

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



14th April 2024

“Sir, we want to see Jesus.”

Have you ever had the experience of meeting up with a group of people you haven't seen for years, perhaps at a school reunion or at a wedding or funeral? I can remember being in such a group and scanning across the crowd, thinking I didn't know anyone. Then, gradually we introduced ourselves and as the different ones spoke and I looked more closely, I realised I did know several of them after all. Of course, in this case, the change was largely due to ageing.

Last Sunday, Jenny suggested that, although Easter is over for another year, we should continue thinking around the different parts of the Easter story. My thoughts wandered to the fact that people didn't seem to easily recognise Jesus after the resurrection. Mary met Jesus outside the tomb, yet didn't know Him until He spoke her name (John 20). Of course, she was crying and tears certainly blur your vision. Some have suggested that maybe the sun was rising behind Jesus so His face was in shadow, or was it just that His resurrection body was different in appearance?

Then in Luke 24, we read the amazing account of the two disciples walking to Emmaus, being joined by Jesus and yet not recognising Him, until He prayed and broke bread with them. As followers of Jesus, presumably they knew Him quite well and had listened to Him teaching, yet here they walked and talked with Him for some distance without knowing who

He was. However, in this case, Luke tells us that 'their eyes were kept from recognising Him', so I guess this must be put down to divine intervention.

In John 21, there is the beach breakfast, where Jesus prepared bread and fish for some of His disciples – not just any disciples, but seven of His closest followers, including the three who were His most intimate friends. Jesus stood on the beach while they were in the boat fishing, but they did not know it was Him. Was it still too dark to recognize Him or was it just that they couldn't believe it could possibly be Him? Or did He just look different? Even when they were all on the beach together, there was obviously still some uncertainty, as verse 12 says, rather cryptically, that none of them dared ask Him, 'Who are You?' because they knew it was the Lord. It seems He was the 'same' but 'different'! As it says in 1 Corinthians 15 v. 53, the mortal had put on immortality.

I wonder how many people 'see' Jesus today, but don't recognise Him. Ed spoke about sharing the good news of Jesus on Sunday. Do people see Jesus in action, but don't always hear about the source of that action from us? Do you remember the Greeks in John 12 who said to Philip, "Sir, we want to see Jesus"? Let's pray that many will see Jesus in our lives and by our words throughout this year and not just at Easter.

Chris Doust

PRAYER POINTERS

Migration Crisis

As [more people lose their lives whilst trying to reach Europe](#), please continue to pray over this complex and seemingly intractable issue. Pray that the [new EU legislative framework](#) will reduce human suffering rather than the reverse.

Caterpillar Pre-School

As a new term begins, pray that the staff team will return refreshed and in good health. May they be equipped to meet the individual needs of the children, which are wide-ranging. For Sarah, Glenys, John and Ed in their roles as Trustees.

Our Community

Please pray for Gary, Esther, Melanie and Ed as they prepare for the Community Sports Sunday event on Sunday 12th May. That we will forge positive relationships as we seek to show the love of Jesus. For good weather, too.

'Look up to the heavens.
Who created all the stars?
He brings them out like an
army, one after the other,
calling each by name...
how can you say the Lord
does not see your troubles?
...how can you say God
ignores your rights?'

Isaiah 40:26a, 27

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FOR I AM THE LORD
YOUR GOD WHO TAKES HOLD
OF YOUR RIGHT HAND
AND SAYS TO YOU,
DO NOT FEAR;
I WILL HELP YOU.
ISAIAH 41:13

For with
God nothing
shall be
impossible.
- Luke 1:37

Whatever is true,
Whatever is noble,
Whatever is right,
Whatever is pure,
Whatever is lovely,
Whatever is admirable
—if anything is
excellent or
praiseworthy—think
about such things.
Philippians 4:8

NEWSLETTER

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

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Church maintenance issues:

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clare Grimble: the latest news from Clare can be read [here](#). If you would also like to see the photographs and other attachments that she refers to in her letter, please contact the office.

The next **World Mission** meeting will take place on Sunday 28th April, after the morning gathering. Rhod will be reporting back from his trip to Sofia, Bulgaria, and we will explore how we might support a European church community that is in need. Why not bring along a picnic lunch and join us?

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

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections: BBC will be used as a polling station for these elections which will be held on Thursday 2nd May. There will be no After School Club on this date.

Pentecost: Our friends from the other churches in Battle are invited to join us here for a united service to mark Pentecost on Sunday 19th May, beginning at 4pm. There will not be an evening gathering at BBC on this day.

Dates for your diary for May:

Day of prayer and fasting: Thurs 16th May

Social event, Sat 18th May: lunchtime trip to the Three Legs Brewery, TN39 3LJ.

Church Meeting: Thurs 23rd May, 7.30pm

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



'...for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.'
1 Peter 2:9

What's on this week...

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

Sunday 14th April

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

Monday 15th April

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

Tuesday 16th April

- 10 - 11am **Walking Football** at the Rec
- 2pm **Tuesday Fellowship** with communion
Speaker: Melvyn Nolan

Wednesday 17th April

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

Thursday 18th April

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

Friday 19th April

- 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 21st April

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