

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



28th November 2021



'A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and power, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.'

Isaiah 11:1,2

'In him was life, and that life was the light for all mankind.'

John 1:4



'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

John 3:16



The advent of Advent

"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

In truth, rather than feebly attempt to write a newsletter article about Advent, I could have simply copied and pasted any number of relevant quotes by Dietrich Bonhoeffer – and it would have resulted in a far more inspirational read!

But there was something about the words above that stood out for me. Three truths, if you will.

Firstly – we should not be content with how things are in this fallen world. *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled"* (Matthew 5:6). When we witness the injustice, when we hear of the oppression, we should be troubled in our souls. It is obvious that things are just not right. The world is broken.

Secondly – we need to understand that we are part of the problem and humble ourselves. I am certainly not suggesting the unctuous false

humility of Uriah Heep nor the self-focussed chanting of 'mea culpa – mea maxima culpa' whilst self-flagellating. Rather when we see how our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment set against the holiness of God, we cast our gaze down and accept our need for repentance and salvation.

Thirdly – we are not left there on our knees. By God's mercy we can look forward as we have the promise of forgiveness and an eternity spent in fellowship with Him. What could be greater than that?

All of this expressed in the coming of Christ as a baby. And that is why we celebrate Advent. It is the Gospel and the Christian experience in a nutshell.

To paraphrase Bonhoeffer: *Celebrating it (Advent) prepares us to live as people who have made a radical break with the present world of sin and death and are also preparing for the redeemed future that God has already, in one sense, accomplished. Through Advent, we learn how to live in these two concurrent realities: we have already been delivered, and yet our deliverance is still to come.*

Amen.

Charles

And now for some frivolity... Can you match these advent calendars with their recommended retail prices? Answers overleaf.

	Calendar	Price
A	Fortnum & Mason's Tea Filled Advent Calendar	£5
B	Cadbury Heroes Christmas Adventure Chocolate Calendar	£35
C	LEGO Marvel the Avengers Advent Calendar (in Argos)	£119.95
D	Whisky Explorer Advent Calendar (on Amazon)	£435
E	The World of La Mer Advent Calendar	£145
F	Holland & Barrett Sports Protein Bar Advent Calendar	£25

PRAYER POINTERS

Migration Crisis

The serious problem of desperate people trying to improve their life chances by desperate means seems intractable and incredibly complex. Pray for bold, constructive solutions and international cooperation.

For our fellowship

Please pray for those in our fellowship who are ill, and for those who have long term health issues. For good sleep and a closeness to our Saviour. For resilience and peace. For effective medical treatments and recovery.

Children's Outreach

Please pray that the real meaning of Christmas will be received by children at Battle & Langton as they engage with Advent related activities prepared by Caroline. For Year 4, when they visit the church on 6th December.

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: (01424) 774997.

Church maintenance issues:

zionpremissteam@gmail.com



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent: Ecumenical prayers are held throughout Advent on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 8am at St Mary's. Everyone is welcome!

Request for help: Have you got 45 minutes spare on Monday 6th December at 10am? Janet and Esther are undertaking training to become qualified running leaders and need to record themselves leading a gentle 5 minute warm-up and a gentle 5 minute training session on Battle Rec. You don't need to be a runner, just fit enough to walk / jog for a couple of minutes. Most of the recording will be of Janet and Esther instructing. We have a qualified coach coming to supervise the recording but are desperately short of people to take part. Please let us know if you can help (07892 877405). Thank you!

Membership: An application for membership has been received from Ewan Jones. As is our custom, if any member

would like to comment on Ewan's application, please get in touch with the Elders.

Men's breakfast: Meet at The Chequers Inn on 11th December at 9am). Contact Rob Hamilton to book a place. Speaker: Andy Dyer. Cost: £10

Christmas at the Foodbank: The Foodbank would value festive donations by Tuesday 7th December if at all possible. A list of suggested items is on display by the basket in the foyer.

Early Morning Prayers: Our usual Friday morning gathering for prayer and breakfast will not meet during Advent when the ecumenical prayers are being held at St Mary's. The group will reconvene on 7th January.

Advent Calendar answers: A £145; B £5; C £25; D £119.95; E £435; F £25



What's on this week...

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

Sunday 28th November - First Sunday in Advent

- 10am **Worship Gathering** with Communion at the Chapel followed by refreshments in the Manna House
- 4pm **Family Service** in the Chapel (in person only). Join us for craft, music, games and fun with puppets!

Monday 29th November

- 9.30am **Trustees' Meeting** in the Youth Room
- 9.30am **Prayer Meeting**
- 9 - 11am **Caterpillar Toddlers**
- 3.30 - 5pm **Chosta** for years 7 -13.

Tuesday 30th November

- 8am **Advent Prayers** at St Mary's
- 10 - 11am **Walking Football** at the Rec
- 2pm **Tuesday Fellowship** Speaker: Charles Dunn

Wednesday 1st December

- 10am - 12 noon **Renew 1066** in the Manna House
- 6.30pm **BTFC Runners** meet at the Chapel

Thursday 2nd December

- 9.30am **Prayer Meeting**
- 3.15 - 5pm **After School Club** for KS2 children

Friday 3rd December

- 8am **Advent Prayers** at St Mary's
- 10.30am - 12 noon **Coffee Club** in the Youth Room
- 7 - 9pm **BBC Youth**

Sunday 5th December - Second Sunday in Advent

- 10am **Worship Gathering** at the Chapel followed by refreshments in the Manna House