

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



8th May 2022

'God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.'
1 Corinthians 1:30



'But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water.

Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.'

Jeremiah 17:7,8

'Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.'

John 15:5b

'What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do.'

Isaiah 46:11b

Our God hears our prayers

Please read Acts 12:1-19.

Someone once said, "The church is a funny old thing. Sometimes we get upset over things that do not matter; we ignore the issues that do matter and occasionally make statements that have little relevance to the furtherance of the gospel in the lives of those around us who are looking in on us from the outside."

In the passage above, we read the story of Peter's release from prison where Herod had placed him and had him guarded by four squads of four soldiers. Peter's subsequent supernatural release seems to be a marvellous mixture of power, prayer and stumbling incompetence. A few Christians meeting in the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, were praying for Peter who arrives at the home and knocks on the door. A servant girl, overwhelmed by the fact it was Peter, reports back to the others at prayer but the group says, "You must be mad!" Only when Peter keeps on knocking do they let him in and then he is able to tell them of his amazing path to freedom.

This teaches us that God is so gracious and understanding of our weaknesses in our prayer lives that he is still a God who hears, nevertheless. I suppose that we are rather like that group of people in the early church: ordinary people who love Jesus and are capable of great faith and sometimes of doubt and fear as well.

In recent days and months we have been challenged to pray for those suffering from

COVID, for the government faced with a myriad of financial problems and for the awful suffering of the people of Ukraine and the brutality of their persecutors. It may be that we have become disillusioned that our prayers have not been answered as soon or as often as we had hoped or even, apparently, not at all. It is at times like this that we need the encouragement of hindsight in our personal lives and in the history of this and other church fellowships to which we have belonged. We need to recollect the people who have been miraculously saved, the moving baptisms we have witnessed, the exciting testimonies we have heard and of the love and generosity of fellow Christians whose lives have demonstrated the forgiveness of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. As we do, I guarantee we will be really encouraged.

Peter ended his life well, both as a learner and a faithful disciple of the Lord Jesus. Tradition has it that he was crucified upside down, unworthy to die in the same position as his Lord. While we don't know if this is true, we do know that this passionate, thoughtful but sometimes thoughtless, faith-filled and sometimes doubting ex-fisherman, was used to turn the world upside down and showed us all just how much he loved Jesus his saviour.

Essentially, are we so different from Peter?

If you have time, please do read through 1 Corinthians 1:26-29.

Keith

PRAYER POINTERS

Vaccine Equity

On Tuesday, the World Trade Organisation's most powerful members agreed on a proposed waiver for intellectual property rights for COVID vaccines. This still needs to be agreed by the full Council, but give thanks to the Lord for progress made!¹

Our Fellowship

Please pray for those in our fellowship who are full-time carers for loved ones. For those whose movement is restricted through ill health, infirmity or anxiety. And for those managing chronic illness. 'My grace is sufficient for you.'²

After School Club

Give thanks to the Lord for this thriving club, where each week 30+ children hear a Bible story. Please pray for those in Year 6 as they prepare to move to secondary school. Pray too that we will maintain links with them in September.

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

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office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk

• Caterpillar Preschool direct telephone line:
(01424) 774997.

Church maintenance issues:
zionpremisesteam@gmail.com

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ignite: Join us for our monthly prayer meeting **tomorrow**, at 7.30pm in the Chapel.

The next **Church Meeting** will be on Tuesday 24th May at 7.30pm.

BTFC: The National Christian Cup Final will take place on Saturday 4th June in Hemel Hempstead. A coach has been booked for supporters. Please let the office know if you would like to go. Estimated cost: £20 per person. More details to follow.

Pentecost: The joint service with St Mary's on Sunday 5th June will now start at **9.30am**. Tim and Caroline will be leading activities for all children attending.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: We are planning to hold a [Big Jubilee Lunch](#) here at the church on Sunday 5th June from noon. Please get in touch with the office if you would like to join us.

BTFC's end of season celebrations and presentations will take place on Friday 10th June from 7pm at the Azur Marina Pavilion, TN38 0BU. Tickets are £15 per person and are available from Melanie (melanie.gould@battletownfc.com / 07956 084681).

