

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



18th April 2021

'Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done. Sing to him; yes, sing his praises. Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds.'

Psalm 105: 1,2



'...While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'

Romans 5:8b



'No power in the sky above or in the earth below - indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Romans 8:39

Let Us Pray...

Around 10 years ago, my church at the time launched a 24-7 prayer room where a small room was transformed into a creative prayer space for 7 days. People were encouraged to sign up for an hour's slot over each 24-hour period across that week, with the aim of covering the entire week in prayer. The 24-7 prayer movement began as a student-led prayer vigil not far from here in West Sussex and is now a worldwide organisation. The story of how it began 'by accident' and the vision of the movement is found in Pete Greig's book '*Red Moon Rising*' which I highly recommend reading, and more information can be found on the website www.24-7prayer.com.

I remember feeling at the time that there was no way I could sit in a room for an hour and pray! With 3 young children and a husband often away working, life was quite exhausting, and I found any kind of 'quiet time' almost impossible to keep up. So it was probably for the wrong reasons I signed up to shut myself away on my own for an hour, and I can still remember how I was surprised to see a sign asking me to take my shoes off, and creeping into this little room there was a tangible sense of peace and stillness. The hour flew by...

Fast forward a few years and I had a growing sense that God was asking me to do something with the prayer room here in Battle, using the concept of a 24-7 prayer space. We are blessed to have great 'prayer warriors' in our church but I know that many of us struggle with prayer, myself included. In fact, I find it both sobering and amusing that God would put this particular

issue on my heart! I recently read a magazine article by Chris Llewellyn from the worship band Rend Collective, regarding the priorities of prayer. He asks - if I believe that 'the more I pray, the better, deeper, more satisfying my life will become', why do we find it so hard to give it the central focus it deserves?' There are probably many responses to that question, some perhaps that we don't want to confess out loud, but we perhaps need to ponder over and bring to the Lord.

The 'alterations' to the prayer room were made in time for the leadership team's 24 hours of prayer back in September, with the vision of making a welcoming and comfortable space to spend time with the Lord and explore simple creative ways to pray. Although it was disappointing not to be able to use it for our week of prayer in January, as restrictions are now being gradually lifted my prayer is it will become an important focus, as the 'engine room' of the church. It looks a *little* different from what you may remember, so if you are able to, why not pop in and take a look? If you would like to book some time for yourself in there, please contact the church office. You may well have a surprising time.

Yours in Christ,

Shirley

PRAYER POINTERS

North Korea

N Korea is deemed to be the country where following Jesus is the most costly. Pray for the strength and survival of secret believers. For sustenance for those Christians who are detained in appalling labour camps.

Prince Philip

Give thanks for the life of Prince Philip and for his devotion to duty. Pray that the Queen may be comforted and that her faith will sustain her as she begins to adapt to the loss of her husband of 73 years.

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

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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
- Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk
- Caterpillar Preschool direct telephone line:

Church maintenance issues:
zionpremisesteam@gmail.com



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baptist Union Presidency: Hayley Young has been voted in as BU President for 2022/23.

Sunday Worship: Please contact the office if you would like to book a seat at the chapel for worship on Sunday.

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

Children and Young People: Our regular Zoom meetings will resume on Sunday 25th April. Monthly Family Services will begin again on 23rd May at 4pm in the chapel.

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.

Digging deeper? Find materials for further

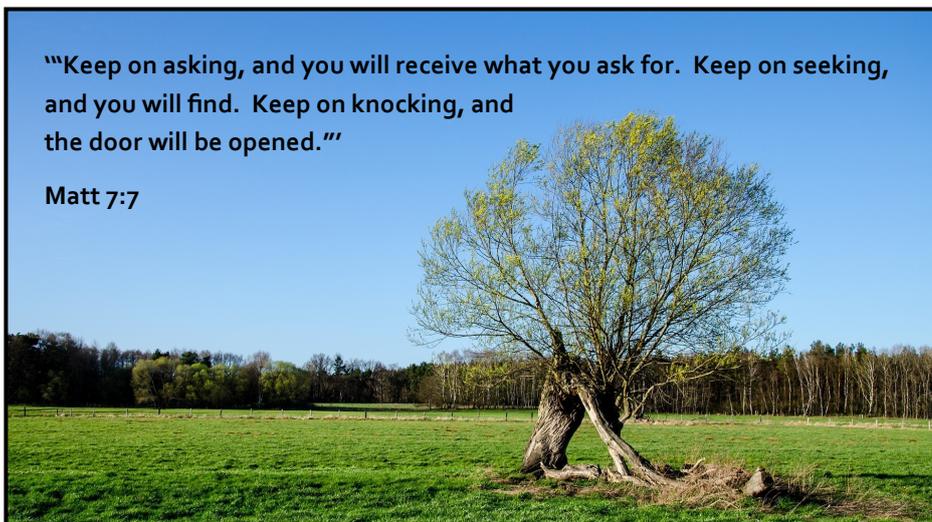
study under the 'For Further Fought...' tab on the church [website](#).

WORLD VIEW

In Islamic countries and in Muslim communities the holy month of Ramadan began on 12th April. This is a time when Muslims fast during daylight hours and nothing may pass their lips, not even water. No meals, no snacks and no smoking. For many Muslims, Ramadan is a time of heightened spiritual awareness. As many spend more time in prayer and meditation, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to them that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. However, for many Christian believers from a Muslim background, Ramadan can be a lonely time, especially those who must keep their faith secret. Many feel intimidated because they are not fasting. Pray that isolated believers will know the Lord's comfort and be

“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened.”

Matt 7:7



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) Continue to pray over the pandemic. The Baptist Union rightly encourages us to play a part 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?