

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



21st January 2024

Have you not known?
Have you not heard?

The Lord is the
everlasting God,

the Creator of the
ends of the earth.

Isaiah 40:28



Party time!

This weekend, as part of our morning gathering, we will be sharing communion together. We do this on a regular basis, remembering and celebrating together all Jesus did and accomplished, both on the cross and when he broke free from death's grip and rose again!

I wonder what experience you have of communion. What memories come to mind? Can you recall particular moments you've shared in? For some it will be a fairly new experience, for others you'll have been breaking bread and drinking juice or wine for decades.

As I've thought about it, I've shared communion countless times since I started to follow Jesus. I've broken bread in a number of different fields; I've passed a cup around in a whole load of different countries; I've done it early morning right through to late at night.

I've remembered Jesus' death and resurrection with people I know really well, and others whom I've only just met. I've celebrated the Lord's supper when the person at the front is speaking a language I personally didn't understand. I've used bread, wafers, crackers, rice cakes, juice, wine, to name but a few of the different items that have been used to symbolise the body and blood of Jesus.

Every time, whether I've realised it or not, it's been a privilege and at its heart has been that remembrance, that celebration and that declaration of who Jesus is and the difference he makes.

This Sunday we're going to be sharing

communion as a whole church. Even before I spent my time working as part of *Arise Ministries* (if you don't know what I'm referring to, do ask me), I believed that the invitation to follow Jesus is open to us all. Age has nothing to do with it.

The world can so often seek to separate and divide us, splitting us into different categories such as age, wealth, ethnicity, social status and so many more. Jesus though was and is about the message of hope, grace, love, forgiveness and new life - for all. Now, there is a cost involved, as we read in Matthew 16:24:

Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"

What a privilege we have to be able to come together as family and to celebrate as one. I can't wait! Jesus welcomes us all to his table, inviting us to take, eat, drink and be transformed! I look forward to seeing you there.

May we gather expectant, to worship the risen King!

Ed Jones

'The heavens proclaim the
glory of God. The skies display
his craftsmanship'

Psalms 19:1



Make every
effort to
keep yourselves
united in
the Spirit,
binding yourselves
together
with peace.

Ephesians 4:3



'And so, dear brothers and
sisters, I plead with you to
give your bodies to God
because of all he has done
for you. Let them be a
living sacrifice—the kind
he will find acceptable.
This is the way to truly
worship him.'

Romans 12:1

PRAYER POINTERS

The Middle East

'God of peace, bearer of hope, we seek your help for the peoples of the Middle East. Quiet the clamour of war and guide us towards peace... Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear and breathe whispers of hope.' [CAFOD](#)

Zambia

'A lack of access to clean water and decent sanitation has led to [a serious] cholera outbreak [in] Zambia.' ([WaterAid](#)) 'Cholera... is an indicator of inequity and lack of social development... It is often predictable and is highly preventable.' [WHO](#)

BBC Leadership

Pastors, Elders and Deacons meet for the first time in 2024 tomorrow (22nd). Pray for a strong sense of God's guidance by his Spirit. "Be strong... and work, for I am with you", declares the Lord Almighty.' (Hag 2:4, NIV)

NEWSLETTER

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Battle Baptist Church is part of Life with Hope
Trust; registered charity 1134288, Mount Street,
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A review of Christmas 2023: Please don't forget to let Ed have your views on the events that were put on during in Advent. Was there anything that you thought worked really well? We are keen to shape our plans for 2024 in a way that ensures the Christmas message is communicated as effectively as possible.

We have received applications for **Church Membership** from Dan & Hannah Golfin-Dwyer and Craig & Katherin Weeks. As usual, if you have any comments to make about this, please get in touch with one of the Elders.

The latest news from **Clare Grimble** can be read [here](#). Do get in touch with Jo if you would like a paper copy.

Curry Night: A table for 15-20 people has been booked at New Spice, Robertsbridge, on Tuesday 6th February at 7pm. Please

let Rob H know if you would like to attend.

The next **Men's Breakfast** will take place on 16th March from 9am at The Chequers Inn. The speaker will be Rhod Jones. Please let Rob H know if you would like to attend.

Prayer Requests: Email your prayer requests to the prayer ministry team at: battlebaptistchurchprayer@gmail.com.

Foodbank: Particular requests this week include packets of cereal; sponge puddings; 500g packs of sugar; jars of honey, peanut butter and Marmite; and sweet treats (not chocolate). Any toiletries, baby items and household goods are always welcome too. Thank you for your ongoing support.

The Rest is Worship: contact the office if you would like to order a [contemplative 40-day calendar](#) to accompany the book which many of us read last year. Cost: £6

'Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting light.'

Psalm 139:23,24

Image by David Mark @ Pixabay.com

What's on this week...

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

Sunday 21st January

- 10am **Worship Gathering** with communion in the Chapel; followed by refreshments in the Manna House
- 6 - 7.30pm **Worship and response** in the Chapel

Monday 22nd January

- 9 - 11am **Caterpillar Toddlers**
- 3.30 - 5pm **Chosta** for years 7-13

Tuesday 23rd January

- 10 - 11am **Walking Football** at the Rec
- 2pm **Tuesday Fellowship** in the Manna House.
Speaker: Dennis Nolan

Wednesday 24th January

- 10am - 12 noon **Renew 1066** in the Manna House
- 12noon - 2pm **Warm Welcome** in the Manna House
- 6.30pm **BTFC Runners** meet in the Manna House
- 7 - 8pm **Prayer Meeting** in the Prayer Room

Thursday 25th January

- 3.30 - 5pm **After School Club** for KS2 aged children

Friday 26th January

- 7.30 - 8.15am **Early Morning Prayers** in the Youth Room
- 10 - 12 noon **Coffee Club** in the Manna House
- 6 - 7.30pm **BBC Youth** for Years 7-9
- 7.30 - 9.15pm **BBC Youth** for Years 10-13

Sunday 28th January

- 10am **Worship Gathering** in the Chapel; followed by refreshments in the Manna House
- 6 - 7.30pm **Worship and response** in the Chapel