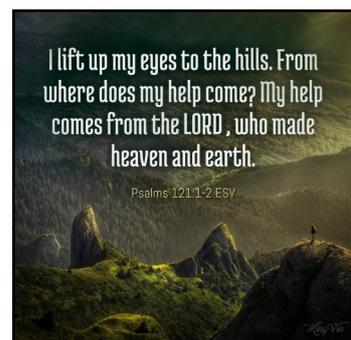
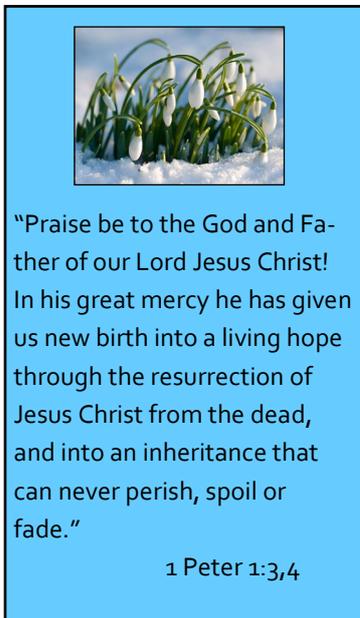
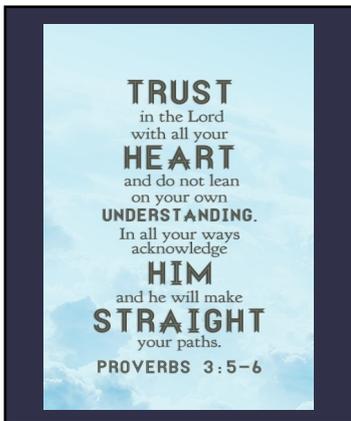


# Battle Baptist Church

## Being Transformed Together



3rd January 2021



### One

Paul in his letter to the church in Ephesus (Ephesians 4:4-6), writes about growing together in the body of Christ, the Church. He uses and repeats the word 'one', 7 times in the NIV translation. The emphasis is on the necessity for unity. It's not some optional extra, take or leave it, when it suits us to 'buy in'. It's not something that we work up too, a 'higher pay grade' or 'security clearance' so to speak. Nor is it something that was needed 'back then', but now has little or no relevance.

This is of the utmost importance.

Now at the same time I don't believe Paul is advocating that we simply lay down and merge one into another, ignoring who we each are in Christ. It's not about forgetting the impact he has made in our lives personally, the ways we have been shaped and gifted and equipped to serve him. Neither is it about simply rubber stamping what others say, our opinions and thoughts no longer being of any real value or need. The church is made up of a diverse group of individuals, that few other spheres in life replicate. That is part of what makes the church such a wonderful thing and something to be truly celebrated.

The tension between these two extremes though, can and often does prove challenging. How do we dialogue when we don't see eye to eye? How do

we journey with others who take a different perspective to us? How do we express ourselves when our preferences - which are not necessarily wrong in and of themselves - differ to those alongside us?

I believe part of the answer could begin to be expressed in that word 'alongside'. In the Message translation of the Bible, verse 4 of Ephesians 4 reads:

*You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly.*

Throughout January we're going to be exploring the theme of 'One'. What does it mean for us as a church here in Battle right now? How will it speak into our actions, and responses to all that is going on around and as this new year unfolds? Where will it take us if we collectively seek the voice of God? What possibilities lay ahead if we keep our eyes fixed on the direction He is leading?

My prayer is that by the grace of God, as we seek to follow in the footsteps of His son Jesus and with the power of the Holy Spirit equipping us daily, we will continue on into the adventure that is life. Disciples, Being Transformed Together!

Take care and be blessed

Ed Jones

## PRAYER POINTERS

### Caterpillar Pre-School

Pray for the staff team: that they will feel refreshed and ready to continue their excellent work with the children. Pray for children who are new and still 'settling in' to nursery life.

### COVID-19

Pray for everyone working and studying in schools and colleges as they prepare to return to their setting and prepare to manage testing for the virus. Pray for parents whose childcare plans are complicated.

### BBC moving forward

Pray for the work of the church as we open our doors (carefully!) again. May we find new ways of connecting with our local community so that we can share the good news of Jesus Christ for the glory of God's kingdom.

## NEWSLETTER

3rd January 2021

**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)



## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COVID-19 pandemic:** We are open for private prayer, for LIFEgroups, and for other organised activities subject to agreement by Leadership and capacity limits necessitated by essential social distancing requirements. Please get in touch with Jo to book the premises if you would like to.

**Church meeting:** Our next church meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th January at 7.30pm, via Zoom. An agenda will be sent out early next week.

**Sunday interviews:** From this week we will start sharing both *Everyday stories of Faith* and *This time tomorrow* interviews. Would you be willing to share your story? Please get in touch with Shelagh Duffill or Ed to find out more. If you are unsure

about technically being able to film yourself, then assistance is available, or if you'd rather not be seen, audio only would work.

**Christmas Food Parcel project:** Thank you to everyone who contributed: the generosity of individuals and businesses has been amazing.

**I can do all things  
through Christ who  
strengthens me.  
*Philippians 4:13***

"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

## What's happening in January...

Caterpillar Pre-School is open Monday - Friday each week.

**Children in years 3-6:** Join Tim for a Zoom chat after the morning broadcast on Sundays. If your child would like to join us, then please email [battlebaptistyouth@gmail.com](mailto:battlebaptistyouth@gmail.com) for the code.

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

**Chosta** restarts on 11th January. Meet in the Manna House for discussion and cheesy chips.

**Families with young children:** Our next family

service will be on Sunday 24th January at 4pm. Please contact Tim on 07906 199767 or via [battlebaptistyouth@gmail.com](mailto:battlebaptistyouth@gmail.com) if you would like to join us.

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

**Sunday broadcasts** continue as normal from 10.15am.