

# Battle Baptist Church

## Being Transformed Together



11th October 2020



### Rhythms and Routines

Some of you may remember that this weekend was due to be our church retreat weekend. We had planned to get away from everything and retreat into a 'spiritual well' from where we could draw on the water of life. Sadly, of course, we cannot do this currently. However, that does not mean that we can't draw on the spiritual well ourselves and still feel like we are so doing as part of a community.

As part of the theology course that Shirley, Sue and I are doing through WTC, we are currently studying the history of Christian Spirituality. I am focussing on Monasticism in the Medieval West together with the Spiritual and Material benefits that this lifestyle offered. Research has shown me that there are rhythms and routines that were (and are still) part of the monastic way of life that helped the monks and nuns to deepen their faith and to learn how to live in community with others. Work was just as much a part of monastic life as prayer, and through their work, the monks or nuns learned how to not only to work alongside each other, but also to love each other in a way that can only happen when living 24/7 in community.

As Gerald Sittser suggests in his book *Water from a Deep Well*, 'Monasteries sanctify time, as if to show that all time belongs to God... Monastic rhythm strikes a balance between two activities - prayer and work - which constitute the basic purpose for which humans were created.'

Benedict of Nursia is often considered the founder of Western Monasticism and he wrote a *Rule* in 516 which consisted of a set of rules for monks to follow. The *Opus Dei* (or 'Divine Office') consisted of prayers, liturgy, and chants or plainsong. "Let

nothing be preferred to the work of God"<sup>2</sup>. The day was punctuated with the *Opus Dei* when the monks or nuns would gather to pray, sing and read scripture together. Equally important was the *Opus Manuum* - 'the work of our hands'. Benedict believed that the tools of the monastery should be treated with as much respect as the "sacred vessels of the altar."<sup>3</sup> The monastic ideal was to bring work and prayer as close together as possible.

From looking very briefly at the concepts of monastic and convent life, we can see how important both prayer and work were to the monks and nuns. I believe that we can learn much from their way of life that can help us to draw on the 'water of life' and draw closer to Jesus. We could start by punctuating our day with routines of prayer, liturgy and sung worship. Why not contact a friend, discipleship partner or LIFEgroup and suggest that you set an alarm to remind you to 'gather' in God's presence at a certain time of day this weekend? Let us also remind each other to see God - and draw closer to him - in our work, whatever that may look like for each of us. The recent 'This time tomorrow' feature of the Sunday Services offers us a great way to start to pray that we will all increasingly see and respond to God in our daily routines.

In prayer we go to the well of love; in work we are at the service of love.

Yours in Christ,

Jenny

<sup>1</sup> Sittser, G L (2007) '*Water from a Deep Well*' Intervarsity Press p97

<sup>2</sup> Nursia, Benedict of, (516) '*Rule of Saint Benedict*' (43,3)

<sup>3</sup> Nursia, Benedict of, (516) '*Rule of Saint Benedict*' (31,2)

'What can I offer the Lord for all he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and praise the Lord's name for saving me.'

Psalms 116:12,13



'Surely he took up our pain, and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.'

Isaiah 53:4,5

## PRAYER POINTERS

### COVID-19

Please pray for all the areas in the UK where enhanced restrictions are in place. For those who are isolated once again; for students new to the area; for those at risk of redundancy; for those who are ill.

### BBC Outreach

Pray for those people who tune in to our Sunday broadcasts who perhaps we don't know. That we may connect with them and welcome them just as they are. May they respond to the good news of Jesus.

### RCO Ministries

Please continue to pray for the Kakishes and their work in the Holy Land. Pray for protection from COVID-19, and pray especially for Pastor Victor, who is seriously unwell in intensive care.

## NEWSLETTER

11th October 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

**Early Morning Prayers:** This group has started to meet again on Friday mornings (see details below): the only difference is that, at the moment, it is not possible to share breakfast with each other afterwards. Sorry about this!

**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.

### Battle Town Football Club - Prayer Pointers:

- 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);
- Pray that managers will be given wisdom and understanding as they make their selection decisions.

**BTFC Couch to 5k:** A new 'Couch to 5k' programme will get underway in November. Email [active@battletownfc.com](mailto:active@battletownfc.com) for more

information or contact Kevin or Esther directly.

**BTFC Chaplaincy:** please be praying for Ed as he completes his induction training as a football chaplain this week.

**Glynis Smith** would like to thank everyone who has been praying for her husband Rodney, who had surgery to remove a brain tumour at the beginning of summer. She is thankful for answers to prayer: the surgery has been successful and Rodney has made remarkable progress in recent weeks. The next prayer priority is that an audiology appointment will come through as soon as possible.

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.

### Pray for...

Those in our fellowship who are frail, unwell, or having to manage long-term health issues. That they will have a strong sense of God's love and peace.

### Quiz Night!

Ted has kindly agreed to organise another Quiz Night via Zoom on Friday 30th October. Save the date!

### Prayer meetings

The staff team 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 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

**Families with young children:** Our next family service will be on Sunday 25th October at 4pm. Please contact Tim on 07906 199767 or via [battlebaptistyouth@gmail.com](mailto:battlebaptistyouth@gmail.com) if you would like to join us.

**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.

**'A Spacious Place' - Thursday 15th and 22nd October, 2pm - 2.45pm:** Join us for a time of prayer and reflection together in the presence of God. 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 (774825) if you would be interested in attending.

**Early Morning Prayers:** We have started to meet again on Fridays from 7.30am in the Youth Room. Join us if you can!

**Young People in years 7-13:** Keep an eye on Instagram to see what's happening on Fridays.

**Quiz Night - Friday 30th October:** Via Zoom. Details to follow.

### Meetings taking place this month

**Monday 12th October, 10.30am:** Elders' prayer meeting

**Monday 19th October, 7.30pm:** Leadership meeting

**Tuesday 20th October, 10.30am:** Elders' business meeting