

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



19th June 2022

Saying yes...

Last weekend saw us celebrate as the family of Battle Baptist Church, welcoming Amy Hammond into membership; reaffirming our commitment to one another as members and marking the occasion symbolically as a fellowship who gather week by week, young through old. It was a wonderful occasion, with a real sense of God moving amongst us. Having reflected on Paul's words in Romans 12, I offered four possible ways in which we might respond. These were as follows:

Saying yes to...exploring what it means to follow Jesus.

There is no greater decision that we can make in life than deciding to receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. This requires recognising that as human-beings we sin - we live in ways that are not as God intended. It's about seeking God's forgiveness and help to live a different way: His way. Perhaps this is a choice we've never considered, or really thought through, perhaps our response as I said on Sunday could be to purposely ask questions and find out what this might mean for us.

Saying yes to...considering membership.

Perhaps we've been a part of the Sunday gatherings here at Battle for some time. Maybe we connect in on various levels throughout the week. Church membership is so much more than simply a club we sign up to. It's about making a covenant commitment to journey through life alongside one another, to support each other, and to engage with all God is doing here, praying that he might guide us afresh to serve him in all we do. Is now the time to find out more and to make this step?

Saying yes to...re-engaging within the life of the church.

The impact of the pandemic on many areas of life is likely to

continue to be felt for some time. Perhaps, for obvious and understandable reasons, COVID caused us to step back or lessen the part we play here at the church. It could be so easy for us to allow this to simply continue without realising it. It might be the case that if we're honest, we've not engaged fully for many years. We come on a Sunday when it suits us or fits in, we help out if there is really no one else, but haven't actively thought about the part God might have created us to play.

Saying yes to...re-evaluating your role and the part you play.

The example was suggested, of how perhaps we've faithfully given to the church and work God is doing in and through us, £10 a month for the last decade. The thing is that figure might well be based on our financial circumstances 10 years ago and not now. Another illustration was how we may have been serving in the same way for many years, decades perhaps, having never asked God where he wants us now. It might be that our role and the part we're playing is still exactly right, but have we asked God what he thinks?

I felt I should remind us of these four responses, because as I said last Sunday, I don't believe we were meant to live our lives in isolation. I believe we were created to know God, to come together as his people and to see the most amazing things happen. That requires all of us though. BBC needs you: your gifts, skills, abilities and talents – the person who God crafted you to be. If you're not sure where to start, then ask, as we continue on the adventure of life that Jesus calls us to go on - together.

Be blessed

Ed Jones

'So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.' Romans 12:6b-8

PRAYER POINTERS

Missionary Links

Please continue to pray for the Kakishes in Israel, especially that the message of the summer camp will speak to the hearts of those who attend. Pray too for the Mahons serving in Peru, and for Claire Grimble in Nepal. May lives be transformed by Jesus.

Trip to Holy Land

Please pray for the BBC team as they prepare to fly out to Israel on Saturday. Pray for good health and safety. That the children will engage with and enjoy all the teaching, games and craft activities that have been planned.

'[Christ] makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work...'

'... it helps the other parts grow, so tht the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.'
(Eph 4:16)

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:
zionpremisesteam@gmail.com

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stuart Davison's retirement: Please get in touch with Jo before 21st June if you would like to attend the celebratory service on 17th July..

Men's breakfast - save the date! The next breakfast will take place at The Chequers on Saturday 16th July. More details to follow.

Alpha Course: Peter and Pennie plan to run an Alpha course on Tuesday mornings from 13th September until 13th December. Please be praying about who you might invite to this, and that the Holy Spirit will be preparing hearts.

WORLD VIEW

Colombia, South America (pop 51m):

Colombia is mostly Christian, believers still face persecution from criminal gangs and indigenous groups. Guerrilla groups

threaten, harass, extort and murder church leaders because they denounce corruption and defend human rights. Their children may also be targeted to discourage leaders from speaking out against organised crime. Open Doors strengthens the persecuted church in Colombia through Bible distribution, training, trauma care, community development projects, emergency relief aid, education, and safe houses for children.

Please pray:- for protection for pastors and communities who are at risk of violence against them;

- that indigenous Colombian Christians can remain steadfast in the gospel;

- that God will equip and encourage Open Doors partners.

Prayer requests: send these to:

prayer@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk and Chris Doust will deal with them.

“But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,” says the Lord. “I will put my instructions deep within them and I will written them on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people.”

Jeremiah 33:33

What's on this week...

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

Sunday 19th June

● 10am **Worship Gathering** with Communion at the Chapel followed by refreshments in the Manna House

Monday 20th June

- 9 - 11am **Caterpillar Toddlers**
- 9.30 - 10am **Prayer Meeting** in the Prayer Room
- 3.30 - 5pm **Chosta** for years 7-13
- 7.30pm **Leadership Meeting**

Tuesday 21st June

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

Wednesday 22nd June

- 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 23rd June

- 9am **Prayer Meeting** in the Prayer Room

Friday 24th June

- 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 26th June

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