Emma Jones is preaching at Ashburnham Chapel this evening, and at Kingswood Baptist Church on 15th May.

The next **Healing service** at Ashburnham Chapel will take place on 22nd May at 6.30pm and will be led by Very Rev Lee Duckett. Prayer ministry for those needing healing will be available after the service.

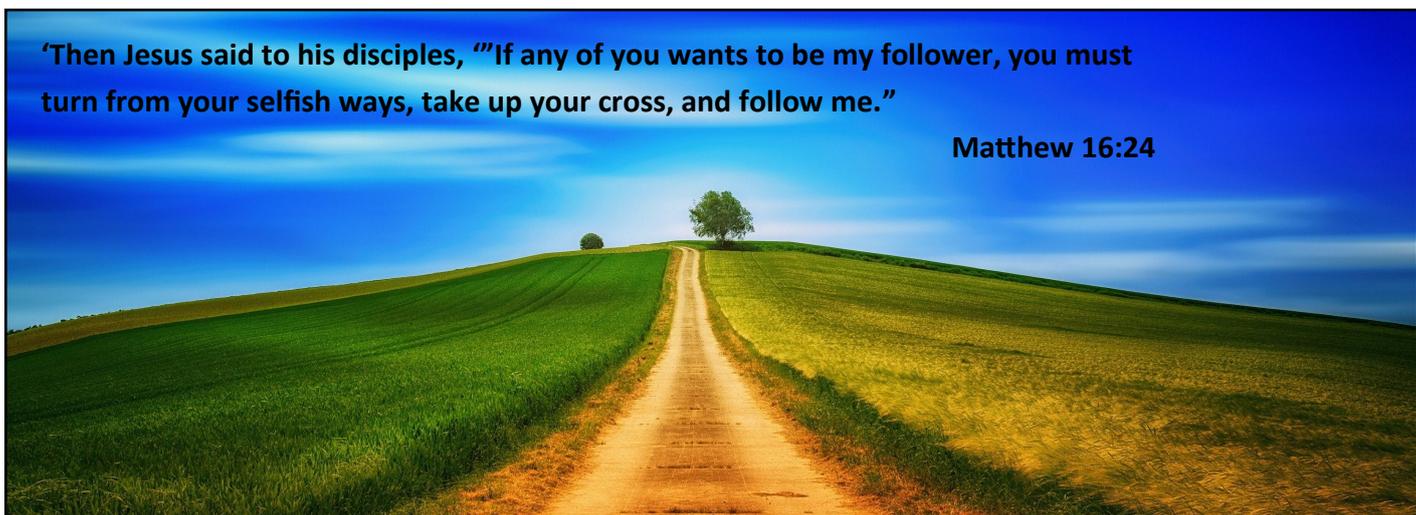
Prayer Requests: If you like, you can send your prayer requests to prayer@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk and Chris Doust will deal with them.

¹ source: [The Guardian](#), 3rd May

² 2 Corinthians 12:9

'Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me."

Matthew 16:24



What's on this week...

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

Sunday 8th May

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

Monday 9th May

- 9 - 11am **Caterpillar Toddlers**
- 9.30 - 10am **Prayer Meeting** in the Prayer Room
- 1 - 3pm **Renew 1066** in the Manna House
- 3.30 - 5pm **Chosta** for years 7-13
- 7.30 - 9pm **Ignite** in the Chapel

Tuesday 10th May

- 10 - 11am **Walking Football** at the Rec
- 2pm **Tuesday Fellowship** in the Manna House

Wednesday 11th May

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

- 7 - 8pm **Prayer Meeting** (for Ukraine & current affairs) in the Prayer Room

Thursday 12th May

- 9.30am **Prayer Meeting** in the Prayer Room
- 3.30 - 5pm **After School Club** for KS2 children

Friday 13th May

- 7.30 - 8.15am **Early Morning Prayers** in the Youth Room followed by do-it-yourself breakfast
- 10.30am - 12 noon **Coffee Club** in the Youth Room
- 7 - 9pm - **BBC Youth**

Sunday 15th May

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