinson as they have to make the difficult, five hour journey to and from Anna's college in the West Country each Sunday and Friday by train. Any

suggestions for easing the stress of this would be welcomed.

Scattogories: THIS TUESDAY, 23rd June, 7pm—8pm: Join us for an hour of fun for all the family! Hosted by Tim Fudge and John Southam (via Zoom), the winners will be crowned BBC Scattogories Champions for June 2020! You can play as an individual, or as a team. Contact Tim and John via the [Church Office](#) if you would like to join in.

R.E.A.L. Women: We are meeting to chat each Tuesday morning at 10am via Zoom. Go to our Facebook page to find the details you need.

Financial Hardship: We recognise that due to the current lockdown there may be some in our Church family who are experiencing greater financial hardship. Please contact either Ed, Rita or Charles in the strictest confidence to explore what support may be available.

Pray for...

Political and community leaders as they seek to navigate a way through the pain caused by some aspects of our history.

Pray for...

Children and young people as they face the uncertainty of what school, college or university might look like in September.

Pray for...

Christian churches in the UK—that they will continue to make innovative connections with more people as lockdown eases.

A guide to personal devotions

While we are not meeting collectively, why not use this guide for your personal devotions?

Pause, be still and invite God to meet you afresh, filling you by His Holy Spirit.

Pray giving thanks for all God's goodness

Worship

If you have a Worship CD, DVD or the means to go online and listen to something why not play a worship song, you don't have to sing along if you're not comfortable doing so or can't: simply listen to the words

Read a Psalm

The Psalms are a great source of hope and help, written in good times and bad. Pick one; read it through slowly. Pause. Read it through again.

What is God saying?

Give space allowing time for God to speak. What is he saying? Is he speaking to you personally or is it a message for the wider church?

Prayers for others

1) Use the prayer on the reverse side of this. It is taken from the Baptist Together website and their call to prayer in response to the Coronavirus. They rightly encourage us to play in being a Beacon of Hope at the moment. They remind us that our neighbours and communities need love, hope, peace and an eternal perspective and we can offer this in abundance, in the name of Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:18).

2) Pray for different ministries of the church, even though they are not meeting at this time. Think of the different people who usually attend and the reasons and aims of the activities.

3) Using the church members' directory take a page a day, and pray through the names.

Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is a great resource that Jesus gave us.

Grace

Why not conclude by saying the grace, as we often do when we gather together, only picture those you would usually be looking at, as you say it?