

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



17th March 2024

'How precious is your unfailing love, O God! All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings.'

Psalm 36:7

'...let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them sing joyful praises forever. Spread your protection over them, that all who love your name may be filled with joy.'

Psalm 5:11

'Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken... O my people, trust in him at all times. Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge.'

Psalm 62:5,6,8

'As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him. For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God?

Psalm 18:30,31

'Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you....' (1 Peter 5:2)

One of my most memorable experiences as a teenager was going on a midnight hike across the south downs under the guidance of the leader of my church youth group. As we reached the top of Ditchling Beacon, spectacular electric storms were all around us. I remember clearly seeing fork lightning in three different directions, yet we remained dry. It was exhilarating and dramatic. Before we began our descent, we were met by another leader who had driven to meet us with refreshments of warm soup and bread.

I think at the time I probably did not fully appreciate the level of generosity of service that the leaders of my youth group gave to us teenagers. These were people who had busy day jobs; most had children of their own. And yet they were prepared to give up their Friday nights to offer a safe and positive space for teenagers to enjoy social events, and their Sunday nights to lead Bible teaching and discussion after the evening service.

For me, the impact of these people on my life was quietly significant. First, they were not my parents. My mum and dad were fine – but I certainly didn't want to talk to them about anything *personal*! Second, they were people with whom I felt I had a genuine relationship: they had good senses of humour; they were up for talking about issues critical to the life of a teenager without being judgemental (as well as contentious ones without being patronising); like me, they made mistakes in life and knew that they were not perfect. Third, they were consistent and committed – they were like 'cedars of Lebanon' (Ps 92:12) in the landscape

of my life.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons why I volunteer at After School Club and as part of the Sunday Youth team. I know how much I appreciated having access to such activities when I was young; and I've seen how much my daughters value the youth work here at BBC.

On Thursdays, when the After School Club team meets to pray before another session, we often ask that the children will in the future cherish positive memories of their time with us, and that the seeds that have been sown will grow into 'trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water... Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.' (Jer 17:7,8b). We may not see this 'fruit' ourselves, but we trust that God is at work.

To echo Shirley's comments last week, children and young people value adults showing a genuine interest in them as individuals. Not their fashions; not their hairstyles or their make-up. Research shows that more than 75% of adults who are practising Christians say that they came to faith when they were children: our work with children and young people is vital. And of course, God doesn't just use us adults to grow his kingdom. My personal journey back to faith started because of my daughters. Two of our young people are responsible for starting up the nascent Christian Union at Claverham.

We are looking for more volunteers to get alongside the young people in our wider church family – might you be one of them?

Jo

PRAYER POINTERS

Middle East

'The UN has warned that 576,000 people in Gaza - a quarter of the population - are on the brink of famine.' Pray that international efforts to get aid into Gaza will succeed. For a breakthrough in negotiations to secure a lasting ceasefire.

The Mahon family

Dave and Michelle are now back in Peru, where it is summer. Please pray for them as they juggle work, family and academic commitments. Also that the children will smooth start to the new school year. More news can be read [here](#).

Easter outreach

On 26th March, year 4 children from B&L will come here for 'The Great Hot Cross Bun Hunt'. We thank God for this opportunity. Please pray for Caroline as she prepares; and that those attending will be receptive to the gospel.

NEWSLETTER

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Battle Baptist Church is part of Life with Hope
Trust; registered charity 1134288, Mount Street,
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East Sussex TN33 0EG.

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Church maintenance issues:

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter gatherings:

Holy Week devotions: Mon 25th - Thurs
28th March daily from 8am at the Roman
Catholic Church. Breakfast will be available
from 8.30am at BBC (in the Youth Room).
Maundy Thursday Communion at 7.30pm
Good Friday service at 8.30am
Easter Sunday Celebration at 10am

Evening gatherings: we will not meet on
Sundays at 6pm on either 7th or 14th April.

Warm Welcome: We will stop serving
lunches at Renew 1066 after Easter. Many
thanks to everyone who has prepared and
donated dishes over the past four months:
typically, 25 people have enjoyed lunch
here each week as a result. Particular
thanks to Shelagh and the team for
cooking, serving and clearing up.

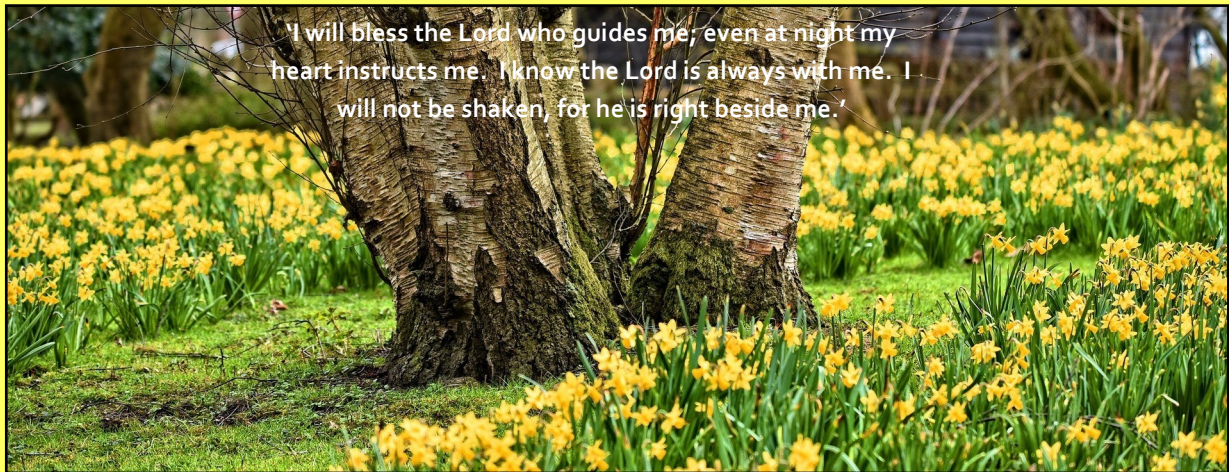
Community events over the Easter

holidays: All activities for children and
young people will take a break as usual.
Renew 1066 will meet on 3rd & 10th April.
Coffee Club will not meet on Good Friday,
but will gather on 5th and 12th April.

News from SEBA: Rev Andy Twilley has
been appointed as a third regional minister
for SEBA. He will be overseeing BBC as part
of his remit. Read a short biography of him
[here](#).

WTC Kingdom Theology event: Ali
Blacklee Whittall will give a lecture at
Ashburnham entitled 'Hidden Redemptions
in the book of Ruth,' on Weds 17th April at
6.30pm. Free. More details [here](#).

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



What's on this week...

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

Sunday 17th March

- 10am **Morning Gathering** with Communion at the Chapel
- 6 - 7.30pm **Evening gathering** at the Chapel

Monday 18th March

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

Tuesday 19th March

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

Wednesday 20th March

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

Thursday 21st March

- 3.15 - 5pm **After School Club** for KS2 children

Friday 22nd March

- 7.30 - 8.15am **Early Morning Prayers** in the Youth Room
- 10am - 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 24th March - Palm Sunday

- 10am **Morning Gathering** at the Chapel
- 6 - 7.30pm **Evening gathering** at the Chapel