

Sunday 29th
January 2017



Ready for tomorrow...

What are we waiting for? What are our hopes for the church and our own lives? Are we longing for more of the things of God - his Kingdom, his salvation, his presence, his love, his joy, his power?

If the answer to this is yes, we need to ask ourselves, ***are we ready for a move of God?*** In the book of Joshua, in chapter 3, the people of God are camped near the Jordan river (v.1). They are told to follow behind the ark of the covenant - this vessel which hosted the presence of God (v.3). If we are to step into God's purposes for us, if we are to see God's promises fulfilled in us, then we need to seek the presence of God and follow where he leads. Although the context was very different to ours and the outworking looked very different, the Spirit of God went ahead of the people of God, they were not forging their own path. Nor were they relying on old paths - Joshua told them 'you have never been this way before' - ***are we prepared for God to lead us in a new direction, into new territory, with all the unfamiliarity and perceived risk that may involve?***

Joshua told the people: 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.' (v.5) Joshua's faith here is striking! His expectation of what God is about to do is great and although he does not know the specifics, he says to the people in no uncertain terms that God is about to move. His expectation is so great that he stakes his reputation as a leader on his belief that God is going to do amazing things, whatever that might mean. This is faith! What makes it even more inspiring is that it is *after* this that God confirms to Joshua that he is going to exalt him as a leader in the eyes of Israel and tells him what the next step is (v.7). Surely this should have happened the other way round - now would have been the time to tell Israel that God was going to do amazing things, not before. But Joshua's faith was such that he believed on God for amazing things, even before God had spoken specifically into the situation and God rewarded his faith - this was what God was looking for in a leader. ***Do we believe in God for amazing things?***

But crucially, in order to be ready ***we need to consecrate ourselves.*** "Wait a minute, doesn't God consecrate us?", you might ask. Well, yes... but we have to choose holiness, choose prayer, we have to devote ourselves to God in ***this*** moment. Consecrating ourselves means dedicating our lives to God and saying that we are prepared for whatever he brings, we are waiting for his commands and we are ready to go. ***This means putting aside the things we know are holding us back*** - we all know

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Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

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what they are and we all have them, but now is the time to consecrate ourselves. **We need to be wholly available and ready for this next season because God is about to do amazing things among us as his people. Are we ready for tomorrow?**

Your servant in Christ,

Mark Hirst

Fondly Remembering Jenny Lockwood

Jenny Lockwood went to glory in the early hours of Tuesday morning (24th). She came to faith at the age of 21 and was baptised a few years later at Beulah Baptist Church. She came into membership at Battle in 2011 and helped for a number of years at the After School Club. She is particularly fondly remembered by office staff for the wonderful cakes she brought us on a regular basis, a ministry that will be missed. She was a regular member of the Tuesday afternoon house group who were a great support to her during her period of illness in recent months. We remember her daughters Anita and Clare, her sons David and Ian, and granddaughter Victoria Earnshaw (known to many of us) in our prayers at this sad time, but give thanks for all that our sister Jenny meant to us as a fellowship.

There will be a short service on Monday 13th February, 2pm at Hastings Crematorium to which everyone is welcome. Tea will then follow at the Manna House from about 2.45/3pm.

News, notes and prayer-opportunities

- There are many opportunities to meet together to **pray** this week. We encourage you to join in any of the prayer gatherings highlighted in “What’s on this week”.
- An exciting new **Alpha course** begins at the end of February. There will be two separate groups (Thursday evenings & Friday mornings) covering the same material and running for 5 weeks. Please prayerfully consider who you would like to invite and use the postcards as invitations. Please speak to Pat if you can help with a crèche on any or all of the Friday mornings.
- Free for an hour on a Tuesday afternoon? The **Tuesday Fellowship** warmly invite all to join them from 2pm for worship, teaching and fellowship.
- February to April **‘Word for the Day’** are now available for collection.
- Did you know that after school on a Tuesday once a month a group of children, young people and adults visit **Saxonwood Care Home** to spend a short amount of time engaging with the residents there. Please speak to Andy Garlick if your child or you would like to be involved.
- The funeral of **Peter Dryden** will take place at 1pm on

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What's on this week...

Caterpillar Preschool (Monday to Friday) and Caterpillar Crew (Monday to Friday) plus:

Sunday, January 29th. ● 8am Breakfast in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: **Pre-meeting Prayers** in the prayer room. ● 8.45am Chapel Gathering plus Youth Group. ● 10am Refreshments in the Manna House. ● 10.20am: **Pre-meeting Prayers** in the prayer room. ● 10.45am All Age Chapel Gathering plus Creche. ● 5pm Informal Worship in the Chapel with Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Group. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.

Monday, January 30th. ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group. ● 10am: **Office Team Prayer** in the Youth Room.

Tuesday, January 31st ● 9.15-11am Caterpillar Explorers Parent and Toddler Group. ● 9.15am: **Prayer-for-Healing Group** (prayer room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come. ● 10am: **Office Team Prayer** in the Youth Room. ● 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker: John Southam.

Wednesday, February 1st. ● 5-6pm: BBFC Youth training. 6pm: BBFC training at Claverham 3g. ● 7pm: Battle Baptist Runners meet at the church.

Thursday, February 2nd. ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group.

Friday, February 3rd. ● 7.30am: Early Morning Prayer in the Youth Room followed by a 'do it yourself' breakfast. ● 9.15am Chatterbox for mums, dads and carers (upstairs). ● 10.30am: Coffee Club (upstairs).

Sunday, February 5th. ● 8am Breakfast in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 8.45am Chapel Gathering plus Youth Group. ● 10am Refreshments in the Manna House. ● 10.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 10.45am Chapel Gathering plus Sunday Club and Creche. ● 5pm Informal Worship in the Chapel with Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Group. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.

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Friday 3rd February at Eastbourne Crematorium, Main Chapel. Peter was a member with us for several years until ill health prevented him from attending.

Your Kingdom Come

**A church half night of prayer and praise
Tuesday 31st January in the chapel**

6-7pm Prayer stations for all ages

7-8pm Praise and prayer for the world

**8-9pm Virtual prayer walk through our
community**

**9-10pm Space to rest on God's presence and listen
to Him**

10-11pm Focus on praying for prodigals

**11-12pm Gathering our prayers together for all God
has ahead of us**

Everyone is welcome to all or some of the evening

This week's prayer pointers

- ◆ Praise God for the freedom we have to meet this Tuesday evening to pray together. Ask God to move in power as we meet.
 - ◆ Continue to pray for Alpha in February. Pray that God would be preparing hearts and that lives would be changed through the course. Pray that God would give each of us boldness to invite people to attend.
 - ◆ Thank God for all the resources we have, the buildings, the volunteers, and finances. Pray that God would give us wisdom in using all that He provides.
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Dates for your diary

- ◆ 7.30-9pm: 2nd & 7th February Church Presentation Meetings
 - ◆ 7.30-9pm: 21st February Ordinary Church Meeting
 - ◆ 7.30-9pm: 2nd May Church AGM
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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 •

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Caterpillar Preschool direct telephone line: (01424) 774997.

Ed Jones (Pastor) Francis Willoughby and Mark Hirst (Associate Pastors).
Our other elders: John Southam (Church Manager); Rob Duffill (Treasurer); Andy and Jo Garlick; Ben Garlick.

