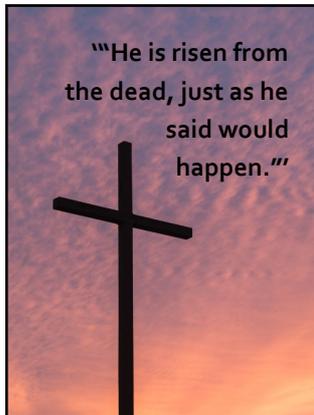


Battle Baptist Church

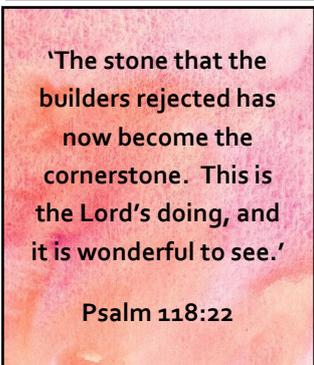
Being Transformed Together



31st March & 7th April 2024

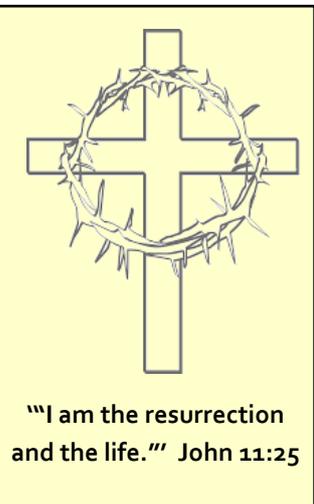


“He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen.”

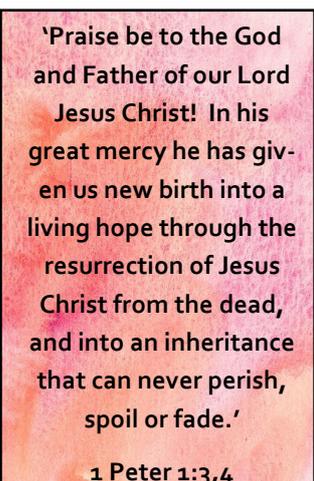


‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.’

Psalm 118:22



“I am the resurrection and the life.” John 11:25



‘Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.’

1 Peter 1:3,4

A bright new beginning...

Recently I saw a film that depicts the same moment from seven different perspectives. Each one following different characters, who responded to the various things that took place, from their own point of view - depending on where they found themselves within the particular scene. I was reminded of this film, as I reflected on Holy Week and the different perspectives that might be held, depending when and where we find ourselves within it.

There will be some reading this on **Maundy Thursday**. some 2000 years ago, the excitement and exuberance of the triumphal entry that was Palm Sunday would have no doubt begun to ebb away by now. An uncertainty hanging in the air - the events that we remember over the Easter weekend, about to launch into dramatic motion.

Others may cast an eye over this on **Good Friday**. A sense of dread would have hung over the day certainly for the disciples as it dawned. Each wondering how the coming hours would unfold. The denial by the fireside perhaps swamping Peter’s thoughts? Questions abounding following the news of the various interrogations and brutally extreme physical mockery of Jesus? As the horrific scenes of that day were witnessed - the great plan seemingly totally derailed - any remnant of hope would have no doubt felt permanently extinguished.

Perhaps some will see this on **Easter Saturday**. If ever there was a ‘morning after the night before’ that had nothing going for it - surely it must have been this day. Within less than 48 hours, the world of those disciples had been completely torn apart, totally obliterated. Probably with no desire to eat or drink, or even the ability to think straight. They wouldn’t have been waiting for

anything. It was over. What were they to do now? Loss, despair, grief, anger, frustration, sheer disbelief...

Now if we’re reading this on **Easter Day - Resurrection Sunday** - talk about a complete turnaround of events... and then some! It would have started out another pointless, directionless day. Yet as the account reminds us, this couldn’t have been further from the truth as to what was in store. First the women discover the empty tomb, they then encounter Jesus in the garden, before sharing the news with His disciples, who in turn meet their risen Lord - what a day! A day of hope, a day of celebration, a day of new birth, new life and a day that proves with God anything is possible!

Obviously there will be those who may not view this article until **some point beyond the Easter weekend**. The awesomeness of God though is clearly demonstrated in the fact that the Easter story, its impact and life-changing influence cannot be contained in one weekend. Life was never going to be the same after those few days. Jesus’ willingness to go to the cross, paying the price for each one of us, providing the opportunity for each of us to know God again - talk about a pivotal moment in all existence!

However and whenever we do stop and engage with all that took place, may we find ourselves asking God to reveal afresh the enormity of that week, each moment within it and the impact it can have on our lives and the lives of those around us, as we seek to share its truth today.

Here’s to the bright new beginning, brought to life that first Easter weekend!

Ed Jones

PRAYER POINTERS

Cholera

There are 23 live outbreaks of this preventable disease currently. Pharmaceutical companies are not making vaccines due to their ‘[low profitability](#)’. Pray that global powers will get behind WHO’s ‘[Task Force on Cholera Control](#)’.

Israel & Gaza

We continue to pray for peace and a long-term solution to the seemingly intractable situation in the Middle East. Pray for our friends at RCO ministries, as they work to show the love of Jesus in Ramla (Israel) and Ramallah (West Bank).

Our students

Please pray for our university students (James & Stephen C, Kieran & Michael D, Lauren W); and for young people facing formal exams (Evie J, Katherine & Izzie R, Annabel S, Robert W, Tom W). For guidance and wisdom about next steps.

NEWSLETTER

31st Mar & 7th Apr 2024

Battle Baptist Church
Being Transformed Together

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

BBC and BTFC are hosting Battle's **Community Sports Sunday** on **12th May** from **9am at the Rec**. The dream of [Sports Chaplaincy UK](#) is 'to see an expression of God's love and compassion practically demonstrated in every community called sport.' The aim our event is to serve our community by offering a wide range of activities for all the family to enjoy: running, football, table tennis, pétanque and more. Why not come along and support the event?

BTFC (formerly Battle Baptist Football Club) celebrates its 20th birthday on Sunday 12th May. Our gathering at 6pm on that day will mark this special occasion. There will be no morning gathering on Sunday 12th May.

Ed Jones is on holiday next week. If you are in need of pastoral support, please contact one of the Elders in the first instance: Charles, Shirley, Gary and Chris

are available all week. Contact numbers are available via ChurchSuite.

Staff team: Jo is on holiday from 29th March until 5th April, and the church office will be closed. This newsletter covers the weeks beginning 31st March and 7th April.

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](#).

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.

'But our great High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. The he sat down in the place of honour at God's right hand.'

Hebrews 10:12



What's on over the next two weeks...

Caterpillar Pre-School is closed for the Easter holidays, and reopens on 15th April.

Sunday 31st March - Easter Day

- 10am **Easter Celebration** at the Chapel
- 6 - 7.30pm **Evening gathering** at the Chapel

Tuesday 2nd April

- 10 - 11am **Walking Football** at the Rec

Wednesday 3rd April

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

Friday 5th April

- 10.00am - 12 noon **Coffee Club** in the Youth Room

Sunday 7th April

- 10am **Morning Gathering** at the Chapel

Tuesday 9th April

- 10 - 11am **Walking Football** at the Rec

Wednesday 10th April

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

Thursday 11th April

- 1pm **Christians in Battle** prayer meeting in the Prayer Room

Friday 12th April

- 10.00am - 12 noon **Coffee Club** in the Youth Room

Sunday 14th April

- 10am **Morning Gathering** at the Chapel