

# Battle Baptist Church

## Being Transformed Together

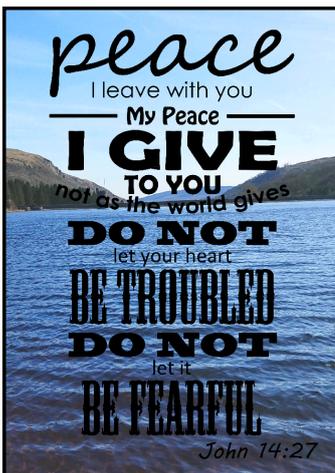


11th April 2021



“Since I live, you also will live. When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”  
John 14:19b-21

‘Therefore, go make disciples of all nations...’  
Matt 28:19b



### Distinctiveness

My Turkish brother-in-law was relating some of his boyhood experiences when he was growing up in south east Turkey 70 years ago. He had a highly respected and influential teacher who lived on a hill overlooking the village where he lived. He was in the habit of wearing a very powerful perfume such that wherever he went you could smell it as he passed. He would visit the village walking up and down the narrow winding streets making sure everyone was behaving themselves. The aroma was so strong and so distinctive that even after he had left the neighbourhood, the aroma would hang in the air so you could tell he had been there!

In Exodus 12 we read the story of the Passover. Verse 40 tells us that the Israelites had lived in Egypt for 430 years. In all that time you might have thought that they would have become assimilated into Egyptian culture and way of life, that they would have intermarried, settled with their Egyptian neighbours, and become part of their community. But in fact, they had retained their identity and remained distinct. And although some Egyptians and foreigners had joined them, they still kept their identity as Israelites. God sent Moses to rescue them from oppression and free them from slavery. Moses reminded them that God was king, not Pharaoh, which is partly what all the plagues were about. Moses kept going back to Pharaoh and asking him to free the Israelites, but he kept refusing. True that the Egyptian magicians were able to replicate the plagues at first, but their magic soon ran out long before God had finished. In the end it was Pharaoh who summoned Moses and told him to “Get out! Leave my people –

and take the rest of the Israelites with you! Go and worship the Lord as you have requested” (Ex 12:31). The tables were turned, and so Moses was able to lead the people to freedom, just as God had promised.

It got me thinking. As Christians I wonder if we make such a difference in our community? As we declare that Jesus is King and live as if that were true, do we leave such an aroma that people notice that we have been around? And as we read the Sermon on the Mount, which is what *that* is all about, what kind of ‘light on a hill’ or ‘salt’ are we being? (See Matt 5:13-16.)

God called the Israelites to be a blessing to the nations; that through Abraham all the nations of the world will be blessed. He calls us to bring God’s blessing to others too. As we declare that Jesus is King, that God is in control - not any of our world rulers; not coronavirus; not even ourselves in our own small worlds – as we live out our lives in love and service to God, and in love and service to others, we retain our distinctiveness and identity as followers of Christ making a difference for him.

The apostle Paul put it like this: “...he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God...” (2 Cor 2:15).

Steve Reading

## PRAYER POINTERS

### Human Rights

‘Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people.’ (Isa 59:6b) Pray for countries where political and civil liberties are particularly strained: China / Hong Kong; Russia; Burma; Iran; Saudi Arabia; North Korea.

### COVID-19

Continue to pray for all key workers in healthcare and social care settings. That they will have everything they need, including sufficient rest. For access to mental health support where it is needed.

### Children and Youth

Pray for Caroline and Tim as they are fable to meet with children and young people face to face at last. May the bonds that have been forged online continue to be fruitful. For our young people’s discipleship and spiritual growth.

# NEWSLETTER

11th April 2021

**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 update:** From tomorrow (12th April), we enter Step 2 of the Government's 'roadmap' out of social restrictions put in place because of the pandemic. There are two key changes for life at BBC: first, supervised activities for children and young people can resume indoors as well as outdoors. Tim and Caroline will be in touch with families about events that they are organising. Second, the 'Stay at Home' directive has been lifted, and staff will mainly be working at the church in a COVID-secure way. It is not yet permissible to gather at the church for prayer meetings or Bible study. Services will continue to be broadcast live: contact the office if you would like to book a seat in the chapel

**Ordinary Church Meeting, Thurs 22nd April, from 7.30pm:** This will take place via Zoom: codes will be sent out this week.

