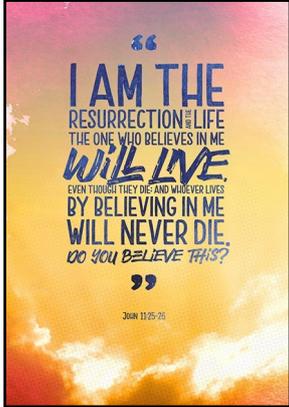


# Battle Baptist Church

## Being Transformed Together



25th Oct & 1st Nov 2020



### Spacious places

Over the last three weeks we've hosted 'A spacious place' (the name given to our recently launched midweek gathering), each Thursday from 2pm for about 45 minutes. Whilst we are taking a break this week for half term, we will begin another fixed run throughout November gathering on the 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.

The phrase 'a spacious place' comes from Psalm 18:19: the Lord 'brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.' It's a thanksgiving psalm for a royal victory, written by David, who has been delivered from the hands of his enemies and from the hands of Saul.

As David describes in the psalm, his recent situation has been somewhat severe, almost to the point of death! Yet he recounts how God rode into battle and bringing about his rescue. He was in deep trouble, confronted by enemies more powerful than himself. David describes himself as being in 'deep waters'.

We've taken the words 'a spacious place', because in part it's about creating a time and space to gather in the presence of God, particularly for those who aren't able to connect easily with our Sunday online gathering or are simply struggling due to the current challenges they're facing.

Now some might think, what a lovely idea... I could do with 'a spacious place' right about now! At this time of year, you might quite like picturing somewhere warm, sunny, and restful, with no demands on your time. A place to get away from

the wet and the cold, especially now that with the days 'getting shorter'.

Some do really struggle at this time of year. I know someone for whom the darker days and lack of sunlight really don't do any favours. They've invested in a 'HappyLight' (which isn't as dodgy as it sounds!). The gadget is described as 'bringing the daylight indoors' by emitting a bright, full spectrum light that safely mimics sunlight. Particularly powerful, perhaps, on those days when the sun seems to have to not got out of bed.

The thing is, I don't believe we should simply take the words of Psalm 19 to mean a physical space. In the wildness of life, God's presence, comfort and strength can be even more visible, tangible and evident than ever. It doesn't change the reality of what we're going through, all we're facing, the obstacles we're potentially seeking to overcome, but God's presence does give new and fresh perspective, changing the atmosphere around us.

Wherever we find ourselves over the coming days, these can be spacious places. Places of blessing and God's abundance. And if it's all seeming too gloomy and uphill from where you are, then pick up the phone, write an email, send a text, drop someone a message. If all you can say is, 'Help', or, 'Please pray for me,' then do that. Being a church family is about being there for one another through it all.

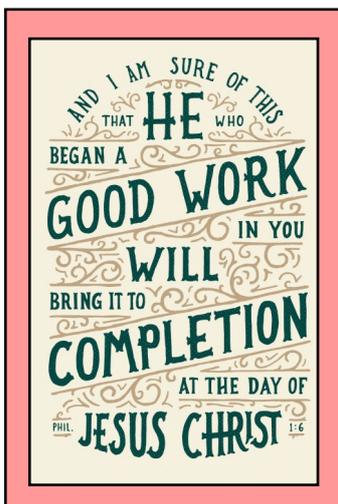
Take care and be blessed

Ed Jones



'Disappointment - His appointment,  
Change one letter then I see  
That the thwarting of my purpose  
Is God's better choice for me.'

from a poem by *Laura Sophia Soole*, pub'd 1893



## PRAYER POINTERS

### COVID-19

Pray for people who are on reduced wages or who perhaps face redundancy as restrictions hit businesses again. Pray for physical and mental resilience. That the right support will be in place.

### Our students

Please pray for young people away from their families at university: James Conway, Midge Dyer, Becca Lewis, Bethan Lewis and David Lewis. Especially for those in Tier 2 / Tier 3 areas.

### For those in need...

Pray for those in the fellowship who are mourning or struggling with ill-health. 'The Lord is close to the broken-hearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit.' (Psalm 34:18)

## NEWSLETTER

25th Oct & 1st Nov 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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(01424) 774997.

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[zionpremisesteam@gmail.com](mailto:zionpremisesteam@gmail.com)



### Pray for...

...the staff of Caterpillar pre-school: that they will have a refreshing break over half term.

### Men's Events

The next walks will take place on 14th and 28th November. More details above. Contact Rob H to book a place.

### 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!

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Men's Events:** On 14th November Charles will lead 2 hour route around the Beech Estate (meet at the church at 10am); and on 28th November Rob H will lead a 2 hour walk from Sedlescombe (meet at 10am in car park near Queen's Head). Phone Rob on 719057 to book a place.

**Prayer for World Mission:** this prayer group is reconvening on the first Thursday of each month (see below).

**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:** Give thanks to God for...

- the new players that the Club continues to attract;
- the dedication and hard work of the managers and coaches;

c) for the support that we are attracting from the community.

**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.

**Staff team:** Both Ed and Jo are taking annual leave over half term, and the office will be closed from Monday 26th - Friday 30th October. If you need pastoral support during this time, please get in touch with Rita, Charles or Shirley in the first instance.

The **Foodbank** has been blessed with donations from a few local schools' harvest collections over the past week. Tinned potatoes and packets of instant mash are still in short supply, however!

## What's happening in October and November...

**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.

**Families with young children:** Our next family service takes place this Sunday 25th October at 4pm! Fun-filled activities and worship led by the youth band.

**Chosta** takes a break for half term and restarts on 2nd November. Meet in the Youth Room at 3.45pm for discussion and cheesy chips.

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

**'A Spacious Place'** takes a break this week. The gatherings on Thursdays at 2pm will run throughout November. 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 like to attend.

**Prayer for World Mission:** Meet in the Prayer Room on Thursday 5th November at 1pm, and monthly thereafter.

**Early Morning Prayers:** Join us on Fridays at 7.30am 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. Email [battlebaptistyouth@gmail.com](mailto:battlebaptistyouth@gmail.com) to request the codes for the meeting.

We will mark **Remembrance Sunday** on **8th November**.

Meetings taking place this month

**Tuesday 10th November, 9.30am:** Elders' business meeting

**Monday 16th November, 7.30pm:** Leadership meeting