

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



2nd May 2021



Getting back on the bike

Today is the ten-year anniversary of a mildly significant milestone in the life of our family. Not for us a wistful reminiscing about the pomp and pageantry of the royal nuptials at Westminster Abbey. Rather a celebration of the first time that our youngest child successfully rode her bicycle without stabilisers.

We had spent a few hours that week over at Battle Recreation Ground building up to this moment. Yes, there had been a few spills, cuts and bruises. There had even been some tears (mostly mine). But we had persevered and now finally she was riding unaided!

It occurred to me at the time how considerate it was for the Royal Family to organise a wedding for that same day, so that it would be easier for us to remember this milestone in the future.

Now, I must admit to the following comparison being tenuous. Possibly even non-existent. But is the gradual process of emerging from the current lockdown in some ways like getting back on our bikes after a long period of inactivity? There will be nerves. There will be wobbles. There may even be some tears... You get the picture.

At a recent leaders' meeting we watched a video recorded by Simon Barrington entitled 'How can we recover well?' One of the salient points for many of us was the need to be aware that people will react to the easing of lockdown at different speeds, in different ways and with different emotions. Some church members have

started attending the Sunday services in the chapel. Others are not yet comfortable doing so.

When we consider how we will be interacting with one another moving forward, I make no apology for referring again to the passage in Colossians that should act as our blueprint. This passage was highlighted as a result of the designated times of prayer we have had over the last few months as a Church.

Colossians chapter 3, verses 12 to 14: '*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*'

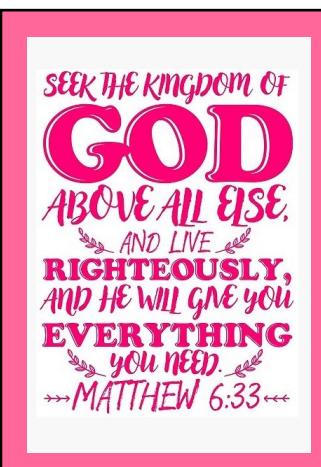
Personally, I am looking forward to renewing face to face acquaintances over the next few weeks and months. I am genuinely excited about working more with the young people at Church and reforging connections. How about when we can actually sing again together in the Chapel and glorify God!

But above all my prayer is that through this next period my conduct towards others will be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient.

Be blessed!

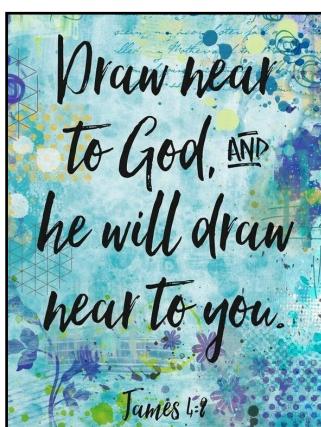
Yours in Christ,

Charles



'Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.'

Proverbs 3:5,6



PRAYER POINTERS

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan it is considered shameful to leave Islam, and Christian converts face serious risks to their safety. Pray that God would make 'seeing eyes blind' - that persecutors will not discover secret Afghan Christians. (Source: Open Doors)

COVID-19

'The only way that you're going to adequately respond to a global pandemic is by having a global response, and a global response means equity throughout the world.' (Dr Anthony Fauci). Pray for India; pray for the COVAX effort.

Students

Please pray for Kieran D, Louie P, Michael D, Ethan W, Barney D and Matthew W as they undertake assessments which will be used to determine GCSE and A level grades. Pray for peace and wisdom as they decide on next steps..

NEWSLETTER

2nd May 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
- Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk
- Caterpillar Preschool direct telephone line:

Church maintenance issues:
zionpremiseteam@gmail.com



Prayer meetings

Dates for your diary! We will gather next for prayer on 8th June and 8th July, from 7.30pm (via Zoom until further notice).

Family Service

Our first family service of 2021 will take place in the chapel on 23rd May at 4pm. Contact Tim to book a place.

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?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Worship: Please contact the office in advance if you would like to book a seat in the chapel on Sundays.

Weekly Prayer Rhythms: The staff team meet to pray every Monday and Thursday at 9.30am. Why not join us in spirit? Emma leads a weekly prayer slot on Wednesdays via Zoom from 12 noon until 12.30pm. And plans are afoot to restart early morning prayers on Fridays from 7.30am until 8.15am.

Children and Young People: Our regular Zoom meetings continue as usual on Sundays. Chosta will restart on 10th May.

Crèche and Sunday Club: We would like to offer a crèche and activities for primary-aged children at the morning gatherings from 27th June through to September. Please be prayerfully considering whether you could be part of the team providing this important ministry to the youngest in our fellowship. Contact Tim to discuss further.

BTFC Running Club is back in action on Wednesday evenings from 5th May. We welcome runners of any ability to join us. Meet at the church at 6.30pm. From 26th May we will be starting a new 'couch to 5k' course. Please contact Esther or Kevin if you'd like to take part. Find out more via our [Facebook](#) page.

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is reopening its café, Howard's Well, on 4th May, from 8.30am - 3.30pm. There will be an optional public act of worship at 10am each day in the large chapel. Residential bookings are available from 18th May.

WORLD VIEW

BMS World Mission is at the heart of the global Baptist response to the COVID crisis, working to provide emergency food relief, improve food security, provide PPE and more. BMS is at work from Afghanistan to Peru, from Albania to Chad. To find out more visit their [website](#).

24 Hours of Prayer

Join us for 24 hours of prayer from 9am on Saturday 22nd May through to Sunday 23rd. More details to follow.

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?