**Children and Young People:** Our regular Zoom meetings will resume on Sunday 25th April.

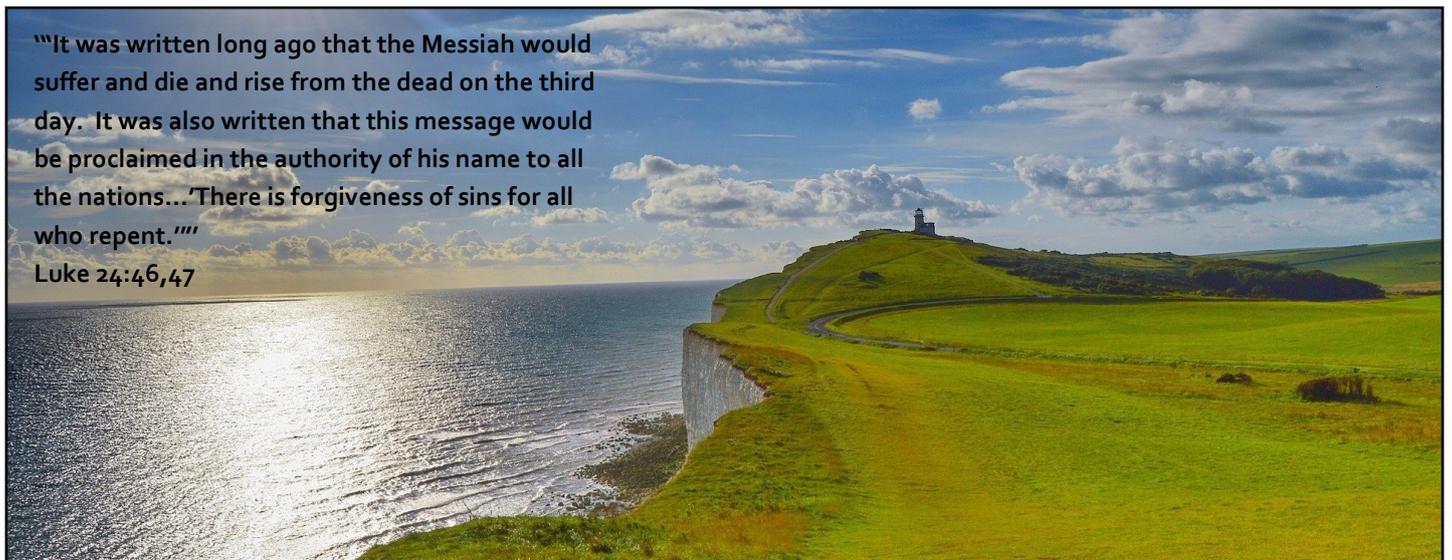
**Prayer Meeting, 29th April 7.30pm - 9pm:** You are invited to join together online via Zoom for a time of prayer. Ed will talk about this more at the forthcoming church meeting.

**Catching up?** Go to the BBC [YouTube channel](#) to find sermons, broadcasts, testimonies and more.

**Digging deeper?** Find materials for further study under the 'For Further Fought...' tab on the church [website](#).

"It was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations... 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.'"

Luke 24:46,47



### WORLD VIEW

#### News from Clare Grimble in Nepal

During her time in Kathmandu, Shanta the Sherpa girl who used to say no more than 2 or 3 words at one time and didn't want to live, seems to have undergone some kind of radical transformation. She sometimes calls me and chats away on the phone, so thankful for the new opportunity of life we gave her by persuading her family to take her to Kathmandu. The first time she called I found it hard to believe she was the same girl. The crazy thing is that no doctors in Kathmandu could find anything physically wrong with her.

She's on some anti-depressants and still has some way to go with her mobility, but has made massive progress. All praise to God for His healing and do keep praying for her full recovery.

If you would like to have Clare's latest prayer letter, which arrived this week, please contact the office.

Steve Reading

Thanks be to thee, my Lord  
Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits thou hast  
given me,  
for all the pains and insults thou  
hast borne for me.  
O most merciful redeemer,  
friend and brother,  
may I know thee more clearly,  
love thee more dearly,  
and follow thee more nearly,  
day by day.

Amen.

St Richard of Chichester