

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



21st February 2021

'How precious is your unfailing love, O God!
All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings.
You feed them from the abundance of your own house, letting them drink from your river of delights.
For you are the fountain of life, the light by which we see.'

Psalm 36:7-9

Firm foundations built on prayer

Until recently I had a sort of three tier system for prayer:

Premiership: National/international circumstances happening *now*; issues facing people I know *now* and things I have been asked to pray for *now*. Championship: Long term prayers – for people to come to faith; prodigals; ongoing illness; difficult situations. League One: Immediate and close family, and myself.

The trouble is, I don't always/often make it through to the lower positions in league one. I'm ok praying to begin with but then...

Evening prayer: In bed - fall asleep. Try sitting up; get cold (no radiator in loft conversion – bad mistake); get into bed – fall asleep.

Morning prayer: Life. Just life! Things to do; I may have to go out; children; postman... need I go on?

So I do pray, and I pray regularly; it's just that not everyone that needs prayer (namely me) – gets it! A poem by A. A. Milne called 'Christopher Robin is saying His Prayers', came to mind. It starts with Christopher Robin kneeling by his bedside, praying for Mummy and Daddy and then his Nanny, and then there's the following verse:

"Thank you, God for a lovely day.
And what was the other I meant to say?
I've said bless Daddy, oh what can it be?
Now I remember it — God bless me."

While I was praying during our recent week of prayer, an image came to mind of a building site: one of those massive ones you see in central London where a tube station is being constructed. Nothing was visible above ground,

but when you looked closer, the foundations were being put in. They were large, tall square pillars of concrete, close together, and in the middle of each one were twisted steel rods. The blocks, when linked together with a steel grid, support and hold together the whole building. Once covered in concrete, these foundations will never be seen again, but they are still there, silently enabling whatever gets built on top, to exist.

The analogy is clear, and that a foundation of prayer is essential for church growth is no great revelation, but I felt God saying to me, "How is that steel rod doing? You may be diligently building foundations around you, but what is at *your* core keeping *you* together?"

So I have been challenged to revisit my prayer times. I still pray for the immediate and not so immediate world around me, but I no longer *automatically* start at the top and work my way down. It is hard, because there is a voice in my head that while it doesn't exactly say I don't matter, it definitely tries to tell me that a coup in Myanmar or a friend ill with Covid-19 is more important than a blessing for myself. But I am learning that I need that 'central rod' of personal prayer in my life, and that the Lord is ok with me asking for it to be strengthened.

So as a church, as we begin look to the future post pandemic, my prayer is that we won't be like Christopher Robin and regard ourselves as an afterthought, but that we will see ourselves before God as what we are - children loved and important to Him. No more, "Now I remember it – God bless me."

Every blessing,
Caroline

'For once you were full of darkness but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!' Ephesians 5:8

'You are the light of the world... let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.'

Matt 5:14a,16

PRAYER POINTERS

COVID-19

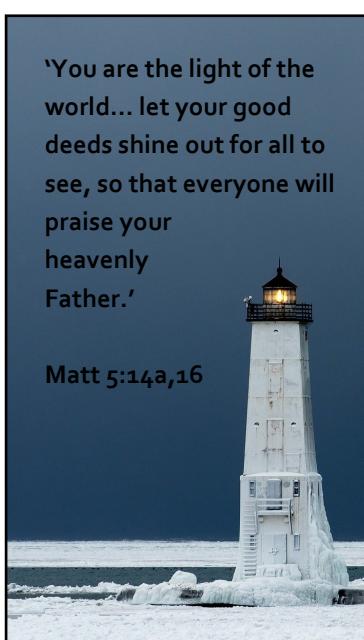
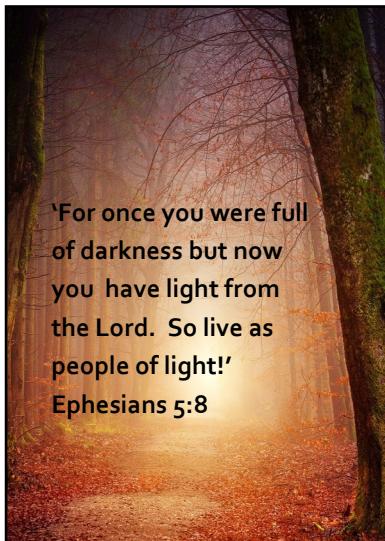
As Government and Public Health officials review the current data regarding the pandemic, may God grant them wisdom and good judgement. Thank God again for the fact that effective vaccines are now available.

BTFC

Pray for all the players with whom BTFC has a connection: the adult teams, the veterans, walking footballers and BTFC runners. Pray for Kevin, Gary and Ed as they try to maintain contact electronically. For seeds sown to begin to grow.

Leadership

Ed, the Elders and the Deacons meet on Monday: please pray for them as they seek to discern God's will following feedback from the week of prayer with a view to what our church will look like post-pandemic.



NEWSLETTER

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

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Amy and Matt Hammond on the birth of Thomas George on Friday 12th February, a little brother for Zinnia. Thomas weighed 8lbs 6oz, and he and Amy are now at home.

Foodbank: Donations of tinned potatoes, instant mash, steamed puddings and treats (sweets / chocolate) would be particularly appreciated this week. Thank you for your continuing support.

WORLD VIEW

Burundi

It's 1993. Bosco's mother asks him for a drink. She feels thirsty. Her arms and legs have been hacked off, and she's dying. The bodies of other extended family members lie scattered around the ransacked house. Carnage...

It's now 2021. Bosco's now married to Danella, and they've just had their second child, Joshua. He runs a beautiful ministry discipling widows and orphans out of poverty. There's not a trace of bitterness, hatred, or desire for revenge in him. Praise God for all he is doing in Burundi. (source: www.greatlakesoutreach.org)

Baptist Union Presidency: Don't forget to take a look at the profiles of each candidate for the BU presidency ([here](#)). Contact the office to say which candidate you would like to support. The vote closes on 31st March.

Lent: Last Sunday, Ed encouraged us to sign up for LICC's 'Working from Rest' prayer journey. Here's a link to their [website](#) if you would like to do so.

BBC YouTube channel: Here you can now access recent sermons and 'Everyday stories of Faith' independent of the broadcasts, as well as other material.

'For Further Fought...' Go to the church [website](#) to find links to resources for further study and reflection.



The [Baptist Union](#) has issued renewed call for us to persevere in prayer regarding the COVID-19 pandemic:

"As Covid-19 threatens to overwhelm our health service and continues to inflict pain and loss, we stand together with many others and **renew our commitment to sustained prayer**.

"You may like to join virtually with friends to pray, perhaps in small groups or as a wider congregation. You might like to spend time in solitude praying for our nation at this time of crisis.

"Here are some **pointers to help you and your friends as you pray**. These have been written by a senior A&E nurse in a large teaching hospital:

1. Pray for all the NHS staff for their own safety, energy and peace in dealing with each and every patient.

2. Pray for those in hospital leadership, for wisdom and for good decisions to give the best outcomes for patients.
3. Pray for patients; for healing, for peace and ultimately to fight this disease and get home and pray for their relatives who feel helpless.
4. Pray for the vaccine, that it will and is working against this latest strain of Covid-19.
5. Pray for a reprieve and an end to Covid-19.

"You may know people who are currently working in the NHS or another healthcare setting in your area, please let them know you are praying for them and ask them how you can pray specifically."

(Taken from the Baptist Union website)