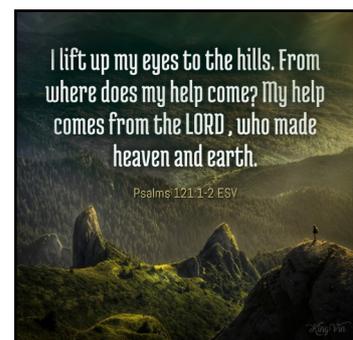
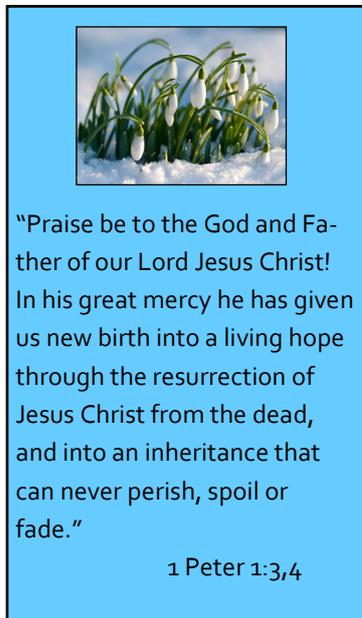
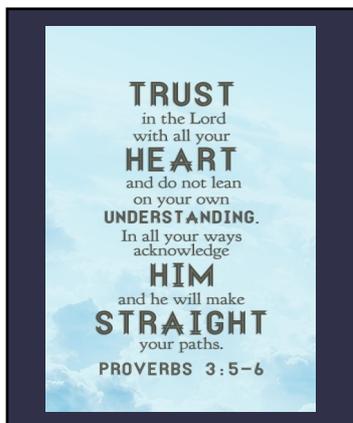


# Battle Baptist Church

## Being Transformed Together



2nd January 2022



### Happy New Year!

So, as has happened many times before, we wave farewell to one year and welcome a new one in. As I came to write this article, I was reminded of words from Isaiah 43. Once again, the language is vast and vivid, the imagery being verbally created is of a masterpiece that tops any of the 'modern day' artists. Because what we have here is not mere fairy-tale or words written purely to entertain, what we have here is the Word of the Lord! Isaiah 43:18-19, reads:

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."*

As Isaiah wrote these words prophetically to Israel, they were enduring captivity and exile. God wanted to refocus their thinking, their agenda, their perspective on what was ahead. He wanted their eyes focussed on the new work He would do. So, God says, *'forget the former things'*. If they were forever stuck in the failure and discouragement of the past, they would never be able to move forward into all God had ahead of them.

As another new year begins, are there things we need to move on from? Are there discouragements and defeats that we can't undo or pretend never happened, but that with God's help - the Holy Spirit working in and through us - we need to look beyond? Are there situations we need to bring to Him in prayer, leaving them there as we journey onward?

Through Isaiah, God goes on to say, *'See, I am doing a new thing!'* Now, we can be forever chasing after the next 'shiny thing'. Discontent

with wherever we find ourselves, longing for more than we have at present. The 'new' can become an idol to us if we're not careful, always trying to keep up with those around us, perhaps the latest fashion or craze we've seen elsewhere - them Jones'!

It is possible though to work against the new thing God wants to do. This may not be intentional: we may be unaware of it, but as the theologian David Guzik suggests, God asks the same question he did of Israel, to us today. "Will you stay in step with My Spirit? When He leads into something new, shall you know it?"

The imagery of Isaiah 43 is not merely something found via a google search, or an artist's impression of some fictional place. For Israel, between their captivity and return home lay hundreds of miles of wilderness. The idea of *'a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland'*, is a crazy one, but one that would have captured their hearts, their imaginations and perhaps made them wonder...what if?

It would have spoken to them and I believe it speaks to us too: that God has resources, purposes and plans we don't know about. Our place is to humbly seek God, trusting in Him and being prepared to follow wherever He leads us.

Here's to all that the coming days, weeks and months hold, to the journey God is leading us on. Help us to stay true to You, grant us the courage to boldly leap into all You have ahead us - that we might bring glory to Your name and see Your kingdom come, here in Battle and beyond.

Lord, lead us on.

Ed Jones

## PRAYER POINTERS

### BTFC

Give thanks to God for BTFC Runners, which is thriving. A new couch to 5k course starts this week: please pray for Esther and Janet as they lead. Later this month, BTFC are starting free football training sessions for KS2 children.

### Caterpillar Pre-School

Pray for the staff team as term starts on the 5th: that they will feel refreshed and ready to continue their excellent work with the children. Pray for children who are new and still 'settling in' to nursery life..

### Leadership

Please pray for those in leadership positions in our church, especially those who have taken on new roles. Pray too for LIFEgroup leaders, that they may feel refreshed following the Christmas break.

# NEWSLETTER

2nd January 2022

**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](http://www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk)
- Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: [office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk)
- Caterpillar Preschool direct telephone line: (01424) 774997.

**Church maintenance issues:**  
[zionpremisesteam@gmail.com](mailto:zionpremisesteam@gmail.com)



## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Dedicated email address for prayer requests:** We have set up an email address which can be used specifically to make prayer requests. Send your request to [prayer@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:prayer@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk) and Chris Doust, our deacon for prayer, will pick up your message and deal with it appropriately. Obviously you are still welcome to phone if that is what you would prefer! The email address simply offers us another way of getting the right information to the right people quickly. More information to follow.

**Monthly prayer meetings:** Ed has asked us all to prioritise coming to these meetings as we seek to build all that we do on a foundation of prayer. Dates for the first four meetings of 2022 are: Thursday

6th January; Monday 7th February;  
Wednesday 9th March; Tuesday 6th April.

**Activities restarting next week:**  
Chosta (Monday 10th)  
After School Club (Thursday 13th)  
BBC Youth (Friday 14th)

**Dates for your diary:** This year, church meetings will be held on 28th February, 24th May, 28th September (AGM followed by ordinary members' meeting) and 17th November.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

## What's on this week...

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

### Sunday 2nd January

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

### Tuesday 4th January

- 10 - 11am **Walking Football** at the Rec
- 2pm **Tuesday Fellowship** Speaker: Ed Jones

### Wednesday 5th January

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

### Thursday 6th January

- 9.30am **Prayer Meeting** in the Prayer Room
- 7.30 -9pm **Ignite** Join us for prayer and praise in the Chapel

### Friday 7th January

- 10.30am - 12 noon **Coffee Club** in the Youth Room

### Sunday 9th January

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