

# Battle Baptist Church

## Being Transformed Together



6th September 2020

**“For I know the plans**

I have for you,”  
declares the **LORD**,  
“plans to **prosper you**  
and **not** to harm you,  
plans to give you  
**hope** and a **future.**”

**~Jeremiah 29:11~**

Because of the  
Lord's great love  
we are not consumed,  
for his compassions  
never fail.

They are new every  
morning; great is your  
faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

“How much  
more will  
your Father  
in heaven  
give good  
gifts to those  
who ask him!”  
Matthew 7:11  
*in due time*

For the **LORD** is good.  
His unfailing love  
continues forever.

His faithfulness continues  
to each generation.

Psalm 100:5

### God is good!

This Sunday marks our annual commissioning weekend as a church. A time when, following the summer break and as the beginning of another academic year gets underway, we take the opportunity to give thanks to God for all the last year has held and pray expectantly for the coming season.

I love the commissioning weekend. It's not a new concept by any stretch of the imagination, but in its current guise, as it's developed since its inception in 2017, it's a chance for us as a church to offer to God all we are as the body of Christ. All the activities, the ministries, the opportunities that we have before us. Laying them all down before him, seeking his blessing, guidance, and wisdom as we head on into all that is before us. Without a doubt each year a whole lot of work has gone in to bring the occasion together, setting up the church to showcase all that goes on.

Now our plan had been very much to develop further all that we do here at BBC and in many ways that is exactly what's happening. That said I doubt any of us thought that 'develop' would come to mean moving worship to being solely online, and, out of necessity, stripping back the opportunities we have to share and celebrate together in person. We have not been able to meet for some months, and still find ourselves in something a strange season - not quite sure what the coming weeks or months will hold.

As the advert that was posted ahead of this weekend across our social media platforms as a church pointed out: 'It's not what we'd planned; this year has not gone as we'd hoped; but God is good through all things and we can put our trust in him'. Or as the Psalmist writes:

*'Your faithfulness continues through all generations.'* (Psalm 119:90)

I wonder whether there is something that we need to take hold of and truly learn from as we reflect on this year and the ongoing challenge of the pandemic. It's easy for moments of celebration, such as the commissioning weekend, to sometimes be perceived as being about going 'look at us', 'aren't we great, all that we've achieved', a moment of mutual patting each other on the back so to speak.

But this is not the reason why each year we pause at the start of this new term. It's always sought to be about giving thanks to God and seeking His blessing as we commission all we do and are for him. The heart of it for me, and I pray for us as a church, will always be about going 'Wow'! God you are so good! You are:

*"God of gods and Lord of lords."* (Deuteronomy 10:17)

*"The everlasting God."* (Isaiah 40:28)<sup>1</sup>

The "*Alpha and the Omega... who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.*" (Revelation 1:8)

May we endeavour to respond to the ongoing call to worship God, praise his name and tell the world of his love for all. May we seek to journey onwards together, young through old, into all that is ahead. May we celebrate and declare the goodness of God and its impact both now and eternal!

Be blessed

Ed Jones

### PRAYER POINTERS

#### COVID-19

Pray for the scientific teams working to develop an effective vaccine against the virus and for valuable collaboration between professionals. Call out to God for a breakthrough.

#### Caterpillar Pre-School

Pray for Jo Garlick and the team as they get ready to welcome the pre-schoolers back. Pray that settling in will go well. And pray for Caroline as she begins a regular slot with the children on Mondays.

#### Our community

Pray for families experiencing hardship because of reduced working hours or redundancy and for those families who called upon the CTIB Food Project over the summer holidays. Pray too for the resilience of local businesses .

# NEWSLETTER

6th September 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)

- Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825
- Email: [office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk)

• Caterpillar Preschool direct telephone line: (01424) 774997.

**Church maintenance issues:**  
[zionpremisesteam@gmail.com](mailto:zionpremisesteam@gmail.com)



### Pray for...

Our missionary links abroad: for Claire Grimble in Nepal; and for the Kakish family in the Holy Land. For good health and bold spirits.

### Picnic!

Join us at the Rec this Sunday (6th) for a socially distanced picnic! Arrive from 1230. Please park away from the Rec if you are mobile.

### 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...

Caterpillar Pre-School is open Monday - Friday each week

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

**Children in years 3-6:** Zoom chats after the morning broadcast restart on Sunday 13th September. Look forward to a great catch-up, a special quiz, and an extraordinary prize!  
Meeting ID: 886 0693 4061  
Passcode: 968150

**Young People in years 7-13:** Friday 11th September: meet at the chapel at 5pm. We will be going for a walk and returning to BBC to toast marshmallows over firepits.

**R.E.A.L Women:** Join us for a Zoom catch-up this Tuesday 8th September at 10am. Go to our Facebook page for login details.

**AGM - Tuesday 15th September, 7.30pm:** The AGM will be followed by a short ordinary church meeting. We will be in touch this week about the technology required and how to cast votes.

**BBC is COVID-19 secure:** We have put in place a number of measures on site (see [website](#) for more details) which mean that the buildings can be used safely by small groups, with the agreement of the Leadership. In addition to this, the [Prayer Room](#) is now open for use by individuals and small groups. Please phone ahead just to let us know that you plan to come in: this will help us keep track of numbers.

**Resumption of activities at BBC:** Many thanks to ministry leaders who have completed questionnaires and passed them to the Leadership. Ed and the Elders are actively exploring the practicalities of which activities could restart and when.

**Children in years 3-6:** Message from Tim: This Sunday there will not be a Zoom chat following the broadcast: see you at the Rec for the picnic!

**The Sense:** We are in discussion with Joy and Andy from Youth for Christ's touring

band about a youth event in 2021. Please pray for them and their team: they have just returned to work having been furloughed during lockdown, and gigs are hard to come by at present.

**Summer Holiday Food Project:** This CTIB initiative has been much appreciated - and very much needed - by a number of local families. As one client wrote, 'It has taken five months, in addition to the five week initial wait, to get Universal Credit... Things have been incredibly difficult. Knowing that at least the girls would be able to eat has been such a comfort.' Having secured some sponsorship from Hastings Direct, there are plans to organise a similar project over Christmas.

**Battle Town Football Club** need ball boys / girls to retrieve balls for them when playing home games at the Rec on Saturday afternoons. You would earn £5 per game. Get in touch with the office in the first instance if you are interested.

**Families:** Family services will be held at the chapel on the last Sunday of every month at 4pm. We start with our Harvest Family Service at 4pm on Sunday 27th September. Families will be asked to pre-book, and we hope to finish with a 'bring but don't share' tea. Further details will be available soon. Contact Tim if you would like to get involved or join in on 07906 19967 or via [battlebaptistyouth@gmail.com](mailto:battlebaptistyouth@gmail.com).

**Men's Events:** Plans are being made for a walk followed by a picnic - watch this space!

**Foodbank:** This week, the Foodbank would particularly welcome donations of cold meat; cereals (250g); tinned potatoes (400g); steamed puddings; custard; small jars of coffee; treats (bags of sweets, not chocolate); shampoo. Thank you for your continued support.