

Sunday 18th  
June 2017



## A cosmic case of identity theft...

This is one of those occasions, when it could quite possibly be best for me not to say anything at all - to keep shtum. Pretend like nothing happened, that I didn't actually realise that it was that time of year again, knowing that it will be around again in 12 months time so what's there to worry about in not drawing attention to it?

The reason behind this pondering, is that Father's Day is a moment that will mean a whole host of different things to each of us. It might bring to the surface a variety of feelings and emotions. Some love it, some loathe it. Some never remember it, some wish to forget it, some just don't see the point of it at all. I think it's fair to say that to some it is simply another money-making moment in the course of a calendar year and the less we say about it the better.

As I have reflected on some of the varying points of view, I have been reminded of the relationship that we're able to have with our Heavenly Father. This is something that each of us will approach and respond to differently. Sadly no earthly father gets it right all the time. Some mess up on a massive scale, some are not even there. This understandably can impact on how we view and relate to God our Father.

One of the challenges I believe, is that our lives are lived in light of what took place in that garden way back when. This 'cosmic case of identity theft' as someone once suggested. Where the evil one sought to ruin us and our relationship with God, our Father: seeking to tear us apart so that there would be no way we could ever be God's children again.

But that was not the end of the story. God didn't stop there. Read on beyond the chaos of Genesis chapter three and through the pages of scripture we see an unfolding story of the One who never gave up on us.

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Only this week I read something a minister from Scotland wrote in regards to God as our Father. He said:

He is Abba Father, and his day job is Dad to you and I. But he moonlights as Lord of the angel armies, Creator and Sustainer of the universe and God Almighty, and nothing is impossible with God' (Luke 1:37).

What an amazingly powerful image!

So, regardless of the money-making scheme that Father's Day may well be and in spite of the frustration or pain that it may cause, may it above all be a reminder to us of whom we worship, whom we live for and whom we are able to call our Dad.

Your friend and pastor

Ed Jones

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## News, notes and prayer-opportunities

- Join us next Saturday for the Battle Carnival. The theme for the procession is Noah's Ark. Wear a top in one of the colours of the rainbow & children can dress up as an animal - prizes for those in fancy dress! Please speak to Shirley Whymark if you can help with the stall.
- Everyone is welcome to enjoy a morning of friendly games and activities at Wednesday's Games Emporium from 10.30am in the Manna House. Please note this does not include art and craft activities.
- If you would like a t-shirt or vest for the Battle 10k in September (whether you are running or supporting) please order via Celia before 1st July. Cost is £16.99
- Please get baking/buying cakes for **SOLID** (children's Christian camp). Your donations are greatly appreciated by tired and hungry leaders & children. Gluten free cakes would be appreciated too! Please deliver them to the office by 9.30am on Friday 7th July.
- Ice cream tubs are also needed for Solid. Please deliver them to the office before 1st July. *Thank you.*
- Next **Sunday's 10.45am gathering** will not be All Age as scheduled. Instead there will be Sunday Club and creche as normal.

# What's on this week...

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

**Sunday, June 18th.** ● 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. ● 5pm Informal Worship with Youth Group, Sunday Club and Creche. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.

**Monday, June 19th.** ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group.

**Tuesday, June 20th.** ● 9.15-11am Caterpillars Explorers Parent and Toddler Group. ● 9.15am: Prayer-for-Healing Group (prayer room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come. ● 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship, Speaker: Francis Willoughby.

**Wednesday, June 21st.** ● 10.30-1.30pm: Games Emporium. Refreshments provided. £1. ● 5.15-6.15pm: BBFC Youth training at the Rec. ● 7pm: Battle Baptist Runners meet at the church.

**Thursday, June 22nd.** ● 9.15-11:45am: Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group.

**Friday, June 23rd.** ● 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). ● 10.45am: Coffee Club in the Youth Room. ● 12.30pm: Friday Lunch Club for retired people. (Advance booking *essential* on 772192, weekdays between 6pm and 7pm.) ● 3.30-5pm: After School Club ● 7-9pm: 4:12 **Battle's Big Weekend.**

**Saturday, June 24th.** 10am Battle Carnival procession 10am from the Church.

**Sunday, June 25th.** ● 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. ● 5pm Informal Worship with Youth Group, Sunday Club and Creche. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.



*Join us next Saturday for*

## ***Battle Carnival***

*The theme for the procession is Noah's Ark*

*Wear a top in one of the colours of the rainbow & children can dress up as an animal - prizes for those in fancy dress!*

*Meet at the Church at 10am*

*Please speak to Shirley Whymark (07759231623) if you can help with:*

*Setting up the stall in the morning*

*Transporting tables etc to the Rec in the morning*

*Help on the stall during the day (sign up for an one-hour slot)*

*Loan of a rowing machine or exercise bike*

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## ***This week's prayer pointers :***

- ◆ Pray for Battle Carnival. That we would be a good witness in our actions and conversations. Pray for the safety of all involved,
- ◆ Pray for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Ask God to comfort and strengthen them.
- ◆ Pray for the children and young people booked onto Solid. Pray that God would be preparing their hearts and minds.

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## ***Dates for your diary***

- ◆ 24th June Battle Carnival
- ◆ 7th-9th July SOLID children's camp.
- ◆ 17th July Church Meeting
- ◆ 25th-29th August Soul Survivor
- ◆ 3rd September BBB10k run



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Church maintenance issues: [zionpremisesteam@gmail.com](mailto:zionpremisesteam@gmail.com)

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](http://www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk) •

Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email: [office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk) •

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.

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