

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



27th September 2020 - Harvest

'Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things... Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!'

1 Chr 29: 11b, 14b



'Do to others as you would have them do to you...'

A couple of words stood out to me in Emma's newsletter article last week: 'being truly present with one another'. The more observant of you will have noticed that that's 6 words, but it's the 'one another' to which I was drawn.

There are so many 'one anothers' in the New Testament, and they point to a community anyone would want to join. Here are a few of my favourites - and some thoughts:

Forgive one another - massively part of the Lord's prayer; one of the steps on an addict's road to recovery; so tough to live by.

Give preference to one another - Jesus gives us no opt-out as he washes disciples' feet. Back in the day, Abraham granted Lot with the right to be the first among the two to pick the territory he desired and, as a result, Abraham was left with worse land. This clearly left him in a poorer position, even though he was the Patriarch. And I am always intrigued by King Saul's son, Jonathan, who must have realised he was giving up his royal / family inheritance in supporting David the future king.

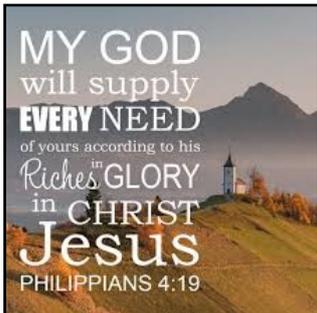
Seek good for one another - I love it when it's not the goal scorer who is congratulated by the team, but the provider. A friend in need is a friend indeed, but is that friend a jealous or happy friend when we get good news or things go well for us beyond what we deserve?

Accept one another - it's almost like we are wired to tolerate rather than accept people. Time and time again Jesus displayed a loving and accepting side to his nature that those who considered themselves to have the spiritual answers struggled to understand. It really wasn't the way they felt God would have done it. Belonging and fitting in are two very different things in Church.

Greet one another with a holy kiss - really poignant in these COVID times. I remember hearing the following: 'Early Church greeted one another with a holy kiss. Somewhere along the way it became a hug, then British churches developed a handshake then, eventually, a nod.' (P.S. I could have commented on the difference between a holy kiss and an unholy one being measured in seconds but, hey, I'm better than that!)

Love one another - 'Do you love me?' A few times in my life I have been asked this question by someone, and it can be a really difficult thing to answer when put on the spot. There is usually context to the question and the answer, whilst obvious, can be masked by the pain of a recent wound. Jesus asked Peter this question over a BBQ, but the answer was painful to draw out. The volatile leader of the Church revolution needed to understand the basis of 'love one another', before being allowed to 'feed my sheep'.

Tim



PRAYER POINTERS

COVID-19

Pray for our political leaders and for senior public health officials as they seek to curb the spread of the virus whilst also trying to avoid a second lockdown. And for those in the 'frontline': NHS staff, police, key workers.

Alpha

Please pray for all those who were attending the Alpha courses at BBC just before lockdown. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be at work in their lives, prompting them to follow Christ. Pray for continued contact with BBC.

Our community

Pray that local businesses will be able to adapt and respond to the difficult economic climate. Pray for families where redundancy or a reduction in paid working hours is a possibility.

NEWSLETTER

27th September 2020

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

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Events: Three Saturday walks are planned for 3rd October, 14th and 28th November, to be followed by a pub lunch or picnic depending on... everything! Meet at the church at 10am. The walks will be limited to six people: Rob will lead on 3/10 and 28/11; Charles will lead on 14/11. Please contact Rob (07983 666255 / RobHamilton1954@aol.com / 719057) to reserve a place.

Prayer Room: Please do feel free to come and use the Prayer Room - it is set up for socially distanced praying! Please phone ahead to let us know that you plan to come in so that we can keep track of numbers.

Foodbank: Steve reports that the Foodbank is serving an increasing number of clients, including a number of large families. Also, clients are being given enough food for seven days whereas in the past only three days' worth was provided. So, in spite of the community's generosity over recent months, the Foodbank is now running out of most

items. Please give generously if you can - it is very much appreciated.

Battle Town Football Club: Gary has highlighted two particular issues for prayer: a) Pray that BTFC will find a way to manage the growing number of new players contacting the club (only 28 places are available at training); and b) Pray that managers will be given wisdom and understanding as they make their selection decisions.

A reminder that **BBC is COVID-19 secure**: measures are in place on site which mean that the buildings can be used safely by small groups, with the agreement of Leadership.

BU 'Together' Magazine: The BU is making more of its magazine available online because of the restrictions of the pandemic. Why not take a [look?](#)

Pray for...

Our witness to our local community: how best can we show and share the love of Jesus in these times of limited social contact?

Thank you!

Thank you to those who joined the gardening working party on Wednesday. Things are much improved! .

Prayer meetings

The staff team will meet to pray for the work of the church on Mondays and Thursdays at 0930. Do join us if you would like to!

What's happening in September / October...

Caterpillar Pre-School is open Monday - Friday each week
Half term is 26th - 30th October

Children in years 3-6: Join Tim for a Zoom chat after the morning broadcast on Sundays.
Meeting ID: 886 0693 4061
Passcode: 968150

Chosta: Meet in the Youth Room on Mondays from 3.45pm - 5.15pm for discussion and cheesy chips.

Walking Football: 10am at the Rec each Tuesday. COVID-19 secure activities are in place.

Midweek Gatherings: We plan to host three midweek gatherings - on Thursday 8th, 15th and 22nd October, 2pm - 2.45pm. Primarily for people who are offline or who are otherwise feeling isolated, but open to all. Numbers will be restricted so that social distancing can be maintained: please phone the office if you would be interested in attending.

Young People in years 7-13: This Friday (2nd Oct): Crazy Golf in Hastings! It's all set up in a COVID-19 secure way. More details to follow via Instagram.

COVID-19 - Singing: Current guidelines are that a group of up to **six** people can sing and play instruments at the front of an act of worship, and that children and young people can sing quietly in organised activities if they are facing forward and socially distanced from each other.

Meetings taking place this month

Thursday 1st October, 2pm: Trustees in the Youth Room

Tuesday 6th October, 10.30am: Elders' business meeting in the Prayer Room

Monday 12th October, 10.30am: Elders' prayer meeting (venue tbc)