

# Battle Baptist Church

## Being Transformed Together



29th November 2020 - Advent



'A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and power, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.'

Isaiah 11:1,2

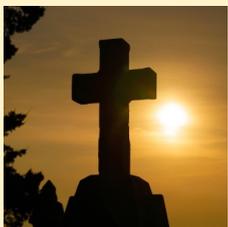
'In him was life, and that life was the light for all mankind.'

John 1:4



'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

John 3:16



### Hear the call

The news last weekend that Francis Willoughby had responded to the home call from his Lord and Saviour, the final invitation to follow Him on into eternity, brought with it a real mix of emotions. Sadness and loss due to the obvious fact that his time here on earth has come to an end, yet also relief and I believe a sense of joy that he is now physically at peace and has taken up residence in a far better place!

Now I'm aware that it can be easy to 'wax lyrical' about someone when they are no longer here. As I commented at the Church Meeting, I'm sure there will be many stories and memories shared over the coming days, weeks and months as to the impact that this mighty man of God had on so many people's lives, throughout this community and far beyond. On Monday morning I reflected amongst the leadership on one such memory, that I will share now.

So, of all the random bits and pieces in my office, on the bookshelf you will find a set of manjeera cymbals. You might think that's something to do with me being a drummer: not quite. Measuring perhaps 6cm across, the two cymbals are linked by a piece of cord and originating from India. They are more like chimes than the cymbals found on a drum kit. They've simply ended up in my office, although initially they were brought out and wielded as a call to prayer.

Francis was, amongst many things, passionate about prayer. This was evident in many ways, and I witnessed this first hand as I had the privilege of working alongside him. When I arrived at the church, the staff sought to meet to pray every morning at 10am. As I shared at his retirement

celebration it was he who would often encourage the rest of us to put down the busyness of the day, and pause in the presence of God. He would do this regularly, standing in the hallway outside the offices, striking the manjeera cymbals with gusto.

Now I know prayer is nothing new. It is not some latest marketing tool or resource to be brought in, that's 'worked' elsewhere. It is not simply a project we seek to accomplish before moving onto something else. It is at the heart of what it means to be in a relationship with Jesus Christ, and to journey as one of his disciples. It needs to be part of the foundation of all we are and all we do.

Building on that which I shared on Monday at the Church Meeting, as we look to stoke the fires of prayer afresh here as a local church; as we plan to spend time collectively seeking God's heart for the future; as we are developing the physical space that is the Prayer Room, may we do all this and more, responding to call of God:

*"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Let us be expectant.  
Let us seek the voice of God.  
Let us be ready to respond.

Let the adventure continue and by His grace, may we keep in step and keep up!

Take care and be blessed

Ed Jones

## PRAYER POINTERS

### COVID-19

Give thanks for more positive news about vaccines. Pray for those who are feeling isolated and for those whose Christmas is looking complicated. May we act as Jesus' hands and feet in the season of Advent.

### Claire Grimble

The hospital where Claire works is having to apply for Government agreements to continue its work - a long and complicated process. Without this agreement, Claire is unable to obtain a work visa (her current one has now expired). She is having to rely on a tourist visa in order to stay in the country, but this limits what she can do and her work is severely curtailed. Please pray that those in authority will look favourably on the hospital and grant the necessary agreements so this invaluable work can continue.

# NEWSLETTER

29th November 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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## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COVID-19 pandemic:** East Sussex has been placed in Tier 2 from 2nd December until 23rd December, when for five days only restrictions will relax. This means that the church is open for personal prayer only. Broadcasts continue as usual. We are awaiting more detailed guidance.

**Reflections:** Check out our [YouTube](#) channel for 'Navigate', Ed's midweek reflection on discipleship and for other material.

**Advent Prayers:** The Zoom codes for the prayer meetings on Tues 1st and Fri 4th Dec are included in the email accompanying this newsletter. We hope that subsequent meetings will be held at St Mary's in a COVID-19 secure way - but will confirm when we know for certain.

**Walking Football:** Meet at 10am at the Rec this Thursday; and thereafter every Tuesday at 10am. COVID-19 secure.

**Battle Town Football Club:** Fixtures resume

this Saturday. Subject to confirmation with Claverham, training is scheduled to restart this Wednesday (2nd Dec).

**Christmas Food Parcel project:** Correction: Donations of items to be included in Christmas hampers can be left at the Manna House from **30th Nov to 11th December**. Apologies for the error in last week's newsletter. A list of items suitable to donate accompanies this newsletter. If you would like to help with the project in a practical way, please get in touch with the office in the first instance.

**Children in years 3-6:** Join Tim for a Zoom chat after the morning broadcast on Sundays.

**Young people in years 7-13:** All activities have moved online for the time being: keep an eye on Instagram for the latest news.

**Caterpillar Pre-School:** The nursery remains open: term ends on 18th December.



## 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?