

# Battle Baptist Church

## Being Transformed Together



31st May 2020—Pentecost

Thou art worthy,  
*O Lord*  
to receive glory  
and honour  
and power:  
for thou hast  
created all things,  
and for thy pleasure  
they are and  
were created.

Revelation 4:11

'Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.'

I Corinthians 6:19,20 ESV

Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God.  
May your gracious  
Spirit lead me forward  
on a firm footing.  
Psalms 143:10 NLT

WHERE THE  
SPIRIT OF  
THE LORD IS  
THERE IS  
FREEDOM  
2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

### Many happy returns

There have been many amazing 'good news' stories that have come out over recent weeks. One of the most notable has to be that of 'Captain Tom'. On the 30th April he turned 100, having completed 100 laps of his garden prior to the big day. This was in the hope of raising £1000 for NHS charities. He went on to raise far more, topping £32m! Made an honorary colonel as a birthday present, he has now also been recognised with a knighthood.

Birthdays are those moments when we tend to look back across the last year or as in the case of 'Captain Tom' probably much further. Some make a big song and dance, others try to simply let them pass by unannounced and noticed by no one. Others have set routines and things they like to do. For my 30th birthday, my mum created a book with a photo for each of those first 30 years. It's interesting looking back, recalling different celebrations, in numerous places, with various folk.

Pentecost Sunday can often be referred to as the birth of the church. As the Holy Spirit fell on the believers in that upper room, their lives and the world around them was once again changed forever. Jesus had said to them:

*"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 1:4-5)

I wonder what they thought was coming? Had they pieced together the parts of the puzzle? Would they have been ready for the power of God to fall - are we ever? In that moment, what seemed to be tongues of fire separated

and came to rest on each of them - they were never to be the same again. They were to go out, transformed by the power of God, no longer the timid, often confused and questioning group of individuals: no; now they were ready to respond to the commission Jesus had set before them:

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28:19-20)

The key thing to remember is that yes, birthdays are about remembering the day we first chose to say hello to planet earth, however I believe they also serve as markers, as we move forward on into the ever-unfolding adventure of life.

Where Pentecost Sunday is concerned, we look back; we remember; we celebrate that awesome moment when God's Holy Spirit fell. We also recognise that the story isn't over yet, and by God's grace he invites each of us to be a part of it. May we not simply look back or mark another year that has passed, may we seek God to fall afresh on us in his power once more.

We can't gather in the same place this weekend, but where God is concerned that does not matter. He has never been and nor will he ever be bound by physical or geographical restrictions. He is the sovereign Lord of all, and he is on the move!

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

31st May 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.

• Website: [www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk)

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### Pray for...

BMS staff working abroad who are contributing to the fight against COVID-19 in some of the world's poorest communities.

### Pray for...

Caterpillar Pre-School staff and those children returning to the nursery this week. That the children will adapt after such a long break.

### Pray for...

Our local community, especially businesses as many prepare to re-open. May we be beacons of God's love in our town.

## 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?

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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.

Here's the link: <https://soundcloud.com/ian-barnett-829364944/sets/to-be-a-pilgrim>

### A Prayer for Pentecost:

Faithful God,  
who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal:  
open our lips by your spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Taken from Church of England's book of 'Common Worship')