

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



8th November 2020 - Remembrance Sunday



Remembrance

As we get older one of our limitations is often the ability to bring to remembrance things that happened to us - especially if they occurred in the last 5 years! However, most of us have little trouble remembering experiences and places we visited, or homes where we once lived in substantial detail. Occasions like opening presents on Christmas morning - sitting up in bed at 5am; or starting school aged 5, and learning not to get lost in unfamiliar corridors filled with large children we did not yet know. Perhaps we have vivid memories of spending time in hospital with a broken arm or leg having fallen off a tree we had been warned not to climb...

For me, a vivid memory is of our home in Sidley when I was about 3 when two V1 Doodlebugs crashed on farmland next to our bungalow and blew the roof off and the windows in each room. I was thrown under the Morrison Shelter by my grandad as the ceiling collapsed around us. Soon after I remember travelling into London with my mum on a train full of troops in 1944. As it came into King's Cross Station, it hit the buffers at walking speed. The carriages were a mayhem of huge men in army, navy and air force uniforms plus kitbags and suitcases and me seemingly underneath it all!

About 22 years ago a group of men from BBC travelled to the former French battlefields for the day to visit cemeteries, former trenches and huge memorials to the dead of the First World War. Our pastor Ed was in the group and recalls, as we all did, the sense of deep emotional impact we felt as we walked the fields where hundreds of thousands of soldiers died, most of them aged only 16 to 25 years. It was so hard to absorb that

on that warm, sunny day of our visit such awful slaughter had taken place earlier that same century in rain sodden fields and we were so grateful we had not had to experience anything quite so traumatic ourselves.

So on a Remembrance weekend like this, what events do we quietly think about spanning the past 100 years or so? Do we have family connections with the first and second world wars or of conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, the Falklands, the Middle East or of any other theatres of war?

Why do we need a special time of remembrance? I guess it creates in us a lasting sense of gratitude to those who gave their lives, often because they had little choice, but nevertheless spurred on because they wanted to protect oppressed people who suffered, or from brutal oppression and tyranny at home.

Perhaps the most important purpose of remembrance is that we realise that as Christians we have been delivered from all that would hold us in bondage, and that bondage is not just a physical state of imprisonment, it is also the bondage of being held under the influence of Satan, spiritually.

Jesus once said to those who opposed Him... "if you obey my teaching you really are my disciples, then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free... and if I set you free, you will be really free" (John 8:31,36).

May we include in this day of Remembrance the reality of our salvation and the fact that we have been set free by the blood of Christ and that there is no greater freedom.

Keith

'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.'
John 15:13

'Yet not as I will, but as you will.'
Matt 26:39

'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.'
John 14:27

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness."
-Lamentations 3:22-23

FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN CAME NOT TO BE SERVED BUT TO SERVE OTHERS & TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.
MATTHEW 20:28

PRAYER POINTERS

COVID-19

Pray for NHS staff who are working on the 'frontline' in the battle against the virus. Pray that the four week lockdown will have the desired impact: that treatment for all conditions will be sustainable.

For our world...

We live in turbulent times; but the Lord is 'over all things' (1 Chr 29:11). Pray for:

- USA; - France
- UK / EU negotiations
- China / Hong Kong / Taiwan

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

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

East Sussex TN33 0EG.

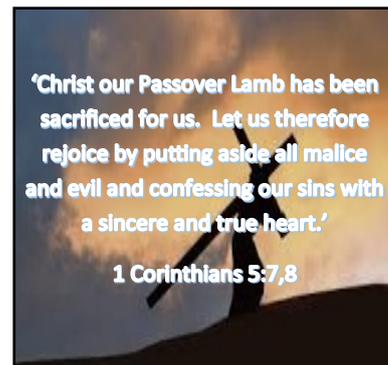
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 pandemic: Current Government restrictions mean that it is not possible to allow small groups to meet at the church. We hope to resume once this period of Lockdown has passed (ends Wednesday 2nd December).

Church Meeting: We plan to hold another ordinary church meeting via Zoom on Monday 23rd November. Papers to follow.

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

Young people in years 7-13: 'Sunday Breakout' continues via Zoom at 5pm. Keep an eye on Instagram for news about virtual fun and games on Friday nights.

Battle Town Football Club: All training and playing is suspended during Lockdown; Walking Football is also on hold for now.

Please pray that players stay fit, recover from injuries, and stay mentally healthy over the next month.

Staff team: The staff team will be continuing to work at the church during Lockdown.

BTFC Couch to 5k: The planned new 'Couch to 5k' programme will be rescheduled post Lockdown. Email active@battletownfc.com for more information or contact Kevin or Esther directly.

Foodbank: This week the foodbank would especially welcome donations of porridge oats, cereal (small boxes), tinned rice pudding, sponge puddings, coffee, UHT milk, small packets of sugar and bars of soap. Thank you for your continuing support.

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?